



# HAITI EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL

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**Women's Peace &  
Humanitarian Fund** 

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

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## Background

In recent weeks, the situation in Haiti has rapidly deteriorated amid high inflation, poverty, political instability, and widespread gang violence and insecurity. The UN estimates that at least 1.5 million people have been affected by recent unrest and riots which broke out on 12 September over a fuel price hike announced by the country's government.<sup>1</sup> The World Food Programme estimates that the total number of people in acute food insecurity now stands at 4.5 million (45% of the population) and 1.3 million people in need of urgent assistance.<sup>2</sup> At the peak of hurricane season, looting of WFP warehouses has resulted in the loss of 2,000 tons of food aid valued at close to \$5m, that would have supported up to 200,000 of the most vulnerable Haitians, further compounding food insecurity in the country.<sup>3</sup> On 23 September, the UN ordered the evacuation of its non-essential international staff from Haiti.

The ongoing insecurity, political instability and the blockading by criminal gangs of the country's main fuel terminal in the capital, Port-au-Prince, means the fuel needed to power hospitals is not being delivered.<sup>4</sup> If the situation continues, life-saving services for pregnant women, newborns, and children could come to a standstill, according to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti, Ulrika Richardson.<sup>5</sup> The current economic instability and severe food insecurity disproportionately impacts women and girls – who lead nearly half of the country's households and who especially in the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area (PAPMA) find themselves trapped amid escalating gang violence without access to food, drinking water and medical care, including sexual and reproductive health services. In particular, the living conditions of women and girls, displaced by the August 2021 earthquake in the country's southern departments and those displaced by gang-related violence, mainly in PAPMA, have significantly deteriorated. According to OCHA's latest Flash Update, there is a lack of lighting and risk mitigation measures against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in PAPMA.<sup>6</sup> A report published by Haiti's National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) has found that gangs engaging in violent conflict in Cité Soleil, one of

the poorest parts of PAPMA, have carried out campaigns of mass rape targeting dozens of women and girls in recent months.<sup>7</sup> Of the women who spoke with RNDDH, twenty had been raped in the presence of their own children and in almost all cases, rapes were accompanied by robbery, beatings, humiliation, and violence towards other family members present. In spite of the severe protection needs women and girls have been facing only one-third of the Protection Cluster of the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti is currently funded.<sup>8</sup>

Given that the combined effects of crises in Haiti are disproportionately affecting women's and girls' safety and security, access to health, reproductive, and educational services, and economic activity, it is critical that local women's rights organizations continue to be supported and form part in decision-making related to the humanitarian response and crisis management. Women, including women CSOs, remain excluded from decision-making process in Haiti. Making up more than half of the Haitian population, it is essential that women and women's rights organization, form part of the renewed consultations that Government representatives, political groups, and civil society have begun in recent weeks toward elections to ensure gender-inclusive and sustainable responses to the current needs. This is particularly important, as Haitian women have historically been largely excluded from politics, with only 3 out of 119 deputies being women in the last elected parliament.<sup>9</sup>

## WPHF's Funding appeal: USD 9 million

Women CSOs have long been at the forefront of peace and security and humanitarian response in Haiti, working across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. It is essential that they are supported as key actors on the ground, which have strategic partnerships, legitimacy, and the capacity to reach out to the most marginalized communities. In the current context, they must be funded and given a leadership role in participating in the humanitarian response, protection against SGBV and recovery.

In this context, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is launching an urgent funding appeal for up to USD 9 million to support local women's organizations in Haiti.

The following WPHF impact areas have been identified as priority needs:

- ▶ WPHF Impact Area 3: Women's participation and leadership in planning and responding to humanitarian crises, including food insecurity
- ▶ WPHF Impact Area 5: Protection of women and girls affected by SGBV
- ▶ WPHF Impact Area 6: Peacebuilding and recovery

WPHF's Haiti emergency response consists in channeling rapidly funding to pre-identified local women CSOs on the ground (phase 1), followed by a public Call for Proposals (phase 2) to mobilize women's organizations that can respond to the crisis and the needs of women and girls:

#### **Targeted Call for Proposals (Phase 1): USD 3 million**

WPHF will issue a targeted Call for Proposals focused on one or more of the identified WPHF outcome areas and will channel urgently needed funding to pre-identified local women's organizations. The selection of CSOs will be undertaken together with the UN Women Country office and the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator will be responsible for review and approval of projects, as per the WPHF Emergency track.

#### **Open Call for Proposals (phase 2): USD 6 million**

With additional funding (of a minimum of 1,000,000 USD), an open Call for Proposals will be launched to identify additional partners for the response.

Phase 1 and 2 will be launched simultaneously if funding is available.

International<sup>10</sup>, national and local women-led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, will be eligible to apply. Grassroots and local community-based organizations will particularly be encouraged to apply. Consortiums of organizations are allowed and encouraged.

The Call for Proposals will make available financing for civil society organizations that build the resilience of Haitian women and girls through programmatic funding from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD, and institutional funding to help sustain and strengthen women's organizations throughout the crisis with grants from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD.

### **Management Arrangements**

As per WPHF procedures, the Call for Proposals will be prepared and launched by the WPHF Secretariat, detailing

the nature and scope of the funding as well as types of interventions that are encouraged, in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator/HC and UN Women Country office. The UN Women Haiti office will act as the WPHF management entity in the grant-making process. The WPHF Secretariat will conduct the technical review of all proposals received and the UN Resident Coordinator/HC (for phase 1) and the WPHF National Steering Committees will be responsible for the final selection of proposals (phase 2).

The WPHF Secretariat, together with the Management Entity (UN Women Haiti office) will ensure quality monitoring and reporting on projects as well as linkages with partners from the UN, civil society, networks of women, and member states. The grantees selected through the Call for Proposals will also be included in WPHF's Community of Practice to learn from and exchange best practices with other WPHF partners.

### **Background on WPHF's work in Haiti**

The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), as a UN & civil society pooled funding mechanism dedicated to channelling flexible and quality funding to women's organizations in contexts of crisis, has been supporting 30 projects implemented by 40 women-led and women's rights organizations in Haiti since June 2020 with a total investment of over 3 million USD. Projects have addressed interventions across humanitarian response, protection against SGBV as well as peacebuilding and recovery.

Through its partnership with the [Spotlight Initiative \(SI\)](#), the WPHF is supporting 15 projects to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and protect women and girls survivors of SGBV, including IDPs and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination. Through this support women's rights organizations and networks of women's organizations have been working in synergy to strengthen their coordination and mobilization roles to more effectively prevent and fight against SGBV, including through the establishment of five protection committees in the Grande-Anse district. WPHF-SI partners' efforts have also contributed to strengthening and scaling up prevention and response to GBV through improved access to essential services to more than 4,000 GBV survivors and facilitated access to legal, medical, and psycho-social support, and economic empowerment opportunities for women.

Through the WPHF's [COVID-19 Emergency Response](#) aimed at strengthening the capacity of women's rights organizations to respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic to ensure that CSOs could sustain their critical activities and services to vulnerable women and girls. Projects under this funding window responded to the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including heightened poverty, unemployment, health and protection risks, particularly

sexual violence and exploitation. Operating in a context marked by political crisis coupled with health, security and of economic crises, WPHF partner organizations used different adaptation strategies to deliver programme activities benefitting a total of 414,154 people, including women living with HIV, pregnant women without work, women/girls with children, women with disabilities, elderly women, survivors of SGBV, and sex workers. This was achieved by systematically reducing intersecting vulnerabilities through cash and material support to cover basic needs, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health, maternal health and SGBV services for women and girls, as well as life-skills training on women's rights, gender inequality, SGBV risks, health, and communication techniques, among others.

Following the devastating effects of the August 14 earthquake in 2021, WPHF launched a Call for Proposals with a total investment of \$850,000 focusing on strengthening women's participation and leadership in planning and responding to humanitarian crises, protecting earthquake-affected women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, and the socio-economic recovery of women and girls in relation to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, in the most affected regions (Nippes, le Sud et la

Grande-Anse). Projects under this Call for Proposals are currently being implemented.

## References

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- <sup>8</sup> UN-OCHA Financial Tracking Service, as of 28 September 2022. Retrieved from <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/96/summary/2022>
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- <sup>10</sup> Only if registered at the national level.

## About WPHF

The Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) mobilizes critical support for local and grassroots civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action. WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism supporting quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has funded over 700 civil society organizations in 28 countries working to support women to be a force for crisis response and lasting peace.

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