

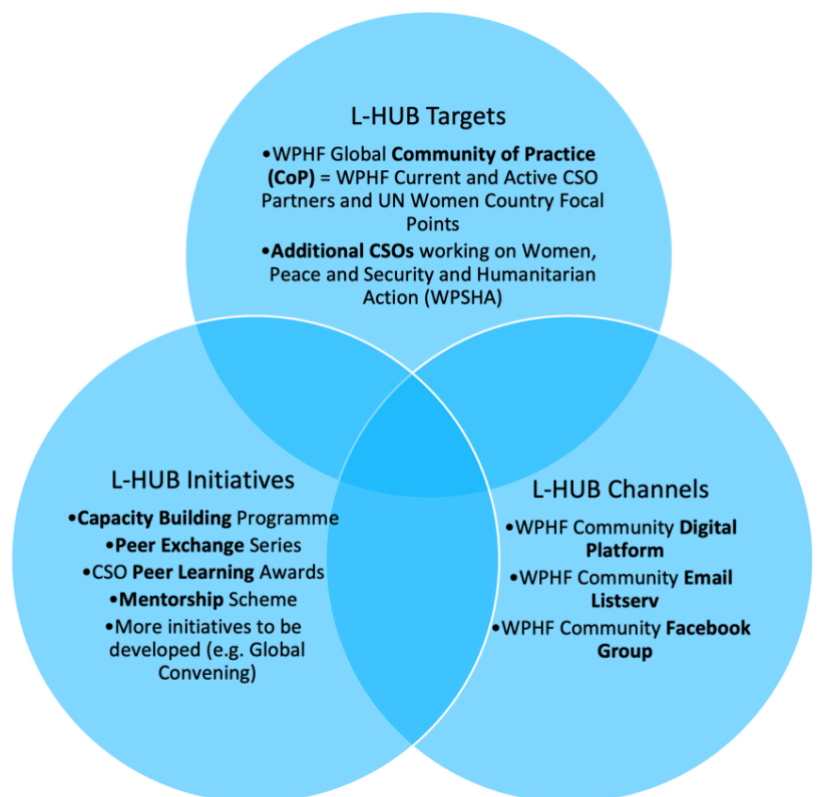


## The WPHF Global Learning Hub and Community Building Capacity and Dialogue. Driving Innovation.

The **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)** is a global partnership mobilizing critical financing for local women-led and women's rights organizations to prevent conflict and sexual and gender-based violence, respond to emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities in fragile settings. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has established itself as a highly relevant and credible multi-partner trust fund, channeling urgently needed support to over 450 local civil society organizations (CSOs) working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action (WPS-HA) in 26 countries around the world.

In fulfillment of its mandate to serve as a global knowledge center for local CSOs working on the front lines of conflict and crises, the WPHF Secretariat has launched its **Global Community of Practice (CoP)** in 2020 to connect WPHF civil society partners, reinforce their capacities and support their growth and resilience. The CoP is an innovative online space facilitating dialogue and exchange of best practices between women peacebuilders and humanitarians. Through capacity building and peer exchange webinars, the WPHF CoP has strengthened the institutional development of over **850 civil society leaders**<sup>1</sup> since 2020 from 192 CSOs from 21 countries<sup>2</sup>.

The Secretariat established the **Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)** in 2021 to mobilize dedicated financing for and expand its capacity development efforts. The L-HUB offers training, knowledge exchange, and mentoring opportunities to a wider pool of women leaders and CSOs, through leveraging partnerships with I/NGOs, private sector actors, governments, and the academia. The L-HUB develops initiatives to support long term peer learning between CSOs, and a mentorship scheme in support of CSOs working with displaced women and girls.



<sup>1</sup> Data as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Fiji, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palau, Palestine, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Uganda, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

WPHF L-HUB's initiatives include:

- The **CSO Peer Learning Awards**, launched in collaboration with [Women Have Wings](#), to promote the work and recognize the efforts of ten women CSO leaders engaged in peace and crisis response with a focus on youth, and support mutual capacity building and networking between 10 CSOs who will collaborate and work in tandems in DRC, Jordan, Nigeria, Palestine and Uganda.
- The WPHF **Mentorship Scheme** will mobilize the expertise of [Germany's Action Network on Forced Displacement](#) to provide capacity building to WPHF civil society partners and offer mentoring and advice to CSOs focusing on women in displacement and working in tandems.

## Overview of WPHF Global Community of Practice (CoP)

The CoP is designed for WPHF civil society partners and UN Women country offices' focal points and is managed by the WPHF Secretariat. The CoP constitutes:

- A password protected **Digital Platform**, developed in pro-bono partnership with [Dell Technologies](#) which leverages Microsoft Office technology. The Digital Platform includes a Member Directory, a Library of knowledge products on women, peace and security and humanitarian issues, a Calendar of Events, a Capacity Building Portal, Social Media integration, Linkages to external resources and funding opportunities, and a Help Desk.
- An **Email Distribution Group** (List Serv) enabling WPHF to disseminate capacity building resources and training and dialogue opportunities. Through the CoP Monthly Update, members of the CoP (350 recipients as of December 2021) are constantly updated on WPHF CoP events, knowledge resources and activities.
- A **Facebook Group** empowering over 150 representatives of WPHF CSO partners to engage with fellow civil society peers from around the world and exchange impacts, ideas, and solutions.
- A **Capacity Building Programme** tailored to the CSOs' needs made of training modules in multiple formats and languages on critical skills such as strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, communications, advocacy, and resource mobilization.
- A **Peer Exchange Series** providing a space for CSOs to share strategies and challenges on WPSHA topics and present the knowledge products resulting from their work.

## WPHF Capacity Building Programme and Peer Exchange Series

In May 2020, WPHF conducted an online survey to assess the capacity building priorities of its active CSO partners. Building on the results of this initial assessment which engaged 67 local organizations from 8 countries, WPHF designed a comprehensive global capacity building strategy, with particular emphasis on the pillars of accessibility, CSO ownership, information exchange and non-duplication of efforts at country level<sup>3</sup>. With the intent to help local CSO partners become stronger organizations and sustain their efforts, WPHF global capacity building modules and resources are purposefully designed to support the survival of local women's organizations in the long-term, and do not aim to focus on improving organizations' compliance with WPHF and other UN administrative processes.

The **Capacity Building Programme** is structured around various learning modules articulating a range of topics designed to enhance the institutional capacity of local CSOs working in crises-affected contexts, such as results-based management, data collection, communications, technology, risk management, and

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<sup>3</sup> WPHF Capacity Building Strategy is available on <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WPHF-Capacity-Building-Strategy-Updated-2021.pdf>

resource mobilization. Through mobilizing external partners and experts (CSOs and INGOs, UN entities and other organizations), WPHF offers online training webinars in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, on the topics prioritized by the CSO representatives. In 2021, the webinars and associated learning resources covered the areas of prevention and response to sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse, disability inclusion mainstreaming, feminist data collection and risk management and anti-corruption.

In addition, the **Peer Exchange Series** spotlight the expertise and experiences of WPHF civil society partners. These exchange opportunities are enhancing the visibility of WPHF-supported projects as well as the research findings and advocacy work led by CSOs on the ground. The Peer Exchange Series constitute 1) the **Peer Exchange Sessions** that feature several CSOs in online discussions to share their impact, strategies, and challenges on WPSHA related topics (child marriage, coalition building, etc.), 2) the **Knowledge Cafés** where a CSO presents a knowledge product resulting from their work, showcasing the diversity of research products and research practices.

To better respond to local CSOs’ needs, along with the evaluation questionnaires distributed after each webinar, WPHF annually conducts a survey among its civil society partners to collect feedback and inform the design and planning of future institutional strengthening initiatives<sup>4</sup>. Through consulting with recipient organizations and involving feminist experts from different backgrounds, WPHF aims to ensure that capacity development initiatives are context specific and customized to meet the evolving needs of partners. The users’ feedback helps shaping the design and implementation of training and exchange activities and reinforcing their quality, accuracy, and relevance.

## WPHF Community of Practice (CoP) by the Numbers (As of 31 December 2021)



WPHF civil society partners have highlighted the added value of WPHF CoP training and exchange initiatives as a meaningful way to keep in close contact with fellow women peacebuilders and humanitarian activists facing similar challenges across regions. Participating in regular webinars and exchanges has provided women civil society leaders with invaluable insight and information, allowing them to coordinate for learning, collaboration, and movement building. It also helps develop solidarity among local civil society leaders and forge new synergies among them.

<sup>4</sup> The 2020 CSO Survey on WPHF Global Community of Practice Activities is currently available at <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020-CSO-Annual-Survey-on-WPHF-Global-Community-of-Practice-Activities.pdf>

## CSOs' Testimonies

**“We are satisfied because there's available a space where we can share our work, achievements, and experiences with our CSO counterparts as well as learn from them”.**

**“We have been able to see what others are doing in terms of project achievement and to display our work as well. This has also led to some bilateral conversations with other organizations on the platform.”**

**“A great opportunity to help grassroots organizations thrive in their work and create more impact through transparency and accountability.”**

## L-HUB Partners and Probono Trainers and Facilitators



Learn more at <https://wphfund.org/wphfund-community/>

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