

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Emergency Response Window on COVID-19

Call for proposals

Introduction

First detected in the Hubei Province of China, in December 2019, COVID-19 has since spread to almost all countries and territories in the world.

Until recently, transmission of the virus to developing and crisis-affected countries was limited. However, as the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed the outbreak has reached levels of a global pandemic, such transmission is now occurring.¹ In addition, COVID-19 is starting to impact humanitarian aid responses and conflict. Border closures are squeezing relief supply channels in some areas. Elsewhere, lockdowns and quarantines are erecting roadblocks in front of other operations. Restrictions on international staff and movement is also limiting the delivery of assistance.²

COVID-19 in conflict and humanitarian crisis settings

The COVID-19 outbreaks have significant impacts in all contexts. However, the dangers will be amplified in countries affected by conflict where governance and social systems, including health care systems, have seen substantial damage to their infrastructure and services. Dr. Mike Ryan, head of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Medical Emergencies Programme, noted most conflict-affected states have the weakest health infrastructure, and displaced populations are especially vulnerable due to the physical environments they live in as a result of armed violence.³ Similarly, Dr. Esperanza Martinez, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross's (ICRC) health unit, said that the virus (...) could bring down entire medical systems in certain countries.⁴

Similarly, at particular risk are the more than 70 million people – half of whom are women – who have been forced to flee their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations.⁵ Refugees and IDP populations in camps and informal settlements are particularly at risk. With the high concentration of people, many of whom live in crowded living conditions (and with highly limited access to healthcare), there is grave concern that the spread of the virus will intensify.

The Gender dimensions of COVID-19 in conflict and humanitarian crisis settings

A growing body of reporting and analysis confirms that COVID-19 disproportionately impacts women in many ways. The most striking gender-specific challenges that have been identified in contexts of crises, particularly from early lessons learned from Asia, are the following⁶ :

¹ <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>

² <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/03/19/coronavirus-humanitarian-aid-response>

³ <https://www.csis.org/analysis/impact-covid-19-humanitarian-crises>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *Gender implications of COVID-19 Outbreaks in development and humanitarian settings*, CARE, March 2020

⁶ UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, March 2020

- **Meeting the needs of women healthcare workers:** Women constitute 70% of the workers in the health and social sector globally, and are on the frontlines of the response.⁷ Yet the immediate needs of women on the frontlines are often overlooked. Women health care workers have called attention to their specific needs beyond personal protective equipment, including to meet menstrual hygiene needs. Psychosocial support should also be provided to frontline responders.
- **Impacts on women's economic needs:** As noted for the Ebola outbreak, crises pose a serious threat to women's engagement in economic activities, especially in informal sectors, and can increase gender gaps in livelihoods. Confinement measures, especially in crisis setting where women rely on the informal sector for their livelihoods, will pose a significant challenge to women's economic needs.
- **Impacts on forcibly displaced women:** Women refugees and IDPs, especially – but not only – those in camps and informal settlements, are particularly at risk.
- **Interrupted access to sexual and reproductive health:** Evidence from past epidemics, including Ebola and Zika, indicate that efforts to contain outbreaks often divert resources from routine health services including pre- and post-natal health care and contraceptives, and exacerbate often already limited access to sexual and reproductive health services. In the case of COVID-19, confinement measures might limit further the access to these already limited services.
- **Increasing GBV and protection risks:** Experiences have demonstrated that where women are primarily responsible for procuring and cooking food for the family, increasing food insecurity as a result of the crises may place them at heightened risk, for example, of intimate partner and other forms of domestic violence due to heightened tensions in the household. Other forms of GBV are also exacerbated in crisis contexts. In addition, life-saving care and support to GBV survivors (i.e. clinical management of rape and mental health and psycho-social support) may be disrupted when health service providers are overburdened and preoccupied with handling COVID-19 cases.
- **Exacerbated burdens of unpaid care work on women and girls:** Where healthcare systems are stretched by efforts to contain outbreaks, care responsibilities are frequently “downloaded” onto women and girls, who usually bear responsibility for caring for ill family members and the elderly. The closure of schools further exacerbates the burden of unpaid care work on women and girls, who absorb the additional work of caring for children.

The WPHF Emergency Response Window on COVID-19

1. Countries eligible for funding

Local civil society organizations from the following countries are eligible to apply:

AFGHANISTAN, BURUNDI, BANGLADESH (Rohingya crisis), C.A.R., COLOMBIA, D.R.C. (Kinshasa, Kivu, North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu), HAITI, IRAQ, JORDAN (SYRIA CRISIS), LIBERIA, MALAWI, MALI, MYANMAR, NIGERIA (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States), PALESTINE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE PACIFIC (Fiji, Palau, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu), the Philippines, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN, SRI LANKA, UGANDA, UKRAINE and YEMEN

⁷ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311314/WHO-HIS-HWF-Gender-WP1-2019.1-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

2. Funding modalities

The Call for proposals is divided into 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 on women, peace and security and humanitarian issues to ensure they are able to sustain themselves through the crisis. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them through the pandemic.

It will aim at financing a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity. The activities include introduction or improvement of organizational systems, tools and processes, human resource, training of workforce in technical and managerial skills and support with adequate equipment. The purpose of this funding stream **IS NOT** to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity.

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

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to provide gender-responsive response to the COVID19 crisis.

Interventions could include, but are not limited to:

- Strengthening the leadership and meaningful participation of women and girls in all decision-making processes in addressing the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Mobilizing of women's organizations at community level to ensure that public health education messages on risk and prevention strategies are reaching all women (including through community radio, the use of technology, etc.).
- Supporting women who will be most economically affected by the crisis, namely daily wage earners, small business owners and those working in informal sectors. This could be done through cash transfers, community funds and support to women-led small businesses.
- Restoring and strengthening access to sexual and reproductive health services, including pre-and post-natal care.
- Supporting prevention and response to GBV, including through safe shelters but also campaigns on social norms targeting male engagement in domestic work and combatting domestic violence.

Civil society organizations are allowed to submit 1 proposal only to WPHF under either the first or second funding stream. Organizations submitting 2 proposals will not be considered.

3. Duration of the projects

The WPHF will consider projects for up to 12 months.

4. Languages

The WPHF accepts applications in Arabic, English, French and Spanish

5. Application and Selection Process

Who is eligible to receive funding?

The WPHF funds are intended for the benefit of civil society organizations. National and local civil society organizations are eligible to apply. Women's grassroots/local/community based organizations are particularly encouraged to apply. Joint CSOs projects are allowed and encouraged.

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). A proof of legal registration (or legal status) are 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.

May I submit more than one application?

No, organizations may not submit more than one application.

Can more organizations apply jointly?

Yes, joint projects are encouraged. For CSOs joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria. The roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application. Proposals must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

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

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

Must applicants contribute to the project budget?

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

Can my project be altered after approval?

Yes, a project may be altered, however organizations must submit a revised project document to the Technical Secretariat for re-approval.

6. Where, when and how to Apply?

The deadline for submission is **Tuesday 28 April 2020 midnight United States Eastern Time**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

Application packages can be emailed to: WPHFCovid19Response@unwomen.org

Please submit applications in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted.

The WPHF will acknowledge receipt of application through a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive the confirmation email within 2 working days, please contact the WPHF.

You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.

The WPHF Secretariat will host two global online meetings for prospective applicants on Monday 20 April 2020 from 8am to 10 am (timezone: Paris, France) and from 9am to 11am (timezone: New York, USA). Please register for the meeting at WPHFCovid19Response@unwomen.org

7.1. Required Components of the Application Package

Please note, incomplete applications will not be considered.

___ Project Document (attached, no more than 10 pages)

___ Results Framework (see Project Document Annex: A)

___ Project Budget (see Project Document Annex: B)

___ Proof of legal registration or status

7.2. Evaluation Criteria

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

Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change and expected results of the window
- Definition of objectives and results, taking account of previous evaluations in the same area.
- Identification of a credible implementation strategy and sequential operation of activities
- Partnership with, and capacity development of local women's organizations. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
- Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures.
- Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

- A capacity building plan for CSO partners is in place to deliver programme results.
- Realistic results schedule - in general, projects should not last for more than 12 months.
- The allocation of budget resources to monitor and evaluate project activities over time.

Budget:

- The project falls within the limits of the Call for proposals.
- The project demonstrates its capacity to catalyse additional finance.
- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.

Viability 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.
- Implementation of partnership with national CSOs.
- Viability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.

8. Useful Resources

- 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)
- 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

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 financing 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.

Since its launched in 2016, the WPHF has supported over 130 civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian issues.

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 Canada, the European Union, Germany and the Netherlands), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently ICAN, GPPAC, Women Enabled International and the Transitional Justice Institute). 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.