

United Nations 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	15 August 2023
Deadline for Submissions	15 September 2023
Apply at	WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) seeks to identify credible and experienced International or Regional Non-Governmental Organizations (I/RNGO) to support its Rapid Response Window (RRW) on participation of women in 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 processes and the implementation of peace agreements in ODA eligible countries.¹

I/RNGO partners under this Call for Proposals will provide support to the 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.

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 will track and measure:

1. Number of Civil Society Organisations (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.

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

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. 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 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,

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.

WPHF has been supporting over 900 civil society organizations and is present in 41 countries or group of countries.

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, Italy and the United States), as well as four Civil Society Organizations (currently Feminist Humanitarian Network, Kvinna till Kvinna, Action Aid and Women's Refugee Commission). WPHF will conduct evaluations on this Call for Proposals and the WPHF Board will select the I/RNGO partners.

3. ABOUT THE RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW (RRW)

In order to accelerate the implementation of the WPS agenda, in his 2019 annual report on WPS,² the UN Secretary-General called on the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) to open a Rapid Response Window (RRW) on women's participation in formal 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 CSOs to influence and participate in peace processes and implementation of peace agreements. The RRW aims to empower women's CSOs to define and lead their own strategies and initiatives. 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.

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 informal groups and women peacebuilders' needs to influence and participate in track 1 and 2 peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements, both formally and informally, at the national, subnational and international levels. The RRW has an open call on its [website](#) to receive proposals from women peacebuilders and CSOs for initiatives **up to a maximum 6 months through its two available streams**: (i) Direct Support and (ii) Short-Term Grants.

4.1. Direct Support

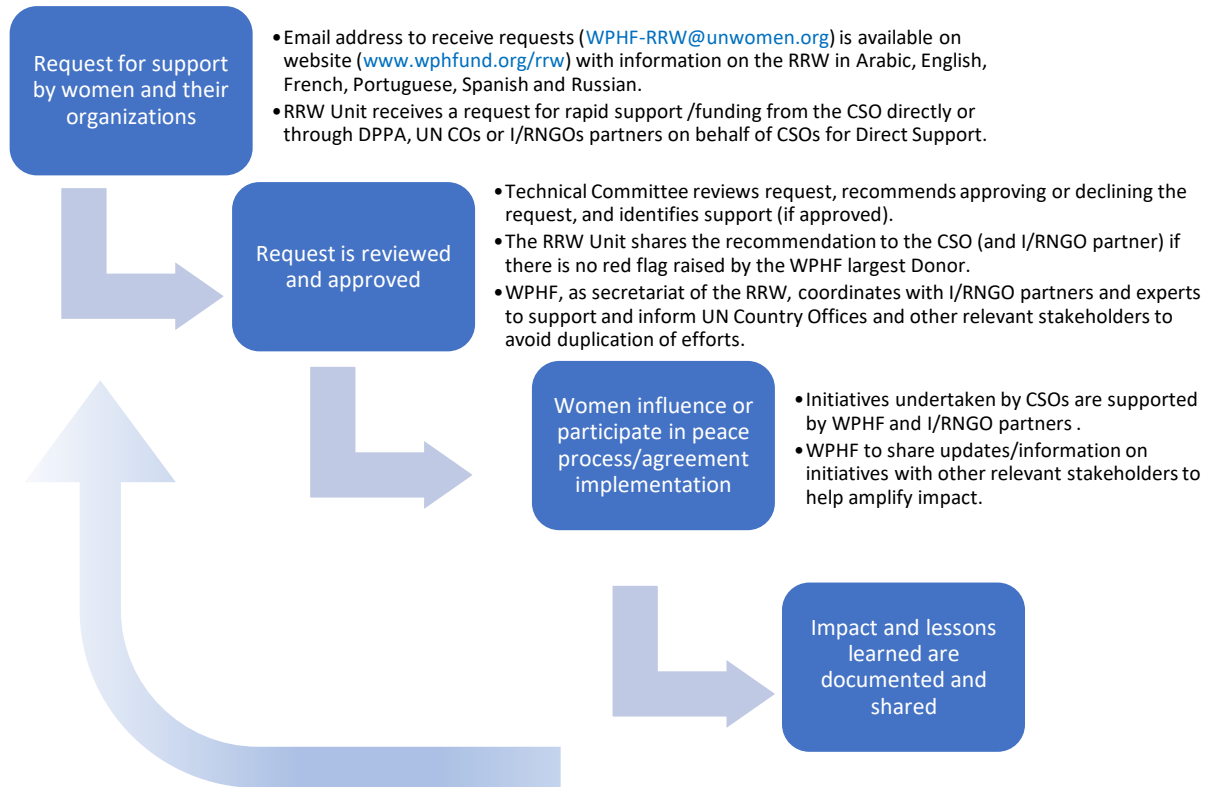
Direct support provides services to CSOs and women peacebuilders that contribute to women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. For example, by covering costs for logistics and/or technical support, including consultancy services (see page 4 for more examples). An organization requests direct support because it has identified a service gap specific to a peace process and/or implementation of a peace agreement that requires rapid support to address this gap. Under this stream, the local CSO does not receive a grant. The maximum budget for a direct support request is up to USD 25,000.

4.2. Short-Term Grants

Short-term grants under the RRW have a 6-month maximum duration. Grants will be disbursed through the RRW's I/RNGO 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. Under this stream, the CSO receives a grant with the maximum budget per grant of up to USD 100,000.

² S/2019/800 p.37

Figure 1: overview of the RRW process



5. ROLE OF I/RNGO PARTNERS

Both funding streams – (i) Direct Support and (ii) Short-Term Grants – will benefit from partnerships with an established list of I/RNGO partners of the RRW. Partnerships with I/RNGOs are critical in order to swiftly identify 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)

I/RNGO partners may support requests for Direct Support if the specifications of the request align well with their geographical reach and/or technical strengths. An I/RNGO 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 CSO. A Technical Committee, including all RRW's I/RNGO partners, will feed into WPHF's decision-making process for Direct Support applications with a budget of more than USD10,000.

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

I/RNGO partners will support requests for Short-Term Grants when the specifications of the request align well with an I/RNGO's geographical reach and/or technical strengths. The selected I/RNGO 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 I/RNGO partners, will feed into WPHF's decision-making process for Short-Term Grant applications.

Examples of the types of support that I/RNGO 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

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

The selected I/RNGO partner will also be a member of the technical committee of the RRW and will assess requests for support under the RRW³; provide suggested comments/feedback to strengthen the proposal, and recommend both the type of support and, when relevant, the RRW I/RNGO partner for supporting implementation.

5.4. Advocacy and outreach

The selected I/RNGO partners will contribute to RRW and WPHF efforts to promote local and national CSO interventions, as well as global advocacy for increased participation of women in formal peace processes at all levels. The selected I/RNGO partner will also promote RRW opportunities to potential women led and women's rights CSOs, women mediators, informal groups and women peacebuilders in eligible countries. Selected I/RNGOs partners will be encouraged to apply an inclusive and diverse approach to their advocacy and outreach plans.

Examples of the types of support that I/RNGO partners may provide include:

- Global forums, host and co-hosting side-events, meetings with donors, policy briefs, articles and videos, media interventions, information session and 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, psychosocial support, etc.);
- Access to women living with disabilities,
- 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, events and meetings for women's inclusion in peace and political processes;

³ 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.



- 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;
- Cross-border dialogues;
- Organizing and drafting participatory declarations/demands to influence decision-making processes.

5.6. I/RNGO partnership types

Applications must specify whether the I/RNGO is applying to either one or both funding streams of the RRW. I/RNGOs 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

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

I/RNGOs 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 and longstanding commitment to supporting women in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to influence and participate in track 1 and 2 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.
- ***Geographic Reach and Languages***
The organization should have experience in at least one region of Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Middle East & North Africa working with local and national CSOs on projects relevant to the RRW. The organization should indicate in which languages it is able to operate, noting that RRW's applications are available in six languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese)
- ***Partnerships***
The organization should be experienced in practices of equal partnership with and capacity-building of local and national CSOs, particularly women led and women's rights organisations and 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 I/RNGO should not exceed **1,000,000 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 Support provided to CSOs and women-peacebuilders.

The Management of the support and other administrative direct costs of the I/RNGO should not exceed 25% of the total budget (indirect-cost not included)⁴.

6.3. Registration

The organization should be a legally registered entity whose vision and mission have an international and/or regional 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.

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 specifically in Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Middle East & North Africa working with local and national CSOs

⁴ Including Staff and other personnel costs, Supplies, Commodities and Materials, Equipment, Furniture, including Depreciation, Travel, General Operating Expenses and Other Direct Costs



- Experience as a flexible and accessible grant-making or provision of logistical support and services with local and national CSOs
- Experience in practices of equal partnership and capacity-building of women's organizations or CSOs
- Experience in advocacy and outreach activities for women participation in peace processes.
- Experience with implementing principles of diversity and inclusion in programming or a Diversity and Inclusion policy is an asset.
- 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 approaches
- 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 and a fast-tracking policy is an asset.

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 15 September 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.
- WPHF will acknowledge receipt of application through a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation email within 5 working days, please contact 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](#)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the organization

8. USEFUL RESOURCES

- WPHF website www.wphfund.org
- RRW will host an information session on this CFP, planned on 30th August 2023 at 3pm (Geneva time). You can register to access the information session through this link: <https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckc-GupjlsHtOq-GOafw4pOq8m2nLtLOAR>
- WPHF page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
- WPHF Twitter account: [@wphfund](https://twitter.com/wphfund)



A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

- 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>