

Call for Proposals Afghanistan

Call Opens:	12 th December 2022
Deadline for first submissions:	6 th February 2023 (closed)
Deadline for second submission:	20 th February 2023
Send Application package to:	WPHFapplications@unwomen.org

1. Objectives and Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to provide grants to local civil society organizations in Afghanistan that implement project activities to enhance the protection of women and girls and promote the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian crisis and response.

Specifically, the Call for Proposals contributes to one of the two WPHF Impact Areas:

- ▶ **Impact Area 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response** - enhanced participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response.

OR

- ▶ **Impact Area 5: Protection of Women and Girls** – enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls’ and their human rights.

All project activities aim to contribute to the overall goal of peaceful and gender equal societies, and are aligned to UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and young women with multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, HIV status, among others.

2. Country Context Linked to Call for Proposals

Just over a year after the Taliban takeover, Afghanistan faces a series of overlapping crises. The political crisis that began in August 2021 led to a significant roll-back of women’s rights and status. The de facto authorities abolished the Ministry for Women’s Affairs and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights commission in September 2021 and May 2022 respectively. They also removed women from public service positions (except where they cannot be filled by men) and issued several decrees restricting women’s freedom of movement. More than half the population (24.4 million) are in need of humanitarian assistance¹ - this is nearly four times higher than the number of people in need three years ago. This year’s natural disasters have further exasperated the already dire humanitarian conditions in Afghanistan. Gender segregation and increasing intolerant attitudes towards women in public spaces and on the way to humanitarian distribution points limits women’s access to aid. The mobility restrictions for women requiring male relatives to travel further limit women’s options to participate in the workforce, particularly in rural areas and for women-headed households. Overall, women’s

¹ <https://afghanistan.un.org/en/174180-244-million-people-need-humanitarian-assistance-now-afghanistan-half-are-women-girls-these>

employment across sectors was projected to decrease by as much as 28% by July 2022². Afghanistan is currently also experiencing the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption in the world, with 92% of households struggling to meet their food needs³. Women’s access to essential protection services and other essential services continues to be very limited. Since August 2021, services to address GBV have been diminished even though reports suggest that at least 9 in 10 Afghan women experience at least one form of intimate partner violence⁴.

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in any location in the country
Multi-country projects, or projects outside the geographical focus will NOT be accepted.

CSOs can apply for a maximum of 2 years.

4. Eligibility

4.1. Who can apply and receive funding?

National, regional or local/grassroots women or young women led, women’s rights, youth rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record of working with women and girls are eligible to apply.

<p>Women’s Rights or Feminist Organizations: 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.</p> <p>Women-Led Organization: must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.</p> <p>Youth Focused Organization: To be considered “youth focused”, the organization's core mission/vision must focus on supporting the social, economic and leadership 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.</p> <p>Young Women Led Organization: must be headed by a young woman aged between 18 - 29 years old who serves as director/head of organization</p>

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

- International organizations
- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities, Think Tanks or Education or Research Institutions

² UN Women Gender Alert No.2 https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/Gender-alert-2-Womens-rights-in-Afghanistan-one-year-after-the-Taliban-take-over-en_0.pdf

³ Afghanistan Food Security update, WFP <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000140735/download/>

⁴ <https://unama.unmissions.org/un-calls-solidarity-and-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-amidst-humanitarian-crisis>

4.2. Do we need proof of legal registration to apply?

YES, for the lead applicant. The lead applicant organization 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, 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 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.

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 for both 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 applications packages based on the related templates of each stream as noted in Section 6.

Institutional Funding: Stream 1 (USD \$5,000 - \$30,000)

Aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of women’s rights/led organizations working on gender specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity. 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 the following impact area(s):

- Impact Area 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response:** Enhanced participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response.

OR

- Impact Area 5: Protection of Women and Girls:** Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls and respect for their human rights.

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

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)

Submission: Application packages should be emailed to WPHFapplications@unwomen.org on 6th February 2023 by 11:59pm (Kabul time) with subject line “WPHF Afghanistan”.

Please Note:

- Applications can be submitted in English, Dari and Pashto. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- Applications can be submitted in .doc and .docx format only.
- 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 a confirmation of receipt within three days.

7. Obtaining More Information about the Call for Proposals

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants online on 12th January 2023 at 10am Kabul time. To register, please send an email to submissions.GiHA@unwomen.org with subject line “Information Session Afghanistan” by 9th January 2023.

Questions about this CFP can be sent to the UN Women Country office at: submissions.GiHA@unwomen.org no later than 9th January 2023. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.

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)
Project Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment with the WPHF’s theory of change, particularly with respect to institutional capacity building. 	Project Objectives: <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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear articulation of experience of organization and rationale how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities <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>account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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

9. Useful Resources

- The WPHF’s website www.wphfund.org
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact Area 1: Institutional Funding](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact Area 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact Area 5: Protection of Women and Girls](#)
- [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>

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

At the country level, the final selection of shortlisted proposals will be undertaken by a National Steering Committee, which is comprised of UN agencies, civil society organizations, and donor representatives