# **Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund’s Regional Call for Proposals in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan**

Please find below a collection of questions that have been asked during the three public information sessions hosted by the UN Women Country Offices in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan on 24th, 26 and 27th of May 2022, respectively, related to the WPHF [Regional Call for Proposals](https://wphfund.org/regional-call-for-proposals-in-afghanistan-pakistan-taijikistan/) to promote the socio-economic recovery, participation and leadership of Afghan women and young women in forced displacement.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. **In which languages can the applications be submitted?**

Applications can only be submitted in **English, Pashto, and Dari** to [WPHFapplications@unwomen.org](mailto:WPHFapplications@unwomen.org) with the email subject: **WPHF Afghanistan Regional Response + target country name (Afghanistan, Pakistan, or Tajikistan)**

1. **Which kind of organizations are eligible to apply under this Call for Proposals?**

International, national, regional or local/grassroots women or young women-led, women’s rights, youth rights, or civil society organizations (CSOs) 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.

1. **Can for-profit organizations, government institutions/agencies, higher education and research institutions apply as lead and/or as co-implementing partners/consortium partners under this the Call of Proposals?**

No. Private sector organizations, government agencies or state institutions, universities, research institutes and education institutions are not eligible to apply.

1. **Can only organizations that attended the information session participate in this Call for Proposals?**

No, participation in the information session is not a prerequisite to apply for the Call for Proposals. Any eligible organization is encouraged to apply.

1. **Is a group of women gathered under an association eligible to apply for this call?**

Yes, in principle this group of women is eligible to apply if they can a) provide the proof of official registration of the association under whose umbrella they operate and b) are working with displaced women and girls.

1. **Can we apply as a consortium, with 3 to 4 partner organizations? Is there a limit in the number of co-implementing partners?**

Consortiums of civil society organizations are encouraged to apply, but this is not required. The lead organization of the consortium will have to have legal status in the country of project implementation. There is no limit in the number of co-implementing partners.

1. **A local CSO has currently a contract with UN Women within another project. Is this CSO eligible to apply for this call for proposals?**

Yes, as long as the CSO is not an active WPHF grantee (namely receiving funds from the WPHF during this period).

1. **How many grants will be awarded through this Call for Proposals? Is there a maximum number of grants awarded for each stream?**

There is no fixed number of total grants awarded nor a maximum amount per each stream. The number of grants awarded will be decided by a regional steering committee (composed of UN agencies, WPHF government donor representatives and civil society organizations) and is dependent on the total budget allocated for the Call for Proposals. An organization (lead applicant or co-implementing partners) can submit one application per stream: one for institutional funding AND/OR one application for programmatic funding.

1. **Can we apply for both streams?**

Yes, an organization can apply for programmatic funding AND/OR for institutional funding. However, organizations can only be funded for one project per each stream, either as a lead or as co-implementing partner. Organizations who apply for both streams need to submit 2 applications packages (with two separate emails) based on the specific requirements and the related templates.

1. **If an organization is led by women who have fled the country, will it count in the definition of forced displacement?**

If your organization is led by displaced women, you should tick the respective box in the proposal template on page 1. However, please note that while applications from organizations led by displaced women are strongly encouraged, this is not an evaluation criterion and will not impact your eligibility.

1. **For Consortium partners, could it be youths who are active but not organized under an organization or association?**

No, individuals or groups of individuals are not eligible to apply. Co-implementing or consortium partners should be 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. However, in your project activities, you can engage with and support youth and women groups who are not formally organized (these are not considered co-implementers but beneficiaries of the project).

1. **Can an organization apply for a project to be implemented in all three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan)?**

No, the project proposal must focus on one country. Multi-country projects will not be accepted.

1. **The maximum project duration is 2 years. Is there a minimum duration for projects?**

No, there is no minimum duration of projects.

1. **Are ongoing projects funded by other donors eligible?**

Yes, WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects funded by other donors. However, the specific added value of the WPHF contribution to the project should be clearly outlined in the proposals.

1. **Is there a maximum size for the application documents?**

No, there is no specific maximum size for documents submitted. Applications can be submitted in doc, docx, or pdf format. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc, docx, or pdf format. Please do not submit pictures or videos, only the proposal template, Annex A, Annex B and the proof of legal registration will be accepted. Any additional material submitted with the application package will not be considered.

1. **Where can we download the application and budget templates?**

The application and budget templates can be downloaded from the [WPHF website](https://wphfund.org/regional-call-for-proposals-in-afghanistan-pakistan-taijikistan/).

1. **What is the total budget that CSOs can apply for?**

Organizations applying for institutional funding (stream 1) can apply for funding between $2,500 - $30,000. Organizations applying for programmatic funding (stream 2) are eligible to apply for funding between $30,000 - $200,000.

1. **What does indirect operational cost refer to? Does it include costs of staff and personnel?**

Indirect operational costs do not relate to staff and personnel costs. It may include costs related to utility, rent, or any other management cost, which, however, should not exceed 7% of the total budget proposed. There is a specific budget category in Annex B for staff and personnel cost.

1. **Will funding be received in local or international currency?**

Selected civil society organizations will receive funds in local currency, however the budget in the proposal should be in USD.

1. **Will projects that also included women who are not forcibly displaced Afghanis be considered for funding? Are projects supposed to solely focus on displaced women or can they also be targeted at other populations?**

The Call for Proposal is focused on forced displacement. Proposed projects should target displaced Afghan women and girls in Pakistan, Tajikistan, **OR** Afghanistan. They must be the majority of the targeted group and other populations such as beneficiaries’ family members and the host community may be included, as long as displaced Afghan women and young women are clearly the majority of beneficiaries. The proposal shall be in line with WPHF impact area 6 (socio-economic recovery, participation and leadership of women and young women in forced displacement).

1. **Can you give some examples of "reinforcing institutional capacity” for Stream 1 projects?**

Stream 1 projects that are aimed at reinforcing an organization’s institutional capacity may include (but do not necessarily have to) activities such as covering an organization’s utility, rental, or staff salaries, capacity building of staff, developing a new policy or procedure for the organization to better respond to the needs and emergencies, purchasing new office/staff equipment or devices, among others.

1. **Could you please give a little bit information on social economy recovery? Which area is the Call for Proposals concentrating on?**

There is no specific socio-economic area the proposal is focusing on.Projects aimed at socio-economic recovery of forcibly displaced Afghan women and young women can include, for example, (however do not necessarily have to) activities, such as business, entrepreneurial and apprenticeship trainings for women, among others. Please consult the Tip Sheet here for examples and indicators: Indicator Tip Sheet Outcome 6: in [English,](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-6_Peacebldg-Recovery_Forced-Displacement_RegionalAFG-17-02-2022.pdf) [Pashto](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/PA-Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-6_Peacebldg-Recovery_ForcedDisplacement_ENG-FINAL.pdf), [Dari](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/DA-Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-6_Peacebldg-Recovery_ForcedDisplacement_ENG-FINAL.pdf).

1. **What does the selection process look like and what is the general timeline of it?**

As a first step, the WPHF secretariat will longlist submitted applications, making sure that applicants meet the eligibility criteria and that all required documents have been duly submitted. The WPHF Secretariat will then conduct a technical evaluation of the longlisted proposals. Proposals who have scored above 50/100 will be shortlisted and subsequently shared with the Regional Steering Committee. The final selection will be made by the Regional Steering Committee with members from all three different countries, including representatives from UN agencies, civil society, as well the respective Resident Coordinator Offices. As there are multiple actors involved, it is difficult to provide an exact timeline; however, in general, project implementation is planned to start in the third quarter of 2022.

## **Q&A: Additional questions asked during the Afghanistan’s Information Session on 24 May 2022**

1. **Does the organization already need to be legally registered in Afghanistan? Is it possible to register it now?**

Yes, it is possible to register now for legal status as long as you can provide a copy of your legal registration as an officially registered civil society organization in Afghanistan or documentation that proves that you are currently in the process of obtaining legal status upon submission of your application package. Please note that only the lead applicant organization must have a 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. Organizations applying as co-implementing or consortium partners do not need to have legal status.

1. **Can two organizations make a joint application one from Afghanistan another from Pakistan to cover two regions?**

No, the project must focus on one country only. Multi-country projects are not accepted.

1. **Can a Pakistan-based organization apply as a lead organization with an Afghanistan-based organization as an implementing partner in Afghanistan?**

No, for projects implemented in Afghanistan the lead organization must be officially registered in Afghanistan. Projects cannot be multi-country.

1. **Can selected organizations use the Hawala system in Afghanistan?**

Yes, you can use the Hawala system, provided that you can explain how you will introduce controls that mitigate risks and ensure proper usage of funds.

## **Q&A: Additional Questions asked during Pakistan’s information session on 26 May 2022**

1. **Do applicant organizations need to provide EAD NOC for this Call for Proposals?**

Yes, organizations whose projects have been selected will have to apply for NOC from the government. Please account for the time needed to apply for the NOC in the timeline of your WPHF application.

1. **If an organization is registered with License under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017 under SECP are they eligible or not?**

Yes, organizations registered under this particular section of the SECP are eligible to apply.

1. **Can a Pakistan-based organization apply in collaboration with an Afghanistan-based organisation for a project in both Pakistan and Afghanistan?**

No, multi-county projects are not eligible. The application must be specifically for Pakistan and the lead organization must be legally registered in Pakistan. The application for Afghanistan must be separate and submitted by a lead organization legally registered in Afghanistan.

1. **Can the project be located in different cities, or must it target only one city?**

Projects can be implemented in any of the following locations in Pakistan, whether in one or more of them:

* 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.

1. **Can an organization apply if the Afghan beneficiaries are based in Pakistan?**

Yes, the purpose of the Call for Proposals is to engage displaced Afghan women and girls in Pakistan and to enhance their social, economic, and political participation in Pakistan. Organizations applying for institutional funding will have to demonstrate that they have a specific focus on Afghan women and young women in forced displacement in their mission or have projects that are aimed at and/or led by forcibly displaced Afghan women and young women.

1. **Are displaced Afghan women and young women who do not have a legal status considered as beneficiaries?**

The funding is meant to engage all forcibly displaced Afghan women and young women. CSOs are expected to engage the target population most in need, while continuing to operate as per the targeted country’s policies.

1. **Our organization has been working in Pakistan since 1983. But right now, our registration process is still ongoing for the renewal. We currently do not have the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this year. But it is in a process. Can we still apply?**

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, and/or you are in the process of renewal, you can still submit your registration from last year with proof of the registration renewal in process, with the application package for our consideration.

1. **Is it acceptable, if an organization does not have a legal registration in Pakistan, but instead a facilitation letter from the Pakistani Ministry of Interior?**

No, you must have a legal registration in Pakistan.

## **Q&A: Additional Questions asked during the Tajikistan’s information session on 27 May 2022**

1. **Can we include a part of activities not only for displaced Afghan women and young women, but also for Tajik women? Would this be acceptable under this Call for Proposals?**

The project must be in line with the Call for Proposals and the WPHF impact area. As such, it should promote the social economic recovery, participation, and leadership of Afghan women and young women in forced displacement as direct beneficiaries of proposed projects. Some beneficiaries may be from the host community, however, please note that the majority of beneficiaries should be displaced Afghan women in line with the above-mentioned impact area.

1. **Can other CSOs participate as consortiums partners if they are registered outside of Tajikistan?**

Yes. The lead organization must be legally registered in Tajikistan and the project must be implemented within Tajikistan only. Consortium partners do not have to be legally registered in Tajikistan.