

Call for Proposals
Regional Response to Displacement of Afghan Women and Girls
Eligible Countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan

Call Opens:	April 22, 2022
Deadline for Submissions:	June 24, 2022

1. Objectives and Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall purpose of this Call for Proposals is to provide grants for women and young women's civil society organizations that promote **socio-economic recovery, participation and leadership of Afghan women and young women in forced displacement**¹ within Afghanistan (internally displaced, returnees) or in the neighboring countries (refugees, asylum seekers) of Pakistan and Tajikistan.

The Call for Proposals specifically contributes to **WPHF's Impact Area 6: Improved socio-economic recovery, participation and leadership of women and young women in forced displacement contexts**. It is aligned with the overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies and UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

This Call for Proposals is part of the [Funding Window on Forced Displacement](#) that is managed by the [United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund \(WPHF\)](#) and linked to Germany's [Action Network on Forced Displacement](#). Please see Appendix 1 for more information about the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and the Action Network for Forced Displacement.

2. Regional and Country Context of the Call for Proposals

Displacement has soared with conflicts in Afghanistan and the rise of the Taliban. UNHCR estimates that over 515,000 Afghans could be newly displaced refugees fleeing across borders in a potential worst-case scenario. New arrivals will join the already 2,2 million refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan in neighboring countries. In addition to refugees and asylum seekers, there are about 3 million Afghans of varying status including many undocumented persons who have been hosted in neighboring countries.

The socio-economic recovery and leadership of displaced Afghan women and girls is crucial to manage the crisis in Afghanistan and its effects in the region. Afghan women and girls are important actors and change agents in forced displacement contexts who want to overcome their difficult situation and promote a more inclusive and peaceful society. They strengthen economic resilience by securing the survival of their families, they promote social cohesion of their communities, and they demand access to more equitable decision-making mechanisms.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has emerged as one of the world's most complex displacement emergencies. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) reached around 5.5 million in September 2021. Approximately 80 percent of Afghans who were forced to flee are women and children that are at heightened risk of

¹ Suggested priority topics for projects are listed in Appendix 2.

discrimination and violence. Displaced women and girls face unique challenges in a country that ranked 166 out of 167 countries on the Gender Development Index in 2019 and ranked last (170 out of 170 countries) on the Global Women, Peace and Security Index in 2021. The Taliban takeover further drives displacement as the fundamental social and economic rights of women and girls are threatened and the limited gender equality gains made over the past twenty years are now at risk of being erased – and at worst regressed. Afghanistan’s gender equality architecture has been dismantled by abolishing the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and no woman participates in the all-male interim government announced in September 2021.

Pakistan

Pakistan shares one of the longest borders with Afghanistan, and currently hosts 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees.² The takeover of Taliban in August 2021 and the escalating conflict in Afghanistan has resulted in an influx of Afghans from the border areas of Pakistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Due to restrictive environment and porous border, real estimates of Afghans in Pakistan are disputed which adds a layer of challenges in providing humanitarian support to vulnerable Afghans. Afghans in Pakistan face multi-faceted protection challenges. Some of the services being provided like education, health and vocational training are limited in scope and capacity, and the needs of the Afghans are far greater than what is provided. The net result of such a scenario is discontentment and a deep sense of being disenfranchised. Displaced Afghan women and girls are disproportionately affected as they tend to have limited access to platforms to engage with each other, and with host communities, which results in isolation and sense of social deprivation. They also often face enormous cultural and political obstacles to engage in economic activities to generate income. In addition, intersecting identities including their ethnicity, disability, displacement, marital status, and sexual orientation, puts them in a disadvantageous position.

Tajikistan

While Tajikistan shares a 1,344 km border with Afghanistan, it also shares it’s a rich history, similar language and common religion. After the takeover by the Taliban in Afghanistan in August 2021, Tajikistan committed to accepting 100,000 Afghan refugees on its territory. The rhetoric has changed after the Collective Security Treaty Organization meeting when the country, raising issues of national security, imposed tight border control without allowing for cross-border movements from Afghanistan. In addition, the Government reported that a multi-purpose shelter will be built in southern Tajikistan, which will be hosting refugees and victims of natural disasters, under the scope of Committee of Emergency Situation. According to the Foreign Minister there are currently 15,000 Afghan refugees in Tajikistan, but this number is likely to increase. The majority of refugees are currently living in Vahdat (77%) and Rudaki districts (16%). Women and children represent 68% of the refugee population. Some civil society organizations that work with Afghan refugees report that Afghan women, especially those who lead households, need a broad range of support and assistance (income-generating activities, health, hygiene, childcare, GBV prevention, etc.). While it is impossible to predict to what extent Tajikistan will accept Afghan refugees in the future, it is clear that there is a need to work with the currently residing refugees and the host communities to ensure access to and provision of services and gender-responsive integration at large.

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan and in the targeted locations below. The projects must focus on one country. Multi-country projects will NOT be accepted.

² <https://www.unhcr.org/pakistan.html>

Afghanistan

- All locations in the country are eligible

Pakistan

- Balochistan: Semi-urban areas of Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Quetta, Chaman and Chaghi
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Peshawar, Haripur, Nowshera, Mansehra, Kohat, Mardan, Abbottabad, District Khyber, Bajaur, Kurram
- Punjab: Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Lahore
- Sindh: Karachi

Tajikistan

- Dushanbe
- Vahdat
- Rudaki
- Khatlon region
- Districts of Republican Subordination

CSOs can apply for a maximum of 2 years.

4. Eligibility

4.1. Who can apply and receive funding?

International³, National, regional or local/grassroots women or young women-led, women's rights, youth rights, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with displaced women and girls are eligible to apply. Organizations led by displaced persons are strongly encouraged to apply.

Women's Rights 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.

Youth Focused Organization: the organization's official mission/vision must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination against young women and men, more specifically gender-based discrimination, and promoting their participation as allies to gender equality.

Youth Led Organization: must be headed by a young person aged between 18 - 29 years old and serve as director/head of organization.

Organizations led by a displaced person (refugee, IDP, returnee or asylum seeker): must be headed by a refugee or displaced person as director/head of organization.

The following are **NOT** eligible to apply for a grant from the WPHF:

- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN country teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities, think tanks or education or research institutions

³ Only if registered at the national level.

- Lead-organizations that are not legally registered in the country/territory of implementation;
- Organizations proposing a multi-country intervention, or in a non-eligible country;

4.2. Do we need to be legally registered as an organization in our country to apply?

YES, for the lead applicant. The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation and must submit proof of legal registration with the application package. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status. **If the legal registration of the lead applicant has expired in the past 18 months prior to the launch date of this Call for Proposals, please submit it with the application for consideration.**

NO for co-implementing or consortium partners. Co-implementing partners are not required to provide legal registration, only the lead applicant organization.

4.3. Can we apply in partnership or consortium with other organizations?

YES. Joint projects with other local women’s rights, youth rights organizations, women or young women-led civil society organizations 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 template.

4.4. May we apply for funding for an ongoing or existing initiative or project?

YES. The WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects funded by other donors. However, the specific value added of the contribution should be clearly outlined.

4.5. Does my organization have to contribute to the project budget?

NO. Civil society organizations are not required to contribute to the budget.

5. Type of Funding and Requirements

Under this Call for Proposals, WPHF is accepting applications under two streams - institutional/core funding and programmatic funding.

An organization (lead applicant or co-implementing partners) can submit one application for institutional funding AND/OR one application for programmatic funding. Organizations who apply for both institutional and programmatic funding need to submit two separate application packages based on the related templates of each stream as noted in Section 7.

Institutional Funding: Stream 1 (USD \$2,500 - \$30,000)

Aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of local women’s rights and/or women-led organizations that have a specific focus on Afghan women and girls in forced displacement in their mission, that have project activities that are led by Afghan women and young women who are forcibly displaced and/or that have displaced Afghan women and young women as staff members. It will finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. The purpose of this funding stream IS NOT to finance programmatic activities.

AND/OR apply for:

Programmatic Funding: Stream 2 (USD \$30,000 - \$200,000)

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with promoting the economic recovery and leadership of women and young women in forced displacement, aligned with **WPHF's Impact Area 6: Improved socio-economic recovery, participation and leadership of women and young women in forced displacement contexts.**

Please read through the WPHF Indicator Tip Sheets for guidance on the result framework (Section 9 below) and required indicators in the respective proposal template for Funding Stream 1 and Funding Stream 2.

6. Application Package and Procedures

Applicants are required to use only the WPHF templates provided. DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.

- 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)

Application packages should be emailed by 24 June 2022, with the subject line **“WPHF Afghanistan Regional Response (and target country name) (i.e. Afghanistan, Pakistan or Tajikistan)”** to WPHFapplications@unwomen.org.

Please Note:

- Applications can be submitted in **English, Pashto or Dari**. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- Applications can be submitted in doc, docx, or pdf format.
- Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc, docx, or pdf format.
- All documents should be submitted together as one package.
- You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- Incomplete applications, or use of different templates will not be considered.
- Please **DO NOT** resend your application unless you do not receive confirmation of receipt within three days.

7. Obtaining More Information about the Call for Proposals

Local information sessions will be organized with prospective applicants. **To register your interest, please send an email to the relevant UN Women Country Office with subject line “Information Session Afghanistan Regional Response” by 8th May 2022:**

- To register for the Afghanistan information session, please email evawg.afg@unwomen.org
- To register for Pakistan information session, please email anum.aftab@unwomen.org
- To register for the Tajikistan information session, please email tjkpp@unwomen.org

Questions about this Call for Proposals can be sent to the UN Women Country Offices at the email addresses noted below, no later than 26th May 2022. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.

- Afghanistan: evawg.afg@unwomen.org
- Pakistan: anum.aftab@unwomen.org
- Tajikistan: tjkpp@unwomen.org

8. Evaluation Criteria

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

Institutional Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 1)	Programmatic Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 2)
<p>Project Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment with the WPHF’s theory of change, particularly with respect to institutional capacity building. <input type="checkbox"/> Clear articulation of experience of organization and rationale how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities. The organization must have a specific focus on Afghan women and girls in forced displacement in their mission, have project activities that are led by Afghan women and young women who are forcibly displaced and/or have displaced Afghan women and young women as staff members. <input type="checkbox"/> Definition of clear objectives and expected results and outputs focused on strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures 	<p>Project Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment with the WPHF’s theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific impact in its results framework. <input type="checkbox"/> Definition of clear objectives, results, and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches. Displaced Afghan women and girls must be the main beneficiaries of project activities. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind. <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership and/or capacity development of local women’s organizations to deliver programme results. Joint projects are strongly encouraged. <input type="checkbox"/> Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.
<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Budget is consistent across all documents and detailed per output in the result framework <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%) <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account 	<p>Programme Management and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures <input type="checkbox"/> Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame. <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators <p>Sustainability and National Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of national and local ownership in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players. <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Budget is consistent across all documents and detailed per output in the result framework <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%) <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

Further details about the selection and implementation process can be found in the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s [Operations Manual](#).

9. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- [Indicator Tip Sheet \(Impact Area 1: Institutional Funding\)](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet \(Impact Area 6: Programmatic Funding\)](#)
- [Results Based Management Capacity Building Webinar](#)
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's [Operations Manual](#)
- 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>

Appendix 1: About the United Nations Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Action Network on Forced Displacement

About the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

The [United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund \(WPHF\)](#) stimulates 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 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 450 civil society organizations and is present in 26 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, UNHCR, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently Norway, Germany, Sweden and Australia), as well as four Civil Society Organizations (currently Feminist Humanitarian Network, Kvinna till Kvinna, Action Aid and Women's Refugee Commission). The Regional Steering committee will be selecting projects from the list of proposals that have passed the technical assessment.

About the Action Network on Forced Displacement

The [Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change](#) was established in October 2020 by Germany's 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 women's leadership and economic participation and improving psychosocial health of displaced women and girls. Members of the Action Network convene regularly to discuss good practices and develop recommendations for policymakers, civil society and local actors to inform policy processes. This Call for Proposals is linked to the Action Network and civil society partners selected under this Call will be invited to participate in relevant network activities as well as a mentorship programme with members of the network.

Appendix 2: Suggested priority topics for projects under the programmatic funding stream

This list of suggested topics for projects is based on the priorities identified by members of 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.

Suggestions from the Action Network
Theme 1: Displaced women’s and girls’ leadership and participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support displaced women’s and girls’ access to local de facto authorities/government or local power structures, the UN System, and Member States - Hold government/de facto authorities accountable to promote gender equality and the rights of displaced women and girls in their legal and policy frameworks - Provide technical advice and facilitate leadership trainings for displaced women and girls, community leaders, activists and CSOs to support their meaningful participation - Address the lack of security for women activists, local organizations and advocates working on forced displacement - Ensure women’s access to justice (formal and informal) incl. access to legal/paralegal services and advice and promote a gender lens in justice processes
Theme 2: Displaced women’s and girls’ economic empowerment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate displaced women’s and young women’s access to financial services, banking services, credit and cash, taking into consideration overlapping vulnerabilities such as being the only head of the household, living with disabilities etc. - Support displaced women’s and girls’ access to economic resources, mentorship, professional training, and vocational jobs - Provide displaced women and young women that have business projects with counseling - Secure displaced women’s and girls’ economic rights - Support displaced women’s and young women’s access to digital devices and tools as well as access to the internet to enable business activities - Prevent abuse, exploitation and human trafficking of displaced women and girls through socio-economic empowerment measures
Theme 3: Displaced women’s and girls’ networking, experiences sharing, and integration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 experience-sharing of women and girls who are displaced to become independent and empowered - Make the voices and the stories of displaced women and girls as well as host communities heard - Support grassroots initiatives working with displaced women and girls, establish partnerships between them as well as with international women’s organizations - Support grassroots initiatives and displaced women and girls to advocate for their social and economic rights - Support displaced women and girls in establishing their own civil society organization