



SUPPORTING WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE WORLD'S EVOLVING CRISES

Our Mission

The United Nations **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund** (WPHF) is a global partnership re-energizing action and accelerating support for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in humanitarian response and peace and security settings. Guided by a range of civil society, government, and UN actors, WPHF is a multi-partner trust

fund mobilizing urgently needed financing for local organizations led by and working alongside women on the front lines to build lasting peace. WPHF has funded and supported the capacity of over 400 local and grassroots civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action in 26 crisis-affected countries around the world.



When women peacebuilders, humanitarians and human rights defenders are adequately financed, their impact is exponential.

Addressing Today's Urgent Challenges

Humanitarian crises and threats to peace are more common than ever before. The numbers of people displaced due to conflict, crises, persecution and human rights violations are the highest on record and have more than doubled in a decade. Conflict is on the rise with tensions exacerbated by climate change, violent extremism and a once-in-a-century global pandemic, which has wrought grave consequences and continued threats to gender equality and international peace and security.¹

In the face of such unprecedented challenges, women on the front lines have proven to serve as engines of progress, agency and action. Women peacebuilders and first responders play critical roles leading local movements to prevent conflict, respond to crises, end sexual and gender-based violence, build back better from COVID-19, and forge lasting peace in their communities. Evidence shows that when women are included in local decision-making and crisis response, they expand the reach and impact of humanitarian aid, accelerate economic recovery, advance gender equality, prevent radicalization and create more sustainable peace for all.

Despite this, women's participation remains minimal and financing for local women's organizations in crisis settings is needlessly low. The share of development assistance for fragile or conflict-affected countries that reaches women-led and women's rights organizations stands at a strikingly small 0.4 per cent of total bilateral aid.²

While the needs of local women's organizations continue to be de-prioritized, their contributions unacknowledged and the transformative power of their work underestimated, they continue to deliver results. Local women's organizations reach remote areas where services are often disrupted or non-existent and bring deep structural change to address the underlying causes of conflict and inequality on the ground.

Women are often the first in their communities to mobilize for peace, adapting their approaches and working to build a more secure and better future for all. **WPHF is investing in the work of women civil-society leaders who are yielding remarkable dividends towards a more peaceful, inclusive and gender-equal world.**

“Let us galvanize the donor community’s support for universal compliance with the target of allocating a minimum of 15% of official development assistance for conflict-affected countries to advancing gender equality ... including multiplying by five direct assistance to women’s organizations.”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General, Oct 2020

1. UN Security Council (2021) Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2021/827), para. 2.

2. UN Security Council (2021) Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2021/827), para. 91.

How We Work

Our Goal: More Peaceful & Gender-Equal Societies

Enabling Environment for
Women, Peace and Security



WPHF finances women's civil society in fragile settings through 4 key funding mechanisms

1
Regular
Funding Cycle

2
COVID-19
Emergency
Response Window

3
Rapid Response
Window on
Women and
Peace Processes

4
Funding Window
for Women
Human Rights
Defenders

WPHF provides flexible programmatic and institutional financing for local women's organizations to leverage their strategic positions and expertise to bring about deep structural change and address the underlying causes and consequences of conflict and crisis.

Advancing the 2030 Agenda

WPHF is an innovative tool for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and localizing the commitments of the SDG Agenda (with a specific focus on SDG 5 and 16) to national specificities of conflict-affected countries.



Localizing Humanitarian Response

As a mechanism supporting local, grassroots and community-based organizations in fragile settings, WPHF has the “*leaving no one behind*” principle at the heart of its mandate and strategy and a strategic tool for donors to implement their commitments under three work streams of the Grand Bargain’s humanitarian financing reforms: Participant Revolution, Humanitarian-Development Nexus and Localization.

WPHF By the Numbers

Supporting Projects in
26
Countries Worldwide

Over 420
Civil-Society Organizations
Supported

2.4M
people directly served
(of which 76% are
women and girls)

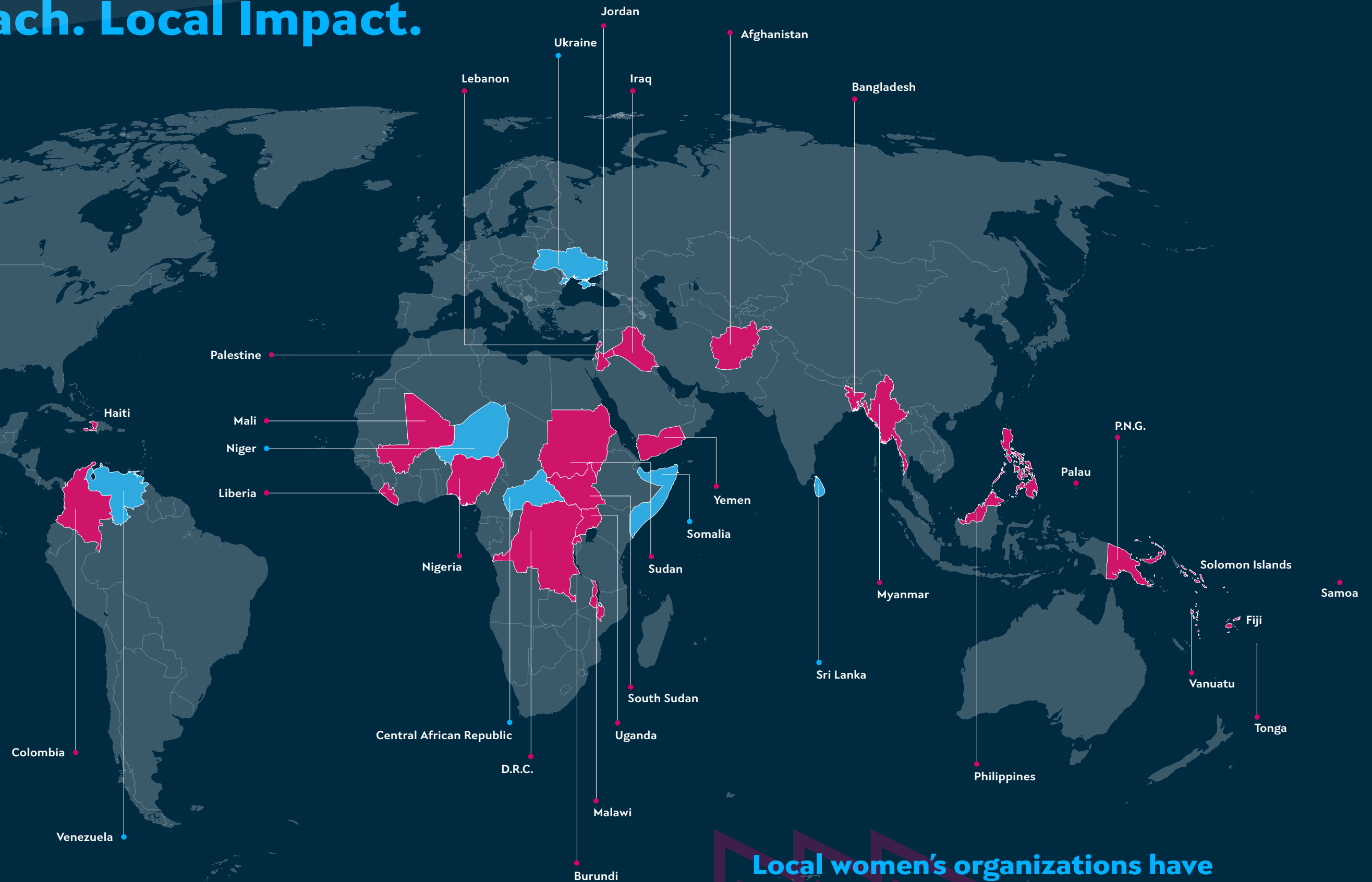
9.9M
people indirectly
served

Over \$76M USD
mobilized in support of
local women peacebuilders,
humanitarians and human
rights defenders *

12
Board Members
• 4 Government Donors
• 4 UN Agencies
• 4 INGOs

*RM figure as of Nov 2021

Global Reach. Local Impact.



- Active Countries
- Reserve List Countries

Local women's organizations have transformative impact and serve as engines of progress and powerful agents of change on the front lines.

Key Results

Women Civil Society Leaders Transforming Local Communities

Regular Funding Cycle



Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C)

Championing women's participation in peacebuilding, recovery and protection of women and girls

WPHF has supported 59 civil society organizations in DRC working across the peace and humanitarian nexus, ensuring women and girls' safety, and ensuring women's rights to participate in decision-making, community peacebuilding and recovery opportunities. Partners have established peace structures managing conflicts in their communities, resulting in 98 conflicts being resolved through mediation and social contracts. They have also responded to the needs of women and girls who are forcibly displaced and survivors of SGBV with access to essential maternal and child health services, distribution of over 5,400 health kits to Burundian refugees and putting in place local mechanisms to monitor and respond to incidences of violence against women. Women's associations have also built their economic resilience through income generating activities and access to revolving funds, contributing to greater decision-making power within their families and communities.

WPHF partners in DRC have transformed the lives of:



36,966*

direct beneficiaries
(80% women and girls)



2,000,000

indirect beneficiaries

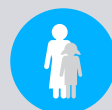


Mali

Ensuring women's agency and decision-making in peacebuilding through economic recovery and resilience

WPHF has supported 34 civil society organizations working to improve the socio-economic recovery of women and girls, including women who are forcibly displaced. Through their initiatives, 242 women's associations and cooperatives have been strengthened and their production diversified, resulting in an increase in income by an average of 275%. In addition, newly established production units have decreased women's working burden by 25%, providing them with more time to participate in decision-making processes within their families and communities. Training in advocacy and conflict management has also resulted in an increase in women's representation in local peace committees, improving social cohesion, even advocating for rehabilitation of water services, improving access to 75% of the population and reducing tensions within the community.

WPHF partners in Mali have transformed the lives of:



11,573

direct beneficiaries
(91% women and girls)



57,865

indirect beneficiaries

Supporting Women at the Forefront of a Global Pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic has presented grave new threats to the critical work and very existence of women civil-society organizations working on the front lines of crises, making WPHF's mandate to mobilize support and advocate for their efforts more urgent than ever before. Local women-led and women's rights organizations around the world are playing key roles in supporting efforts to respond to the gendered impacts of the global pandemic and stem the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. Yet

their critical work in contexts of conflict and humanitarian crises continues to be dramatically under-resourced. It is against this backdrop that WPHF - in direct consultation with its board members, various UN entities and UN Women country offices - designed and launched the **WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window** in April 2020 to rapidly channel dedicated programmatic and institutional financing to local women's organizations threatened by and working to respond to COVID-19 in their communities.

WPHF has supported through its emergency response window **48** local organizations in their COVID-19 response efforts in **18** countries on **5** continents around the world.

Covid-19 Emergency Response Window

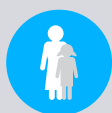


Palestine

Addressing the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic

WPHF partners in Palestine have provided comprehensive gender-sensitive responses designed to protect and support women most affected by COVID-19 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including women living with disabilities. This includes over 480 women and girls and boys accessing sexual and reproductive health services, safe shelter and gender-based violence case management, and referrals in a safe and dignified manner as well as the distribution of food parcels and hygiene kits to women-headed households. To address the immediate and longer-term economic impacts due to pandemic restrictions, women business owners who suffered financial loss accessed small grants to continue to grow their businesses through access to small grants in various sectors including food processing, agro-processing, hairdressing and manufacturing of household goods.

WPHF partners in Palestine have transformed the lives of:



2,965

direct beneficiaries
(75% women and girls)



285,000

indirect beneficiaries



Yemen

Strengthening women's rights organization's institutional and operational capacity for continuity of essential programming in the context of humanitarian crisis

Institutional and core funding through WPHF has strengthened the operational capacity of women's civil society organizations at risk during COVID19. Partners have improved their technical knowledge on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) case management in the context of humanitarian crisis, and strengthened their accounting and management processes. As a result, SGBV strategic plans and SGBV case management centers were established in partnership with two local CSOs, the Ministry of Labor and SGBV service providers, resulting in a 283% increase of capacity to manage cases and provide essential services. This core funding has also enabled organizations to sustain their work and pay staff salaries and operational costs, essential to sustain their work through crisis and the pandemic.

WPHF partners in Yemen have transformed the lives of:



251

direct beneficiaries
(90% women and girls)



109,261

indirect beneficiaries



Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar)

Ensuring access to essential health services for forcibly displaced women and communities during COVID-19

WPHF partners in Cox Bazar have enhanced displaced Rohingya women's awareness and leadership in preventing and responding to the gendered impacts of COVID-19 in refugee camps, including women living with disabilities. Following the training for women-led networks and volunteers, WPHF partners have reached over 47,000 community members with prevention and personal hygiene information, COVID-19 testing in collaboration with health facilities, and access to sexual and reproductive health services through door-to-door campaigns. In addition, female sex workers and LGBTI groups have been provided with personal protective equipment and dignity kits. These organizations have also supported women impacted by lockdown measures economically, with business and vocational skills.

WPHF partners in Bangladesh have transformed the lives of:



48,778

direct beneficiaries
(99% women and girls)



124,628

indirect beneficiaries

Learn more about WPHF's COVID-19 response at WPHFund.org/COVID-19

Strategic Partnerships to End SGBV in Conflict & Crisis-Affected Settings

WPHF is partnering with the Spotlight Initiative (SI) - a global multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations - to channel rapid financing to local women's organizations working to prevent and end sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in peace and security and humanitarian

contexts. This innovative partnership focuses on supporting local women's organizations representing and working on behalf of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principle of leaving no one behind.

WPHF + Spotlight Initiative Partnership ->>> total investment: **USD 13** million, supporting **73** projects in **8** countries: **D.R.C, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Haiti.**

The WPHF + Spotlight Initiative Partnership



Liberia & Uganda

Building women's coalitions and movements for the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence

In Liberia and Uganda local partners are working to build active coalitions and movements for the prevention and response to SGBV. Violence prevention committees made up of various women's groups and organizations in both countries are raising awareness, lobbying for access to health and judicial services and carrying out ongoing monitoring of incidences and responses in communities. Local 'women peace huts' and 'peace desks' have also led to new coalitions between women's groups, community committees and organizations to collectively raise awareness on women's rights, track policy and monitor responses. As a result, joint statements and 64 policy recommendations have been developed to support ongoing advocacy efforts for increased sexual and reproductive health services with local government.

WPHF partners in Liberia and Uganda have transformed the lives of:



27,887

direct beneficiaries
(69% women and girls)



141,944

indirect beneficiaries

Championing Women's Participation in Peace Processes

Women remain significantly underrepresented in peace and transitional processes worldwide. Recognizing the limited progress made on accelerating women's meaningful participation in peace processes across the globe - and after consultation with women peacebuilders, stakeholders and various UN and civil society experts - WPHF officially launched in January 2021 its **Rapid Response Window on Women's Participation in Peace Processes and the Implementation of Peace Agreements (RRW)**. A recommendation of the UN Secretary

General in his 2019 annual report on women, peace and security, the RRW provides financial, expert and logistical support to women's civil society organizations to address the immediate barriers women often face to accessing and influencing peace processes. Since 2020, the RRW has approved direct or short-term grant support for **11** civil society organizations working to enhance women's participation in formal peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements in **Afghanistan, Liberia, Mali, and South Sudan**.



The WPHF Rapid Response Window on Women and Peace Processes



Afghanistan

Supporting the participation and protection of women in the Afghan Peace Negotiations

Prior to August 2021, the WPHF RRW financed services enabling a women's rights network to organize an accessible, inclusive and impactful women's peace workshop held in parallel to the Intra-Afghan Peace Negotiations, remaining flexible to respond to changes in the peace negotiation schedules and location. Additionally, the RRW provided daily subsistence allowance to facilitate the safe participation of Afghan women in high-level dialogues to guide the peace negotiations with the Taliban. After Kabul fell to the Taliban in August this year, the RRW quickly shifted its priorities and rapidly mobilized to support the urgent evacuation of Afghan women who actively participated in the peace negotiations and were most at risk of retaliation, as well as emergency financial support to safely continue their advocacy as peace activists.



South Sudan

Strengthening monitoring of the implementation of gender provisions in peace agreements

The RRW is providing direct support to a local partner and its consortium partners to cover the costs of technical support services reinforcing women's roles in monitoring the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). In partnership with an expert WPHF INGO partner, they are developing a strategic tool to measure implementation of the gender provisions outlined in R-ARCSS, establishing clear indicators and milestones for monitoring at the county level. Following this, a consultative workshop in Western Equatoria State will aim to ensure women's perspectives influence the implementation of the R-ARCSS gender provisions through the development of a participatory plan of action, including participatory reporting and accountability.

The WPHF Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) serving as peace activists play critical roles during and after conflict, working across the human rights-peace and security-development nexus, often at grave risk to their own lives. In the wake of the evolving Afghanistan crises, WPHF is responding to the growing calls to action for the creation of a dedicated funding mechanisms to support WHRDs working as peace activists worldwide. Building on existing mechanisms and lessons learned, and in close collaboration with its UN and INGO partners, WPHF established in September 2021 a new Funding Window to support the urgent needs of WHRDs working for inclusive peace and humanitarian action.

This new window will provide flexible financial support for the participation and protection of women peace activists working in/on conflict, crisis and post-conflict settings through two types of support: (i) a flexible funding safety net to cover urgent, short-term livelihood and protection expenses and (ii) direct logistical support for the international/regional travel costs for the safe evacuation and continued advocacy work in country and around the world. As a UN multi-partner trust fund, WPHF will continue to mobilize its partners and build on its strategic position in the UN and diplomatic community to support the work of WHRDs working for inclusive peace and humanitarian response.



Flexible Institutional Support for Women on the Front Lines

In July 2021, WPHF released the findings of its annual **Civil Society Organization Survey on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action**, which aimed to take stock of the space and support for local women's organizations working to respond to crisis and build peace in active WPHF countries around the world⁴. Key findings from the survey revealed that **85%** of CSOs feel that their organization is at some level of risk, including 46.1% who are at high or very high risk, due to the lack of programmatic or institutional funding for local women's organizations working on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and/or humanitarian action. More than **77%** of organizations also note these risks have increased or remained constant over the past 12 months, threatening the continuity

of their operations or ability to implement programming as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing hostile environments to women's rights.

WPHF aims for the findings of this survey to help highlight the continued need for the international community and private sector actors to support local women's organizations working in crisis and conflict settings through flexible and quality funding, including multi-year institutional or core funding. In response to these needs and challenges, WPHF has integrated in its mechanisms both flexible institutional funding and programmatic funding to best support local women's organizations as actors for peace and gender equality.

“The Institutional funding we received changed our entire world as we could have closed without it. Now our grassroots projects are flourishing and our entire staff is amazed that someone out there is willing to lift us up with funding and support to continue our grassroots project.”

WPHF partner **Iyali Community Development Association (ICDA)**, Nigeria



Learn more about WPHF's 2020 survey findings [here](#)

4. 154 CSO representatives from 19 countries across Africa, Arab States, Asia & the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the survey.

Building Community. Supporting Capacity. Driving Innovation.

Fulfilling its mandate to serve as a global hub of knowledge for local women peacebuilders and humanitarians around the world, WPHF has led the design and launch of an innovative global community of practice and knowledge management platform. The **WPHF Global Community of Practice (CoP)** is fostering an innovative online space for WPHF CSO partners to connect with each other, collaborate, strengthen their networks, share best practices, facilitate dialogue, exchange knowledge and deepen their skills and capacity. Through its digital platform, capacity building webinars

and peer exchange sessions, the WPHF CoP has engaged and strengthened the institutional development of over 280 WPHF grantees.

In order to deepen and expand the quality, accessibility and reach of its global capacity building and CoP efforts, WPHF has established the **WPHF Global Learning Hub (WPHF L-HUB)**, which will offer enhanced capacity building, knowledge exchange, peer learning and mentoring opportunities to a wider pool of local CSO leaders working in conflict and crises around the world.



Learn more about WPHF's CoP and capacity building efforts at WPHFund.org/community



1,000 Women Leaders: Accelerating a Global Movement for Peace and Equality

Local women CSO leaders are engines of progress, transformative impact, and powerful agents of change on the front lines of conflict and crises. The WPHF #1000WomenLeaders Campaign is mobilizing the reach and influence of a range of partners to invest in local women leaders' untapped potential, highlight their impact, amplify their voices and recognize their agency to build a more peaceful and gender-equal world for all.

By the end of 2025, WPHF aims to invest in 1,000 women leaders in 1,000 crisis-affected communities through contributions to 5 key areas:



Mobilize Financing to Support their Work



Strengthen their Institutional Capacity



Drive Innovation, Connection & Community



Amplify their Voices, Priorities and Impact



Advocate for their Rights, Recognition & Influence

Together, the United Nations, Donor Governments, and the Private Sector must take a collective step forward for women working on the front lines of crises. Join us today.

WPHF has a bold new goal to support 1,000 women leaders in 1,000 crisis-affected communities around the world.

Learn how you can get involved at [WPHfund.org/1000WomenLeaders](https://wphfund.org/1000WomenLeaders)

WPHF is grateful to the donor governments of

**Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Estonia,
the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Japan,
Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands,
Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom**

for their generous support



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*All beneficiary data as of Dec 2020

