

Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

THE PARTNERSHIP

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is an innovative United Nations and civil society partnership that empowers local women in 23 countries to be a force for lasting peace. From Jordan to Burundi – Solomon Islands to Colombia, the WPH Fund aims to amplify the voices of women and support their vital work to prevent conflict, respond to humanitarian crises, and build peace in their communities. In addition to the United Nations, the Partnership includes governments, global nonprofits, corporations, and foundations – all working together to support women's peace efforts.

THE ISSUE

Humanitarian crises and threats to peace are more common than ever before. Globally, the numbers of displaced people are the highest since World War II, and violent extremism threatens every region. While many countries lapse from momentary stability back to conflict, other populations suffer for years—even decades—from extended crises.

Most countries facing conflict fail to include women's voices and utilize their knowledge to help build peace. The lack of women's engagement significantly restricts progress. It also creates greater vulnerability for women and girls who are more likely to experience sexual and physical violence, to be kidnapped, and to be forced into early marriage. During humanitarian crises, they are less likely to receive a fair share of food, clothing, and medical care, and when countries are recovering from conflict, women are often excluded from opportunities for better education and employment.

THE OPPORTUNITY

United Nations studies show that when local women directly engage in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, their inclusion results in more lasting peace and:

- makes humanitarian assistance more effective,
- strengthens the efforts of peacekeepers,
- prevents radicalization and the spread of extremism, and
- accelerates the economic recovery of conflict-affected communities.

Despite this, women's participation remains needlessly low and dramatically underfunded. On average, women's organizations receive less than one percent of aid allocated to countries in crisis.

In 2016, the WPH Fund was formed to re-energize action and generate funding for local women's groups working on the frontlines of the world's most intractable conflicts and humanitarian crises.



23 Countries Eligible for Funding: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan (Syria crisis), Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen.

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THE VITAL ROLE OF CORPORATE PARTNERS

The WPH Fund believes that socially-responsible corporations can play an important role in helping to create a more gender-equal and peaceful world through long-term and short-term partnerships that:

Raise Awareness & Funds

- Cause Marketing & Branding
- Corp. Foundation Grantmaking
- Educational Event Sponsorship
- Employee Giving Campaigns

Share Their Talents & Advocacy

- Business Acumen
- Thought Leadership & Advocacy
- Pro bono Volunteerism
- Celebrity Spokesperson (if a good fit)

Partnering with the WPH Fund is a critical way that companies can demonstrate their commitment to advancing core United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It's also a wonderful way to show support during key times (e.g., International Women's Day, Women's History Month, International Peace Day, World Refugee Day). The top four funders can be invited to sit on the funding board with UN leaders, ambassadors from top donor countries and nonprofit leaders. Current donor countries include the UK, Spain, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Lithuania, and Liechtenstein.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Companies can direct their efforts in three ways:

General Program – Support helps all women peace builders across eligible countries and provides global reach and impact. It also supports creating a knowledge-sharing platform that connects peace builders and shares best practices.

Impact Area – Solutions are tailored to the needs and opportunities of each country; however, below are core issues that women are advancing across their peacebuilding organizations. It also provides global reach and impact.

- **Conflict mediation** in communities to reduce civil, ethnic and tribal war.
- **Conflict prevention** by sharing info. across networks about the early uprising of extremism and conflict.
- **Advancing gender equality** by advocating for laws that enable women to access education, land ownership, employment opportunities and hold the right to vote, marriage, inheritance, and more.
- **Economic empowerment** by encouraging women entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, including in refugee camps.
- **Design and delivery of humanitarian aid** to expand its reach and impact.
- **Participation in the political process** and advancing freedom of expression and assembly.
- **Stopping systemic abuses** against women and girls such as early marriage and physical and sexual abuse, and support survivors.

Country – Support can be designated to a country's programming. For example, in Liberia, women mediate conflicts in what they call, "peace huts." Sporting brands could design a limited-edition backpacking tent with a portion of proceeds going to mediators in Liberia who – just like the brands' consumers – see an enormous challenge and rise to meet it.