Investing in Women Working to Build Peace & Respond to Crises

Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund

40 x 20 for Women
WHO WE ARE

The Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is a first-of-its-kind global partnership of the United Nations, governments and civil society organizations, working together to empower women around the world to be a force for lasting peace. WPHF is the only global financing mechanism dedicated exclusively to supporting women’s participation in peacebuilding and humanitarian action. We are a flexible and rapid financing tool supporting quality interventions to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

RESPONDING TO PEACE AND SECURITY THREATS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES

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. Evidence shows that women’s meaningful participation results in a more sustainable peace.

- Women’s participation improves the odds of success of peace talks. Peace agreements are 35 per cent more likely to last 15 years when women participate in them.
- Women’s participation increases the reach and impact of humanitarian assistance. When humanitarian programming applies a gender-equality lens and involves women in its design and delivery, access to services for women, men, girls and boys increases and gender inequalities are reduced.
- Women’s participation helps to prevent and counter violent extremism. Women’s empowerment helps make communities more resilient to the spread of radicalization that leads to extremist violence.
- Women’s participation in peacekeeping missions increases trust and credibility with local communities and decreases incidences of sexual exploitation by peacekeepers.

LOOKING BACK. MOVING FORWARD

UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) recognized women’s right to full participation in peace and security decision-making. Eighteen 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 less than 1% of all funding to fragile states went to local women’s groups or institutions.
EMPOWERING WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES

Since its launch in 2016, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund has mobilized support for women’s civil society organizations working on the frontlines of conflict and humanitarian crises.

• A nationwide network of women mediators in Burundi has dealt with over 16,000 conflicts and engaged over one million citizens in peace, security and development community dialogues since 2016

• 200 women Syrian refugees have been supported in Jordan to secure job opportunities and over 60 have already found employment

• A one-stop clinic providing counselling, legal support and temporary emergency shelter to survivors of violence in the Northern Division of Fiji welcomed 1,500 women and girls in 2017

• 1,069 women and girls have been actively engaged in local political empowerment initiatives as defined in Colombia’s Peace Agreement.

WOMEN MEDIATORS IN BURUNDI

In Burundi, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund supports a nationwide network of women mediators that has proven effective in preventing violence at the local level, hampering the possibility of spillover into wider tensions, dispelling false rumors, and mitigating the impact of the ongoing political crisis on populations. The network, composed of 516 women mediators and covering all 18 provinces of Burundi, has dealt with over 16,000 conflicts since January 2016 (political, land related, issues related to youth, domestic violence etc.). Women mediators have organized community dialogues on a wide range of issues, including peace and security, sexual and gender-based violence and economic recovery. These dialogues have included over 1.1 million community members since the start of the programme.

The network of women mediators has also served as a support system for economic recovery initiatives in Burundi. Over 7,000 women have been supported technically and financially to start their own micro projects.

Overall, this network of women mediators is a unique model of a well-structured, community-based, women-led, early warning system that prevents conflict through effective and localized mediation efforts, the organization of dialogues between different stakeholders, and economic recovery initiatives that positively shape the lives of women in Burundi.

HOW WE WORK: RE-ENERGIZING ACTION FOR WOMEN

Our unique approach is based on local, sustainable solutions that accelerates impact and produces dividends for women’s empowerment and peace.
EXPANDING OUR APPROACH: THE GLOBAL LAUNCH OF 40 by 20 FOR WOMEN

Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund is currently operating in 5 countries/group of countries. Ultimately, WPHF aims to support women peacebuilders and responders in the 24 priority countries identified by its Funding Board.

The new WPHF campaign 40 by 20 for Women: Investing in Women Working to Build Peace & Respond to Crises aims to mobilize $ 40 million in financing by the end of 2020 to enhance women’s participation, leadership and empowerment in settings of conflict and crises across the globe.

OUR NEEDS: YOUR SUPPORT

• 40 million USD is the amount required to significantly support women and their organizations, with a focus on local, grassroots and community-based organizations, in each of the 24 WPHF-eligible countries.

• 2020 is the 20th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and constitutes a bold new milestone in recognizing, quantifying and showcasing the concrete contributions made by women peacebuilders and responders to the global goals of the international community, relating to preventing conflict, responding to crisis and accelerating peace.

DEEPENING OUR APPROACH: EMPOWERING WOMEN AS TRANSFORMATIVE AGENTS OF CHANGE

The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund aims to support women’s organizations responding to crises and building peace in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, CAR, Colombia, the DRC, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen. Below are some examples of the work we aim to fund in these countries.

IN BANGLADESH, we aim to integrate gender equality measures across all sectors of the Rohingya refugee crisis response to ensure that women and girls have equitable access to relief, protection services and information – while transforming gender relations through the leadership and empowerment of women and girls in their role as decision makers, first responders and economic actors.

IN THE DRC, we aim to ensure coordination of actions that promote women as key actors in humanitarian response, early recovery and sustainable development processes.

IN MALI, we aim to support women’s organizations that contribute significantly to the restoration of peace through tangible results in the prevention of violence, protection and the rehabilitation of survivors of conflict.

IN PALESTINE, we aim to increase the participation of women of Hebron in political decision making, give voice to their protection concerns, and address and build their leadership and resilience in local communities.

IN SOMALIA, we aim to strengthen the capacity of women’s organizations to identify and respond to threats by establishing networks, early-warning systems and mechanisms that offer opportunities for dialogue and peaceful engagement.

IN SRI LANKA, we aim to provide timely investment to empower and scale up women’s CSO engagement in leadership, peacebuilding, security and mobilization of women and girls—particularly from minority groups.
The Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund is calling on the world to invest in women’s untapped potential.

Join our movement to empower women to be a force for lasting peace.

Help us reach 40 by 20 for Women working to build peace and respond to crises.

Together, we can mobilize support for women who are changing the world.

WPHFund.org

For more information on the Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund, please contact:

Ghita El Khyari: Head of the Secretariat, WPHF:

ghita.khyari@unwomen.org

“Our work resolving local disputes makes me feel confident and powerful, and I can see the positive impact we’re having in my community.”

—Marie Sindayigaya, farmer and member of a network of WPHF-supported Women mediators working to prevent conflict in Burundi