**Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund**

**Call for Proposal**

***Call for proposals -Regular Funding Cycle***

***Call Opens: 20 June 2021***

***Deadline for Submissions: 29 July 2021 (6 weeks)***

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 contribute to **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 200 civil society organizations and is present in 20 countries or group of countries.

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 European Union (EU), Germany, Canada and Austria), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network for women’s rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Action Aid and Women’s Refugee Commission.

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.

1. **Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals**

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in **Iraq**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

As Iraq begins to rebuild and look towards a more peaceful future, the country confronts the consequences of a rise in violence extremism, manifested most recently in ISIS and the violence and devastation it wrought on communities across Iraq. To prevent a return to conflict and a resurgence of violent extremism, Iraq must confront the causes that led to the rise of ISIS, reconcile deep-seated grievances, and build a more tolerant and peaceful communities that can prevent and mitigate future rise of such forces. A key characteristic of violent extremism in Iraq is its control and subjugation of women and girls at the heart of the agendas, using gender stereotypes to radicalize and recruit, and undoing generations of progress on the respect and promotion of women’s rights. The COVID-19 pandemic further exasperated existing gender inequalities and violence against women and girls. Iraq currently ranks 162 out of 167 in the Women Peace and Security Index.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Women and girls play critical roles as peacebuilders in Iraq but their leadership in addressing the root causes of violence remains largely unrecognised. Women and girls are engaged in conflict prevention at the grassroots within their households and communities, and these experiences hold critical lessons for the design and implementation of preventing violent extremism initiatives. Their capacities to mentor, negotiate and mediate in various circumstances have been left untapped. Excluding women and youth from such processes also prevents policy makers from gaining insights into the gendered drivers and dynamics of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the strategies that have been used to prevent and address it.

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in Iraq:

In 2014, Iraq was the first country in the Middle East to launch a national plan to implement UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The launch of the Iraqi National Action Plan (INAP) was a significant step towards enabling women’s participation and protection in the processes of conflict resolution and peacebuilding as well as the prevention of conflicts in Iraq. Taking the challenges and gaps from the first INAP into consideration, in December 2020, under the leadership and with the technical, operational and financial support of UN Women, along with UN sister agencies and the international community, the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC) adopted the **2nd Iraqi National Action Plan** for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. The National Action Plan was developed in a highly participatory manner and included consultations with more than 60 women-led organizations across the country, COMSEC, representatives from both the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Federal Government, and Sectoral Committees operating across 33 Ministries and governmental institutions. The INAP II greatly benefitted from the lessons learnt with regards to the challenges faced in the implementation of the previous INAP including the limited political will, ownership and financial support provided by Iraqi governmental institutions; the absence of specific budget allocation, along with a clear M&E framework and coordination mechanisms in place which limited its impact; and the constraints posed by the political, economic and insecurity conditions prevailing in Iraq.

The focus of this WPHF call for proposals will be on increasing meaningful participation and decision-making of women and girls in conflict prevention processes and response (WPHF impact area 2). 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, migratory status, HIV status, among others, which is in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The proposal submitted must be aligned to the impact statements of the respective WPHF funding stream that the organization chooses to apply to:

* Institutional funding stream (WPHF impact area 1) to reinforce the institutional capacity of civil society organizations working on conflict prevention and response.
* Programmatic funding stream (WPHF impact area 2): to increase meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

Please read through theWPHF Tip Sheets for guidance on the result framework for Impact area 2 and 1 in Section 8 below.

1. **Duration of Grants**

All civil society organizations can apply for a maximum of **1-year grants.**

Priority will be given to organizations who did not receive previous funding from the previous WPHF Call for Proposal.

1. **Location**

Projects can be implemented in any location within Iraq.

1. **Funding streams and amounts**

The WPHF will grant around **1.1 million USD** over **1 year to Iraq**. The Call for proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women’s organizations in fragile settings, with two (2) funding streams:

**Funding stream 1**: **Institutional funding: from 5,000 USD to 10,000 USD**

This funding stream will provide institutional funding to local civil society organizations working on gender specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. 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 80,000 USD to 100,000 USD**

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the WPHF Impact Area 2.

**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.**

1. **Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process**

**6.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?**

International[[2]](#footnote-3), national and local women- led, women’s rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, 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, and work to transform these.

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

To be considered “Youth rights”, the organization’s official mission/vision must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing the rights of youth.

“Youth-led organization” must be headed by a youth as defined by the country/organization

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

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;

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

**6.2. 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 (Legal Registration should be for at least 24 months prior to the date of submission of the proposal) . 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.

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).

**6.3. Can my project cover several countries?**

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

**6.4. May I submit more than one application?**No, organizations may not submit more than one application per funding stream, either as a lead or as a partner. If an organization or partner appears in more than one application, all applications will be disqualified.

**6.5. 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.

**6.6. 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.

**6.7. What are the requirements for project design?**

For this Call for Proposal, the project(s) must contribute to the following WPHF Impact area 1 as outlined in Section 3.

Impact area 1 for Institutional Funding: Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments

Required impact indicators (select at least two):

* 1.1. Average number of months organization can be sustained as a result of institutional funding
* 1.2. Development of risk management and/or contingency plans or strategies for organization
* 1.3. Types (and number) of adaptive strategies, tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations

Impact area 2 for Programmatic Funding: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one):

* 2.1. Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in conflict prevention processes and response
* 2.2. Number and types of conflict prevention mechanisms that are gender sensitive

Please refer to the indicator tip sheets for additional information.

**6.8. Must applicants contribute to the project budget?**

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

**6.9 Where do we obtain more information about the call?**

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on **5 July 2021** online organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: [musab.othman@unwomen.org](mailto:musab.othman@unwomen.org) by **2 July 2021.**

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

* The deadline for submission of proposals is **29 July 2021**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
* Applications are accepted in **Arabic and English**. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
* You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
* Application packages should be emailed to: [iraq@unwomen.org](mailto:iraq@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.
* The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please note, that questions contained in this guidance note will be responded to. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions. In addition, an **information session** for prospective applicants online will be organized **5 July 2021** **at 11:00 am** local time. If you would like to participate, please register here: [musab.othman@unwomen.org](mailto:musab.othman@unwomen.org)

**7.1. Required Components of the Application Package**

Applicants are required to use the WPHF templates provided. Please note, incomplete applications or use of different templates will not be considered.

* WPHF Proposal Template (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
* Results Framework (Proposal Template Annex: A)
* Project Budget (Proposal Template Annex: B)

AND

* 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.**

**7.2. Evaluation Criteria**

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

**Stream 1: Institutional Funding**

Project objectives:

* Alignment with the WPHF’s theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific outcome in the results framework (Impact Area 1)
* Clear articulation of experience of organization and rationale how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities
* Definition of clear objectives and expected results and outputs focused on strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained
* Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures

Budget:

* Budget is consistent across all documents and detailed per output in the result framework
* The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%)
* The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

**Stream 2: Programmatic Funding**

Project design and objectives:

* Alignment with the WPHF’s theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific impact in its results framework.
* Definition of clear objectives, results, and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.
* 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, among others which are in clear alignment with Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.
* Partnership and capacity development of local women’s organizations and/or a clear capacity building plan for CSO partners in place to deliver programme results. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
* Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

* Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
* Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame.
* Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

Budget:

* The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.
* The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%).

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.

1. **Useful Resources**

* The WPHF’s website [www.wphfund.org](http://www.wphfund.org/)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet Institutional Funding – WPHF Impact Area 1 (Arabic)](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-1_Enabling_Environment_Institutional-Funding_AR_Final-09032021.pdf)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet Institutional Funding – WPHF Impact Area 1 (English)](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-1_Enabling_Environment_Institutional-Funding_FINAL_09112020.pdf)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet Programmatic Funding – WPHF Impact Area 2 (Arabic)](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-2_Conflict-Prevention_AR_FINAL_06082021.pdf)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet Programmatic Funding – WPHF Impact Area 2 (English)](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-2_Conflict-Prevention_ENG-FINAL_091120201.pdf)
* The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s [Operations Manual](http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/17052)
* 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/AcceleratePeace)
* 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>

1. [WPS-Index-2019-20-Report.pdf (georgetown.edu)](https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WPS-Index-2019-20-Report.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Only if registered at the national level. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)