

Call for Proposals

Women's Organizations Advancing Food Security

Ethiopia & South Sudan

Call Opens:	19 December 2023
Deadline for Submissions:	31 January 2024
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 support to local, grassroots, women and young women's civil society organizations in Ethiopia and South Sudan¹ to participate and lead in the planning and response to food insecurity in conflict and crisis settings.

The call for proposals specifically contributes to WPHF's **Impact Area 3: *Enhanced Participation and Leadership of Women in Planning and Response to the food security crisis***. It is aligned with the WPHF's overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies.

Initiatives should aim to reach those women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those excluded due to geography, ethnicity, disability, age, migratory status, HIV status, among others and which is in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

2. Country Context Linked to Call for Proposals

The magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity has reached alarming levels. According to the Global Report on Food Crises 2023, over a quarter of a billion people were acutely food-insecure and required urgent food assistance in 58 food-crisis countries/territories in 2022, the highest increase ever recorded.² This situation is the product of multiple, complex and interlinked causes and drivers, which have been shown to impact women harder than men.³ Around the world, particularly in conflict and crisis contexts, food insecurity and its impact on livelihoods are creating ripple effects for women and girls, including health and safety risks, increased sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and decreasing access to education. Despite this alarming situation, global and national policies and plans designed to address hunger rarely refer to women as leaders who can play an active role in food security, with a great proportion of them overlooking women entirely.

In crisis and conflict settings, although women are often the hardest hit, they are also an untapped resource for recovery. Promoting women and girls' agency, participation, leadership and decision-making in conflict and crisis response and recovery is essential in the fight against food insecurity.⁴ Women's organizations' instrumental work across the nexus of food security, sustainable peace, and gender

¹ Please note that the two target countries have been identified as part of the priority countries for WPHF's Women & Food Security Response (see [here](#)).

² FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises, 2023, [Global Report on Food Crises 2023](#), Rome.

³ <https://www.wfp.org/global-hunger-crisis> and [FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises, 2022](#)

⁴ UN Women, 2022.

equality is making headway in humanitarian and crisis response, socioeconomic recovery and peacebuilding processes and there is a clear need for prioritizing women's and girls' needs in conflict and crisis contexts across the nexus of food security, sustainable peace, and gender equality.

The context of Ethiopia is characterized by multiple crises including conflict, displacement, climate-related shocks, and persistent disease outbreaks, including cholera – all disproportionately affect women and girls. Recent erratic climatic events and prolonged drought in Afar, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions, combined with intensifying inter-communal tensions and regional disputes, as well as a simultaneous break in food aid since June 2023 (and since April in Tigray), have heightened food insecurity in the country. The severity of prolonged food insecurity has resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives, including most recently 210 deaths due to starvation in Tigray region.⁵ The Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 targets more than 20 million people across the country, including an estimated 4.6 million internally displaced people. Around 13 million people are targeted for humanitarian response in drought affected areas in 2023.⁶ The humanitarian needs in Ethiopia remain high and continue to be triggered by the combined effects of climate events, conflicts and intercommunal violence, and disease outbreaks. Accordingly, more than 10 per cent of Ethiopia's total population continue to be targeted for food assistance until the end of the year, and another more than 4 million people will continue to be targeted for non-food assistance.⁷ Women and girls in Ethiopia continue to face the brunt of the crisis as they constitute the majority of IDPs and survivors of SGBV, resulting in additional risks to livelihoods, exploitation, as well as food insecurity.⁸

Affected by subnational conflicts, displacement and violence against women and girls, food insecurity is now a growing concern in South Sudan. The recently released South Sudan IPC analysis shows that the levels of severe acute food insecurity in South Sudan remain high, with an estimated 5.83 million people affected between September and November 2022, particularly in the Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, and Lakes States.⁹ South Sudanese returnees who have come back due to the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan are particularly affected by acute food insecurity. The crisis in South Sudan has thus increased gender inequality, with men controlling the most productive assets, making most of the decisions relating to food security and consumption and taking most of the employment opportunities. Access to food continues to be limited for many households, due to loss of livelihoods, reduced income from petty trade, sale of livestock and crop produce, with women-headed households being the hardest hit. The scale and severity of acute food insecurity in South Sudan is estimated to remain high due to the protracted negative impacts of conflict and insecurity, poor macroeconomic conditions, high food and non-food prices, currency depreciation, and seasonal declines in food stocks. These will also lead to displacement, depletion or loss of assets, and disruption of livelihoods, further contributing to reduced income for purchasing food and essential needs.

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in:

- Ethiopia, with a geographical focus in: Afar, Tigray, and Somali regions
- South Sudan.

⁵ [Borkena, 27 November 2023, *Over 210 people die of starvation*](#)

⁶ [OCHA, 2023](#)

⁷ [UN OCHA Ethiopia Situation Report October 31, 2023](#)

⁸ [CARE, 2018](#)

⁹ <https://fews.net/east-africa/south-sudan/key-message-update/march-2023>

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 working with women, young women and girls, are eligible to apply. Organizations who are led by women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are encouraged to apply, including displaced persons, disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc.

Women's Rights or Feminist Organization: The organization's must have gender equality and women's rights at the core of their official mission/vision statement. The organization's experience should clearly reflect addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights and aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, and work to transform these.

Women-Led Organization: must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

Youth Focused Organization: To be considered "youth focused", the organization's core mission/vision must focus on supporting the social, economic and political participation 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.

Young Women Led Organization: must be headed by a young person aged between 18 - 29 years old who serves as director/head of organization

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

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

4.2. Do we need to be legally registered as an organization in our country to apply?

YES, for the lead applicant. The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation and must submit proof of legal registration with the application package. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

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, or women or young women led civil society organizations are encouraged. Joint projects in partnership with other local women's rights, young women-led, and civil society organizations which are led by marginalized groups including those who are forcibly displaced, living with disabilities, indigenous, etc. are also 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 Available

Under this call for proposals, WPHF is accepting applications for programmatic funding.

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):

- WPHF Impact area 3: *Enhanced Participation and Leadership of Women in Planning and Response to the food security crisis***

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

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 by **31 January 2024 at 11:59pm Geneva time (CET)**.

Please Note:

- Applications can only be submitted in the following languages:
 - English for Ethiopia
 - English and Arabic for South Sudan.
- Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.
- 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.
- Proposal templates, including any annexes cannot be altered. 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 on **28 December 2023** at 11 am Juba time (CAT) / 12 pm Addis Ababa time (EAT) online. To register, please visit the following link: <https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpfu2ggDkjHNcfkEahEjLM3kt6YIO4Azzl>

Upon registering, you will receive the **email confirmation and Zoom link** to connect to the session.

Questions about this CfP can be sent to the following email addresses no later than 26 January 2024:

- For Ethiopia: dejene.merga@unwomen.org
- For South Sudan: monalisa.zatjirua@unwomen.org

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:

Programmatic Funding Evaluation Criteria
Project Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change and overall project responds to the specific call for proposal and impact statement.<input type="checkbox"/> Definition of clear expected outcomes the project aims to achieve<input type="checkbox"/> Clear description of activities and interventions that will contribute to the expected outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches, and time frame.<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.
Programme Management and Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures<input type="checkbox"/> Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches, including Do No Harm, based on the results framework and indicators
Sustainability and National Ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of national and local ownership and collaboration 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.
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"><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 3 \(Food Security\) English](#)
- [Results Based Management Capacity Building Webinar](#)
- 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 1100 civil society organizations and is present in 44 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, Italy and the United States), 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, donor representatives and governments.