

Annual Project Narrative Progress Report **WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)**



Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF 2023) participants

Reporting Period:
1 January – 31 December 2023

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| <p>Project Title: WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)</p> <p>Project Number: 00131748</p> | <p>PUNO(s): UN Women</p> |
| <p>Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2023</p> <p>Report Submitted by: UN Women as the Secretariat of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund Name: Sophie Giscard d’Estaing and Matthew Rullo Entity: UN Women Title: OICs, Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund Email: s.giscarddestaing@unwomen.org matthew.rullo@unwomen.org</p> | <p>Implementing Partners: N/A</p> <p>Project Locations: Global – Secretariat based in New York and Geneva</p> |
| <p>Project Description: In 2020, WPHF launched its Global Community of Practice to enhance the institutional development and networking among WPHF current and previous CSO partners. Capacity development is a crosscutting strategy applied through all WPHF outcomes and activities that are supported by WPHF. In 2021, WPHF established the Global Learning Hub (L-HUB), building and expanding the CoP to offer different types of training, exchange, peer learning and mentoring opportunities to a broader scope of CSOs, through leveraging partnerships with new donors and partners.</p> | <p>Total Approved Budget (2022-2023) : \$ 980,723</p> <p>Total budget transferred during the reporting period: \$ 561,249 (as of 31 Dec 2023)</p> <p>Project Start Date: January 1, 2022 Project End Date: December 31, 2024 Total Duration (in months): 36 months</p> |
| <p>WPHF Outcome the Project is contributing to: N/A</p> | |
| <p>WPHF indicator the Project is reporting on: N/A</p> | |

Summary

This report covers the results achieved by the Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)¹ of the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in 2023. The L-HUB designed and executed a wide range of capacity building, knowledge exchange and peer learning initiatives for civil society partners, further realizing its mandate to serve as a global hub of knowledge for women’s rights organizations engaged in women, peace and security and humanitarian action (WPS-HA) worldwide. Through these interactive sessions and the production of companion resources made accessible through L-HUB channels, WPHF-supported CSO partners have enhanced their competencies in many areas to support their critical operations and continued mandate in WPS-HA on the front lines.

During the reporting period, the L-HUB leveraged both external and internal expertise to provide 24 capacity strengthening, knowledge exchange and information session activities to approximately 965² civil society participants in 35 countries covering a variety of topics such as gender-sensitive and feminist monitoring and evaluation, self-protection and self-care, UN human rights mechanisms for WPS-HA work, conflict prevention, communications and advocacy tools to influence peace processes, food security, youth participation and climate change integration in WPS-HA, among others. WPHF also featured 67 CSO partners, including 11 youth speakers, and 22 external panelists to share their expertise in L-HUB webinars, whose themes were chosen according to the CSOs’ priorities identified in the WPHF 2022 Annual Survey.

According to the 2023 Annual CSO Survey, 82.5% of WPHF CSO partners reported applying specific new knowledge and skills acquired through L-HUB initiatives. This has remained consistent from 2022, demonstrating the usefulness and applicability of L-HUB initiatives to local women’s organizations in building their capacity.

| 2023 L-HUB by the Numbers | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 24 CB webinars, peer exchanges, knowledge cafés | 965³ CSO participants from 35 countries (303 unique CSOs) | 11 Youth Speakers | 67 WPHF partners who presented at capacity building, peer exchanges or knowledge café sessions |
| 82.5% of CSOs actively using new knowledge and skills acquired through the L-HUB | 1 Global Women’s Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action convening 87 CSO leaders | 53 Proposals received through three calls for proposals | 24 Joint projects selected through L- HUB calls for proposals |

Notable in 2023, in collaboration with the Germany’s Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), WPHF convened the Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF) in Berlin from 23 to 25 May 2023 with 200 stakeholders, including 87 women’s rights organizations across 29 countries. The Forum provided women leaders a unique opportunity to build relationships and solidarity in person, share their work, showcase their impact and liaise with government donors, UN entities and INGOs. GWF culminated with the adoption of the [Berlin Declaration](#), a document capturing the participants’ priorities and recommendations for action that will serve as an advocacy tool to influence key policy processes⁴. As a follow up to GWF, in September 2023, the L-HUB launched a call for proposals among the CSO partners that participated in the Forum to identify advocacy actions pushing forward the Berlin Declaration’s recommendations and mobilizing support for women CSOs’ work on WPS-HA.

¹ <https://wphfund.org/wphfund-community/>

² Represents multiple instances of participation as CSO representative can participate in several sessions.

³ Refers to participants who have attended multiple sessions

⁴ <https://wphfund.org/2023/05/26/global-women-peace-humanitarian-activists-convene-in-berlin-to-define-key-priorities-call-on-world-to-invest-in-their-work-on-the-front-lines/>

The L-HUB launched three calls for proposals (CfPs) in 2023 with a total of 53 proposals received, including calls for peer learning, mentorship and advocacy following the 2023 GWF. This included a call for proposals in partnership with Germany's Action Network on Forced Displacement from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Moldova, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine to explore training priorities and interest in developing bilateral peer learning initiatives with CSOs working in displacement contexts. Overall, 24 projects were selected with over 48 CSO tandems/pairs and will begin implementation in 2024.

Finally, CSOs selected in 2022 for peer learning grants achieved impressive results through their interventions and engaged a total of 99 CSO staff members and volunteers, who increased their data collection skills, knowledge of inclusion and accessibility concepts, and their capacity to support marginalized girls. The CSO leaders noted an enhanced professional development and a reinforced strategic partnership with their peer CSOs, leading to improved synergy between feminist movements in their country and an increased reach of their organizations.

All these positive results also show that the L-HUB has built a vibrant community of CSO partners who are learning from and supporting each other for increased organizational growth and resilience, in alignment with WPHF's Strategic Plan 2023-2025 and its cross-cutting strategy to foster global learning and coalition building between women's rights and women-led CSOs working in conflict and crisis settings.

1. Results and Progress Achieved

Outcome 1: Institutional development of local CSOs working on issues of women, peace and security, and humanitarian action in crisis settings is supported and long-term relationships between the CSOs are promoted

During the reporting period, the L-HUB mobilized both external and internal expertise to provide capacity strengthening, knowledge exchange and information session activities to civil society participants, based on priorities expressed in the [2022 Annual CSO Global Survey](#). As a result, CSO partners have enhanced their knowledge in core organizational development topics such as feminist monitoring, evaluation and results-based reporting, self-protection and self-care, resource mobilization, communications and advocacy tools to enhance women’s influence in peace processes, and youth participation for inclusive peacebuilding and humanitarian action, among others.

According to the 2023 Annual CSO Survey, 82.5% of WPHF CSO partners reported applying specific new knowledge and skills acquired through the WPHF L-HUB initiatives. This has remained consistent from 2022, demonstrating the usefulness and applicability of the L-HUB initiatives to local women’s organizations in building their capacity. As noted by survey respondents, *“Thanks to the webinar on climate change, we learned to always integrate a climate perspective into our work in conflict and crisis situations”* (CSO from Mali) and, *“After the webinar of self-care I have managed to take care of myself especially about safety”* (CSO from Liberia).

CSOs equally gained new knowledge on thematic topics such as the use of UN human rights mechanisms to promote peace and gender responsive work, climate security, conflict prevention, food security and sustainable women’s economic empowerment in crisis contexts, and have broadened their perspectives through hearing the experiences of other organizations and projects on WPS-HA in the peer exchanges and Knowledge Cafes. Through these regular meetings, the L-HUB enabled 303 unique CSOs from various countries to exchange and learn from each other. Overall, 66% of participants found capacity building and exchange activities useful and relevant to their work as per post-webinar surveys administered throughout the year.

Output 1.1: Efficient, effective and timely management of the L-HUB is ensured to foster solidarity and mutual support among CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings

In 2023, the Global L-HUB launched three calls for proposals for peer learning and mentorship schemes. Overall, a total of 53 proposals were received from 12 different countries and technical evaluations carried out. Since the establishment of the Global L-HUB in 2021, a total of 105 proposals have been received.

| 2023 | Proposals Received | Longlisted/ Evaluated | Shortlisted | Selected |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| CfP4-Mentorship | 31 | 26 | 26 | 17 |
| CfP5-GWF Advocacy Action Awards | 9 | 7 | 7 | 2 |
| CfP6-Peer Learning Awards | 13 | 9 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 53 | 42 | 38 | 24 |

Peer Learning

In 2023, one CfP was launched aimed at strengthening CSOs’ capacity in their areas of work such as conflict resolution and crisis management, sexual harassment prevention, women’s inheritance rights and operational processes, through trainings, site visits and advocacy campaigns. 26 CSOs from Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar and Palestine submitted proposals. From the 13 proposals received, five projects were selected. These projects will begin implementation in 2024. Three CSOs who are not current WPHF

partners have connected for the first time through this CfP, showing that the L-HUB's scope has increased to reach more women's rights organizations in crisis affected countries.

Mentorship Scheme

As part of the Mentorship Scheme which aims at creating online and onsite training, peer learning and mentoring opportunities⁵, the L-HUB conducted a peer learning and mentorship survey with 36 CSO partners supported by the WPHF Funding initiative on forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Moldova, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine to explore training priorities and interest in developing bilateral peer learning initiatives with CSOs working in displacement contexts. As result, 80.6% of CSOs were interested in developing a peer learning project with another organization working in forced displacement in crisis contexts.

Building on this consultation and in partnership with the [Germany's Action Network on Forced Displacement](#), the L-HUB launched a new multi-country CfP in 2023 to foster the institutional development of WPHF CSO partners working with displaced women in conflict and crisis contexts and with the aim of fostering solidarity and collaboration between WPHF CSO partners focused on forcibly displaced women and girls in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The CfP encouraged first-time collaborations among CSOs in the design of their proposals. As one applicant wrote,

“The representative of FACLIA Association and Refugees, Children and Vulnerable Citizens met during the Global Women's Forum for Peace in Berlin....during the work in a common group on local economic development, they concluded that the challenges for CSOs and women from Moldova and Tajikistan are quite similar and that together it would be possible to find ways of improving the approaches and strategies”.

A total of 31 proposals from 62 CSOs were received, and of which 17 projects involving 34 CSOs were selected. Seven selected CSOs are first time WPHF partners, showing that the L-HUB is able to reach a wide range of CSOs working with displaced women. Several projects will also involve CSO partners from two different countries (e.g. Pakistan and Afghanistan; Moldova and Tajikistan; and Moldova and Ukraine), fostering cross border collaborations to better serve the needs of displaced populations and women. The projects which will begin in 2024, will focus on the CSOs' organizational development (strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, operational management, etc.), and on displaced women's socio-economic recovery to operate more efficiently with displaced communities.

In May 2023, the L-HUB also conducted an online information session on the Mentorship Scheme's objectives in partnership with Germany's Action Network on Forced Displacement. Following this exchange, the L-HUB collaborated with two network members from Pakistan and the Philippines in the development of three capacity building sessions in June and July on i) fundraising, donors' mapping and mobilization; ii) UN mechanisms to report human rights violations; and iii) strategies for more sustainable economic empowerment of women. These online sessions engaged participants from 159 CSOs⁶.

Implementation of Peer Learning Awards

In 2023, four women CSO leaders selected in 2022 were supported to develop capacity strengthening

⁵ <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WPHF-Mentorship-Scheme-BRIEF-EN-short-Updated.pdf>

⁶ Represents multiple participation as the same CSO representative can participate in several sessions.

projects, in collaboration with Women Have Wings (WHW)⁷. The nominated women together with their CSO colleagues implemented two peer learning projects in Haiti reaching 99 people directly, and achieved the following:

- ▶ Marijàn and Mouvement pour l'Intégration et l'Émancipation des Femmes Handicapées (MIEFH) conducted organizational dialogues among their staff members and a workshop on gender and inclusion to raise awareness on the needs and perspectives of persons with disabilities. Following this exchange, Marijàn revised its strategic plan to integrate new measures of inclusion, and positioning accessibility as a central component of their strategy. A total of 60 staff and volunteers (50 women) benefitted from the peer exchange with MIEFH, as well as representatives of five women's organizations and three LGBTQI+ organizations working in partnership with Marijàn.



Photo 2: Dialogue between Marijàn and MIEFH (Peer Learning project)



Photo 3: Training provided by HAGN (Peer Learning Project)

- ▶ The Mouvement des femmes de la Grande Anse (MOFEDGA) provided training to 15 Haiti Adolescents Girls Network (HAGN)'s mentors on referral pathways for out of school girls, adolescent mothers and girls with disabilities to increase access to psychosocial and legal support. HAGN also provided training to 24 representatives of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) affiliated to MOFEDGA on data collection techniques. The CBOs who operate in 11 different municipalities have shown interest in establishing a continuing partnership with HAGN to replicate the training in other localities. The two organizations continue to interact through a WhatsApp Group. Overall, a total of 39 CSO members (15 women) benefitted from the exchange.

As a result of the peer learning projects, CSOs reported that, *“these interactions broadened my perspective creating a positive dynamic for my professional journey.”* And, *“collaborating with another organization strengthened our collective skills and enabled mutual knowledge sharing.”*

Despite the successes of the peer learning awards, additional funding and time would be required to be able to sustain the results achieved through the CSO tandems according to the CSOs.

Output 1.2: Quality capacity building and knowledge exchange opportunities are provided to women's CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings

⁷ The CSO Peer Learning Awards recognize the work of 10 women CSO leaders and support mutual capacity strengthening between their CSOs (5 tandems made of 2 CSOs each). Each CSO tandem must be led by one active WPHF CSO who can partner with a WPHF partner CSOs or other women's rights organizations working in WPSHA who are not supported by WPHF, to expand the scope of the L-HUB initiatives beyond WPHF CSO partners. For more information on the women's profiles: <https://wphfund.org/women-have-wings/>

A total of 24 webinars, peer exchanges and knowledge cafés were conducted involving 965 participants⁸ from 303 unique CSOs and their co-implementing partners from 35 countries⁹, positioning the L-HUB as a dynamic space to connect women’s rights organizations working on WPS-HA and enhance their capacity development¹⁰. WPHF also featured 21 CSO partners, including eight youth representatives, and mobilized several institutions and INGOs, including the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, Agir Ensemble pour les Droits Humains, Inclusive Peace, and The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) who facilitated and moderated capacity building webinars and peer exchanges.

CSO participants’ feedback was collected after each activity allowing adjustments to the contents and planning of the webinars to fit best the CSOs’ needs and demands. As a result of these post-webinar surveys, 65.5% of participants found capacity building webinars useful and relevant to their work, and 82.5% of respondents to the aforementioned Annual CSO 2023 survey are actively using new knowledge and skills acquired. As noted by a CSO from Myanmar, *“WPHF L-HUB is really important and useful for local women led organizations in order to strengthen the institutional capacities and build network from different regions.”*

Several webinars and peer exchanges¹¹ were also open to the recipients of WPHF’s Window for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), where nine WHRDs participated. In addition to the CSOs participants, representatives of the WPHF Secretariat, WPHF Country Focal Points and I/NGO partners from the Rapid Response Window attended various webinars.

WPHF training webinars and knowledge exchange recordings were posted on WPHF YouTube channel and shared with the CSOs¹². 883 total YouTube views of these videos were registered by the end of 2023.

Capacity Building

Specifically, for capacity building sessions, the L-HUB conducted 15 online sessions, including eight live Help Desks that provided orientation to CSOs on the L-HUB’s activities, and funding opportunities such as the Peer Learning Awards, the Mentorship Scheme and the Rapid Response Window. These sessions engaged 619 CSO participants¹³ and covered topics such as gender-sensitive and feminist M&E and reporting, self-protection and self-care tools, UN human rights mechanisms for WPS-HA work, youth participation for inclusive peacebuilding and humanitarian action, and climate change integration in WPS-HA. Interpretation was provided in several languages or the same session was replicated in different languages, enabling more CSOs from a growing number of countries to benefit from the trainings. It is to be noted that the help desk focusing on the Mentorship scheme was done with interpretation in Pashto, Dari and Ukrainian to encourage participation from Afghan and Ukrainian CSOs. In addition, a high number of the CSO members delegated by their organization to attend the L-HUB webinars have replicated the webinars to pass the knowledge to other staff members, volunteers and CSO partners: *“We also used the training in resource mobilization to train our member organizations and they are recording success in fundraising” (CSO partner from Uganda).*

⁸ Includes representatives who have attended multiple sessions

⁹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, Pakistan, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, PNG, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen.

¹⁰ More detailed progress and results for L-HUB are presented in a separate report. See also more about the global L-HUB at: <https://wphfund.org/wphfund-community/>

¹¹ Tapping the UN human rights mechanisms for WPS-HA work, Self-protection and self-care, and Youth participation for inclusive peacebuilding

¹² The videos are posted in private mode to ensure that no sensible information is widely disseminated. They are accessible only to those who have the link.

¹³ Includes representatives who have attended multiple sessions.

The webinars featured experts from five CSO partners from Colombia, Iraq, Uganda, Ukraine and Vanuatu of which one was a youth speaker. The L-HUB also mobilized six external trainers in relevant training areas from UN Women Peace, Security and Resilience team and UN Women Pakistan County Office, WPHF WHRD window INGO partner Agir Ensemble pour les Droits Humains (AEDH), the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) and the Action Network on Forced Displacement. After each session, training contents, accompanying resources, and webinar recording was shared with CSO participants, and, when relevant, translated in different languages to increase accessibility for more CSOs.



Photo 4: Capacity Strengthening Webinar on Climate Integration

According to the post-webinar surveys, 64.1% of participants¹⁴ found capacity-building webinars useful and relevant to their work. Among the most useful topics, participants highlighted learning about monitoring and evaluation approaches, fundraising methods and project proposal submission, women-led organization’s role in climate security, the gender dimension in the humanitarian response, interconnections between youth and peacebuilding and conflict prevention approaches. As noted by a participant in the webinar on UN Human rights mechanisms from Venezuela, *“The webinar was so important for me, I’m introducing a proposal of research to follow women’s violations on their right to participate in the coming elections, mostly documenting political violence. The guidelines provided by the webinar facilitator were exactly what I was looking for!”*. Several participants reported that the webinars help them to be more efficient in their actions towards the most vulnerable people and to defend women and girls’ rights.

2023 Capacity Building Webinars

- Live Help Desk with focus on WPHF Rapid Response Window in English on 31 January, in Arabic and French on 1 February (two sessions) and in Spanish on 3 March
- Gender sensitive and feminist monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, 8 February, in English, French and Arabic.
- Youth participation for inclusive peacebuilding and humanitarian action, 5 April, In Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- Fundraising Strategies and Tips for Women’s Organizations operating in Crisis Contexts, 21 June, in English, French, Arabic, Spanish.
- Tapping the UN human rights mechanisms for women, peace, security, and humanitarian work, 5 July, in English, French, Arabic, Spanish.
- Live Help Desk with focus on the Peer Learning and Mentorship grants, 13 September, in English, Pashto, Dari and Ukrainian
- Self-Protection and Self-Care for Women Human Rights Defenders in Conflict and Crisis Affected Contexts, 27 September, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- Live Help Desk with Focus on the WPHF WHRDs’ window in Arabic on 18 October, and English and French (two session) on 26 October

¹⁴ Based on a scale of 1-5 whereby respondent selected 4 or 5.

- Live Help Desk with focus on the 2023 Peer Learning Awards in Arabic on 14 November and in English on 14 November
- Integrating a climate lens in women's organizations' work in conflict and crisis settings, 20 November, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Peer Exchanges and Knowledge Cafés

In 2023, a total of nine Peer Exchange and Knowledge Café sessions were conducted featuring 15 CSO partners (1 young women led organization) from Colombia, Cameroon, DRC, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Uganda and Yemen, and engaged 223 CSOs participants.¹⁵ The peer exchanges mobilized five experts and facilitators from UN Women DRC Country Office, UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls Secretariat, I/NGO partners from the RRW - Inclusive Peace and Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), and a woman peacebuilder from Sudan.

The Peer Exchanges enhanced the transfer of approaches and knowledge among CSOs while disseminating real life experiences, case studies and policy briefs in areas such as women's role in conflict prevention, coalition building, women's financial empowerment in contexts of crisis, and communications tools to enhance women's influence in peace processes. Several participants noted the value of listening to experiences from across the world to be aware of international developments, network with likeminded CSOs and get inspiration from their practices, *"The examples of women sharing their lived experiences in the peace building efforts have inspired us to share more about peace building work"* (CSO from Uganda), and, *"We are applying other country lessons learnt to mobilize more women into peace building"* (CSO from South Sudan). Summaries of the peer exchange sessions were produced by the L-HUB and shared with all WPHF CSO partners allowing the larger L-HUB community to learn from the peer exchanges even if they could not attend.

In Focus :

- ▶ In March, a peer exchange convened the 2021 and 2022 Peer Learning Awardees' cohorts. These partners shared their results, experiences and lessons learned from their projects. The session helped CSO partners to discuss openly the concept of peer education and to learn from failures and good practices. The peer exchange was attended by the co-founder of Women Have Wings who sponsors the CSO Peer learning awards since 2021.
- ▶ Following the model of country-to-country peer exchanges initiated in 2022, the L-HUB continued to provide a space to WPHF-Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) CSO partners for reflecting in small group on key strategies to enhance the participation of community-based groups in wider advocacy coalitions and efforts to end VAWG. A peer exchange in March between DRC and Haiti CSO partners involved representatives of 10 CSOs who shared examples of motivating and supporting grassroots women's groups to bring forward their needs and recommendations to end VAWG.
- ▶ In December, in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, a closing event for the WPHF Spotlight Initiative partners was conducted. The session featured CSO partners from Afghanistan, DRC, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda. Through an online interactive discussion, they shared insights on their projects' achievements, strategies and good practices related to ending VAWG. The CSOs also shared their plans for ensuring long-term project impacts. The session's methodology allowed organic and dynamic exchanges between the 18 participants.

Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for list of peer exchanges conducted in 2023.

¹⁵ Ibid.

The knowledge cafés shed light on data and information collected by CSOs partners (such as Fe-Male's Gender Media Audit of the Beirut Blast Aid, Response and Coverage), by INGOs and the WPHF, including the findings of a participatory research project led with the support of the WPHF RRW on peacebuilding in Sudan. A participant from Moldova noted, *“We have integrated the Impacts of Conflict on Food Security for Women and Girls into the association's work plan and collaborative priorities for intervention”*. Another participant from Lebanon indicated that the knowledge café led their CSO to pilot a new approach, *“We have watched a knowledge cafe activity and tried to apply the same concept during one of our community events addressing the topic of women peace builders in vulnerable communities”*.

Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for list of knowledge cafés conducted in 2023.

WPHF L-HUB Virtual Library, Facebook Group and Email Updates

A total of 227 knowledge resources (publications and videos) were disseminated on WPS-HA related topics in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, providing women’s organizations with critical information about conflicts, humanitarian assistance and gender equality. The resources were made available through a virtual library as WPHF switched from a password-protected digital platform to a Google Drive repository to enhance users’ access.

In addition, nine capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange resources were developed, ranging from topics such as women’s resilience to climate change, self-protection and care for WHRDs, measuring food security, advocacy in peace processes, and women’s economic empowerment, and disseminated recordings of all online events. A participant in the WPHF 2023 CSO Survey from Afghanistan noted, *“We are using some organizational documents and publications of WPHF L-HUB”*.

Moreover, the WPHF L-HUB Facebook group¹⁶ continued to be a successful tool to enhance knowledge sharing and sisterhood among the CSO partners, reaching a total of 339 members by the end of the year, with 81 new members. Among these 339 members, 212 unique CSOs¹⁷ are represented by 276 CSO leaders¹⁸ who have used the space to share success stories, news, videos, and photos, with 167 posts, 62 comments, 1,020 reactions and 6,279 impressions overall.



Photo 5: CSO sharing news in the L-HUB Facebook group

¹⁶ The Facebook group is open to past and current WPHF CSO partners, Rapid Response Window INGO partners, UN Women country focal points and WPHF Secretariat’s staff.

¹⁷ 202 lead CSO partners and 10 co-implementing CSO partners.

¹⁸ Several staff members from a same CSO can be part of the Facebook group.

Through the Facebook group, the L-HUB disseminated training opportunities, events, and resources that are relevant for the CSO partners, such as digital photo exhibitions and webinars organized by CARE, UN Women, the Special UN Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, WILPF and GNWP (for example on Conflict and Crisis Responses through a Gender-Based Analysis), the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, and the World Bank. Regular funding opportunities were also shared for peacebuilders and humanitarian workers such as the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives and Finland's International Gender Equality Prizes.

In collaboration with UN Women Peace, Security and Resilience section, the WPHF L-HUB programmes and resources were presented in person at the “Strengthening Young Women Peacebuilders’ Capacity in Complex Crises Tbilisi Workshop” in March 2023 to 28 young women peacebuilders from 27 countries.

Furthermore, through its email distribution list, WPHF sent regular updates about L-HUB activities and related materials, and highlighted knowledge resources produced by CSO partners. The L-HUB email distribution list and the Facebook group have been regularly revised to include new WPHF CSO partners and update contact persons as there is continuous staff turnover in all organizations.

Expanding partnerships with the L-HUB

In 2023, L-HUB partnerships contributed to enhancing the range, quality and diversity of the L-HUB initiatives and resources, showing that WPHF’s L-HUB is recognized as a credible programme which attracts new donors and supporters to offer long-term networking and capacity strengthening opportunities for local women CSOs. WPHF continued two partnerships: one initiated in 2021 (Women Have Wings for Peer Learning Awards), and one initiated in 2022 (Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development BMZ and its Action Network on Forced Displacement for the Mentorship Scheme).

In addition, WPHF established a new partnership with the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) for the production of a global in person convening, and mobilized several UN entities (UN Women headquarters and DRC and Pakistan country offices on three occasions, the UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate VAWG’s Secretariat), one NGO (UNOY), three INGOs (Inclusive Peace, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and Agir Ensemble pour les Droits Humains), one research consultant and one peacebuilder from Sudan as trainers and facilitators. WPHF board members (Women’s Refugee Commission, Feminist Humanitarian Network, Action Aid and Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation) contributed to the 2023 Global Women’s Forum as panel’s moderators and training workshops’ facilitators.



Photo 6: L-HUB Partners in 2023

Output 1.3: Knowledge and visibility of lessons learned and best practices of women’s CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings is enhanced on the global stage

2023 Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF 2023)

In 2023, the WPHF together with the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) convened the Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF 2023) in Berlin on 23-25 May. The Forum brought together 200 actors, including 87 women civil society organizations’ representatives from 29 countries, as well as members of international organizations, I/NGOs, academics, and Germany and Norway government representatives¹⁹. The 2023 GWF was supported by the GFFO and held in its offices. The Forum’s Opening was live streamed on Facebook and registered 431 viewers. Building on the WPHF Global Women’s Forum held in 2000 in Vienna, the 2023 GWF’s key objectives were:

- To strategize and define **joint advocacy priorities and entry points** to mobilize support for women CSOs’ work on peace, security and humanitarian action (PSHA);
- To promote **networking, solidarity and movement-building** among women civil society leaders working on peace and humanitarian response from around the world; and
- To enable an in-person **exchange of knowledge and showcasing of good practices and learnings** from women CSOs’ work on PSHA between the civil society leaders and with donors and international partners.

The Forum met these expectations through a combination of high-level plenary sessions, interactive panels, breakout groups, and workshops, the latter which created a space for safe civil society led discussions. Breakout group discussions were organized based on the thematic areas of 1) conflict prevention and peacebuilding, 2) conflict resolution, 3) humanitarian action, 4) women’s participation in economic recovery and 5) protection against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In addition, a “marketplace” was set up where women could showcase their work and products.

After three energizing days, the Berlin Declaration 2023, was adopted²⁰, putting forth key priorities for CSOs and calling on peace and humanitarian stakeholders to invest in women civil society leaders’ transformational work in conflict and crisis settings. The Forum also fostered dialogue between civil society leaders and high-level decision makers, such as the German Minister of State for Europe and Climate and the German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, to exchange on how governments can leverage their feminist foreign policies in support of local women’s CSOs in fragile settings.



Photo 6: Breakout group during the Global Women’s Forum

The Forum also provided a space for civil society leaders to reflect on the importance of providing care and mental health support to women working at the frontlines of peace and humanitarian work, and encouraged the participants to identify approaches and concrete measures that can be taken by their organizations to prioritize staff’s self-care, psychosocial support, and well-being.

For more information on the Forum and results, please see the 2023 GWF Report:

¹⁹ For more information, please see the 2023 GWF Report: https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/WPHF-Global-Womens-Forum-2023_Report.pdf

²⁰ The Berlin Declaration 2023 can be found in several languages on: <https://wphfund.org/2023/05/26/global-women-peace-humanitarian-activists-convene-in-berlin-to-define-key-priorities-call-on-world-to-invest-in-their-work-on-the-front-lines/>

Berlin Declaration 2023: Women Peacebuilders, Humanitarian Responders, and Human Rights Defenders Call on the World to Invest in their Work on the Frontlines²¹

1. Take a firm, decisive and uncompromising stance against attacks on our safety, wellbeing, lives and work and against the patriarchal norms that lead to the normalization of violence, gender apartheid and gender persecution.
2. Make radical changes to the existing financing structures and mechanisms by providing long-term, flexible and core funding available to grassroots and local organizations, including those led by women and young women in all their diversity.
3. Foster and amplify organizing, movement-building and solidarity among grassroots, local and national women civil society leaders and activists at national, regional and global levels.
4. Ensure that we can participate in and use our peacebuilding experience and expertise to influence all electoral, political decision-making and peace processes
5. Recognize that our expertise is fundamental to prevent and address global humanitarian crises and foster climate justice.

GWF Participants' Feedback and Lessons Learned

According to the post-Forum evaluations from 41 civil society leaders, the GWF's inclusive methodology was appreciated. Several participants also pointed out the diversity and relevance of the topics covered to cater to the varied interests and needs of participants and it allowed participants to learn from each other's experience across the globe and hear about the work of other women working towards peace in their countries.

Participants' feedback on the GWF 2023 was extremely positive:

- 81% of the participants "strongly agreed" that the conference was a success.
- 61% of the participants "strongly agreed" that the breakout groups allowed for engaged discussion among the participants.
- 49 % of the survey respondents "strongly agreed" that the event will support their efforts to act in crisis contexts.

There was also an overwhelming expression that there is a need for more regular organizing of such convening spaces. Some lessons learned to adopt when organizing future global forums include:

- Consideration on the length of the day and dense agenda which can be resolved by adding an additional day

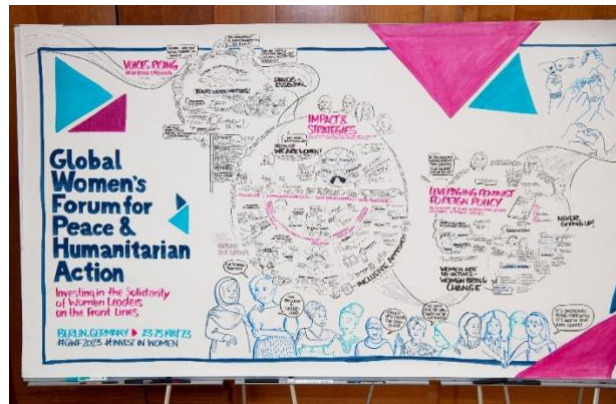


Photo 7: Graphic recording of the Global Women's Forum by Yasmine Cordes

²¹ The full text of the final declaration can be found in English, Arabic, French and Spanish in <https://wphfund.org/2023/05/26/global-women-peace-humanitarian-activists-convene-in-berlin-to-define-key-priorities-call-on-world-to-invest-in-their-work-on-the-front-lines/>

- Consideration of a dedicated space for more informal activities, such as sightseeing and relaxing outside the event’s venue, to provide an opportunity to interact with their fellow civil society leaders in a different context
- Interpretation in additional languages such as Ukrainian.
- Even though most documents were provided in Braille, one participant requested that the draft of the Berlin Declaration 2023 be made available in Braille, to make it more accessible.
- Follow-up actions such as the creation of thematic WhatsApp groups, to facilitate participants to remain in touch and take the commitments made during the GWF 2023 forward.

2023 GWF Participants’ Quotes

“I was given the opportunity to give my personal experience.”

“The event fostered an environment where all participants felt valued, respected, and encouraged to actively participate. The emphasis on diversity and the inclusion of different perspectives contributed to rich discussions and a vibrant exchange of ideas.”

“By participating in the GWF for peace and humanitarian action, we understood how important working in synergy is for national and local organizations.”

“It is very interesting to hear from the protagonists, everything they do in their countries to achieve peace.”

“I was genuinely impressed by the comprehensive agenda that encompassed a wide range of engaging activities. Each activity was thoughtfully designed to provide valuable insights, foster meaningful interactions, and create a memorable experience for all participants.”

“The self-care workshop was a very important session that gave me a real relief due to the constant pressure to take care of everyone but myself and made a lasting impact on my awareness of the importance of this issue and the need to provide time and budget for the team”.

“I was very pleased to learn about the experiences of my Colombian colleagues, and the great contribution that WPHF is making to build peace in my country through women's own initiatives”.

Post 2023 GWF Joint Advocacy Actions

As a follow up to the GWF, WPHF launched the aforementioned targeted call for proposals in September 2023, to identify advocacy actions pushing forward the Berlin Declaration’s recommendations. The call aimed at supporting joint cross border advocacy actions between CSOs that took part in the Forum through providing two grants.

Nine proposals were received involving 18 CSOs from 10 different countries whose representatives had met in Berlin for the first time and who worked together to design projects to accelerate women’s participation and influence over policies for lasting peace and gender inclusive humanitarian response. Two joint advocacy actions were selected to advance women’s CSOs priorities and WPS-HA agendas and will be implemented in 2024.²² The two projects selected are:

- ▶ Mothers and Children Development Organization (MCDO) from Ethiopia with Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) from South Sudan which aims to strengthen coordination and collaboration among women’s CSOs to foster movement building at regional level to advocate

²² More information on the Joint Advocacy Actions is available at: <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Joint-Advocacy-Actions-following-WPHF-2023-GWF.pdf>

for more participation and leadership of women in peace and humanitarian responses at different levels

- ▶ The Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered (SHRED) from Nigeria and Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO) from Liberia which aims to strengthen the capacity of women-focused CSOs in Africa to respond to crises and to promote gender-transformative localization of humanitarian action

These projects are a good example of the long-term connections generated in Berlin between the women leaders and the longer-term effect on their organizations who initiated partnerships to design joint project proposals.

2. Assessments and Knowledge Products by WPHF L-HUB

Nine capacity building resources and knowledge products were produced and disseminated in 2022:

- Berlin Declaration 2023
- Peer Exchange Brief CSO Peer Learning Awards 2021
- Résumé de l'échange entre pair-e-s entre les OSC partenaires du WPHF de Haiti et de la RDC
- Peer Exchange Brief Country-to-country Increasing sustainable women's economic empowerment: lessons from Nigeria and Palestine
- Peer Exchange Brief Impactful communications and advocacy tools to enhance women's influence in peace processes: learning from experiences in Cameroon and Colombia
- Training Webinar and Peer Exchange Brief Integrating a climate lens in women's organizations' work in conflict and crisis settings vii)
- Tip sheet Self-protection and Self Care for WHRDs and CSOs in Conflict and Crisis Affected Contexts
- Annual CSO Survey on the L-HUB initiatives 2022

3. Planned 2024 Priorities

In 2024, and subject to the availability of Funds, the L-HUB will prioritize the following:

- Continue facilitating capacity strengthening, experience sharing and collaborations' opportunities between WPHF CSO partners through high quality training and knowledge exchange activities while the crises addressed by women's CSOs worldwide become increasingly complex and protracted.
- Leverage the expertise of more WPHF CSOs partners along with new partners of WPHF wider network to provide frequent trainings and peer learning exchanges with the aim to respond to the CSOs' demands for more frequent webinars and exchanges.
- Use and disseminate widely the Berlin Declaration 2023 as a strong advocacy tool in support of the recognition of women's CSOs' peacebuilding experience and expertise and their critical role in addressing humanitarian crises, through communications and providing grants. This aims to build on the 2023 GWF's momentum and keep up the positive spirit of hope and sisterhood generated at the forum.
- In alignment with Berlin Declaration's recommendation of providing safe spaces and international platforms for women's CSOs to meet and exchange experiences, mobilize funding to convene more regular in person gatherings of women-led grassroots CSOs to enable coordination, exchange of experiences and alliance building.

4. Indicator Based Performance Assessment

| Results | Indicators | Progress Achieved against Targets | Reasons for Variance |
|--|---|---|--|
| Project Outcome Institutional development of local CSOs working on issues of women, peace and security, and humanitarian action in crisis settings is supported and long-term relationships between the CSOs are promoted. | 1. Percentage of WPHF CoP members that report using new knowledge and skills from the capacity building and knowledge exchange opportunities Baseline: 0 Target: 75% by December 2023 | According to WPHF 2022 CSO Survey, 82.5% of WPHF CSO partners reported using new knowledge and skills acquired through the WPHF capacity building programme. This has remained consistent from 2022, demonstrating the usefulness and applicability of the L-HUB initiatives to local women's organizations in building their capacity. | Exceeded variance by 10% as a result of the continued importance of capacity strengthening opportunities that concretely help CSOs adopt and institutionalize new skills |
| Output 1.1. Efficient, effective and timely management of the L-HUB is ensured to foster solidarity and mutual support among CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings | 1. Number of calls for proposals, application forms, and surveys on peer learning and mentoring needs online Baseline: 0 Target: 2 by December 2023 | A total of 3 CfPs were launched, including i) a multi-country CfP as part of the Mentorship Scheme; ii) a multi-country post-2023 GWF Joint Advocacy Actions CfP; and iii) multi-country Peer Learning Awards. In addition, one mentoring needs survey conducted among forced-displacement focused CSOs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Moldova, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine | Exceeded targeted by one. A post-GWF Forum advocacy initiative was added. |
| | 2. Number of CSOs who have applied to peer learning and mentoring opportunities (by type of CSO ²³) Baseline: 0 Target: 10 CSO applicants (5 tandems) per each CfP | 53 projects with 106 CSOs applied to peer learning and mentoring opportunities, including 31 proposals (62 CSOs) for CfP4; ii) 9 proposals (18 CSOs) for CfP5; and iii) 13 proposals (26 CSOs) for CfP6. | Exceeded target by 43 projects (a tandem/pair of CSOs) due to the increased interest in CSOs collaborating together and resource mobilization to offer additional proposal opportunities. |
| | 3. Number and type of CSOs engaged in long term peer learning relationships in tandems Baseline: 0 Target: 12 CSOs (6 tandems) by December 2023. | In 2023, a total of two projects from Haiti began implementation (from 2022 CfP). Another three projects are awaiting signing of contracts and will begin in 2024. Cumulatively since 2022, seven projects/CSO tandems have engaged in long-term relationships. | Exceeded the target by one project. |
| | 4. Number of mentors providing long-term support to CSO tandems developing peer learning relationships Baseline: 0 Target: 5 mentors by December 2023 | No mentors | No progress as mentors' involvement is related to the development of the mentorship projects in the countries of WPHF's Funding initiative on Forced Displacement. Due to the delays in availability of mentors, it is |

²³ Women's Rights/Led and Youth Focused/ Young Women Led

| Results | Indicators | Progress Achieved against Targets | Reasons for Variance |
|---|--|--|---|
| | | | anticipated that support to CSOs will begin in 2024. |
| Output 1.2. Quality capacity building and knowledge exchange opportunities are provided to women’s CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings | 1. Number and type of capacity building and knowledge exchange opportunities provided Baseline: 0 Target: 8 per year | A total of 24 capacity building and knowledge exchange activities (15 capacity building webinars, 8 peer exchanges and knowledge cafés, 1 in-person global forum, and) were provided in multiple languages building on the experience and modules developed in previous years. Cumulatively, a total of 69 webinars, information sessions, peer exchanges, etc. have been conducted. | Exceeded target by 16. This is due to core CB webinars being replicated every year, some webinars conducted in collaboration with the same trainers. In addition, new partnerships, for example with the RRW and the WHRDs window INGO partners have allowed the L-HUB to design several new webinars, peer exchanges and knowledge cafés |
| | 2. Number of CSO representatives engaged in capacity building and knowledge exchange activities Baseline: 0 Target: 300 per year | 965 CSO representatives ²⁴ from 303 unique civil society organizations (CSOs) and their co-implementing partners from 35 countries were engaged in capacity building and knowledge exchange activities. | Exceeded target by 665 CSO representatives. As WPHF grows with over 1,200 CSOs supported, additional CSOs are able to participate. |
| | 3: Number of CSO representatives that have been featured as speakers or presenters in Capacity Building and Peer Exchange events Baseline: 0 Target: 8 per year | 67 CSO representatives were featured as speakers and presenters in L-HUB learning events in 2023, including the GWF2023. | Exceeded target as WPHF held the Global Women’s Forum which brought together over 87 women’s rights organization representatives. |
| Output 1.3. Knowledge and visibility of lessons learned and best practices of women’s CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings is enhanced on the global stage | 1. Number of participants in the WPHF L-HUB Global Convening (by type) Baseline: 0 Target: 60 in each global convening | A total of 200 participants attended the 2023 Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action, including 87 representatives of CSO partners and two human rights defenders from 29 countries. In addition, 13 WPHF board members, and several guest speakers from Germany, various researchers, journalists and NGO representatives attended. The Forum’s Opening was livestreamed on WPHF Facebook account and registered 431 viewers. | Exceeded target by 27 CSO representatives. |
| | 2. Number of knowledge products produced resulting from the collaboration of the CSOs Baseline: 0 Target: 1 by December 2023 | One knowledge product called the Berlin Declaration 2023 was drafted following a participatory process and reflecting the conversations held over the Forum’s three days. It is an outcome statement summarizing local women’s organizations’ key priorities in the field of peacebuilding and humanitarian work and calling on the international community to take action and invest | No variance |

²⁴ Includes representatives who have attended multiple sessions.

| Results | Indicators | Progress Achieved against Targets | Reasons for Variance |
|---------|---|--|----------------------|
| | 3. Number and types of partners that have collaborated with the L-HUB (academia, INGO, etc.) Baseline: 0 Target: 3 by December 2023 | in women’s CSOs’ transformational work in conflict and crisis settings across the globe. 5 partners collaborated with the L-HUB to convene the Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action in berlin from 23 to 25 May 2023. The GWF 2023 has been co-organized and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), and involved 4 INGOs as panel moderators or for capacity building workshops on self care (Women’s Refugee Commission, Feminist Humanitarian Network, Action Aid and Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation). | No variance |

Appendix A: List of L-HUB Webinars, Peer Exchanges and Knowledge Cafés

Capacity Building Webinars in 2023

- ▶ Live Help Desk with focus on WPHF Rapid Response Window in English on 31 January, in Arabic and French on 1 February (two sessions) and in Spanish on 3 March
- ▶ Gender sensitive and feminist monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, 8 February, in English, French and Arabic.
- ▶ Youth participation for inclusive peacebuilding and humanitarian action, 5 April, In Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- ▶ Fundraising Strategies and Tips for Women’s Organizations operating in Crisis Contexts, 21 June, in English, French, Arabic, Spanish.
- ▶ Tapping the UN human rights mechanisms for women, peace, security, and humanitarian work, 5 July, in English, French, Arabic, Spanish.
- ▶ Live Help Desk with focus on the Peer Learning and Mentorship grants, 13 September, in English, Pashto, Dari and Ukrainian
- ▶ Self-Protection and Self-Care for Women Human Rights Defenders in Conflict and Crisis Affected Contexts, 27 September, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- ▶ Live Help Desk with Focus on the WPHF WHRDs’ window in Arabic on 18 October, and English and French (two session) on 26 October
- ▶ Live Help Desk with focus on the 2023 Peer Learning Awards in Arabic on 14 November and in English on 14 November
- ▶ Integrating a climate lens in women's organizations' work in conflict and crisis settings, 20 November, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Peer Exchanges in 2023

- ▶ Country-to-country peer exchange between DRC and Haiti partners Practicing Coalition Building with Grassroots Women’s Groups to End Violence Against Women and Girls, 16 March, in English and French
- ▶ CSO Awards 2021 and 2022 Peer Exchange, 22 March, in English and French
- ▶ Impactful communications and advocacy tools to enhance women’s influence in peace processes: learning from experiences in Cameroon and Colombia, 12 April, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- ▶ Peer exchange between Palestine and Nigeria partners on: Increasing sustainable women's economic empowerment: lessons learned, 19 July, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
- ▶ Spotlight Initiative closing event: Local Women’s Organizations Working to End Violence Against Women and Girls, 19 December, in English and French.

Knowledge Cafés in 2023

- ▶ The Media and the Beirut Blast Response from a Gender Perspective, 11 January 2023, in English
- ▶ Entry Points Towards Ending Violence, Inclusive Peacemaking, and Democratic Transition in Sudan, 09 August, in English and Arabic
- ▶ Women’s Role in Preventing Conflict, 24 October, in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish
- ▶ Impacts of conflict on food security for women and girls in Yemen, 20 December, in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish.