

## Joint Advocacy Actions following WPHF 2023 Global Women's Forum to be implemented in 2024

The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) together with the Germany's Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) convened 87 women civil society leaders from 29 countries in Berlin at the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action ([GWF 2023](#)) from 23 to 25 May 2023 to highlight their impacts and priorities related to women, peace, security, and humanitarian action (WPS-HA) issues, and to exchange perspectives and challenges.

The Forum culminated with the adoption of the [Berlin Declaration](#), a document capturing the participants' collective advocacy priorities and recommendations for action that will serve as a key advocacy tool to influence key policy processes at local, national and global levels in the run-up to the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security in 2025<sup>3</sup>.

During the 2023 GWF, the participants started strategizing and devising ideas for collaboration and collective actions to promote and implement the Berlin Declaration's recommendations that they could undertake after the Forum. The discussions outlined the participants' appetite for organizing themselves as collective movements, speaking with a more unified voice on WPS-HA issues, learning from and capitalizing on each other's experiences.

As a follow up to the forum, in September 2023, WPHF launched a targeted call for proposals to identify advocacy actions pushing forward the [Berlin Declaration](#)'s recommendations and mobilize support for women CSOs' work on peace, security and humanitarian action. The call aimed at supporting joint cross-border advocacy actions through providing two grants for CSO partners that participated in the 2023 GWF.

Out of the 9 proposals received, two joint advocacy actions, involving four CSOs have been selected to advance women's CSOs priorities and WPS-HA agendas following the adoption of the Berlin Declaration by strengthening coordination and collaboration among women's CSOs and reinforcing their capacities to influence public opinion, and key decision-making processes for more participation and leadership of women in peace and humanitarian responses at different levels.

Join us in congratulating Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered (SOREX)- **Nigeria** in collaboration with Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO) - **Liberia**, and Mothers and Children Development Organization (MCDO) - **Ethiopia** in collaboration with Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) of **South Sudan**.

1. Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered Nigeria (SOREX) in collaboration with Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO) in Liberia will join forces to strengthen the capacity of women-led CSOs in Africa to respond to crises and promote gender-transformative localization of humanitarian action. The project will map stakeholders and CSOs engagements, develop targeted advocacy tools, launch an online campaign on the Feminist Humanitarian Approach and the Berlin Declaration, and hold in-person advocacy meetings with international humanitarian agencies.

Through the African Feminist Organizations in Humanitarian and Emergency Response (AfricaFORHER) network, convened by SOREX and co-facilitated by COSDO, partner organizations will leverage the network to engage with broader networks of African feminist CSOs. This will raise awareness of the Berlin Declaration and strategically influence frontline humanitarian decision-making at both country and regional levels.

2. Mothers and Children Development Organization (MCDO) from Ethiopia and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) in South Sudan will join forces to ignite a regional movement building amplifying the voices of women led CSOs in conflict and crisis settings and advocating for increased support of their work. Through regular meetings, the project will activate a cross-border network of women-led CSOs and empower them to advance policy agendas that ensure greater participation and leadership for women in peace and humanitarian responses.

The network will develop digital and in-person advocacy campaigns, culminating in "15 Days of Activism" engaging high-level government officials, policymakers, and academics, and pushing for the integration of the Berlin Declaration's recommendations into actions. In addition, the CSOs will produce a publication documenting lessons learned and new developments, showcasing forwarded policy issues, new agendas raised, and any commitment adopted, to serve as a roadmap for the future.