

Call for Proposals Afghanistan Response

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| Call Opens: | 14 October 2024 |
| Deadline for submission: | 09 December 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 grants to local civil society organizations in Afghanistan focused on humanitarian and crisis response and protection of women and girls. The call for proposals specifically contributes to 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, sexual orientation, 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

Context for Impact Area 3 "Humanitarian"

In 2024, Afghanistan is facing a severe humanitarian crisis, with more than half of the population needing help due to long-term conflict, economic problems, and increasing natural disasters. Years of fighting have destroyed infrastructure, and economic issues have worsened after international aid stopped and sanctions were imposed following the Taliban's takeover. Natural disasters have made things even worse, causing severe food shortages and lack of clean water. During the month of May 2024, heavy seasonal rains that have set off flash floods across Afghanistan, leading to loss of life, livelihoods, increased displacements and worsening food security. Civil society organizations are struggling to provide crucial support, such as food, water, shelter, and healthcare, because of security risks and other challenges. Women and girls are particularly affected, facing harsh restrictions that limit their freedom, education, and participation in society, making their situation even more vulnerable and impeding their access to services.

Context for Impact Area 5 "Protection of Women and Girls"

In Afghanistan, women's access to essential protection and other critical services remains severely limited. Since August 2021, services addressing gender-based violence (GBV) have been drastically reduced, mainly due to restrictive policies from the de facto authorities, leaving survivors with no access to support. According to a 2024 report issued by UN Women¹, 87% of Afghan women and girls face at least one form of GBV, with only 5% having access to support services. Additionally, over 60% of service providers have ceased operations. Ensuring their mental health, safety, and rights is paramount; this requires urgent restoration and expansion of GBV prevention and response services, along with comprehensive mental health support, to protect women and girls from violence and uphold their dignity and human rights.

¹ <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/05/future-projections-for-afghan-women-and-girls#view>

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in Afghanistan only. Multi-country projects, or projects outside the geographical focus will NOT be accepted.

CSOs can apply for a maximum of **12 months**.

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, LGBTQI+, disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc.

Women's Rights or Feminist Organization: The organization's official mission/vision statement must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organization must 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 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, LGBTQI+, 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 and Requirements

Under this Call for Proposals, WPHF is accepting applications for both institutional/core funding and programmatic funding. **An organization (lead applicant or co-implementing partners) can submit one application for institutional funding AND/OR one application for programmatic funding (for one of the two impact areas).** Applications to more than one impact area will not be considered.

Organizations who apply for both institutional and programmatic funding need to submit two separate applications packages based on the related templates of each stream as noted in Section 6.

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| <p>Institutional Funding: (USD \$2,500 - \$30,000)</p> <p>Aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of women’s rights/led organizations working on gender specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity. The purpose of this funding stream <u>IS NOT</u> to finance programmatic activities.</p> <p>Organizations who apply for institutional funding should have a mandate aligned to the objectives of the call for proposal.</p> | <p>AND/ OR</p> | <p>Programmatic Funding: (USD \$30,000 - \$200,000)</p> <p>This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the following impact area(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> WPHF Impact area 3: Enhanced participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> WPHF Impact area 5: Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls and their human rights respected. |
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Please read through the WPHF Indicator Tip Sheets for guidance on the results 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 for Institutional Funding](#) (download)

AND/OR

[WPHF Proposal Template Impact 3](#) (download) **OR**

[WPHF Proposal Template Impact 5](#) (download), **OR**

AND

Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization (if you are in the process for renewal, please share proof)

Application packages should be emailed to WPHFapplications@unwomen.org with the subject line “WPHF CfP6-Afghanistan” by 11:59 PM Geneva time on 09 December 2024.

Please Note:

- Applications can be submitted in English or Dari or Pashto.
- Applications can be submitted in .doc and .docx
- 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 November 11th at 14:00 Kabul time. To register your interest, please complete the relevant form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/w4iivnLffg> by Thursday 8th November.

Questions about this CfP can be sent to the UN Women Country office Submissions.GiHA@unwomen.org Please allow a minimum of 24 hours (one working day) 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:

| Institutional Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 1) | Programmatic Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 2) |
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| <p>Project Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Organization’s mandate is aligned with WPHF’s theory of change<input type="checkbox"/> Clear rationale how the current crisis affects the organization’s institutional and financial capacities<input type="checkbox"/> Clear outputs and activities which contribute to strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained | <p>Project Objectives</p> <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 results the project aims to achieve and intervention approach, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches<input type="checkbox"/> Clear and realistic outputs and activities planned to accomplish the expected results, and achievable within the time frame<input type="checkbox"/> Ensures meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures | 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. |
| <p>Budget</p> <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%) | <p>Programme Management and Monitoring</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account | <p>Sustainability and National Ownership</p> <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. |
| | <p>Budget</p> <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%) |
| | <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 <https://wphfund.org>
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet Institutional Funding](#)
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response](#)
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact 5: Protection of Women and Girls](#)
- M&E and Results Based Management Terms. The [OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms](#) in Evaluation available in English, French and Spanish.

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 1,300 civil society organizations and is present in 44 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 Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently Feminist Humanitarian Network, Kvinna till Kvinna, She’s the First and Reach Out Cameroon).

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.