



SUDAN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL

April 2023



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

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Background

The outbreak of heavy fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Saturday April 15 in Khartoum and in other locations throughout the country, in particular in North and South Darfur comes during a proposed transition to civilian rule. As of April 21, over 400 people have been killed, and more than 3,700 injured, according to the World Health Organization.¹ The ongoing fighting is exacerbating an already difficult humanitarian situation as well as the already existing discrimination and violence against women and girls. Incidences of sexual and gender-based violence are already being reported. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates over 15.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.² The humanitarian activities have been interrupted in many states due to widespread insecurity and looting. However, women on the ground have immediately organized themselves and are delivering humanitarian assistance.

Even before the recent outbreak of fighting, women and girls have already been disproportionately impacted by the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises due to deeply enshrined gender inequalities, intersecting with other factors of discrimination such as age, ethnicity, marital status etc. In the conflict-prone regions of Darfur, violence and human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls have been prevalent. Women-led organizations, in particular those led by young women, have shown strong leadership in demanding peace, however, have not been systematically included in decision making spaces.

The situation is rapidly evolving as reports of shootings and clashes are amplified across Darfur daily. Humanitarian spaces and government premises, hospitals, universities, and private businesses have been subject to looting, severely impacting the delivery of life-saving humanitarian aid to vulnerable people.³ Thousands of families have been displaced thus far, and the situation remains unpredictable.

Whereas the situation is still unclear reports from the ground show that from the onset of the fighting, women are acting as first responders. They have formed neighborhood committees to identify the communities' needs, are delivering food, water and medication, as well as use new technologies to identify 'save' routes. Women in the different regions have immediately connected and released joint statements condemning the violence. Women peacebuilders and women's rights organizations in Sudan are experienced in responding to violence, sexual violence and trauma created through war, and respond as much as possible to the current situation.

Given that the combined effects of crises in Sudan are disproportionately affecting women's and girls' safety and security, access to services, and economic activity, it is critical that local women and their organizations form part of the humanitarian response to ensure gender-inclusive and sustainable responses to the current needs.

WPHF's Emergency Funding Appeal: USD 10 million

In this context, the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is launching an urgent funding appeal for up to USD 10 million to support local women's organizations' leadership in responding to the outbreak of violence. This is to ensure that women on the frontlines lead in humanitarian initiatives throughout the entire humanitarian response and strengthen gender responsive humanitarian planning, frameworks and programming, as well as ensuring safety and security for women and girls. The following WPHF impact areas have been identified as priority needs:

- ▶ **WPHF Outcome 3** (Humanitarian & Crisis Response): Enhanced participation and leadership of women in planning and responding to humanitarian crises
- ▶ **WPHF Outcome 5** (Protection): Enhancing the safety, security and mental health of women and girls and their human rights respected.

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

Emergency Call for Proposals (Phase 1):

WPHF will allocate funding through a targeted (closed) Call for Proposals focused on WPHF Outcome 3 and 5 to pre-identified local women's organizations. The selection of organizations will be undertaken together with UN Women as UN Management Entity for the WPHF in Sudan. The UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator will be responsible for review and approval of projects, as per the WPHF Emergency Track.

Regular Call for Proposals (phase 2):

With additional funding (of a minimum of 1,000,000 USD), an open Call for Proposals under the WPHF's Regular Funding Cycle standard rules and procedures will be launched. This will allow organizations that were not pre-identified to apply.

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 for this emergency funding. Grassroots and local community-based organizations will particularly be encouraged to apply, including those in consortiums.

The Call for Proposals will make available financing for civil society organizations that build the resilience of Sudanese women and girls through programmatic funding from 30,000 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. 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 Committee (phase 2) will be responsible for the final selection of proposals.

The WPHF Secretariat, together with the UN Management Entity will ensure quality monitoring and reporting on projects as well as linkages with partners and programmes from the UN, civil society, networks of women, and member states. The organizations 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.



References

¹ OCHA, 2023, [Clashes between SAF and RSF - Flash Update No. 5 \(23 April 2023\)](#)

² OCHA, 2023, [Sudan: Clashes between SAF & RSF - Flash Update No. 02 \(18 April 2023\)](#)

³ Ibid

About WPHF

The United Nations 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 930 local women's organizations working to support women to be a force for crisis response and lasting peace in 41 countries. In addition, WPHF has supported the participation and the protection of over 100 women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders in 17 countries.