**Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund**

**Call for Proposal- Forced Displacement**

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

***Call Opens: 20 January 2022***

***Deadline for Submissions: 4 April 2022 (10 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 Germany, the Netherlands, the European Commission and Canada), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network on women’s rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Transitional Justice Institute and Women Enabled International). 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. **About the Action Network on Forced Displacement**

The “Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change” was established in October 2020 by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It aims to increase the visibility of women and girls by giving them a voice as actors in situations of forced displacement and strengthening their rights as well as their economic and social participation. The Action Network brings together women and girls as well as men and boys who are actively engaged with displaced women and girls. This includes decision-makers from political, economic and social spheres, activists and displaced women and girls themselves, who are implementing projects in crisis and conflict settings. The Action Network aims to identify effective good practices for strengthening the political and economic participation and improving the psychosocial health of displaced women and girls. Members of the Action Network will convene regularly to discuss good practices and develop recommendations for policymakers, civil society and local actors to inform policy processes. This Call for Proposals will be linked to the “Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change and grantees civil society partners selected under this Call will be invited to participate in relevant network activities as well as a mentorship programme with the members of the Action Network.

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.

At the end of 2020, 82,4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide – the highest number on record by UNHCR[[1]](#footnote-1). Iraq has been faced by a series of migratory crises caused by insurgency, conflict and environmental disasters. According to UNHCR, Iraq reported 1,224,108 internally displaced people in 2020 as well as 4,8 million returnees. A total of 270,392 refugees and 2,670 asylum seekers of mainly Syrian, Turkish, Iranian, Palestinian and Sudanese origin were registered in Iraq[[2]](#footnote-2).

Women and girls who live in camps or host communities are among the most vulnerable displaced people. Their right to participate in political and economic decision-making is undermined by social, cultural and legal barriers, their lack of familiarity with their new environments, psychosocial stress caused by traumatic experiences, economic deprivation and lack of decent livelihood opportunities. Crisis and conflict contexts increase displaced women’s and girls’ risk of violence due to the breakdown of social structures, lack of law enforcement and prevalence of harmful gender norms and practices. Conflict-induced poverty and food insecurities further exasperate the plight of displaced women and girls and the fragile security context makes it challenging to provide adequate humanitarian services.

The international community often perceives displaced women and girls as victims and survivors of violence – frequently of sexual violence and abuse. While women face additional risks and challenges because of their sex, women’s and girls’ resilience is often overlooked, especially in times of crises. Displaced women and girls secure the survival of their families and their communities with great strength and responsibility, frequently overcome difficult situations and regain control of their lives. Many displaced women and girls are resilient and empowered actors and their participation in social, economic and political decision-making is a crucial prerequisite to building peace and gender-responsive recovery in Iraq and globally.

In response to this, the focus of this WPHF call for proposals will be on **local civil society organizations that promote the social, political and economic empowerment of forcibly displaced women and girls** (e.g. refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers) in crisis and conflict contexts. Suggested priority topics for projects are listed in Appendix 1. Special attention will be provided to applications supporting displaced women and girls facing 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:

* **Programmatic funding stream** (WPHF impact area 6) to promote improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.

Please read through theWPHF Indicator Tip Sheet for guidance on the result framework for Impact area 6 in Section 9 below.

1. **Duration of Grants**

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

1. **Location**

Projects should be implemented in any of the following location(s):

1. **Anbar**
2. **Ninawa/Sinjar**
3. **Kirkuk**
4. **Baghdad**
5. **Salah EL Din**
6. **Babel**
7. **Diyala**
8. **Funding Streams and Amount**

The WPHF will grant around **1.2 million USD** over **one year** to Iraq. The Call for proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women’s organizations in fragile settings, with funding stream:

**Funding stream 1: Programmatic funding: from 150,000 USD to 200,000 USD**

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the WPHF Impact Area 6.

**Please note: All selected grantees must ensure that there is continuous coordination with the Department of Women empowerment in their respective governorates.**

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

**7.1. 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

**7.2. 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.

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).

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

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

**7.4. May I submit more than one application?**No, organizations (either as lead or implementing partner) may not submit more than one application per funding stream. If an organization appears in more than one application in the same funding stream, only one project may be considered as eligible.

**7.5. 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.

**7.6. 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.

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

For this Call for Proposal, the project(s) must contribute to the following WPHF Impact areas:

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

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one):

* 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.

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

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

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

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on **Thursday** **27 January 2022** online by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: [musab.othman@unwomen.org](mailto:musab.othman@unwomen.org) by **24 January 2022.**

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

* The deadline for submission of proposals is **Monday 4 April 2022.** Applications received after that date will not be considered.
* Applications are accepted in **English and Arabic**. 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** 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 on **Thursday** **27 January 2022** **at 11:00 am** local time. If you would like to participate, please register here: [musab.othman@unwomen.org](mailto:musab.othman@unwomen.org)

**8.1. 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.**

**8.2. Evaluation Criteria**

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

**Stream 1: 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.
* Partnership with, and capacity development of local women’s organizations. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
* Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
* Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

* A clear capacity building plan for CSO partners is in place to deliver programme results.
* Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame. In general, projects should not last for more than 24 months.
* Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

Budget:

* The project falls within the limits set by the national steering committee.
* 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 for Impact area 6 – programmatic funding stream](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-6_Peacebldg-Recovery_Forced-Displacement_ENG-FINAL_14012021-1.pdf)
* The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s [Operations Manual](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WPHF-Operations-Manual-October-20-2021_FINAL_COMP.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>
* WPHF Results Based Management Capacity Webinar at [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRa73pDvWJE)

**Appendix 1: Suggested priority topics for projects under the programmatic funding stream (aligned with WPHF Impact Area 6)**

This list of suggested topics for projects is based on the priorities identified by the Action Network on Forced Displacement. The list is non-exhaustive, and grantees are encouraged to make additional suggestions that are in line with the objectives of this Call for Proposals.

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| --- | --- |
| **Themes** | **Suggestions from the Action Network** |
| **Women and girls’ political participation** | * Support displaced women’s and girls’ access to local government and local power structures * Hold government accountable to promote gender equality and the rights of displaced women and girls in their legal and policy frameworks * Facilitate leadership trainings for displaced women and girls * Address the lack of security for women activists, local organizations and advocates working on forced displacement * Ensure women’s access to justice incl. access to legal services and advice and promote a gender lens in justice processes |
| **Women and girls’ economic and social empowerment** | * Facilitate displaced women’s and girls’ access to financial services, banking services and credit * Support displaced women’s and girls’ access to economic resources, professional training, and vocational jobs * Provide displaced women and girls that have business projects with counseling * Secure displaced women’s and girls’ economic rights * Support displaced women’s and girls’ access to education and higher education in their host communities and in refugees or IDP camps or settlements * Support displaced women’s and girls’ access to digital devices and tools as well as access to the internet * Increasing resilience of displaced women and girls to conflicts and new threats (such as COVID-19) * Prevent abuse, exploitation and human trafficking of displaced women and girls through socio-economic empowerment measures |
| **Women’s and girls’ networking, experiences sharing, and integration** | * Promote the integration and networking of displaced women and girls in their host communities * Promote changes in social norms of displaced women and girls and of host communities – e.g., by promoting empathy and support through shared success stories. * Promote displaced women’s and girls’ experience-sharing on becoming independent and empowered * Make the voices and the stories of displaced women and girls as well as host communities heard * Help grassroots initiatives working with displaced women and girls establish partnerships between each other as well as with international women’s organizations |

1. UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNHCR, Iraq 2020. Available online: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2547?y=2020#year> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Only if registered at the national level. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)