

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund: Rapid Response Window

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

Call Opens	3 April 2023
Deadline for Submissions	19 May 2023
Apply at	WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) seeks to identify two credible and experienced International or regional Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) to support its Rapid Response Window (RRW) on women and peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. The RRW's overall objective is to support short-term, strategic initiatives to enhance women's meaningful participation at tracks 1 and 2, during all stages of national, subnational, or international peace processes¹.

INGO partners under this Call for Proposals will provide support to successful RRW implementation, including through grant management. The scope for requests by the RRW is purposely diverse and open to encompass demands to support women's meaningful participation through urgent interventions in conflict and crisis contexts. The RRW is not intended to fund medium or long-term peacebuilding initiatives. Funding support under the RRW is open to track 1 and track 2 peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements in ODA eligible countries.

The call for proposals contributes to WPHF's Impact Area 4: **increased representation and leadership of women in formal and informal peace processes** and/or the implementation of peace agreements and overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies, and which will track and measure:

1. Number of CSOs and women peacebuilders that participate in formal peace processes or negotiations.
2. Strategies used/implemented to participate in and contribute to the peace process and/or implementation of a peace agreement.
3. Types of support, guidance or referrals provided to CSOs and peacebuilders.

The RRW officially launched in January 2021 and has since received more than 800 proposals (in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian). It has supported over 20 initiatives in 18 countries. A recent mapping analysis of its interventions to identify gaps, potential opportunities and priority areas and advocacy entry points was conducted which revealed that despite improved coverage, some geographical gaps remain, particularly in Central Europe, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. This Call for Proposals aim at addressing these gaps.

2. ABOUT THE WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND (WPHF)

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and

¹ The WPHF refers to a 'peace process' as a political process to resolve conflict through peaceful means – usually a mixture of politics, diplomacy, negotiations, mediation, and dialogue in different areas. This could include, for example, enhancing women's leadership and engagement in political processes, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs, constitution making, security sector and judicial reforms, ceasefires, and wider post-conflict reconstruction and recovery decision-making processes.

humanitarian response. The WPHF aims to be rapid and flexible, in advancing the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF breaks silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of crisis, peace and security, and development. It addresses structural funding gaps for women's participation in key phases of crisis, peace and security, and development by improving the timeliness, predictability, and flexibility of international assistance. Notably, it will ensure a timely investment in conflict prevention after receipt of early warning signals from women and will accelerate the dispersal of development assistance after successful peace negotiations. It recognizes that peace cannot be created nor sustained without investment in civil society organizations. Therefore, the WPHF invests in strengthening civil society, particularly at the grassroots level, with the required financial and technical support.

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 900 civil society organizations and is present in 32 countries or group of countries through 24 funding allocations.

3. ABOUT THE RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW (RRW)

In order to accelerate the implementation of the WPS agenda, in October 2019, in his annual report on WPS,² the UN Secretary-General called on the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) to open a rapid response window on women's participation in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements.

Building on existing efforts, tools, and networks, the RRW addresses funding gaps for women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations to influence and participate in peace processes. Under the oversight of the WPHF's Funding Board's Task Force, the WPHF has taken a participatory approach to setting up the RRW through consultations with women peacebuilders and diverse stakeholders and experts.³

The RRW aims to empower women's civil society organizations to define their strategies and lead their initiatives. Its overall objective is to support short-term, strategic initiatives to enhance women's meaningful participation at tracks 1 and 2, during all stages of national, subnational or international peace processes.⁴ The WPHF refers to a 'peace process' as a political process to resolve conflict through peaceful means – usually a mixture of politics, diplomacy, negotiations, mediation and dialogue in different areas. This could include, for example, enhancing women's leadership and engagement in political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs, constitution making, national dialogue, security sector and judicial reforms, ceasefires, and wider post-conflict reconstruction and recovery decision-making processes.

The RRW is providing funds and/or services, as well as technical support through a network of UN expertise and INGOs. The purpose is to bring the comparative advantages of RRW partners to strengthen local organizations

² S/2019/800 p.37

³ This includes women peace activists, CSOs, INGOs, UN Women Country Offices, Women Mediator Network, DPPA, PBSO, MPTFO, UN operations teams on processes, Member States representatives and more.

⁴ **Track 1:** high-level negotiations involving country leadership or governments, often led by the UN or multilateral regional organizations. **Track 2:** dialogues or problem-solving workshops involving leading figures in society, often led by mediators or (I)NGOs.

Some peace processes take a multi-track approach with activities conducted and/or linked at multiple or all tracks. For more information see *Basics of Mediation* p.3: [https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/Basics of Mediation.pdf](https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/Basics%20of%20Mediation.pdf)

while trying to learn from them and enhance their actions. A very localized strategy, which aims to build an integrated partnership and a virtuous circle where local organizations are full-fledged actors/partners.

4. FUNDING STRUCTURE OF THE RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW

Flexibility in the type of support, timing and funding amounts is key to responding to women’s organizations and women groups’ needs to influence and participate in peace processes, both formally and informally, at the national, subnational and international levels, for tracks 1 and 2. The 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**: (i) Direct Support and (ii) Short-Term Grants.

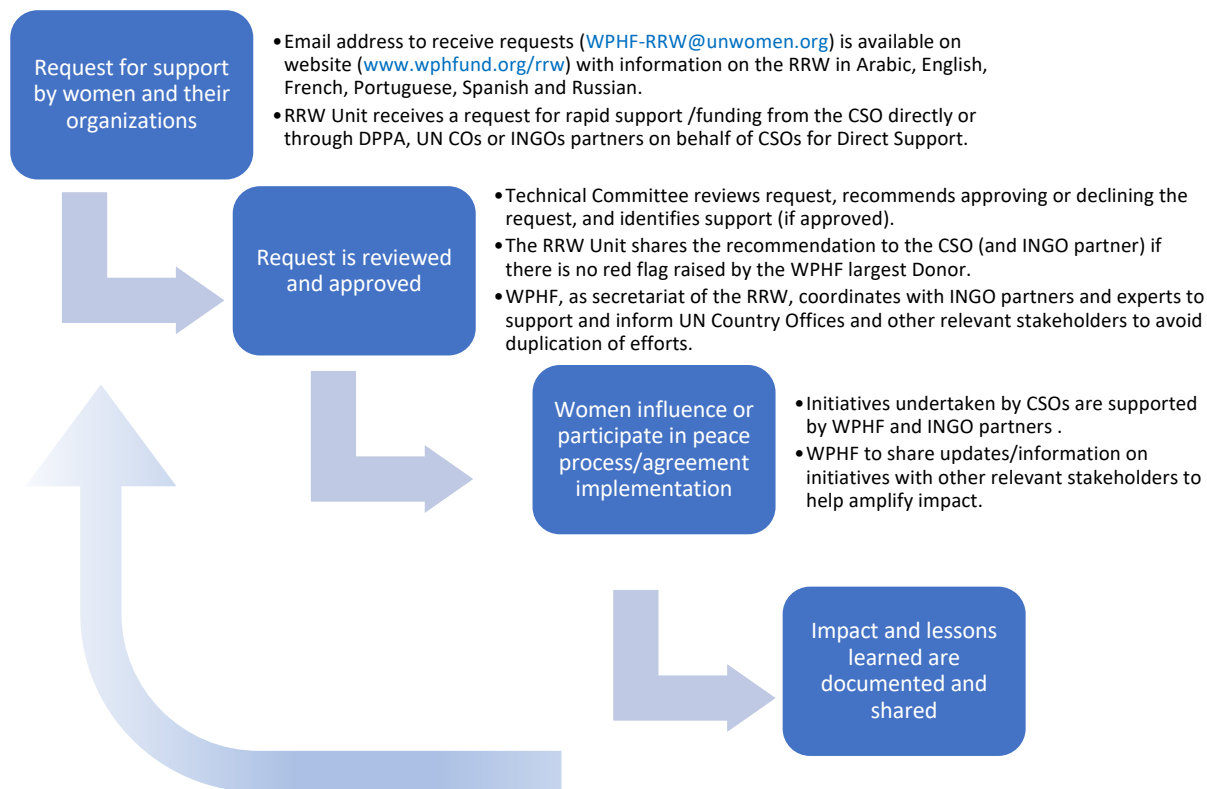
4.1. Direct Support

Direct support provides direct funds for services to civil society organizations and women peacebuilders that contribute to women’s participation in peace processes, for example by covering costs for logistics support and/or consultancy services. An organization requests direct support because it has identified a service gap specific to a peace process and can benefit from a punctual intervention to address the gap.

4.2. Short-Term Grants

Short-term grants under the RRW will last a maximum of six months. Grants will be disbursed through the RRW’s INGO partners for local and national CSO-led projects that address diverse barriers to women’s influence and participation in peace processes or the implementation of a peace agreement.

Figure 1: overview of the RRW process



5. ROLE OF INGO PARTNERS

Both funding streams – (i) Direct Support and (ii) Short-Term Grants – will benefit from partnership with an established list of INGO partners of the RRW. Partnerships with INGOs are critical in order to identify swiftly the needs and type of support to be provided to local and national NGOs and to ensure the rapid deployment of funds, particularly with regards to the disbursement of short-term grants.

5.1. Direct Support (up to 25 000 USD)

INGO partners may support requests for Direct Support if the specifications of the request align well with their geographical reach and/or technical strengths. An INGO partner of the RRW could also apply for a Direct Support on behalf of a local and national NGOs to provide urgent logistic and technical assistance to a local and National NGO. A Technical Committee, including all RRW's INGO partners, will feed into the WPHF's decision-making process for Direct Support applications.

Examples of the types of support that INGO partner may provide include:

- Managing logistical arrangements (travel, visa, daily subsistence allowance, childcare, access for persons with disabilities, etc.);
- Provide technical and strategic support.

5.2. Short-Term Grants (up to 100 000 USD)

INGO partners will support requests for Short-Term Grants when the specifications of the request align well with an INGO's geographical reach and/or technical strengths. The selected INGO partner will be responsible for managing grant support to the local/national CSO once an application has been successful. A Technical Committee, including all RRW's INGO partners, will feed into the WPHF's decision-making process for Short-Term Grant applications.

Examples of the types of support that INGO partners may provide include:

- Grant management, including providing technical and strategic support, capacity-building and guidance, knowledge management, and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

5.3. Coordination and Proposals review

INGO partner will participate in monthly coordination meetings, quarterly thematic meetings, touch-base calls to address any challenges and opportunities. The INGO partner could also organize/or participate in a joint mission.

The selected INGO partner will also be a member of the technical committee of the RRW and will assess requests for support under the RRW⁵; provide suggested comments/feedback to strengthen the proposal, and where relevant recommend the type of support and, when relevant, the RRW INGO partner for supporting implementation.

5.4. Advocacy and outreach

The selected INGO partner will contribute to RRW and WPHF efforts to promote local and national NGO interventions, as well as global advocacy for increased participation of women in formal peace processes at all

⁵ Please note that the RRW is open to proposals in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. The RRW could also receive a proposal in another language if the proposal is relevant.

levels. The selected INGO partner will also promote RRW opportunities to potential CSOs and women peacebuilders in eligible countries.

Examples of the types of support that INGO partners may provide include:

- Global forums, host and co-hosting side-events, meetings with donors, policy briefs, articles and videos, medias interventions, information session, targeted outreach with women peacebuilders or women's rights organizations.

5.5. Types of Requests from local and national CSOs

Through both direct support and short-term grants, the RRW will work in partnership with NGOs to finance technical and/or logistical services, activities and initiatives that facilitate women's participation in peace processes and in the implementation of peace agreements. Examples of the types of requests and initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Travel and other logistical support (flights, daily subsistence allowance, childcare, visas, etc.);
- Expertise and technical support to identify entry points and stakeholders, to strategize, access support and connection with key stakeholders for bilateral meetings/consultations/dialogues and more;
- Coaching of women delegates and observers to peace negotiations;
- Advocacy and lobbying campaigns for women's inclusion in peace and political processes;
- Advocacy and lobbying campaigns for women's inclusion in the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of peace agreements;
- Language support including translations of key documents and interpretation in decision-making processes;
- Evidence-based advocacy and collection of data to feed into a process;
- Preparatory sessions and capacity-building for women participating in decision-making processes;
- Consultations and community engagement to feed into a specific process;
- Coalition building and strategizing to influence a specific process;
- Advocacy events and meetings, cross-border dialogues;
- Organizing and drafting participatory declarations/demands to influence decision-making processes.

5.6. INGO partnership types

Applications must specify whether the INGO is applying to either one or both funding streams of the RRW. INGOs will answer this Call for Proposals in **ONE (1)** of the following ways:

- Supporting the implementation of Direct Support
- Supporting the implementation of Short-Term Grants
- Supporting the implementation of both Direct Support and Short-Term Grants

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

INGOs who submit a proposal to this Call for Proposals will undergo a technical review based on the answers in the proposal package.

INGOs applying to be a WPHF RRW partner should be able to demonstrate the following:

- ***Experience in and commitment to supporting women's meaningful participation in peace processes***
The organization should have significant technical expertise on supporting women in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to participate in peace processes and/or the implementation of peace agreements. The

organization should demonstrate how their technical expertise has strengthened local and national CSO-led initiatives on this issue.

The organization should have a track record of longstanding commitment to women's influence and meaningful participation in track 1 and track 2 peace processes and/or the implementation of peace processes.

- ***Geographic Reach and Languages***

The organization should have experience in at least two regions indicated in the Proposal Template⁶ and should have recent experience of working with local and national CSOs in that context on projects relevant to the RRW. Applications from INGOs based and with experience in Africa (excluding MENA) and Europe & Central Asia are strongly encouraged. The organization should indicate in which languages it is able to operate.

- ***Partnerships***

The organization should be experienced in practices of equal partnership with and capacity-building of local and national CSOs & women peacebuilders in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

- ***Grant-making (only applicable to those supporting the Short-Term Grants stream)***

The organization should be experienced in practices of grant-making and sub-granting to local and national CSOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

This includes the ability to release funds and/or provide support in a short timeframe to meet the activity-based needs of their partners who are often operating in crisis contexts. It may also include technical guidance and capacity-strengthening depending on the type of initiative.

The organization should also have a rapid risk assessment/due diligence facility available to CSOs that have not yet received funding from UN agencies or major donors.

6.1. Duration

The partnership with WPHF-RRW will be for an initial period of 12-months period. This partnership may be renewable.

6.2. Budget

The total budget for the INGO should not exceed **500,000 USD**. This includes all costs related to grant-making, the management of the support, including communications and logistics, monitoring and reporting, and a contribution to staff costs. Applicants are not required to contribute to the budget. The majority of this budget should be used for Short-Term Grants and Directs Supports provided to CSOs and women-peacebuilders.

The Management of the support & other direct costs should not exceed 25% of the total budget (indirect-cost not included).

6.3. Registration

The organization should be a legally registered entity whose vision and mission have an international scope. RRW NGO partners may be legally registered anywhere. **Proof of legal registration (or legal status) is required.** Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are **not** proof of legal status.

⁶ Africa (excluding MENA); Americas; Asia & Pacific; Europe & Central Asia; Middle East & North Africa

The following are NOT eligible to apply:

- Government agencies or institutions
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams
- Private individuals
- Private sector entities
- Universities and Education institutions

6.4. Evaluation criteria

As you write your application, please keep in mind that proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Institutional Commitments and Capabilities

- Alignment with and commitment to WPHF outcome 4 – increased leadership and representation of women in peace processes – and the RRW's objective to support women's participation in peace processes and in the implementation of peace agreements.
- Technical expertise and experience relevant to women's influence and meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.
- Geographic reach inside conflict and crisis-affected countries, particularly in Africa (excluding MENA) and Europe & Central Asia. Experience in practices of equal partnership and capacity-building.
- Experience as a grant-making organization and in equal partnerships with local and national CSOs (*only applicable to INGOs proposing partnership support that includes the Short-Term Grants stream*).
- Experience in advocacy and outreach activities for women participation in peace processes.
- Language capabilities are an asset.

Programme Management and Monitoring

- Experience in and understanding of Do No Harm Approach for women peacebuilders and WHRDs engaged in initiatives who face additional security risks.
- Identified risks and mitigation measures.
- Clear monitoring and evaluation methodology and resources
- Clear management structure, including how it will be used to contribute to knowledge management of women's meaningful participation
- Rapid and flexible due diligence/risk assessment processes.

Budget

- Proposal budget falls within the funding limits of the Call for Proposals.
- Management of the support & other direct costs should not exceed 25% of the total budget (indirect-cost not included).
- The indirect costs are lower than or equal to 7%.

7. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

- Applications should be received by **23:59 EST on Friday 19 May 2023**.
- Application documents should be submitted in **.doc, .docx, or .pdf** format. No other formats will be accepted.
- Applications are only accepted in **English**.
- Application packages should be emailed to: WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org.
- The WPHF will acknowledge receipt of application through a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation email within 2 working days, please contact the WPHF.

- Only shortlisted applications will be contacted for next steps.
- You may **not** make changes to your application after it is submitted.

Application package must include:

- A fully completed proposal using the template [\[link to Proposal Template: INGO partners\]](#)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the organization

8. USEFUL RESOURCES

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- The WPHF's page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
- The WPHF's Twitter account: [@wphfund](https://twitter.com/wphfund)
- 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>