



**The Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)\* is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.**

### THE ISSUE

Current humanitarian crises and threats to peace and security are of a different scale and nature than those of the past. Globally, the numbers of displaced people are the highest since World War II. The spread of violent extremism has left no region safe from its threat. Many countries lapse from momentary stability back to conflict, while others suffer for years, even decades, from protracted crises.

Over the past decade, an unquestionable evidence base has emerged demonstrating that women's participation in peace and security processes makes humanitarian assistance more effective, strengthens the protection efforts of peacekeepers, prevents radicalization and the spread of extremism, and accelerates economic recovery. Furthermore, evidence shows that women's meaningful participation results in a more sustainable peace.

UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) recognized women's right to full participation in peace and security decision-making. Sixteen years on, such participation remains minimal, and data confirms that financial resources fall short of political commitments. In 2014, only 1% of the projects in OCHA's Financial Tracking System that applied the IASC Gender Marker had the explicit goal of closing gender gaps by taking targeted action for women and girls. In 2015, the OECD reported that only 1% of all funding to fragile states went to local women's groups or women's ministries.

### THE RESPONSE

The WPHF is a pooled funding mechanism which aims to significantly increase financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in both humanitarian action and peace and security settings. Its establishment was recommended by the Global Study on the Implementation of UNSC resolution 1325 and was welcomed in the 2015 Report of the UN Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security, Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015), and at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

The WPHF enhances women's engagement in peace and security and humanitarian action by:

- **Breaking silos** between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's

engagement, leadership and empowerment across all phases of the crisis, peace, security, and development contiguum.

- **Addressing structural funding gaps** for women's participation by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance and directly funding local women's groups.
- **Improving policy coherence and coordination** by complementing existing financing instruments and promoting synergies between actors, including multilateral and bilateral entities, national ministries of women, and local civil society organizations.

The WPHF will also serve as a knowledge management platform and hub for resources on women, peace and security and women's leadership in humanitarian action.

This directly responds to the localization and humanitarian-development nexus work streams of the Grand Bargain, the package of humanitarian financing reforms launched at the WHS, and to the core commitments endorsed at the High Level Roundtable on Women and Girls at the WHS.

As the WPHF is a partnership between Member States, UN, and civil society, all stakeholders are represented on its Funding Board. UN Women provides secretariat support and ensures coordination to implement the decisions of the Funding Board. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund is the Administrative Agent of the Fund.

WPHF donors currently include: **Australia, Canada, Ireland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Liechtenstein and Lithuania.**

### THREE WAYS THE WPHF IMPLEMENTS THE GRAND BARGAIN'S HUMANITARIAN FINANCING REFORMS

**LOCALIZATION:** By investing directly in local women's groups, the WPHF is an effective and efficient way to provide significantly higher levels of direct support to local responders.

**PARTICIPANT REVOLUTION:** The WPHF will contribute to the Grand Bargain's objective of giving voice to the most vulnerable by empowering women and women's organizations who are marginalized or outside of formal humanitarian coordination mechanisms so they can participate meaningfully and lead humanitarian action.

**HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS:** The Grand Bargain aims to enhance engagement between humanitarian and development work in order to close gender gaps in service delivery and contribute to women's empowerment across all settings. By investing in women's engagement, leadership and empowerment across all phases of the humanitarian and development spectrum, WPHF helps bridge the humanitarian-development divide.

\* Formerly known as the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action.

## THE THEORY OF CHANGE

The goal of the WPHF's theory of change is peaceful and gender equal societies. In order to achieve this goal, the WPHF will work on the following:

- **An enabling environment for the implementation of WPS, WHS, and Grand Bargain commitments:** This requires evidence-based advocacy and technical support to ensure adoption, monitoring, and financing of relevant, local accountability frameworks (including National Action Plans).
- **Women's participation in decision-making processes and responses related to conflict prevention:** This requires three conditions: (i) favorable attitudes towards women's participation; (ii) local women's organizations with the capacity to establish networks and early-warning systems; and (iii) the connection of local women's conflict prevention mechanisms to national and international reporting and response systems.
- **Women's engagement and leadership in humanitarian action:** This requires the provision of both technical tools and direct support so that local women and women's organizations can participate and provide leadership in humanitarian planning and programming. This includes ensuring displaced women can exercise leadership in camp coordination and management as well as in decision making structures in urban settings.
- **Increased women's representation and leadership in formal and informal peace negotiations:** This includes addressing cultural barriers, increasing the availability of gender expertise, and enhancing the capacity of mediators to secure inclusive processes. Support to strengthen women's leadership capacity and negotiation skills is also essential.
- **Protection of women and girls' human rights:** This requires women and girls having a voice and leadership role in defining activities and services designed to ensure their safety, physical and mental health, and access to essential services. Comprehensively preventing and responding to gender based violence and the strengthening of accountability mechanisms is central to this.



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## WPHF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	NIGERIA
BURUNDI	PALESTINE
BANGLADESH	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
C.A.R.	SOLOMON ISLANDS
COLOMBIA	(MULTI COUNTRY)
D.R.C.	SOMALIA
HAITI	SOUTH SUDAN
IRAQ	SRI LANKA
JORDAN (SYRIA CRISIS)	TURKEY
LIBERIA	UGANDA
MALAWI	UKRAINE
MALI	YEMEN
MYANMAR	

- **Promotion of economic recovery:** This requires women's participation in peacebuilding and recovery planning, women's economic empowerment (including access to land, financing and entrepreneurship), and promoting gender-responsive post-conflict institutions.

## THE RESULTS

In 2016, the WPHF's Funding Board has decided on a longlist of 23 countries based on the peace and security and humanitarian situation, the potential added value of the WPHF and the needs of civil society organizations on the ground. Out of the 23 longlisted countries, four were prioritized for immediate funding. The WPHF is actively supporting initiatives in:

- **Burundi**, on women's contribution to conflict prevention through mediation and early warning efforts, as well as on support to women's economic recovery. WPHF support is empowering networks of women mediators in Burundi—our pilot country since January 2016—to participate and lead in effective early warning and conflict prevention initiatives, such as undertaking direct conflict mediation. Approximately 534 women mediators have dealt with 6,000 conflicts between January and July 2016, engaging 300,000 community members in peace dialogues at the hill and municipality levels.
- **Colombia**, on women's meaningful participation in the implementation of the peace agreement and in the peacebuilding and recovery efforts.
- **Jordan**, on support to women Syrian refugees' economic empowerment and protection of their human rights and against sexual and gender based violence.
- **Solomon Islands and the Pacific**, as a multi-country allocation supporting the meaningful participation of women and their organizations in the humanitarian response as well as their protection against sexual and gender-based violence.

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