



The WPHF Rapid Response Window

on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements



Background

Twenty years after the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325, women's meaningful participation in peace processes remains one of the most stalled areas in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. This is despite evidence of the value of women's meaningful participation in reaching peace agreements, broadening the issues discussed in negotiations, and implementing agreements and sustaining peace.

The Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements is a new funding mechanism that addresses urgent funding gaps with rapid, short-term support. It was established on the recommendation of the [UNSG's October 2019 annual report on WPS](#) (S/2019/800, p.37).

The Rapid Response Window (RRW) opened for applications for pilot initiatives in September 2020. It was officially launched at a high-level event in January 2021.

RRW mechanism

The RRW builds on existing efforts and structures to provide urgent, strategic support to women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations to influence and participate at all stages of formal peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.

Flexibility in the type of support is key to responding to women’s civil society organizations’ needs to influence and participate in track 1 and track 2 peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. The scope for requests for support from civil society organizations is purposely diverse and open, to encompass a wide range of logistical and technical initiatives aiming to address a gap with an impact-specific action. Examples of the type of support are listed below:

Logistical	Technical
Travel (transport, visas, daily subsistence allowance, etc.)	Preparatory sessions/trainings
Childcare	Strategy support
Language support (interpretation, translation of documents)	Access/connection to decision-makers
Access arrangements for persons living with disabilities	Data collection for an evidence base
Communications/campaigns materials	Other expert/capacity-building support

The [Call for Proposals](#) is open on a rolling basis to ensure the RRW is demand-driven and context-specific; local and national CSOs are able to request support when they need it. Support is open to all ODA-eligible countries with a track 1 or 2 peace process or implementing a peace agreement.

The **protection** of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders, and the **inclusion** of women of diverse backgrounds, are considered as part of every initiative.

The RRW has **two streams** for support:

- 1. Direct Support** (up to **25 000 USD**): a civil society organization requests a logistical and/or technical service to ensure women’s meaningful participation in a peace process/peace agreement implementation. WPHF covers the service costs directly. The CSO receives/uses the service to support its work on women’s influence and meaningful participation in peace processes or peace agreement implementation. Civil society organizations do not need to be formally registered for the Direct Support stream. Informal groups, including women’s associations and networks, are encouraged to apply.
- 2. Short-Term Grants** (up to **100 000 USD**): a registered civil society organization requests a small grant to implement a project for up to 6 months addressing women’s meaningful participation in a formal peace process/peace agreement implementation. An INGO partner of the RRW Unit disburses and manages the grant and provides capacity-building support to the CSO.

CSO applications pass through a 3-tier **approval process**:

- I. RRW Unit:** The RRW Unit – hosted by the WPHF Secretariat – evaluates all proposals received. Proposals are shortlisted based on a scoring system.
- II. Technical Committee:** A Technical Committee – composed of experts and stakeholders in RRW implementation – reviews proposals shortlisted by the RRW Unit and makes recommendations for approval, including on the type of support to be provided.
- III. WPHF Funding Board Task Force:** The Task Force reviews proposals shortlisted by the RRW Unit and accompanying recommendations from the Technical Committee. It approves or declines the CSO request for support.

Proposals that require urgent attention pass through a **fast-track** approval process.

RRW INGO partners

In 2021, the RRW partnered with the following INGOs to strengthen the implementation of both streams of support:

INGO partner	Direct Support	Short Term Grants
Conciliation Resources	Ü	Ü
Cordaid	Ü	Ü

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)	Ü	Ü
InclusivePeace	Ü	
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)	Ü	Ü
Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)	Ü	Ü
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)	Ü	Ü

RRW CSO partners

The RRW has supported eight civil society initiatives in its pilot phase. In **Mali**, the RRW is supporting a consultation-based research initiative on women’s participation in monitoring the implementation of the 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. In **Afghanistan**, the RRW supported an initiative documenting women’s direct representation in the track 1 Intra-Afghan Peace Negotiations held in Doha, and is supporting the implementation of a participatory track 2 initiative, including women’s direct participation at the track 2 level. In **South Sudan**, the RRW is supporting the development of a technical document to monitor the implementation of gender provisions in the 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. In **Liberia**, the RRW is covering transport costs and expert advisory support costs to strengthen women’s engagement and participation in monitoring the implementation of the 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission report recommendations, following the 2003 Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement.



For More Information:

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