

## **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Call for Proposal**

*Call for proposals in the Pacific Region*

*Call Opens: 05/07/2021*

*Deadline for Submissions: 16/08/2021 (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.

## 2. Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Tonga. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

The Pacific is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Small, vulnerable island states experience frequent and intense disasters, resulting in negative economic, social, and environmental consequences. Arguably the basis of these disasters, climate change has been acknowledged as the greatest threat to security and human development in the region. Climate change in the Pacific region has the potential for a multitude of fragility and instability risks.<sup>1</sup> These will affect men, women, young people, and children differently and will serve to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities of people living in poverty, people facing food insecurity, women, people with chronic health conditions, people with disabilities and the elderly. It will also impact upon those most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or who have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards, such as droughts, landslides, floods, and hurricanes. Gender equality is a major problem across the region. Women and girls in the Pacific face persistent inequality relative to men, including in access to decision-making, high rates of sexual and gender-based violence, and limited economic opportunities, which makes them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.<sup>2</sup> As a result, women and girls across the region are disproportionately affected by climate change and natural disasters. They are systematically kept away from preparedness and response processes and given little autonomy in decision making processes. The Pacific retains some of the worst indicators in the world in terms of overall gender equality, with over three quarters of all women experiencing physical and sexual violence in the region.<sup>3</sup> Global evidence continues to indicate that women are generally disproportionately affected by disasters and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. Yet, women and girls are often first responders in crises and, when given the opportunity, have capacities to lead in disaster preparation, response, and resilience building.

### Fiji

Fiji is ranked as the 12<sup>th</sup> most hazardous country in the world by the World Risk Index on the basis of high exposure to natural hazards and relatively low coping capacity.<sup>4</sup> Due to its geographical location, Fiji is vulnerable to a myriad of natural disasters including floods, tsunamis, and tropical cyclones. In the past experts have estimated that countries in the Pacific experience on average one cyclone per year. However, in 2020/2021 alone, Fiji experienced 4 tropical cyclones with Cyclone Harold reaching category 4 (April 2020) and Cyclone Yasa reaching category 5 (December 2020). Climate change is increasing both the frequency and intensity of these events and with its population, key assets along the coast and its heavy reliance on climate sensitive sectors like tourism and agriculture, the impacts on Fiji are high. The fallout of climate change and disasters experienced in Fiji have varying impacts on men, women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Gender inequality remains a significant challenge in Fiji with traditional cultural norms limiting Fijian women's participation in decision making at the household, community, and national levels. Moreover, Fiji has extremely high rates of violence against women and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/415601/economic-fiscal-impacts-disasters-pacific.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=10106](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10106)

<sup>3</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/across-pacific-crisis-centres-respond-covid-19-amid-natural-disasters>

<sup>4</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019\\_Online\\_english.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019_Online_english.pdf)

girls with 72% of women who have ever been in an intimate relationship having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>5</sup>

### **Solomon Islands**

The Solomon Islands is ranked as the fourth riskiest country in the world by the World Risk Index.<sup>6</sup> Due to the frequency and severity of tropical cyclones, heavy rain, flood and accompanying tsunamis and landslides, the Solomon Islands face increasing risks as a result of climate change and environmental degradation. The Solomon Islands' population of approximately 560,000 is spread over 347 inhabited islands, which poses significant coordination, logistic and communication challenges during emergencies caused by natural disasters. In 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold made landfall in the Solomon Islands, causing widespread flooding, killing 4 people with an estimated 80,000 people displaced. The impacts of natural hazards and climate change disproportionately affect women in the Solomon Islands. Women in the Solomon Islands are often engaged in agriculture, and although their cash incomes are small, any disruption to agricultural activities is likely to have a disproportionate effect on women's earning capacities. Additionally, violence against women in the Solomon Islands is pervasive and continues to prevent them from participating in society, business, and politics. The SGBV rate in the Solomon Islands is high at 64%, further increasing women's vulnerabilities.<sup>7</sup>

### **Vanuatu**

Vanuatu is progressively affected by the increasing temperatures, changed rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and subsequent cyclones brought about by climate change in the Pacific. These natural hazards pose a significant risk to the health and livelihoods of all people in Vanuatu, where 80% percent of the population rely on the traditional economy and subsistence agriculture, many in remote and under-serviced locations.<sup>8</sup> In 2020 an estimated 65% of the total population of Vanuatu were affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold. The cyclone destroyed crops and cut many communities off from support due to flooding and destruction of roads, intensifying existing vulnerabilities such as food insecurity.<sup>9</sup> Women and girls in Vanuatu, however, are disproportionately affected by climate change and natural disasters. Traditional social norms and practices in Vanuatu remain strong and Ni-Vanuatu women's everyday lives remain deeply shaped by unequal gender norms that typically foreclose women's capacity for decision-making. Natural hazards disproportionately affect Ni-Vanuatu women's livelihoods by damaging natural resources, such as pandanus tree, which women in Vanuatu rely on for economic income. Women's social roles further inhibit them from pursuing alternative income-earning activities in Vanuatu. Moreover, the Republic of Vanuatu is one of the few countries in the world without a single woman representative in parliament. The prevalence rates for violence against women in Vanuatu are also one of the highest in the world with 72% of women aged 15 to 49 years experiencing some form of partner violence in their lifetime.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/FWCC-National-Research-on-Womens-Health-Fiji.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019\\_Online\\_english.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019_Online_english.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/SolomonIslandsFamilyHealthandSafetyStudy.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/post-disaster-needs-assessment-cyclone-pam.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.fao.org/resilience/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1274007/#:~:text=In%20Vanuatu%2C%20Tropical%20Cyclone%20Harold,flooding%20and%20destruction%20of%20roads.>

## **Tonga**

Climate change has significant effects in Tonga, increasing its vulnerability to a range of natural disasters, including cyclones, earthquakes, and volcanic activity. Ranked as the third most hazardous country in the world by the World Risk Index, Tonga is at great risk of climate related disasters.<sup>10</sup> With a population of just over 100,000 people living in predominately low-lying coastal areas, Tonga is highly susceptible to the results of climate change. In 2020, Tonga was affected by both Tropical Cyclone Harold and Tropical Cyclone Zazu with an estimated cost of the damage totaling \$111 million.<sup>11</sup> Women, girls, people with disabilities, the elderly, children, and other vulnerable groups in Tonga are disproportionately affected by these natural disasters as a result of existing vulnerabilities. Gender inequality is a significant problem in Tonga, with social roles heavily influenced by traditional values and gender stereotypes. Cultural norms allocate men decision-making roles in the public arena, with women being generally excluded from planning and decision-making processes. Tonga is one of only six countries globally that has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.<sup>12</sup> Gender-based violence in Tonga is widespread and as global evidence suggests, it is likely to be exacerbated by these natural hazards.

The focus of this WPHF call for proposals will be on enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks and programming. 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.

Please read through the WPHF Tip Sheets for guidance on the result framework for WPHF impact area 3 in section 8 below.

### **3. Duration of Grants**

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

### **4. Location**

Projects should be implemented in the following location(s): Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Tonga

### **5. Funding Stream and Amounts**

The WPHF will grant around 400,000 USD over two years to Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Tonga. The Call for Proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women's organizations in fragile settings, with the following funding stream:

#### **Programmatic funding: from 80,000 USD to 150,000 USD**

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities by civil society organizations that contribute to enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming (aligned with WPHF impact area 3)

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<sup>10</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019\\_Online\\_english.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019_Online_english.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/vanuatu/issue-brief-new-vulnerability-covid-19-and-tropical-cyclone-harold-create-perfect>

<sup>12</sup> <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/211322128.pdf>

**An organization can only apply one time.**

## **6. Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process**

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

International<sup>13</sup>, 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. 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.

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<sup>13</sup> 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).

**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, 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 3 as outlined in Section 3.

WPHF Impact area 3 for Programmatic Funding: ***Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.***

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one):

- 3.1. Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response (disaggregated by age group)
- 3.2. Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, frameworks and programming

Please refer to the indicator tip sheet for WPHF Impact Area 3 in section 8 below.

**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 30/07/2021 online organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: [breifni.flanagan@unwomen.org](mailto:breifni.flanagan@unwomen.org) by 27/07/2021.

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

- The deadline for submission of proposals is **16/08/2021**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- 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.
- Application packages should be emailed to: [breifni.flanagan@unwomen.org](mailto:breifni.flanagan@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 will be organized online on 30/07/2021 at 09:00am Fiji local time. If you would like to participate, please register here: [breifni.flanagan@unwomen.org](mailto:breifni.flanagan@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:

#### Programmatic Funding

##### Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to the 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.

## 8. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website [www.wphfund.org](http://www.wphfund.org)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet for WPHF impact area 3](#)
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's [Operations Manual](#)
- 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](#)
- 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](http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22)