

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Call for Proposal

Template – Call for Proposals Regular Funding Cycle

Call Opens: 29 January 2021

Deadline for Submissions: 12 March 2021 (6 weeks)

1. About the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, the WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF breaks silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of crisis, peace and security, and development. It addresses structural funding gaps for women's participation in key phases of crisis, peace and security, and development by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance. Notably, it will ensure a timely investment in conflict prevention after receipt of early warning signals from women and will accelerate the dispersal of development assistance after successful peace negotiations. It recognizes that peace cannot be created nor sustained without investment in civil society organizations. Therefore, the WPHF invests in strengthening civil society organizations, particularly in grassroots women's organizations, with the required financial and technical support.

The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 200 civil society organizations and is present in 20 countries or group of countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Funding Board at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently Germany, the Netherlands, the European Commission and Canada), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network on women's rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Transitional Justice Institute and Women Enabled International).

UN Women acts as the WPHF's Technical Secretariat at the global level. UN Women also acts as the Management Entity for civil society organizations where UN Women has a country presence.

2. About the Action Network on Forced Displacement

The “Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change” was established in October 2020 by the German Development Cooperation. It aims to increase the visibility of women and girls by giving them a voice as actors in situations of forced displacement and strengthening their rights as well as their economic and social participation. The Action Network brings together women and girls as well as men and boys who are actively engaged with displaced women and girls. This includes decision-makers from political, economic and social spheres, activists and displaced women and girls themselves, who are implementing projects in crisis and conflict settings. The Action Network aims to identify effective good practices for strengthening the political and economic participation and improving the psychosocial health of displaced women and girls. Members of the Action Network will convene regularly to discuss good practices and develop recommendations for policymakers, civil society and local actors. The Action Network seeks to develop recommendations to inform national and international processes and the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. This Call for Proposal will be linked to the “Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change” supported by the German Development Cooperation and grantees will be invited to participate in relevant network activities.

3. Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in **Nigeria**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

In 2019, 79,5 million people globally were forced to flee from their homes – the highest number on record by UNHCR. Among them are 26 million refugees, 24,7 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 4,7 million asylum seekers as well as 3,6 million other displaced people. Nigeria has been faced by a series of migratory crises caused by insurgency, conflict and environmental disasters. According to UNHCR, over 2,3 million people were forcibly displaced in Nigeria in 2019, among them about 2,2 million internally displaced people. Violent attacks by Boko Haram have spilled over frontiers and neighboring countries have been drawn into the conflict. The northeast crisis, mainly in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) has been predicted to relentlessly persist in 2021, severely affecting millions of people and subjecting them to displacement (new or continued), impoverishment as well as threats of violence.¹ Prospects for displaced people’s safe return to their areas of origin are dim and the root causes of the crisis such as widespread poverty, socio-economic and gender inequalities, marginalization and governance deficits remain largely unaddressed. The crisis has also exacerbated pre-existing, persistent gender and social inequalities as well as discrimination related to socio-cultural practices. The inadequate inclusion of women’s and girls’ perspectives in policymaking and decisions, resource allocation as well as project implementation in economic and social sectors continues to challenge the advancement of gender equality.

Furthermore, agitations in the Niger Delta region, inter-communal and farmer-herder clashes in the north-central and middle-belt areas and armed banditry in the northwest have also contributed to recent forced displacement of people, particularly of women and girls. In addition to the three most affected BAY States, Taraba State, which borders Adamawa, has also been greatly affected by the spillover of the Boko Haram violent conflict and by the farmer-herder crisis. Moreover, conflict in neighboring Cameroon has triggered

¹ The Humanitarian Needs Overview Nigeria (2021)

the movement of Cameroonian refugees into nearby states in Nigeria such as Cross River State; just as Nigerian refugees continue to return to Nigeria from Cameroon and Niger due to insecurity and poor living conditions. Some 6,038 Nigerian refugees crossed international borders into IDP camps in 2020. ²

Women and girls who live in camps or host communities are among the most vulnerable displaced people. Their right to participate in political and economic decision-making is undermined by social, cultural and legal barriers, their lack of familiarity with their new environments, psychosocial stress caused by traumatic experiences, economic deprivation and lack of decent livelihood opportunities. Crisis and conflict contexts increase displaced women's and girls' risk of violence due to the breakdown of social structures, lack of law enforcement and prevalence of harmful gender norms and practices. Conflict-induced poverty and food insecurities further exasperate the plight of displaced women and girls and the fragile security context makes it challenging to provide adequate humanitarian services.

The international community often perceives displaced women and girls as victims and survivors of violence – frequently of sexual violence and abuse. While women face additional risks and challenges because of their sex, women's and girls' resilience is often overlooked, especially in times of crises. Displaced women and girls secure the survival of their families and their communities with great strength and responsibility, frequently overcome difficult situations and regain control of their lives. Many displaced women and girls are resilient and empowered actors and their participation in social, economic and political decision-making is a crucial prerequisite to building peace and gender-responsive recovery in Nigeria and globally.

In response to this, the focus of this WPHF Call for Proposals will be on local civil society organizations that promote the social, political and economic empowerment of forcibly displaced women and girls (e.g., refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers, returnees) in crisis and conflict contexts. Suggested priority topics for projects are listed in Appendix 1. Special attention will be provided to applications supporting displaced women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, and HIV status, which is in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The proposal submitted must be aligned to the impact statements of the respective WPHF funding stream that the organization chooses to apply to:

- Programmatic funding stream (WPHF impact area 6) to promote improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.
- Institutional funding stream (WPHF impact area 1) to reinforce the institutional capacity of civil society organizations working on women and girls in forced displacement.

Please read through the funding streams' WPHF Tip Sheets in the following link:https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-6_Peacebldg-Recovery_Forced-Displacement_ENG-FINAL_14012021.pdf

² ETT as of 1 November 2020

4. Duration of Grants

All civil society organizations can apply for a maximum of 2-year grants.

5. Location

Projects should be implemented in the following location(s): Affected local government areas in Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Taraba and Cross River States in Nigeria. All or some of the states will be considered.

6. Size of grants

The WPHF will grant around 1,25 million USD over two years to Nigeria. Requested funds from WPHF in project proposals should be between 2,500 USD and no more than 200,000 USD.

7. Funding streams and amounts

The Call for Proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women's organizations in fragile settings, with two (2) funding streams:

Funding stream 1: Institutional funding from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD

This funding stream will provide institutional funding to local civil society organizations working with women and girls in forced displacement, to ensure they are able to reinforce their institutional capacities. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate experience working with forcibly displaced women and girls and how the funding would support them to build their internal capacities. It will aim at financing a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity, aligned with the **WPHF Impact Area 1**. The purpose of this funding stream IS NOT to finance the delivery of programmatic activities.

Funding stream 2: Programmatic funding from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD

This funding stream will finance projects which implement programmatic activities aligned with the **WPHF Impact Area 6**.

An organization can only apply one time - either to one or to both streams. Organizations who apply to both streams will need to submit two application packages based on the requirements and templates of each stream.

Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process

7.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?

International³, national and local women- led, women's rights, feminist, youth rights, refugee or IDP- led civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls as well as

³ Only if registered at the national level.

forcibly displaced people, are eligible to apply. Grassroots and local community-based organizations are particularly encouraged to apply. Joint projects are allowed and encouraged.

To be considered a “Women’s Rights or Feminist Organization,” the organization’s official mission/vision statement must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women’s rights. The organization must aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, and work to transform these.

“Women-led organization” must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

Other CSOs must demonstrate experience in addressing issues faced by forcibly displaced people (e.g. refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers) and promoting gender equality and/or women’s rights.

The following are NOT eligible to apply for a grant from the WPHF:

- Organizations proposing a multi-country intervention.
- Organizations proposing an intervention in a country different from the eligible country.
- Lead-organizations that are not legally registered in the country/territory of implementation.
- Government agencies or institutions.
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams.
- Private individuals.
- Private sector entities.
- Universities and Education institutions

7.2. Do I need to be a legally registered entity/organization to apply?

The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation. Women’s funds that are not registered in the country of implementation may apply in partnership with a locally registered implementing partner as the lead applicant.

A proof of legal registration (or legal status) is a required attachment for any grant application. Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

Only the lead partner has to provide their legal registration. Implementing partners that are part of a joint proposal, do not have to be legally registered but have to be civil society organizations (non-profit and non-governmental).

7.3. Can my project cover several countries?

No, projects can only be implemented in one single country. Multi-country proposals are not eligible.

7.4. May I submit more than one application?

No, organizations may not submit more than one application per funding stream, either as a lead or as a partner. If an organization or partner appears in more than one application, all applications will be disqualified.

7.5. Can more organizations apply jointly?

Yes, joint projects are encouraged. For joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria.

For joint projects, the roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application in the appropriate section in the proposal template. Proposals must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

7.6. May I apply for funding for an ongoing initiative or project?

Yes, the WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects. However, the specific value added of the contribution should be clearly outlined.

7.7. What are the requirements for project design?

For this Call for Proposal, the project(s) must contribute to the following WPHF impact areas as outlined in Section 3.

Impact area 1: Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments

Required impact indicators (select at least one):

- 1.1. Average number of months organization can be sustained as a result of institutional funding
- 1.2. Development of risk management and/or contingency plans or strategies for organization
- 1.3. Types (and number) of adaptive strategies, tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations

Impact area 6: Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one):

- 6.1. Number and types of plans and/or policies in peacebuilding contexts influenced by women or civil society organizations
- 6.2. Number/percentage of women with increased agency as a result of economic productive resources
- 6.3. Number of women participating in political and decision-making processes

Please refer to the indicator tip sheets for additional information.

7.8. Must applicants contribute to the project budget?

Civil society organizations are not required to contribute to the budget.

7.9 Where do we obtain more information about the call?

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on **23 February 2021** online organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: cfpenquiriesng@unwomen.org by 22 February 2021.

8. Where, when and how to apply for the Call for Proposals?

- The deadline for submission of proposals is **12 March 2021**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Applications are accepted in **English**. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- Application packages should be emailed to: CFPNigeria@unwomen.org
- Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format. All documents should be submitted together as a package.
- The UN Women Country Office will aim to acknowledge receipt of application within three days of receipt. Please **DO NOT** resend your application unless you do not receive a confirm of receipt within three days.
- The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please note, that questions contained in this guidance note will be responded to. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions. In addition, an **information session** for prospective applicants (online) will be organized on 23 February 2021 at 10am Abuja local time. If you would like to participate, please email: cfpenquiriesng@unwomen.org, and a registration link will be sent to you.

8.1. Required Components of the Application Package

Please note, incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Proposal (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
- Results Framework (see Proposal Template Annex: A)
- Project Budget (see Proposal Template Annex: B)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization (if you are in the process for renewal, please share proof)

DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.

8.2. Evaluation Criteria

As you write your application, please keep in mind that proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Stream 1 – **institutional funding:**

Project objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific outcome in the results framework (Outcome 1)
- Clear articulation of experience of organization and rationale how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities
- Definition of clear objectives and expected results and outputs focused on strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained
- Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures

Budget:

- Budget is consistent across all documents and detailed per output in the result framework
- The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%)
- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

Stream 2 – **programmatic funding:**

Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to the specific impact and indicators in its results framework.
- Definition of clear objectives, results and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.
- Partnership with, and capacity development of local women's organizations. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
- Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
- Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

- A clear capacity building plan for CSO partners is in place to deliver programme results.
- Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame. In general, projects should not last for more than 24 months.
- Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

Budget:

- The project falls within the limits set by the national steering committee.
- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.
- The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%).

Sustainability and national ownership:

- Promotion of national and local ownership in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players.
- Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.

9. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- [Indicator Tip Sheet](#)
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's [Operations Manual](#)
- The WPHF's page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
- The WPHF's Twitter account: [@wphfund](#)
- M&E and Results Based Management Terms. The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation available in English, French and Spanish. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf>
- M&E Standards and Guidelines. The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluations, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22
- Suggested priority topics for projects are listed in Appendix 1

Appendix 1: Suggested priority topics for projects

This list of suggested topics for projects is based on the priorities identified by the Action Network on Forced Displacement. The list is non-exhaustive, and grantees are encouraged to make additional suggestions that are in line with the objectives of this Call for Proposals.

| Themes | Suggestions from the Action Network |
|--|---|
| Women and girls' political participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support displaced women's and girls' access to local government and local power structures - Hold government accountable to promote gender equality and the rights of displaced women and girls in their legal and policy frameworks - Facilitate leadership trainings for displaced women and girls - Address the lack of security for women activists, local organizations and advocates working on forced displacement - Ensure women's access to justice incl. access to legal services and advice and promote a gender lens in justice processes |
| Women and girls' economic and social empowerment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate displaced women's and girls' access to financial services, banking services and credit - Support displaced women's and girls' access to economic resources, professional training, and vocational jobs - Provide displaced women and girls that have business projects with counseling - Secure displaced women's and girls' economic rights - Support displaced women's and girls' access to education and higher education in their host communities and in refugees or IDP camps or settlements - Support displaced women's and girls' access to digital devices and tools as well as access to the internet - Increasing resilience of displaced women and girls to conflicts and new threats (such as COVID-19) - Prevent abuse, exploitation and human trafficking of displaced women and girls through socio-economic empowerment measures |
| Women's and girls' networking, experiences sharing, and integration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the integration and networking of displaced women and girls in their host communities - Promote changes in social norms of displaced women and girls and of host communities – e.g., by promoting empathy and support through shared success stories. - Promote displaced women's and girls' experience-sharing on becoming independent and empowered - Make the voices and the stories of displaced women and girls as well as host communities heard - Help grassroots initiatives working with displaced women and girls establish partnerships between each other as well as with international women's organizations |