



# CLIMATE SECURITY FUNDING APPEAL

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**Women's Peace &  
Humanitarian Fund**

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

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## Background

Climate change is now impacting all corners of the world. Over 3.3 billion people are “highly vulnerable” to climate change, according to a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).<sup>1</sup> Recognized as an increasing risk to security, climate change negatively impacts environmental systems resulting in secondary risks such as an increase in conflict, political instability, population displacements, poverty, and hunger, all of which have disproportionate effects on women and girls.

Taking an intersectionality approach to climate security and climate justice reveals how climate change disproportionality affects women and girls. In contexts of crises and conflict, climate change further deepens gender and structural inequalities, whereby women and girls are disproportionately exposed to the impacts of climate change, with fewer resources or opportunities to prevent, adapt and recover. Climate-related crises result in issues such as rise in gender-based violence (GBV), loss of livelihoods for women and girls, and lack of access to resources such as food, water, and energy. For example, GBV rooted in misogyny and discriminatory gender norms is disproportionately used against women environmental and human rights defenders to silence their voices and suppress their access to climate justice. In fact, although numbers are underreported, over 1 in 10 of the defenders recorded killed in 2021 were women, nearly two-thirds of whom were indigenous.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, increasing risk of climate disasters such as flooding, droughts, and other slow onset disasters such as rising sea levels increase forced migration as people move away from unfavourable climate conditions seeking safety and security.

Yet despite the impact of climate change on women and girls, women continue to remain undervalued and underrepresented in key prevention, response and recovery processes which relate to climate security and climate justice. This in turn results in both policies and programmes

that fail to adequately address the needs of women and girls, leading to further inequalities and exacerbation of existing conflicts.

Nonetheless, women remain at the forefront of responding to climate-related conflicts and injustice, long showcasing their ability to implement robust mitigation and adaptation measures at the community level. Women civil society organizations on the frontlines have proven to serve as engines of progress, agency, and action in addressing climate security and justice issues. They actively respond to the increasingly complex global challenges in local contexts in ways that are sustainable and culturally specific.

There is a need for the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda to further prioritise climate change as a security issue in terms of the immediate and longer-term effects on women's lives. Women's equal and meaningful participation is vital for sustaining long lasting peace alongside addressing escalating climate-related security risks in women's local communities. In order to do so, providing quality, flexible and timely financing is needed to support women civil society organizations already on the frontlines of this response, enabling their active participation in climate security and climate justice efforts. However, with only 0.2% of all philanthropic giving being provided to women-led environmental programmes the UNSG's 2020 annual report called for recognizing the, “importance of directing resources, through pooled and other means, to local women's groups on the frontlines of climate change and to support the leadership of women in addressing those interlinked crises.”

*“Climate action must include investing in women activists, human rights defenders, and civil society organizations” – Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General*

## **WPHF's Funding appeal (2023-2025): USD 25 million**

Women's civil society organizations have long been on the frontlines of addressing climate change, making strides in assisting those most impacted and vulnerable to the combined shocks associated with climate change and its linkages to the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. It is therefore essential that they are supported as key actors on the ground, dedicating flexible funding to their unique ability to respond and recover from climate related shocks.

In this context, the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is launching an urgent funding appeal for up to USD 25 million to support local women's organizations' leadership in climate security and climate justice. The following WPHF impact areas have been identified as priority needs:

- ▶ **WPHF Impact Area 2 (Conflict Prevention):** Women participate in and inform decision-making processes and responses related to the prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice.
- ▶ **WPHF Impact Area 3 (Humanitarian & Crisis Response):** Climate-related humanitarian/crisis response planning, frameworks and programming are gender inclusive and address climate-related conflicts and injustice.
- ▶ **WPHF Impact Area 6 (Peacebuilding & Recovery):** Women lead and participate in green socio-economic recovery and political decision-making to reduce climate-related conflicts and injustice.

WPHF's climate security response consists of an open Call for Proposals to mobilize women's organizations that can respond to climate security and climate justice concerns. With funding of a minimum of 1,000,000 USD in a priority country, an open Call for Proposals will be launched to identify partners for the response.

International, national, and local women-led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls on climate security and climate justice, will be eligible to apply. Grassroots, indigenous, and local community-based organizations will be particularly encouraged to apply. Consortiums of organizations are allowed and encouraged. The Call for Proposals will make available financing for civil society organizations that promote women's meaningful participation and leadership in climate security and climate justice through programmatic funding from USD 30,000 to 200,000 and institutional funding from USD 2,500 USD to 30,000.

## **Eligible countries**

Amongst the WPHF list of eligible countries, **12 countries/groups of countries** are identified as priority countries for this response:

- ▶ Bangladesh
- ▶ Colombia
- ▶ Democratic Republic of Congo
- ▶ Haiti
- ▶ Mali
- ▶ Niger
- ▶ Nigeria
- ▶ Pacific (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)
- ▶ Palestine
- ▶ Papua New Guinea
- ▶ Philippines
- ▶ Sudan

## **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 and UN Management Entity. The UN Management Entity in the proposed eligible country will act as the WPHF Management Entity in the grant-making process.

The WPHF Secretariat will conduct the technical review of all proposals received and the WPHF National Steering Committees 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 from the UN, civil society, networks of women, and member states. The grantees 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.

## **Background on WPHF's work on climate security**

WPHF as a United Nations and civil society pooled funding mechanism dedicated to channelling flexible and quality funding to women's organizations in crises contexts, has been supporting 20 projects on climate issues implemented by 32 women's rights and women-led organizations and their partners since 2021 with a total of over 2.6 million USD allocated to date. Projects have addressed interventions across conflict prevention, humanitarian response, protection against SGBV as well as peacebuilding and recovery. Through this support women's organizations have

been working to strengthen their coordination and mobilization roles to ensure women's active participation and leadership in humanitarian decision-making processes associated with climate-related disaster prevention, response and recovery.

### WPHF Key Results

- ▶ **17.3% of projects** strengthened institutional capacities of women's CSOs
- ▶ **89.7% of projects** are implemented at the local and sub-national levels
- ▶ **Almost half of CSOs** have been supported by the UN for the first time
- ▶ **4.5 million people** have been directly reached to date (74% women and girls) with a particular focus on vulnerable women and girls, including women who are forcibly displaced, women with disabilities, and survivors of SGBV.
  
- ▶ **In Vanuatu**, women's civil society organizations have empowered 430 women and girls, including persons with disabilities, to expand their participation and leadership in climate crisis response and management through the establishment of 28 women-led Community Disaster Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs).
- ▶ **In Colombia**, rural women are becoming central actors for economic development, sustainable agriculture, food security and the protection of traditional knowledge against the impacts generated by climate change, through the implementation of 157 sustainable production systems and the establishment of a Family Agriculture Network.
- ▶ **In Bangladesh**, women's civil society organizations are implementing climate smart agricultural practices, providing training to local women and girls vegetable cultivation using improved technology and eco-friendly practices, as well as increased their knowledge and skills on homestead gardening.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2022.  
[https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup> Global Witness, 2021.  
<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/decade-defiance/#a-global-analysis-2021>

### About WPHF

The 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 1,000 local women's organizations working to support women to be a force for crisis response and lasting peace in 44 countries. In addition, WPHF has supported the participation and the protection of over 300 women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders in 23 countries.

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