

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund: Rapid Response Window

*Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes and
the implementation of peace agreements*

Call for Proposals: Short-Term Grants

1. Introduction

Twenty years after the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), women remain significantly underrepresented in peace and transitional processes. The changing nature of wars, protracted and asymmetrical conflicts, have increased the impacts of conflict on women, putting even more at risk their sense of identity and security within the family, community and beyond. Women's direct participation as decision makers remains the exception rather than the norm. Women from diverse settings, including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Libya, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen have faced and continue to face steep obstacles, direct resistance and great personal risks in their efforts to ensure their participation in processes pertaining to the future of their countries.¹

Women's meaningful participation in formal peace processes remains one of the most stalled areas in the WPS agenda. Although there is evidence of the value of women's meaningful participation in peace processes and implementation, with the likelihood of reaching peace agreements, implementing those agreements and sustaining peace being significantly higher, women's meaningful participation and gender equality are too often seen as a secondary or apolitical concern to ending the conflict.² As a result, data underline that the vast majority of agreements do not explicitly address gender equality or the rights of women. To spark change, a range of actors need to be influenced, including those who may not see gender equality as central to matters of peace and security.

Diverse women's meaningful participation in peace processes is not only a question of human rights and women's rights, but one of accountability and justice, which are key to a sustainable peace. Engaging with and supporting women civil society organizations is essential to increase community-buy in, bottom up and inclusive decision-making processes to shift dynamics and broaden the issues discussed. Studies have shown that collaboration and knowledge building among diverse women groups, including linkages between women signatories and women civil society groups, contributes to better content of peace agreements and higher implementation rates of agreement provisions. This subsequently contributes to addressing root causes of conflict and supporting women in leading on reconciliation and rebuilding social cohesion, defining security, helping build gender-sensitive infrastructure and much more.

2. About the Rapid Response Window (RRW)

In order to accelerate the implementation of the WPS agenda, in October 2019, in his annual report on WPS,³ the UN Secretary-General called on the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) to open a rapid response window on women's participation in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements.

Building on existing efforts, tools and networks, the RRW addresses funding gaps for women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations to influence and participate in formal peace processes. Under the oversight

¹ UN Secretary General Women, Peace and Security Annual Report, 9 October 2019, S/2019/800 p.6

² UN Women, Christine Bell (2018), Accessing Political Power: Women and Political Power-Sharing in Peace Processes, p.4

³ S/2019/800 p.37

of the WPHF Funding Board's Task Force, the WPHF has taken a participatory approach to setting up the RRW through consultations with women peacebuilders and diverse stakeholders and experts.⁴

The RRW aims to empower women's civil society organizations to define their strategies and lead their initiatives. Its overall objective is to support short-term, strategic initiatives to enhance women's meaningful participation at tracks 1 and 2, during all stages of national, subnational or international peace processes.⁵ The WPHF refers to a 'peace process' as a political process to resolve conflict through peaceful means – usually a mixture of politics, diplomacy, negotiations, mediation and dialogue in different areas. This could include, for example, enhancing women's leadership and engagement in political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs, constitution making, security sector and judicial reforms, ceasefires, and wider post-conflict reconstruction and recovery decision-making processes.

The scope for requests is purposely diverse and open to encompass demands to support women's meaningful participation in formal peace processes and peace agreement implementation through punctual interventions which need urgent support. While the scope is large, initiatives will be short in duration aiming to address rapidly a specific gap with an identified impact-specific action at different stages.

Flexibility in the type of support, timing and funding amounts is key to responding to women's organizations and women groups' needs to influence and participate in track 1 and track 2 peace processes and peace agreement implementation at the national, subnational and international levels.

3. Type of support

This Call for Proposals is for short-term grants. Rapid grants are disbursed to support short-term civil society-led projects – lasting a maximum of six months – that address women's meaningful participation in Track 1 and Track 2 peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. Projects will be implemented by the lead civil society organization and any implementing partners, and should increase women's representation and leadership in formal peace process or the implementation of peace agreements.

Examples of the types of initiatives or projects include but are not limited to:

- Advocacy and lobbying campaigns for women's inclusion in peace and political processes;
- Advocacy and lobbying campaigns for women's inclusion in the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of peace agreements;
- Evidence-based advocacy and collection of data to feed into a process;
- Preparatory sessions and capacity-building for women participating in decision-making processes;
- Consultations and community engagement to feed into a specific process;
- Coalition building and strategizing to influence a specific process;
- Advocacy events and meetings, cross-border dialogues;
- Strategic planning projects to identify entry points and stakeholders, to strategize, access support and connection with key stakeholders for bilateral meetings/consultations/dialogues and more;
- Organizing and drafting participatory declarations/demands to influence decision-making processes.

⁴ This includes women peace activists, CSOs, INGOs, UN Women Country Offices, Women Mediator Network, DPPA, PBSO, MPTFO, UN operations teams on processes, Member States representatives and more.

⁵ **Track 1:** high-level negotiations involving country leadership or governments, often led by the UN or multilateral regional organizations.

Track 2: dialogues or problem-solving workshops involving leading figures in society, often led by mediators or (I)NGOs. Some peace processes take a multi-track approach with activities conducted and/or linked at multiple or all tracks. For more information see *Basics of Mediation* p.3.

<https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/Basics%20of%20Mediation.pdf>

4. Eligibility, Application and Selection Process

4.1. Geographic location

Funding support under the RRW is open to **all ODA eligible countries**⁶ with a Track 1 or Track 2 peace process, or implementing a formal peace agreement. Geographic eligibility extends beyond the eligible countries for the WPHF.⁷

4.2. Budget

The maximum estimated budget for the Short-Term Grants stream **cannot exceed 100,000 USD**.

4.3. Duration of project

The RRW supports initiatives for a duration of **up to six months maximum**.

Initiatives under the RRW should be short in duration, aiming to address rapidly a specific gap with an identified impact-specific action.

4.4. Who can apply?

Local and national civil society organizations are invited to submit a request for support, including coalitions of CSOs. Women-led organizations are especially encouraged to apply. **Proof of legal registration (or legal status) is required for the lead applicant.**

4.5. Current and previous WPHF grantees

Previous grantees (without an active grant) of the WPHF are invited to apply to the RRW Short-Term Grants stream.

Current grantees (with an active grant) are not eligible to apply to the RRW Short-Term Grants stream.

4.6. Participatory and inclusive approach

Applications for support should be able to demonstrate how women will include and feedback key demands from women of diverse backgrounds.

4.7. Level, track and type of peace process

Funding support under the RRW is open to initiatives aimed at all types of formal (track 1 and track 2) peace processes and formal peace agreement implementation at the national, subnational and international levels. The proposal must clearly name the process/event it is targeting. Please refer to Section 2: "About the RRW" for more information.

4.8. Stage

The initiative may take place at any of the following stages:

- Before a peace negotiation (preparation/design)
- During a peace negotiation (gender provisions/women's inputs)
- After a peace negotiation (implementation and monitoring)

⁶ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dac-list.htm>

⁷ <https://wphfund.org/eligible-countries/>

4.9. WPHF Impact Area

The proposal should be aligned to WPHF Impact Area 4 on conflict resolution: **Representation and leadership of women is increased in formal peace processes and/or the implementation of peace agreements.**⁸

Impact indicators (*select at least two (2)*):

- 4.9.1. Number of women that participate in formal peace processes or negotiations (*by role [mediator/advisor/stakeholder]*)
- 4.9.2. Existence of gender responsive elements/provisions in peace agreements, dialogues, and/or decision-making processes
- 4.9.3. Types of strategies used/implemented to participate in/contribute to the peace process and/or implementation of peace agreements

The proposal should address barriers to women's participation in peace processes or the implementation of peace agreements.

5. When, where and how to apply

The WPHF Secretariat will host online webinars for prospective applicants on a rolling basis. Please register your interest in a webinar here: <https://forms.gle/e6fcAGvH2aVDg8sX6>

5.1. Submitting your application

- There is **no deadline for submissions**. Applications are received on a rolling basis as needs and opportunities arise.
- Application documents should be submitted in **.doc, .docx, or .pdf** format. No other formats will be accepted.
- Applications are only accepted in the following **languages**: Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian.
- Application packages should be emailed to: WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org
- The WPHF will acknowledge receipt of application through a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation email within 2 working days, please contact the WPHF.
- Only shortlisted applications will be contacted for next steps.
- You may **not** make changes to your application after it is submitted.

5.2. Checklist: components of the application package

- Proposal Template fully completed (*link to Proposal Template below or via WPHF website*)
https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Proposal-Template-RRW-Short-Term-Grants_ENG-June-2021.docx
- Results Framework (see Proposal Template: Annex A)
- Project Budget (see Proposal Template: Annex B)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the organization (if you are in the process of renewal, please share proof). *If applying as a consortium/coalition, please provide details of lead organization only.*

⁸ This will be the impact statement of the Results Framework in the Proposal Template (Annex A).

DO NOT submit photos or additional documents to the ones listed.

5.3. Evaluation criteria

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

Intervention activities and objectives

- Alignment with WPHF Impact Area 4 and the RRW's objective to support women's participation in peace processes and in the implementation of peace agreements.
- Clear rationale for WPHF RRW support, including identification of the need for rapid or urgent strategic support (timeliness) and the specific gap that is targeted by the project to address women's meaningful participation (relevance).
- Clear articulation of project objectives, results and outputs.
- Participatory approach that is inclusive of diverse groups of women and other stakeholders.

Programme management and monitoring

- The proposed activities are realistic and appropriate within the time frame of the project.⁹
- Identification of clear risks and appropriate mitigation measures, including to ensure protection of women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders participating in the initiative.
- Identification of a clear monitoring and evaluation plan and methodologies.

Estimated Budget

- The budget falls within the funding limit of the Call for Proposals.
- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.
- Indirect operational costs do not exceed 7%.
- The budget is consistent across all sections in the proposal.

6. Useful resources

- RRW Indicator Tip Sheet:

<https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Indicator-Tip-Sheet-RRW-Short-Term-Grants-ENGLISH.pdf>

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- 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](https://twitter.com/wphfund) or <https://twitter.com/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>

7. About the 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 funding mechanism. It supports quality interventions by civil society organizations designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

⁹ Activities must be clearly listed in Annex A: Results Framework for each output

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 Rapid Response Window (RRW) is a unique funding mechanism of WPHF that offers short-term but urgent strategic support. Projects should be designed to last no longer than six months to address a specific gap in a peace process or implementation of a peace agreement related to women's meaningful participation in that process. The WPHF regular funding cycle provides longer-term support for civil society organizations (up to 2 years).

The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to achieve **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal requires that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, the WPHF has supported over 300 civil society organizations and is present in 22 countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Funding Board at the global level, which comprises four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently Austria, Canada, the European Union, and Germany), as well as four civil society organisations (currently ActionAid International, ICAN, GPPAC, and the Women's Refugee Commission). The Funding Board decides on the country allocations.

UN Women acts as the WPHF's Technical Secretariat at the global level. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) is the administrative agent for the Fund.