

Call for Applications

Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements

Deadline	No deadline (ongoing)
Send Application package to:	WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org

1. About the Rapid Response Window (RRW)

The RRW is a funding mechanism of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) that supports urgent, short-term, strategic initiatives led by women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations, to increase women's participation and influence in formal peace processes and the implementation of international, national or sub-national peace agreements. The RRW is not intended to fund medium or long-term peacebuilding initiatives.

The Call for applications specifically contributes to WPHF's Impact Area 4 on conflict resolution: Increased representation and leadership of women in formal peace processes and/or the implementation of peace agreements and overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies.

2. Definitions and Example of Initiatives

In the framework of the RRW, projects supported will be focusing on a **peace process** understood as a formal political process to resolve violent conflict through peaceful means – usually a mixture of politics, diplomacy, negotiations, advocacy, mediation, and dialogue in different areas.

The WPHF-RRW will welcome qualifying concept notes from Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries¹ with a formal ongoing peace process (Track 1 and 2) at national, sub-national and international level.

Track 1	Track 2	Peace Agreement Implementation
High-level decision-making process involving country leadership or national governments often led by the UN, or multilateral regional organizations through a committee or a special envoy. For example: Ceasefire, National Dialogues, Peace Treaty negotiations, Political Transition, Constitution Writing, International Mediation.	Activities or exchanges between influential actors intended to influence, advise, or complement a Track 1 process. This can include building trust of stakeholders, increasing communication, or raising awareness for community-buy in on the peace process or implementation of the peace agreement. For example: Dialogues, conferences, workshops or forums bringing decision makers, national leadership and international community together with women peacebuilders, civil society representatives, community leaders, other experts and mediators.	Activity/event related to the monitoring of the recommendations or action points of a peace agreement at international, national and subnational level. For example: through monitoring mechanisms or committees, parliamentary processes, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, reporting and shadow reporting, or civil society activities to hold decision-makers accountable on the commitments made.

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>

The WPHF-RRW will support initiatives which address rapidly a specific gap to improve women's participation and influence in the Track 1 or Track 2 peace process, or the implementation of the peace agreement. The scope for requests is diverse and open, to encompass a wide range of logistical, technical and project initiatives aiming to address a gap with specific activities.

Under the RRW, a request for support may take place at any of the following stages:

- Before a peace negotiation (preparation/design)
- During a peace negotiation (gender provisions/women's inputs)
- After a peace negotiation (implementation and monitoring)

***PLEASE NOTE: Requests that focus only on local or community-level peace processes/peace agreement, including community-level mediation and conflict resolution are not accepted. The focus is only on formal national, subregional or international Track 1, Track 2 peace processes or peace agreement implementation. Kindly refer to WPHF's Calls for Proposals under its regular funding cycle for initiatives relating to community-level efforts.**

3. Funding Streams

The WPHF-RRW is open to receive proposals from women peacebuilders and Civil Society Organizations for initiatives to a **maximum duration of 6 months on two available streams.**

▶ **Direct Support (up to 25,000 USD):**

Requests for **logistical and/or technical services**, which will be paid directly by the WPHF's RRW. The type of initiatives can include translation services, childcare, access for persons with disabilities, documents printing and design, travel expenses and hiring a consultant to conduct training or data collection and analysis. Please note that these services must be related to the implementation of an activity linked to a peace process (Track I and Track II or peace agreement implementation)

A **formal registration for a CSO is not necessary.** Individuals, Informal groups, and women's associations and networks (including networks of women mediators) are encouraged to apply.

▶ **Short-Term Grants (up to 100, 000 USD):**

Open to requests for a grant to implement a **project**, which addresses the objectives of the RRW and supported by an INGO partner. The type of initiatives can include advocacy campaigns for women's participation in a peace negotiations, preparatory sessions and capacity-building for women participating in decision-making processes, strategic planning to access and engage with key decision-makers, organize and draft participatory declarations to influence a peace process, mechanisms to monitor the gender provisions of a peace agreement, etc. Please note that these projects must be related to a peace process (Track I and Track II or peace agreement implementation)

A **formal registration is necessary and only CSOs can apply for this stream.** Please note that the registration does not have to be done in the country of project Intervention.

4. Eligibility

4.1. Who can apply ?

For Direct Support application, individual women peacebuilders or national, regional, local women's rights organizations, youth focused, or young women led organizations, feminist civil society organizations, networks of women mediators can apply. Coalitions among CSOs are also eligible.

For Short Term Grants, national, regional, local women's rights organizations, youth focused, or young women led organizations, feminist civil society organizations can apply. Coalitions among CSOs are also eligible.

*Please note, current WPHF grantees who have received Direct Support are eligible to apply for a Short-Term Grant.

Women’s Rights or Feminist 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: To be considered “youth focused”, the organization's core mission/vision must focus on supporting the social, economic and political participation of young women and young men and addressing multiple/ intersecting forms of discrimination against young women and men. WPHF will provide specific attention to youth focused organizations supporting young women, advancing gender equality and peacebuilding.

Young Women Led Organization: must be headed by a young person aged between 18 - 29 years old who serves as director/head of organization

Women peacebuilders (for direct support): women who are involved in the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts, the protection of civilians and peacebuilding. Examples include women mediators, members of Truth & Reconciliation Committees, Demobilization, Disarmament and Reinsertion programs, and Women Human Rights Defenders.

The following are **NOT** eligible for either Direct Support or Short Term Grants

- International non-governmental organizations (those with an international scope);
- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities, Think Tanks or Education or Research Institutions;
- Political Parties or local authorities.

4.2 Do we need to be legally registered as an organization to apply?

YES, for Short Term Grants. The lead applicant organization must have legal status and must submit proof of legal registration with the application package. Exceptionally, a registration in another country can be accepted if the registration in the country of intervention is complicated due to conflict. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status. Please note that organizations that have an international scope of interventions are not eligible.

NO for Direct Support or for Co-implementing or Consortium partners, if relevant. Co-implementing partners are not required to provide legal registration. Please note that women from different ODA countries are eligible to apply.

4.3 Can we apply for both Short Term Grants and Direct Support?

YES. You can apply to both Short Term Grants and Direct Support at the same time. If you are applying for both, you must submit a separate application form for each. Please note that approval of one stream does not guarantee the approval of the other stream.

4.4 Can we apply in partnership or consortium with other organizations?

YES. Joint projects or request for direct support with other local women's rights, youth focused 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.

4.5 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 added value of the contribution should be clearly outlined and linked to the WPHF-RRW objectives.

4.6 Does my organization have to contribute to the project budget?

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

5. Application Process and Procedures

Applications are accepted on an on-rolling basis to either stream. Please note the application process is different for Direct Support and for Short-Term Grant.

- For Direct Support, only one stage of application is required: complete the application form found at: <https://wphfund.org/rrw/> and submit it to: WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org.
- For Short -Term grant, two stages are required: a Concept Note first. If aligned with the RRW objectives, you will be invited to complete a full proposal. Complete the Concept Note form found at: <https://wphfund.org/rrw/> and submit it to: WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org.

DO NOT submit any other documentation other than the Proposal Template (Direct Support) or Concept Note (Short Term Grants) and proof of registration.

Please Note:

- Concept notes can be submitted in **English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese or Russian**. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- Concept note application forms can be submitted in **.doc, .docx, or .pdf format**.
- Legal registration certificates (for short-term grants) can be submitted in **jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format**.
- You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- Incomplete application forms or concept notes, or use of a different template will not be considered.
- Please **DO NOT** resend your application form or concept note unless you do not receive a confirmation of receipt within three days.

After Submission of applications concept notes (Next Steps):

- ▶ Applications for Direct support will follow the process of evaluation immediately.
- ▶ Concept notes for Short-Term Grant will be screened for eligibility and alignment with the objectives of the RRW. Organizations whose concepts are aligned with the objectives of the Rapid Response Window will be contacted within 5 working days.
- ▶ If you do not hear from us within five days, your concept note was not successful. WPHF-RRW unit will contact elected applicants for the next phase.
- ▶ Eligible organizations for Short Term Grant will be sent a full application template, along with further guidance, asking for more details (e.g. budget, expected results, monitoring and evaluation, partnerships, etc.).
- ▶ Completed applications for Direct Support and Short-Term Grant above \$10 000 will be evaluated by a technical evaluation committee composed of UN agencies and INGOs.
- ▶ During this process, the RRW will aim to provide guidance and answer questions as you design your intervention. A phone/video conversation may be requested between the RRW Unit and the applicants for clarifications if needed. Please note that this assistance does not guarantee that your final application will be successful.

- ▶ A final decision will be communicated to the applicant. Please note that for a Short-Term Grant, final approval of a proposal is based on a risk assessment/due diligence process with an INGO Partner.

6. Obtaining More Information about the RRW

The WPHF organizes ongoing information sessions about the RRW in multiple languages. Information on upcoming webinars are posted on <https://wphfund.org/>

Questions about this Call for Applications can also be sent to the WPHF Rapid Response Unit at: WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.

7. Evaluation Criteria of Concept Note

As you write your Direct Support application or Short-Term Grant concept note, keep in mind that it will be first evaluated against the following criteria:

- Country is on the official list of ODA²
- Country is currently undertaking a Track 1 or Track 2 peace process or implementation of a formal peace agreement
- Responds to a Track 1, Track 2 peace process or the implementation of a formal peace agreement
- Demonstrates relevance to increasing women's participation in formal peace processes or implementation of a peace agreement
- Demonstrates why the support is rapidly and urgently needed.
- Clear description of how the intervention plans to improve Track 1, Track 2 or the implementation of a formal peace agreement
- Actionable activities are described which contribute to the objectives
- Budget is within the allowable maximum of 25,000 USD for Direct Support and 100,000 USD for short-term grants
- Duration is within a maximum of six months

8. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- [RRW Indicator Tip Sheet](#)
- <https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/Basics%20of%20Mediation.pdf>
- M&E and Results Based Management Terms. The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf>

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

The WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to stimulate 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 600 civil society organizations and is present in 29 countries or group of countries.

² <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>

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 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently Feminist Humanitarian Network, Kvinna till Kvinna, Action Aid and Women's Refugee Commission).