**Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund**

**Call for Proposal**

***Template – Call for proposals Regular Funding Cycle***

***Call Opens: Tuesday 10th August 2021***

***Deadline for Submissions: 9th September 2021 (4 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 supported 345 civil society organizations that promote the participation of women and girls in 22 crisis-affected 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 **LIBERIA**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

Applicants should select **ONE** of the following two thematic areas and highlight clearly which thematic area they are applying to:

* Thematic Area 1: Enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming (aligned with WPHF Impact Area 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response).

OR

* Thematic Area 2: Improving socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts (aligned with WPHF impact Area 6: Recovery and Peacebuilding).

The proposal submitted must be aligned with the WPHF impact statements of the respective thematic area. Please read through theWPHF Tip Sheets for guidance on developing the result framework in Section 8 below.

Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and girls with multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, migration, age, etc.

**Context Thematic Area 1: Humanitarian crisis planning and programming in Liberia (aligned with WPHF Impact Area 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response).**

Since the onset of the pandemic in Liberia (March 16, 2020), the National Incident Management System (IMS) was established with 18 pillars driving the response under the central command of the Minister of Health as the incident manager. Additionally, a special presidential advisory committee on COVID-19 (SPACCO) chaired by H.E. President George Weah has been formed. Immediate steps taken by the government after the detection of the index case included the declaration of a health emergency, which entailed certain restrictive measures from large gatherings, closure of all schools nationwide and enforcing social distancing among others. In 2020, a National Response Coordination Structure was set up by the government supported by the Incident Management System and the 19 Sectoral Pillars led by the government ministries.

Recently, Liberia has had a sharp increase of COVID-19 cases due the new variant.Currently Liberia has reported over 4,000 confirmed cases. In late May 2021 the country began to experience an exponential increase of cases in Montserrado County. To date, the country is in the third wave of the outbreak with a significant increase in weekly cases compared to previous waves. Regardless, health protocols have remained intact. Currently the national COVID-19 response plan and its strategy is being revised with the new variant of COVID-19. This health pandemic is likely to exacerbate the pre-existing humanitarian vulnerabilities in a country with a low human development index and ranking 179 out 190 countries and territories

**Context Thematic Area 2: Socio-Economic Recovery and Political Participation in Liberia (aligned with WPHF impact Area 6: Recovery and Peacebuilding)**

The economy has been struggling towards post-Ebola recovery with a medium-term growth forecast of 3.8%, far below the requirement of 7% annual growth to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.[[1]](#footnote-1) Over 90% of youth do not have access to formal employment and women experience higher informal employment than men (90.9%) as well as more vulnerable employment (91.1%)[[2]](#footnote-2). The economic impact of COVID-19 has had a significant bearing on vulnerable groups including refugees, rural women, youth, elderly, survivors of SGBV and migrants among others due to the loss of income, restricted movement, reduced access to markets, inflation and spikes in prices. In due course, it may lead to increases in social unrest and negative coping strategies such as hazardous forms of child labour and child marriage. With more than 79% of the population vulnerably employed, hunger and unrest are increasing in many informal settlements and rural areas of the country that have been locked down without social safety nets to protect the poor and vulnerable groups from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The combination of poverty, high external dependency (including reliance on donor assistance and food imports) and widespread price increases of essential commodities due to COVID-19 could prove catastrophic. The rate of malnourishment in Liberia of 37.2% is high compared to the average rate in Africa.

In addition, emerging evidence on the impact of COVID-19 suggests that women’s economic and productive lives will be affected disproportionately and differently from men. Women’s capacity to absorb economic shocks is therefore less than that of men. This has worsened with the COVID- 19 pandemic as women are now taking on greater care demands at home and their jobs are disproportionately affected by cuts and lay-offs. Such impacts risk rolling back the already fragile gains made in female labor force participation, limiting women’s ability to support themselves and their families, especially for female-headed households.

While in recent years the percentage of women in administrative and decision-making positions has increased, undoubtedly influenced by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's election to the presidency in 2005, there is still a long way to achieve gender equality in political processes, increased political participation of women and girls, and gender parity in representative and decision-making bodies. Although many women had a key role in the advocacy and peacebuilding processes, their inclusion in the development and their consideration in the implementation of policies based on UNSCR 1325 is still limited.

Women participation in politics and public office remains low in Liberia with 9.7% women representation in the legislature (parliament) and about 22% in Ministries, Agencies and Commissions (MACs) as per presidential appointments.  This remains far less that the 30% minimum benchmark set by Beijing platform for action 25 years ago for a critical mass and voice of women in sustainable peace and development. The contributive factors remain broadly the following:

* the absence of robust gender responsive legal frameworks that binds and propels the commitments of Liberia as per signed international human and women’s rights treaties
* limited coordination and monitoring peacebuilding mechanisms in-spite of the capacity build by development partners over the years makes it difficult to harvest results for Liberia with the participation of women in decision making
* highly patriarchal perceptions, attitudes and practices that manifest in (political institutions) political parties, legislature, judiciary, the elections management body, the executive and local governance culture which constricts the contribution and role of women in peace and development to feed upstream
* the normalization of gender-based violence that cuts across all sectors of Liberia have made violence against women in politics and elections a non-issue and continues to push back meaningful women political participation as voters and candidates and ultimately women’s voice at policy/ decision making is absent and,
* the absence of sex disaggregated data to capture both challenges and opportunities exacerbates the marginalization of women despite them constituting almost half of the population in Liberia and having contributed to ushering the peace that Liberia enjoy by pushing for the Accra peace accord in Ghana.
1. **Duration of Grants**

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

1. **Location**

Projects can be implemented in all locations in Liberia at subnational level and at national level.

1. **Funding Amounts**

The WPHF will grant around 1 million USD over two years to Liberia. The Call for Proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women’s organizations in fragile settings with programmatic funding from **30,000 USD to 200,000 USD**.

Applicants should select only **ONE** of the following two thematic areas and highlight clearly which thematic area they are applying to:

* Thematic area 1: Enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming (aligned with WPHF Impact Area 3).
* Thematic area 2: Improving socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts (aligned with WPHF Impact Area 6).

**An organization can only apply to one thematic area. Organizations cannot apply multiple times or to both thematic areas.**

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

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

International[[3]](#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. 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. Only the lead partner has to provide their legal registration. 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.

Implementing partners that are part of a joint proposal, do not have to be legally registered **but have to be a civil society organization** (non-profit and non-governmental).

**All applicants should endeavor to secure sectoral clearance** from the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection.

**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 (either as lead or implementing partner) may not submit more than one application. If an organization appears in more than one application, only one project may be considered as eligible.

**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 WPHF Impact Area 3 **OR** to WPHF Impact Area 6 as outlined in Section 2. Projects must focus on one WPHF impact area only and use the respective impact area statement and required indicators as stated below.

**WPHF impact Area 3: Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming**

***Select at least one (1) indicator:***

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

**WPHF Impact Area 6: Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts**

***Select at least one (1) indicator:***

* *6.1. Number and types of plans and/or policies in peacebuilding contexts influenced by women or civil society organizations*
* *6.2. Number/percentage of women with increased agency as a result of economic productive resources*
* *6.3. Number of women participating in political and decision-making processes*

**Please note that all projects are required to Include the following reach indicators:**

* *Number of people directly benefiting from the response (by sex, age group, or other variables)*
* *Number of people indirectly benefiting from the response*
* *AND develop 1-2 additional indicators for each outcome that captures the change of your project*

Please refer to the indicator tip sheets for additional information and the results framework in the proposal application form.

**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 **Friday, 20th August 2021** (via Zoom) at 11:00 am organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: nathan.birch@unwomen.org by **Tuesday, 17th August 2021**

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

* The deadline for submission of proposals is **Tuesday, 9th September 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 liberia.procurement@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 confirmation of receipt within three days.
* The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please note that a number of questions are already covered in this guidance note. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.
* In addition, an **information session** for prospective applicants (via Zoom) will be organized on **Friday, 20th August 2021 at 11:00 am**. An email will be sent through the Liberia CSO mailing list to invite you to this session. You can also send an email to nathan.birch@unwomen.org if you are interested in registering for this session.

**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 a specific impact in its results framework.
* Definition of clear objectives, results, and outputs, taking into account 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 the Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one behind.
* Partnership and capacity development of local women’s organizations and/or a clear capacity building plan for CSO partners is 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](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-3_Humanitarian_ENG-FINAL_09112020.pdf)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet for WPHF Impact Area 6](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-6_Peacebuilding-Recovery_ENG-FINAL_09112020.pdf)
* The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s [Operation Manual](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPHF-Operations-Manual_Dec2020_FINAL-1.pdf)
* 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. Page 8 USAID, youth Assessment, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNSDCF 2020-2024, Government of Liberia and UN, 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Only if registered at the national level. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)