



# Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

## SUPPORTING WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE WORLD'S EVOLVING CRISES



### Our Mission

The United Nations **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund** (WPHF) is a global partnership re-energizing action and accelerating support for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in humanitarian response and peace and security settings. Guided by a range of civil society, government, and UN actors, WPHF is a

multi-partner trust fund mobilizing urgently needed financing for local organizations led by and working alongside women on the front lines to build lasting peace. WPHF has funded and supported the capacity of over 700 local women's organizations through 24 funding allocations in 32 countries.



**When women peacebuilders, humanitarians and human rights defenders are adequately financed, their impact is exponential.**

# A Global Imperative

Humanitarian crises and threats to peace are more common than ever before. The numbers of people displaced due to conflict, crises, persecution and human rights violations are the highest on record and have more than doubled in a decade. Conflict is on the rise with tensions exacerbated by climate change, violent extremism and a once-in-a-century global pandemic. Unfolding crises and emergencies in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti and Ukraine pose new and ongoing threats to gender equality and international peace and security.<sup>1</sup>

In the face of such unprecedented challenges, women on the front lines have proven to serve as engines of progress, agency and action. Women peacebuilders and first responders play critical roles leading local movements to prevent conflict, respond to crises, end sexual and gender-based violence, build back better from COVID-19, and forge lasting peace in their communities. Evidence shows that when women are included in local decision-making and crisis response, they expand the reach and impact of humanitarian aid, accelerate economic recovery, advance gender equality, prevent radicalization and create more sustainable peace for all.

Despite this, women's participation remains minimal more than two decades after UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) established their right to full participation in peace and security decision-making, and financing for local women's organizations in crisis settings remains needlessly low. The share of development assistance for fragile or conflict-affected countries that reaches women-led and women's rights organizations stands at a strikingly small 0.4 per cent of total bilateral aid.<sup>2</sup>

While the needs of local women's organizations continue to be de-prioritized, their contributions unacknowledged and the transformative power of their work underestimated, they continue to deliver results. Local women's organizations reach remote areas where services are often disrupted or non-existent and bring deep structural change to address the underlying causes of conflict and inequality on the ground. Women are often the first in their communities to mobilize for peace, adapting their approaches and working to build a more secure and better future for all. **WPHF is investing in the work of women civil-society leaders who are yielding remarkable dividends towards a more peaceful, inclusive and gender-equal world.**

**“Let us galvanize the donor community’s support for universal compliance with the target of allocating a minimum of 15% of official development assistance for conflict-affected countries to advancing gender equality ... including multiplying by five direct assistance to women’s organizations.”**

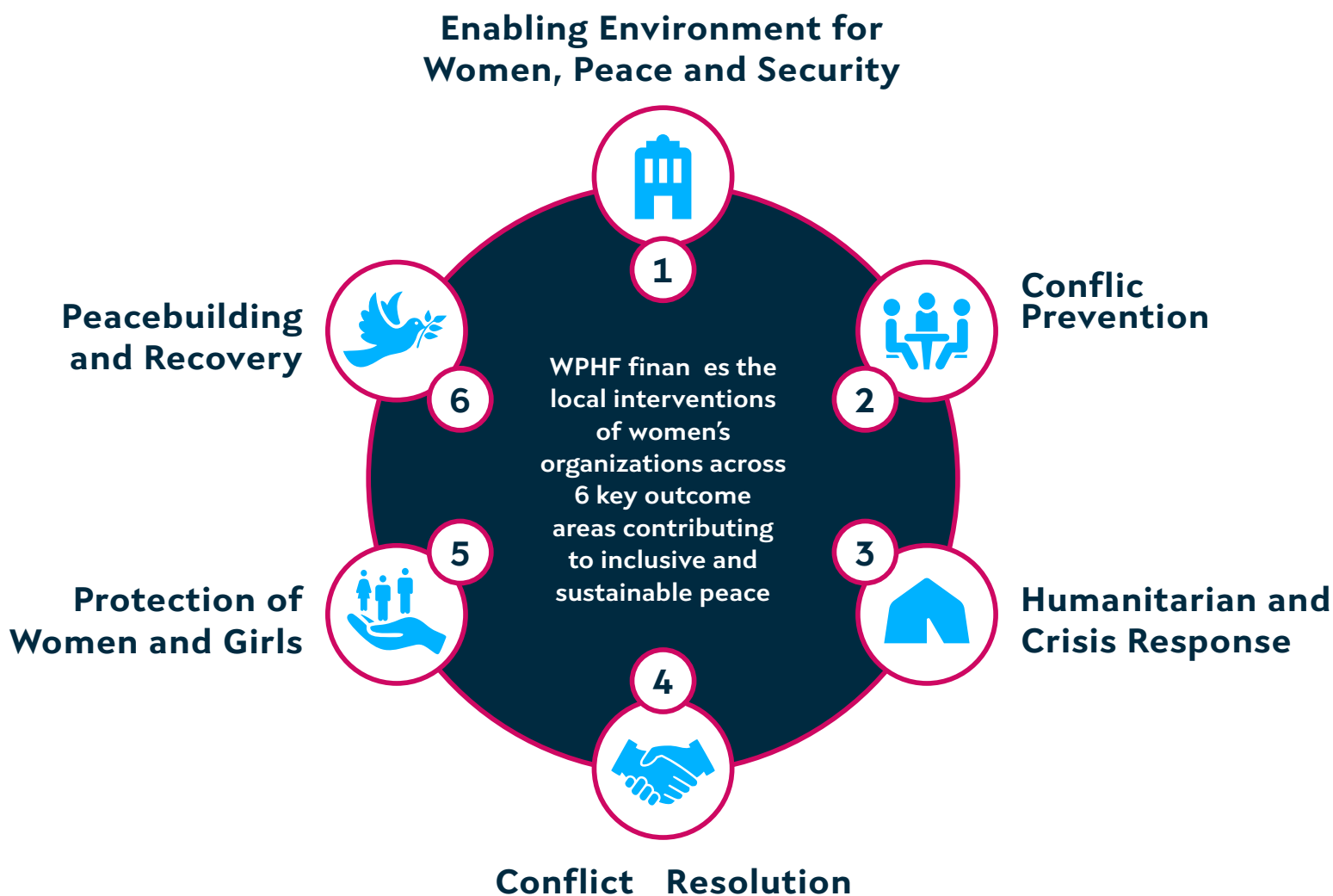
**ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General, Oct 2020**

1. UN Security Council (2021) Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2021/827), para. 2.

2. UN Security Council (2021) Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2021/827), para. 91.

# How We Work

## Our Goal: More Peaceful & Gender-Equal Societies



WPHF finances women's civil society in fragile settings through 3 key funding mechanisms

**1**

Regular Funding Cycle

**2**

Rapid Response Window  
on Women and Peace  
Processes and  
Implementation of  
Peace Agreements

**3**

Funding Window for  
Women Human Rights  
Defenders

**We provide flexible programmatic and institutional financing supporting local women's organizations to leverage their strategic positions and expertise to bring about deep structural change and address the underlying causes and consequences of conflict and crisis.**

### **Advancing the 2030 Agenda**

WPHF is an innovative tool for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and localizing the commitments of the SDG Agenda (with a specific focus on SDG 5 and 16) to national specificities of conflict-affected countries.



### **Localizing Humanitarian Response**

As a mechanism supporting local, grassroots and community-based organizations in fragile settings, WPHF has the “leaving no one behind” principle at the heart of its mandate and strategy and a strategic tool for donors to implement their commitments under three work streams of the Grand Bargain's humanitarian financing reforms: Participant Revolution, Humanitarian-Development Nexus and Localization.

## **WPHF By the Numbers\***

Supporting projects through  
24 funding allocations in

**32**

Countries Worldwide

**Over 700**

Civil-Society Organizations  
Supported

**3.5M**

people directly served (of  
which 72% are women and  
girls)

**17M**

people indirectly  
served

**Over  
\$112M  
USD**

mobilized in support  
of local women  
peacebuilders,  
humanitarians and  
human rights  
defenders

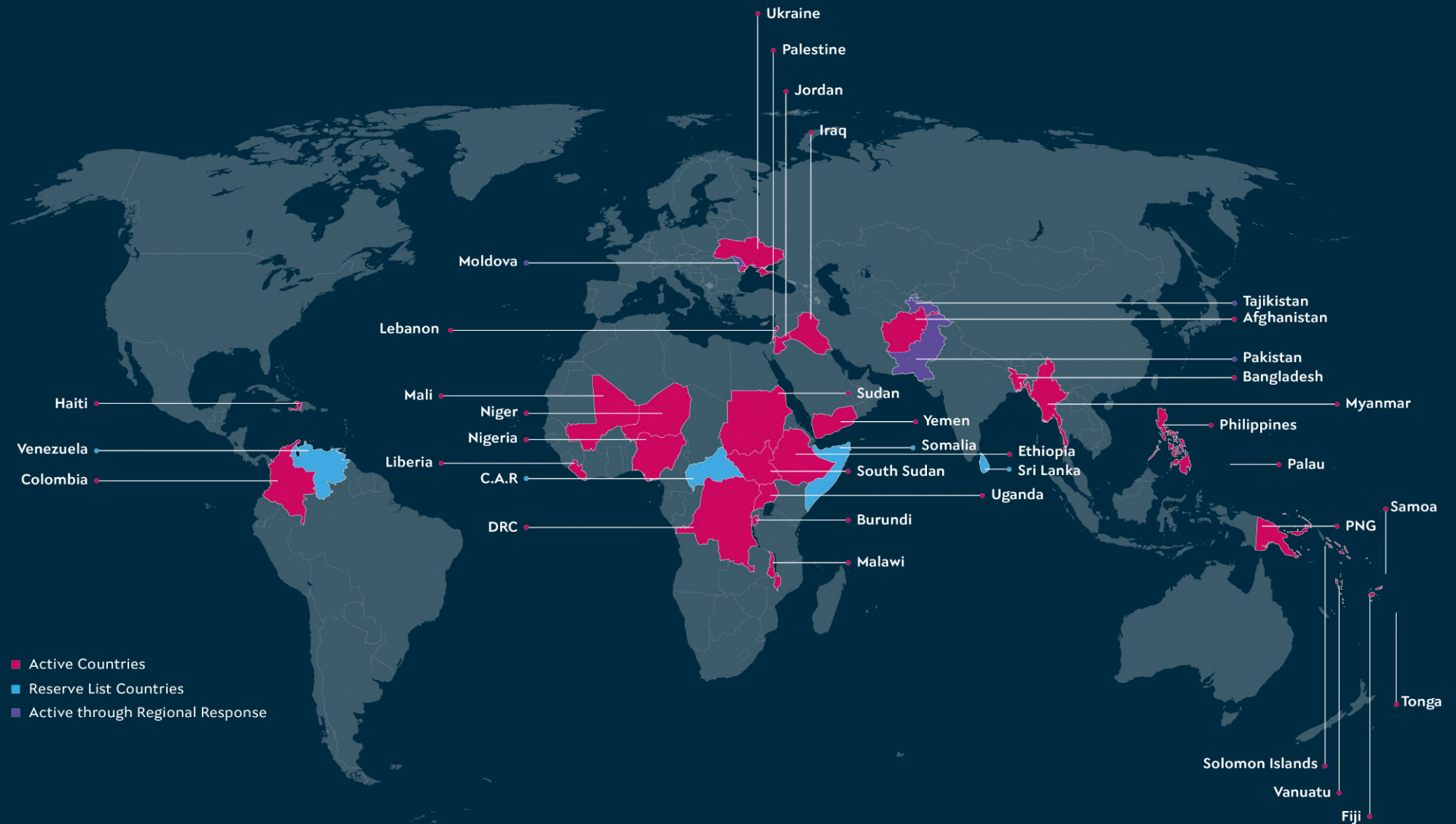
**Over  
44%**

of WPHF grantees  
are first time  
recipients of UN  
funding

**Over  
61%**

of WPHF grantees  
are working at the  
local level (23.8%  
at sub-national /  
11.4% at national  
level)

# Global Reach. Local Impact.



Local women's organizations have transformative impact and serve as engines of progress and powerful agents of change on the front lines.

# Key Highlights

## Local Women's Organizations Driving Transformative Change on the Front Lines

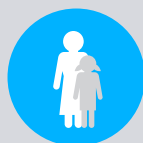
### Regular Funding Cycle



#### Outcome 2: Conflict Prevention

WPHF has supported 23 projects, implemented by 44 women's rights or youth focused partners who have actively strengthened conflict prevention mechanisms in Burundi, Iraq, Palestine and Uganda, and effectively promoted and advocated for women's participation in conflict prevention processes. They have increased roles in monitoring of early warning signals of conflict and violent extremism. Overall, 7,025 peace monitors and mediators and women CSO leaders were involved in addressing approximately 18,523 community-level conflicts in 2021 ranging from land disputes to ethnic divisions and rape, of which 14,913 or 81% of them were mediated, averted, resolved or referred to local policy or authorities. This was achieved through a variety of community dialogues -including local government stakeholders- and capacity building efforts were conducted with local women mediators and focused on improving mediation, negotiation and non-violent communication, and problem-solving skills of women to mitigate conflict cases, solve tensions and promote social cohesion.

**WPHF partners under this Outcome have transformed the lives of:**



**52,036**

Direct Beneficiaries  
(78.7% women and girls)



**578,600**

Indirect Beneficiaries



#### Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response

In 2021, WPHF supported 7 projects implemented by 16 women's rights organizations in Iraq, Fiji, and Myanmar. As a result, over 1,100 women leaders and youth activists strengthened their roles and participation in humanitarian and crisis response decision-making mechanisms and processes and organizations have contributed to creating an enabling environment for women to jointly organize and advocate for issues affecting them, and to strengthen their role in disaster response, disaster risk reduction policies and human security issues.

**WPHF partners under Outcome 3 have transformed the lives of:**



**9,530**

Direct Beneficiaries  
(64.8% women and girls)



**Over 70,600**

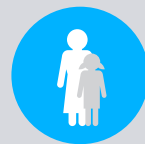
Indirect Beneficiaries



## **Outcome 6: Peacebuilding & Recovery**

WPHF has supported 48 projects representing 81 women's rights or youth focused partners that have improved the socio-economic recovery and political participation of women in peacebuilding contexts. These projects have supported women's economic resilience in crisis settings by strengthening their income generation potential and diversifying their incomes in order to not only contribute to their households but enhancing their role and agency in the community. In 2021, 168,411 women have reported increased agency as a result of economic productive resources and 3,166 women are participating in political and decision-making processes in Burundi, DRC, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali and Palestine.

**WPHF partners under this Outcome have transformed the lives of:**



**51,833**

Direct Beneficiaries  
(93.5% women and girls)



**Over 833,800**

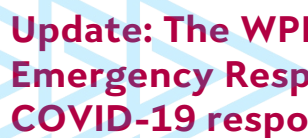
Indirect Beneficiaries



# Supporting Women at the Forefront of a Global Pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic has continued to present threats to the critical work and existence of women civil-society organizations working on the front lines of crises, making WPHF's mandate to mobilize support and advocate for their efforts more urgent than ever before. Local women-led and women's rights organizations around the world are playing key roles in supporting efforts to respond to the gendered impacts of the global pandemic and stem the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Yet their critical work in contexts of conflict and humanitarian crises continues to be dramatically under-resourced. It is against this backdrop that WPHF - in direct consultation with its board members, various UN entities and UN Women country offices - designed and launched the **WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window** in April 2020 to rapidly channel dedicated programmatic and institutional financing to local women's organizations threatened by and working to respond to COVID-19 in their communities.



**Update: The WPHF Funding Board decided to close the COVID-19 Emergency Response Window in October 2020 and mainstream WPHF's COVID-19 response efforts across its other funding mechanisms.**

## Covid-19 Emergency Response Window



A total of **48 projects** representing 75 women's rights organizations across **18 countries** have been funded and directly benefiting over 1 million people, including 64.0% women and girls. These initiatives have not only integrated women into local structures and mechanisms but has demonstrated the expertise, reach and leadership of local women organizations at the forefront of humanitarian planning and response in their communities. In 2021 alone, an estimated 1,005 women and young women across WPHF countries have actively participated in decision making processes and played leadership roles in ensuring the needs of women from various diverse backgrounds are considered in local and regional responses to the pandemic. Local women's organizations have also established and supported 41 local, regional and national mechanisms to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, frameworks and programming. These mechanisms including COVID-19 response committees, district-level task forces, coordination networks, disaster management monitoring platforms, and referral pathways have benefited over 1 million people.

Learn more about WPHF's COVID-19 response at [WPHFund.org/COVID-19](https://WPHFund.org/COVID-19)

# Championing Women's Participation in Peace Processes

Women remain significantly underrepresented in peace and transitional processes worldwide. Recognizing the limited progress made on accelerating women's meaningful participation in peace processes across the globe - and after consultation with women peacebuilders, stakeholders and various UN and civil society experts - WPHF officially launched in January 2021 its **Rapid Response Window on Women's Participation in Peace Processes and the Implementation of Peace Agreements** (RRW).

A recommendation of the UN Secretary General in his 2019 annual report on women, peace and security, the RRW provides financial, expert and logistical support to women's civil society organizations to address the immediate barriers women often face to accessing and influencing peace processes. The RRW aims to support initiatives of grassroots women organizations, including women mediators, based on the idea that these organizations are actors of change, and

that they have an added value in peacebuilding through their knowledge, their mastery of the context and stakeholders, their experience of local gender issues, and more importantly their ability to use local levers to advance the lines while improving women influence. The RRW is providing funds or services, but also technical support through a network of UN expertise and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO).

The RRW has approved direct or short-term grant support for 26 civil society organizations working to enhance women's participation in formal peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements in over 18 countries: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Libya, Mozambique, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Venezuela, and Yemen. Several promising initiatives, related to capacity building, networking, advocacy, effective participation in peacebuilding mechanisms, supported by the RRW are ongoing.



# The WPHF Rapid Response Window on Women and Peace Processes

## Syria

A mixed approach to strengthening the participation of women in all their diversity

Together with its INGO partner, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the WPHF RRW is supporting the Zenobia Association for Syrian Women to facilitate dialogues with influential women in local communities inside Syria and across asylum countries to ensure that Syrian women's voices and priorities are reflected in the Constitutional Committee's preparation of the new Syrian constitution. The RRW is also supporting BADAEL to convene peace process advisors, local women peacebuilders and WHRDs to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration to help influence the peace process and develop advocacy messages that centers the voices of women peacebuilders and WHRDs. The RRW is also supporting Dawlaty to empower women belonging to families who have been forcibly displaced or suffered political imprisonment in Syria. As part of the "Families for Freedom" movement, this project is amplifying women's voices and needs through advocacy meetings that enhance their participation in formal peace negotiations as part of the UN Peace Conference on Syria.

Learn more about WPHF's RRW Window at [WPHFund.org/RRW](https://WPHFund.org/RRW)



# Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders in Crises

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) serving as peace activists play critical roles during and after conflict, working across the human rights-peace and security-development nexus, often at grave risk to their own lives. Responding to the growing calls to action for dedicated funding mechanisms to support WHRDs working on the front lines of human rights and peace, and building on existing mechanisms and lessons learned, WPHF established, in close collaboration with its UN and INGO partners, a new Funding Window was established and dedicated to WHRDs working for inclusive peace and humanitarian action.

Operational since September 2022, the WPHF funding Window for WHRDs offers two

support streams to WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected countries: **(i)** a flexible funding safety net to cover urgent costs related to the security of at risk WHRDs (e.g. short-term livelihood, security equipment, etc..) and **(ii)** an advocacy direct logistical support to arrange and cover logistical expenses (transportation, visa fees, accommodation, daily subsistence allowance) for WHRDs willing to participate in meetings, events or decision-making processes that contributes to advancing human rights and peace.

We have so far received **410** application for Safety Net support from **26** countries and **88** applications for Advocacy Support from **22** countries, demonstrating the great need for support around the world.



# Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders



Since its launch in June 2022, the advocacy support stream of the WPHF Window for WHRDs supported the active participation of 7 WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis-affected countries in national and international events as part of their advocacy for human rights, women's rights, and peace.\* For example, two young Roma rights activists working on Ukrainian Roma refugees' rights were supported to take part in the Annual Roma Genocide Remembrance Event, where they spoke about the impacts of the current war in Ukraine on the rights of Roma Refugee women and youth. In DRC, with the support of the WPHF Window for WHRDs, two young grassroots WHRDs working on women's and girls' rights in Goma were supported to participate in a meeting in the capital and successfully integrated gender-specific language in a strategic advocacy note to advance humanitarian aid localization in DRC. Two Afghan WHRDs who recently relocated due to the risks they were facing inside Afghanistan were supported by the window to bring Afghan voices in several dialogues and events in Geneva, including the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council. Additionally, WPHF has so far supported **13** WHRDs through our Safety Net support stream.

**"Having enough funds is always a challenge for WHRDs leading advocacy efforts. I am constantly thinking - am I going to run out of money? This is always the thing that limits your freedom of action."** Fawzia Koofi, First Woman Deputy Speaker of the former Afghan Parliament

**"Providing funds for WHRDs and women peacebuilders should be as if you are saving someone who is drowning: you throw them a lifeboat without the need to fill out all the paperwork. There ought to be trust in WHRDs and women peacebuilders. The standard should be -how can we support them rather than only -how can we ensure the funds are accounted for."**

Hajer Sharief, Co-Founder of Together We Build It, Libya

Learn more about WPHF's WHRDs Window at [WPHFund.org/WHRDs](https://WPHFund.org/WHRDs)



# Flexible Institutional Support for Women on the Front Lines

First launched in 2020 under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Window, an institutional funding stream to support women's rights and women-led organizations' core funding to safeguard to their existence, strengthen their capacities and adapt in conflict and humanitarian contexts, was established. Since then, institutional funding has been mainstreamed through the WPHF regular Calls for Proposals (CfPs). So far, a total of 22 local women's organizations across Bangladesh, the D.R.C, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen have been supported with WPHF institutional funding.

This funding has resulted in 320 staff and volunteers being retained over the past year through staff remuneration, stipends and payment of office costs to sustain their operations, and to develop core disaster management strategies, policies or plans for work in WPS-HA, or strengthen their governance structures. On average, local women's rights/led organizations have been able to sustain themselves for a combined 175 months, with an average of 8.3 months each.

In 2022, WPHF released the findings of its second annual Civil Society Organization Survey on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, which aimed to take stock of the space and support for local women's organizations working to respond to crisis and build peace in active WPHF countries around the world\*. Key findings from the survey revealed that 90.7% CSOs feel that their organization's existence is at either moderate, high or very high risk due to lack of institutional funding or core funding in the WPS and humanitarian sphere, an increase of 86.4% from the year before. 65% of these organizations note that these risks have increased or remained constant over the past 12 months, threatening the continuity of their operations or ability to implement programming as a result of the pandemic, increased violence and conflict and volatile contexts.

WPHF aims for the annual findings of this survey to help highlight the continued need for the international community and private sector actors to support local women's organizations working in crisis and conflict settings through flexible and quality funding, including multi-year institutional or core funding.

**"The Institutional funding we received changed our entire world as we could have closed without it. Now our grassroots projects are flourishing, and our entire staff is amazed that someone out there is willing to lift us up with funding and support to continue our grassroots project."**

**WPHF CSO partner from Iyali Community Development Association, Nigeria**

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\*161 CSO representatives from 23 countries across Africa, Arab States, Asia & the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the survey.

# Building Community. Supporting Capacity. Driving Innovation.

Fulfilling its mandate to serve as a global center for local civil society organizations (CSOs) working on the front lines of conflict and crises, **WPHF has established its Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)** to enable CSO partners from across the world to connect with each other, share success stories and methods, and develop their skills. The L-HUB aims to make the CSOs more resilient during and after the end of their WPHF-supported projects through customized trainings, dialogues and resources in multiple languages and formats. The webinars have featured 75 CSO representatives as experts and over 50 external speakers sharing their knowledge and perspectives on crosscutting and programmatic topics such as data collection, resource mobilization, anti-fraud policies, coalition building, disability inclusion mainstreaming, use of arts to empower displaced women, conflict prevention strategies and integration of climate security risks into work.

To date, through its digital platform, capacity building webinars and peer exchange sessions, the WPHF L-HUB has engaged and strengthened the institutional development of over 4600 CSO participants representing 271 WPHF CSO grantees from 26 countries.

The WPHF CSO Annual Survey on the L-HUB Initiatives 2021 showed that 86.1% of CSOs find capacity building exchanges useful.

In addition, thanks to new partnerships with governments, I/NGOs and private sector entities, the L-HUB is offering innovative training and exchange opportunities such as the **Peer Learning Awards** and the **Mentorship Scheme** fostering mutual strengthening and collaborations between CSOs and women's rights civil society leaders in creative and flexible ways.



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



**“Capacity building helps grassroots organizations strive in their work and create more impact through transparency and accountability.”**

**WPHF-supported Civil Society Partners**

Learn more about WPHF's WHRDs Global Learning Hub at [WPHFund.org/community](https://www.wphfund.org/community)



# 1,000 Women Leaders: Accelerating a Global Movement for Peace and Equality

Local women CSO leaders are engines of progress, transformative impact, and powerful agents of change on the front lines of conflict and crises. The WPHF #1000WomenLeaders Campaign is mobilizing the reach and influence of a range of partners to invest in local women leaders' untapped potential, highlight their impact, amplify their voices and recognize their agency to build a more peaceful and gender-equal world for all.

By the end of 2025, WPHF aims to invest in 1,000 women leaders in 1,000 crisis-affected communities through contributions to 5 key areas:



**Mobilize Financing to Support their Work**



**Strengthen their Institutional Capacity**



**Drive Innovation, Connection & Community**



**Amplify their Voices, Priorities and Impact**



**Advocate for their Rights, Recognition & Influence**

Together, the United Nations, Donor Governments, and the Private Sector must take a collective step forward for women working on the front lines of crises. Join us today.

**WPHF has a bold new goal to support 1,000 women leaders in 1,000 crisis-affected communities around the world.**

Learn how you can get involved at [WPHfund.org/1000WomenLeaders](https://www.WPHfund.org/1000WomenLeaders)

WPHF is grateful to the donor governments of

**Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Estonia,  
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Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands,  
Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the  
United States**

for their generous support



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Learn more about the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund [WPHFund.org](https://WPHFund.org)

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\*All beneficiary data as of Dec 2021

