



Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund & Spotlight Initiative Partnership

Call for Proposal

Afghanistan

Call Opens: 6 September 2020

Deadline for Submissions: 6 November 2020

1. About the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (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 designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

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 overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to achieve **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 140 civil society organizations and is present in 12 countries or group of countries.¹

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 Germany, the Netherlands, the European Commission and Canada), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network on women's rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Transitional Justice Institute and Women Enabled International).

UN Women acts as the WPHF's Technical Secretariat at the global level. UN Women also acts as Management Entity for civil society organizations where UN Women has a country presence.

2. About the Spotlight Initiative

¹ Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Mali, Uganda, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and the Pacific region (Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)



The Spotlight Initiative is a global partnership between the EU and the United Nations which deploys targeted, large-scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Caribbean, aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls, which is seen as a major obstacle to the fulfilment of women's and girls' human rights and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Spotlight Initiative intends to bring the issue of ending violence against women and girls at the front and centre of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.² The Initiative will leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships, galvanize political commitments at the highest levels and contribute to achieving the SDGs (Goals 5 and 16 in particular).

The Initiative's **Global Theory of Change** entails a comprehensive approach to drive transformative change through the following six Outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Enacting and strengthening legislative and policy frameworks
- Outcome 2: Building gender-responsive national and sub-national systems and institutions
- Outcome 3: Supporting evidence-based prevention programmes to promote gender equitable social norms, attitudes, and behaviors
- Outcome 4: Establishing and strengthening available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services
- Outcome 5: Ensuring quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data
- Outcome 6: Strengthening and supporting women's rights groups and autonomous civil society organizations

The Global Theory of Change is guided by the SDGs and underpinned by a human rights-based approach; the cross-cutting principles of civil society engagement and participation; national ownership and *leaving no one behind*. In terms of leaving no one behind, the Initiative aims to reach those women and girls who are furthest behind, most marginalized and subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (including indigenous women, women living with disabilities, elderly women and women in geographically hard to reach areas).

3. WPHF and Spotlight Initiative Partnership

The partnership between the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative aims to channel funding to civil society organizations working on eliminating violence against women and girls (EVAWG) in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings. The partnership focuses on Outcome 6 of Spotlight Initiative's Regional Result Framework (strengthening CSOs and building women's movements) and on WPHF's Outcome 5 (Protection of women's safety and rights).

In 2019, the partnership covered countries in Africa: The D.R.C, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda, with a total amount of 7,075,472 USD. In 2020, the partnership is extending to three new countries, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Papua New Guinea, with an additional amount of 6,000,000 USD.

The COVID19 pandemic is affecting all of the countries where the WPHF and the Spotlight Initiative have a partnership. The current pandemic and its consequences are therefore having an effect on active and potential WPHF/Spotlight supported organizations and projects, but also on their communities.

² Read more about the Spotlight Initiative at <http://www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative/index.shtml>.



Reports indicate that violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly domestic violence, has increased during COVID-19. In contexts where movement is restricted, people are confined, poverty and unemployment are increasing, and protection and health systems are weak, women and girls are at greater risk of experiencing gender-based violence. This is particularly true in Afghanistan, where women have already limited access to essential services. Despite lack of data in Afghanistan, emerging evidence shows that, with the COVID-19 crisis, the number of women and girls experiencing violence, more particularly domestic violence, has increased in all provinces of Afghanistan.³ However, many women are unable to seek support due to the movement restrictions, disruptions of services, and lack of privacy or freedom to seek help. Women now have limited opportunities to find privacy away from their abusers and seek help from friends, family, service providers or women's organisations. Physical distancing and lockdown have significantly impacted the provision of essential health, justice, police and social services for women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing violence.⁴ Other countries have been able to provide remote services using phones or mobile technology. However, in Afghanistan where women's access to mobile phones and internet is limited, remote provision of services is particularly challenging.

Today, as in the rest of the world, Afghanistan is contending with a health crisis that magnifies and exacerbates all other crises. COVID-19 comes at a time when the intersection of ongoing armed conflict, lack of access to services, poor labour demand, limited infrastructure, and increased unemployment are already negatively impacting Afghanistan's economic and social stability. It is well established that conflict and humanitarian and health crises impact women and girls differently, and the COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. Women and girls are at increased risk of violence in conflict, humanitarian and health crises due to displacement, the breakdown of social structures, a lack of law enforcement, the further entrenchment of harmful gender norms, and the loss of livelihood opportunities. The COVID-19 crisis is likely to increase inequalities and make the situation worse for marginalized groups. Women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination, such as internally displaced women, women living in conflict-affected areas, women of ethnic minorities, older women, women living with physical or intellectual disabilities or those living in rural and remote areas, are at increased risk of experiencing violence and less likely to receive the support they need. The pandemic also affects organizations' ability to financially sustain themselves through the crisis and to effectively and safely implement activities that address the increased violence against women and girls.

In response, this call for proposal is designed to offer institutional support to build organizational resilience and funding for flexible programme activities that respond to the new realities of COVID-19.

4. Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals

The WPHF, in partnership with the Spotlight initiative, will fund qualifying projects in **Afghanistan**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

The focus of the WPHF Spotlight call will be on local civil society organizations working on gender specific protection issues and violence against women and girls in peace and security and humanitarian contexts. Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and girls multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography,

³ UN Women, [Gender Alert on COVID 19 in Afghanistan | Issue II: Ensuring Access to Services for Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-alert-issue-v-maintaining-services-for-survivors-of-violence-against), available here: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-alert-issue-v-maintaining-services-for-survivors-of-violence-against>

⁴ UN Women, [Gender Alert Issue V: Maintaining services for survivors of violence against women and girls during COVID-19](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-alert-issue-v-maintaining-services-for-survivors-of-violence-against). Available here: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-alert-issue-v-maintaining-services-for-survivors-of-violence-against>



migratory status, HIV status, among others, which is in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one in ERAW programming.

The proposal submitted must be aligned simultaneously to the two following Outcome areas:

Spotlight Initiative Outcome 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP.

And

WPHF Outcome 5: Ensuring that women and girls' safety, physical and mental health and security are assured and their human rights respected, requires measures that prevent acts of violence, facilitate access to services for survivors of violence, and strengthens accountability mechanisms.⁵

Please read through the Spotlight Tip Sheet for guidance on recommended activities for Spotlight Initiative Outcome 6 in the following link : [CSOs implementation during COVID-19](#)

5. Duration of Grants

All civil society organizations can apply for a maximum of 2-year grants.

6. Funding streams

The Call for proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women's organizations in fragile settings and in the context of COVID 19, with two (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 gender specific protection issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves through the COVID-19 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 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 fund programmatic activities aligned with the Spotlight Initiative's Outcome 6 and WPHF's Outcome 5. These projects can be designed to directly respond to the COVID 19 pandemic as long as they are aligned with these two Outcomes.

An organization can only apply one time either to one or both streams. Organizations who will apply for both streams will need to submit two applications packages based on the requirements and related templates of each stream.

⁵ See <https://wphfund.org/>



7. Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process

7.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?

International⁶, national and local women-led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, in **Afghanistan** are eligible to apply. Grassroots and local community-based organizations are particularly encouraged to apply. Joint projects are allowed and encouraged.

To be considered a "Women's Rights or Feminist Organization," the organization's official mission/vision statement must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organization must aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, those that perpetuate gender-based violence, and work to transform these.

"Women-led organization" must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

Other CSOs must demonstrate experience in addressing violence against women and girls, gender inequalities and/or women's rights.

Women's funds are particularly encouraged to apply to expand the reach of the funding to a broader cross-section of civil society.

Women's funds that are not registered in the country of implementation may apply in partnership with a locally registered implementing partner as the lead applicant.

The following are NOT eligible to apply for a grant from the WPHF:

- Organizations proposing a multi-country intervention;
- Organizations proposing an intervention in a country different from the eligible country;
- Organizations/lead-organizations that are not legally registered in the country/territory of implementation;
- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities and Education institutions

7.2. 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 in the eligible country of project implementation. Women's funds that are not registered in the country of implementation may apply in partnership with a locally registered implementing partner as the lead applicant.

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

⁶ Only if registered at the national level.

Only the lead partner has to provide their legal registration. Implementing partners that are part of a joint proposal, do not have to be legally registered but have to be civil society organizations (non-profit and non-governmental).

7.3. Can my project cover several countries?

No, projects can only be implemented in one single country. Multi-country proposals are not eligible.

7.4. May I submit more than one application?

No, organizations may not submit more than one application, either as a lead or as a partner. If an organization or partner appears in more than one application, all applications will be disqualified.

7.5. Can more organizations apply jointly?

Yes, joint projects are encouraged. For joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria.

For joint projects, the roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application in the appropriate section in the proposal template. Proposals must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

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

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

7.7. What are the requirements for project design?

The project(s) must contribute to both of the following Outcome areas as outlined in Section 4. They must contribute to both Outcome Area 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change and Outcome Area 5 of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's Theory of Change.

7.8. Must applicants contribute to the project budget?

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

7.9 Where do we obtain more information about the call?

An online information session will be organized with prospective applicants on Wednesday 30 September at 2 pm Kabul time organized online by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: Tamana Sultani, at tamana.sultani@unwomen.org, by Monday 28 September. Questions can be sent by email until 31 October at marie.palitzyne@unwomen.org.

8. Where, when and how to apply for the Call for Proposals?

- The deadline for submission of proposals is **6 November 2020**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Application packages should be emailed to: evawg.afg@unwomen.org, copy marie.palitzyne@unwomen.org
- Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format. All documents should be submitted together as a package.

- The UN Women Country Office will aim to acknowledge receipt of application within three days of receipt. Please **DO NOT** resend your application unless you do not receive a confirm of receipt within three days.
Applications are accepted in **English**. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.

8.1. Required Components of the Application Package

Please note, incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Proposal (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
- Results Framework (see Proposal Template Annex: A)
- Project Budget (see Proposal Template Annex: B)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization (if you are in the process for renewal, please share proof)

DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.

8.2 Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the two Outcome areas as specified under section 6.8. above (Spotlight Outcome area 6 and WPHF Outcome area 5).
- Clear rationale for Spotlight/WPHF Support and how the crisis is impacting the organization (Stream 1) and beneficiaries (Stream 2)
- Clear articulation of project objectives, results and outputs, taking into account gender responsive approaches and responses to the crisis
- Partnerships between and with local and grassroots women's rights and feminist organizations led by women, and/or capacity building of local and grassroots women's rights organizations to deliver programme results.
- Ensuring meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, HIV status, among others which are in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind in EAW programming.
- Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Sustainability 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.
- Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.

Programme management and monitoring:

- The proposed activities are realistic and appropriate within the time frame of the project⁷
- Identification of clear risks and appropriate mitigation measures
- Identification of a clear monitoring and evaluation plan and methodologies
- Management structure and roles and responsibilities of staff and partners are clearly outlined

Budget:

- 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 documents in the proposal

9. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's [Operations Manual](#)
- 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
- [Spotlight Terms of Reference 2017-2023, Annex 1 - Description of the action](#)

⁷ Activities must be clearly listed in Annex A: Results framework for each output