



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

SUPPORTING WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE WORLD'S EVOLVING CRISES



Our Mission

The United Nations **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund** (WPHF) is a global partnership re-energizing action and accelerating support for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in humanitarian response and peace and security settings. Guided by a range of civil society, government, and UN actors, WPHF is a

multi-partner trust fund mobilizing urgently needed financing for local organizations led by and working alongside women on the front lines to build lasting peace. WPHF has funded and supported the capacity of over 1,460 local women's organizations in 46 countries.



When women peacebuilders, humanitarians and human rights defenders are adequately financed, their impact is exponential.

A Global Imperative

Humanitarian crises and threats to peace are more common than ever before. The numbers of people displaced due to conflict, crises, persecution and human rights violations are the highest on record and have more than doubled in a decade. Conflict is on the rise with tensions exacerbated by climate change, violent extremism and a once-in-a-century global pandemic. Unfolding crises and emergencies in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Sudan, the D.R.C and Ukraine pose new and ongoing threats to gender equality and international peace and security.¹

In the face of such unprecedented challenges, women on the front lines have proven to serve as engines of progress, agency and action. Women peacebuilders and first responders play critical roles leading local movements to prevent conflict, respond to crises, end sexual and gender-based violence, build back better from COVID-19, and forge lasting peace in their communities. Evidence shows that when women are included in local decision-making and crisis response, they expand the reach and impact of humanitarian aid, accelerate economic recovery, advance gender equality, prevent radicalization and create more sustainable peace for all.

Despite this, women's participation remains minimal more than two decades after UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) established their right to full participation in peace and security decision-making, and financing for local women's organizations in crisis settings remains needlessly low. The share of development assistance for fragile or conflict-affected countries that reaches women-led and women's rights organizations stands at a strikingly small 0.4 per cent of total bilateral aid.²

While the needs of local women's organizations continue to be de-prioritized, their contributions unacknowledged and the transformative power of their work underestimated, they continue to deliver results. Local women's organizations reach remote areas where services are often disrupted or non-existent and bring deep structural change to address the underlying causes of conflict and inequality on the ground. Women are often the first in their communities to mobilize for peace, adapting their approaches and working to build a more secure and better future for all. **WPHF is investing in the work of women civil-society leaders who are yielding remarkable dividends towards a more peaceful, inclusive and gender-equal world.**

"By investing in women, you are investing in global peace and security. That's why I support the WPHF Invest-In-Women campaign and reiterate my call to raise 300 Million USD for women's organizations in crisis situations by the end of 2025. Let's stand together with women working to build a better future for all."

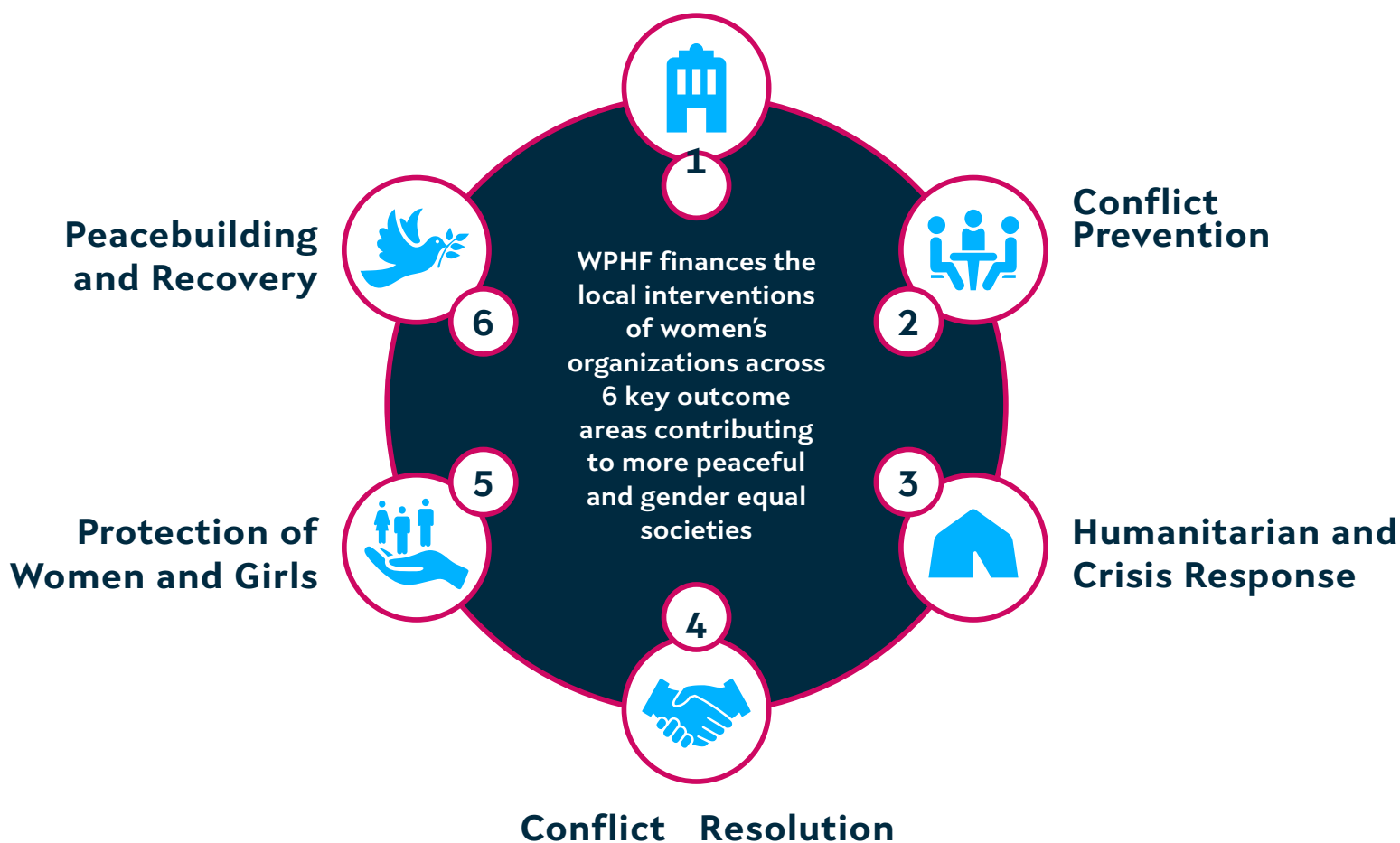
ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. UN Security Council (2021) Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2021/827), para. 2.
2. UN Security Council (2021) Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2021/827), para. 91.

How We Work

Our Goal: More Peaceful & Gender-Equal Societies

Enabling Environment for Women, Peace and Security



WPHF finances women's civil society in fragile settings through 3 key funding mechanisms

1

Regular Funding Cycle

2

Rapid Response Window
on Women and Peace
Processes and
Implementation of
Peace Agreements

3

Funding Window for
Women Human Rights
Defenders

We provide flexible programmatic and institutional financing supporting local women's organizations to leverage their strategic positions and expertise to bring about deep structural change and address the underlying causes and consequences of conflict and crisis.

Advancing the 2030 Agenda

WPHF is an innovative tool for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and localizing the commitments of the SDG Agenda (with a specific focus on SDG 5 and 16) to national specificities of conflict-affected countries.



Localizing Humanitarian Response

As a mechanism supporting local, grassroots and community-based organizations in fragile settings, WPHF has the “leaving no one behind” principle at the heart of its mandate and strategy and a strategic tool for donors to implement their commitments under three work streams of the Grand Bargain's humanitarian financing reforms: Participant Revolution, Humanitarian-Development Nexus and Localization.

WPHF By the Numbers*

Supporting projects in

46

Countries Worldwide

Over 1,400

Civil-Society Organizations
Supported

5M

people directly served - of
which 74% are women and
girls - (as of Dec. 2024)

45M

people indirectly
served

**Over
\$240M
USD**

mobilized in support
of local women
peacebuilders,
humanitarians and
human rights
defenders

**Almost
50%**

of WPHF partners
are first time
recipients of UN
funding

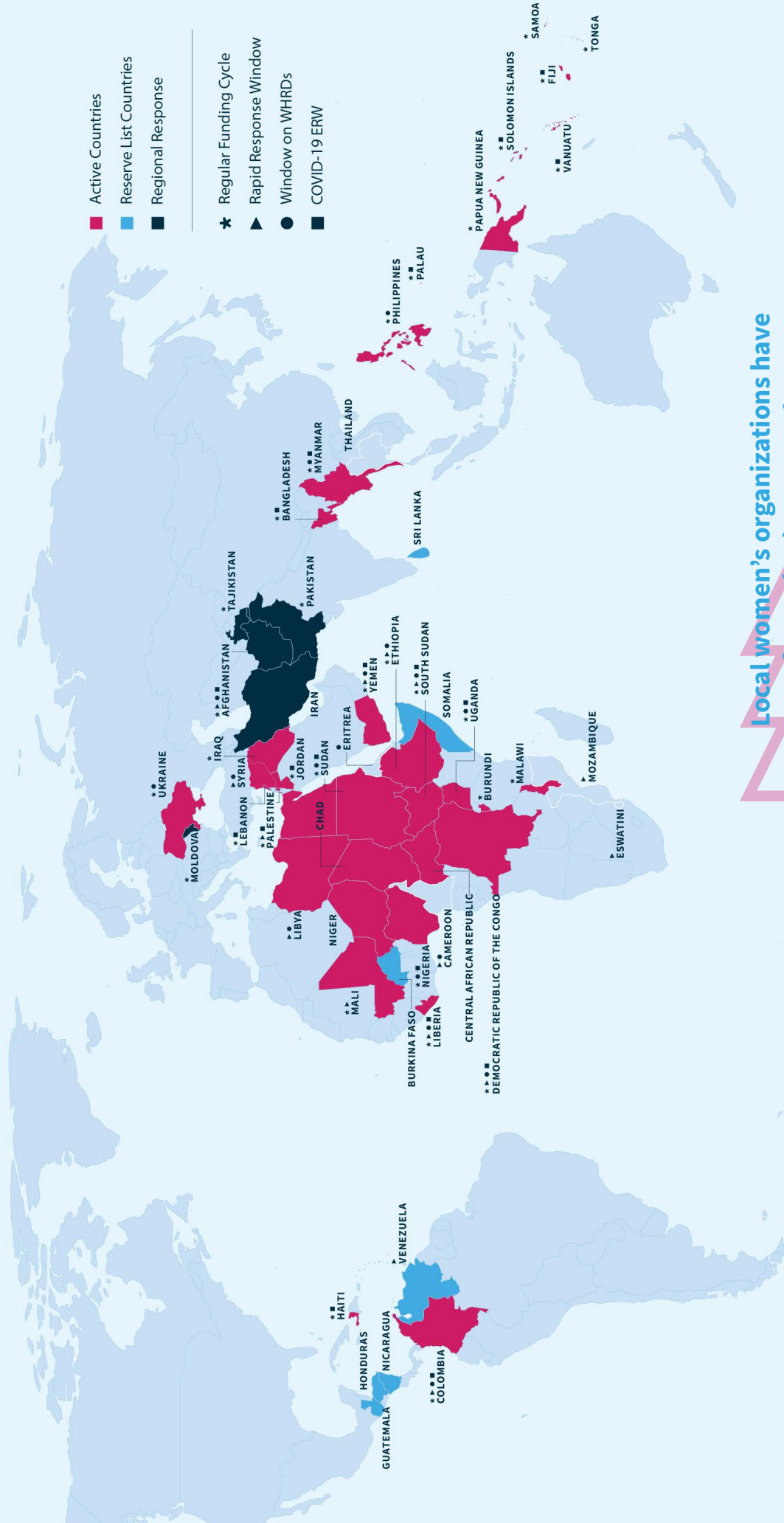
90%

of WPHF partners
working at the
local and sub-
national levels

*As of February 18, 2025



Global Reach. Local Impact.



Local women's organizations have transformative impact and serve as engines of progress and powerful agents of change on the front lines.

Key Highlights

Local Women's Organizations Driving Transformative Change on the Front Lines

Regular Funding Cycle



Outcome 2: Conflict Prevention

59 grants implemented by 83 women's rights/led and youth focused organizations actively strengthened conflict prevention mechanisms in Burundi, Iraq, Palestine, Philippines, and Uganda, and effectively promoted and advocated for women's participation in conflict prevention processes, including the monitoring of early warning signals of conflict and violent extremism. Over 7,900 women and young women participated in conflict prevention decision-making processes across five countries, as mediators, monitors and representatives in various community monitoring mechanisms and early warning systems. This participation has resulted in 4,581 conflicts being averted, resolved or referred to various community and legal mechanisms. Conflicts ranged from land disputes, displacement conflicts, unlawful evictions, inheritance disputes, conflicts between communities and cases of SGBV. These initiatives directly reached 14,457 people (73.0% women and girls) and indirectly benefited 5 million people at local and sub-national levels.

WPHF partners under this Outcome have transformed the lives of:



14,457

Direct Beneficiaries
(73% women and girls)



5 Milion

Indirect Beneficiaries



Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response

In 2023, WPHF supported 40 projects, including the final two under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Window. These projects were implemented by 80 women's rights/led and youth focused organizations working on humanitarian and crisis response in the D.R.C, Iraq, Jordan, Liberia, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu, and through WPHF's emergency track in Ethiopia, Haiti, Syria, and Ukraine and Moldova. These initiatives directly reached over 107,776 people (84.4% women and girls, including LGBTIQ+, refugees and IDPs) and indirectly benefited 2.9 million people in these countries.

WPHF partners under Outcome 3 have transformed the lives of:



107,776

Direct Beneficiaries
(84,4% women and girls)



2.9 Million

Indirect Beneficiaries



Outcome 6: Peacebuilding & Recovery

138 grants implemented by 218 women's rights/led and youth focused organizations, CSOs actively contributed to peacebuilding and recovery efforts, including those for forcibly displaced communities, in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, the D.R.C, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Yemen. These organizations supported the economic recovery of women in crisis settings and advocated for women's participation in political processes and leadership positions with the aim of transforming their environments and closing the gender gap in this space. Over 22,000 women increased agency as a result of access to new economic and productive resources and 4,046 women and young women actively participated in political and decision-making processes

WPHF partners under this Outcome have transformed the lives of:



22,000

Direct Beneficiaries



Championing Women's Participation in Peace Processes

Women remain significantly underrepresented in peace and transitional processes worldwide. Recognizing the limited progress made on accelerating women's meaningful participation in peace processes across the globe - and after consultation with women peacebuilders, stakeholders and various UN and civil society experts - WPHF officially launched in January 2021 its **Rapid Response Window on Women's Participation in Peace Processes and the Implementation of Peace Agreements** (RRW).

A recommendation of the UN Secretary General in his 2019 annual report on women, peace and security, the RRW provides financial, expert and logistical support to women's civil society organizations to address the immediate barriers women often face to accessing and influencing peace processes. The RRW aims to support initiatives of grassroots women organizations, including women mediators, based on the idea that these organizations are actors of change, and that they have an added value in

peacebuilding through their knowledge, their mastery of the context and stakeholders, their experience of local gender issues, and more importantly their ability to use local levers to advance the lines while improving women influence. The RRW is providing funds or services, but also technical support through a network of UN expertise and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO).

Since 2020, RRW has supported 92 direct support initiatives and short-term grants from 169 women's rights organizations working to enhance women's participation in formal peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements across 30 countries.



The WPHF Rapid Response Window on Women and Peace Processes

Syria

A mixed approach to strengthening the participation of women in all their diversity

Together with its INGO partner, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the WPHF RRW is supporting the Zenobia Association for Syrian Women to facilitate dialogues with influential women in local communities inside Syria and across asylum countries to ensure that Syrian women's voices and priorities are reflected in the Constitutional Committee's preparation of the new Syrian constitution. The RRW is also supporting BADAEL to convene peace process advisors, local women peacebuilders and WHRDs to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration to help influence the peace process and develop advocacy messages that centers the voices of women peacebuilders and WHRDs. The RRW is also supporting Dawlaty to empower women belonging to families who have been forcibly displaced or suffered political imprisonment in Syria. As part of the "Families for Freedom" movement, this project is amplifying women's voices and needs through advocacy meetings that enhance their participation in formal peace negotiations as part of the UN Peace Conference on Syria.

Learn more about WPHF's RRW Window at WPHFund.org/RRW



Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders in Crises

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) serving as peace activists play critical roles during and after conflict, working across the human rights-peace and security-development nexus, often at grave risk to their own lives. Responding to the growing calls to action for dedicated funding mechanisms to support WHRDs working on the front lines of human rights and peace, and building on existing mechanisms and lessons learned, WPHF established, in close collaboration with its UN and INGO partners, a new Funding Window was established and dedicated to WHRDs working for inclusive peace and humanitarian action.

Operational since September 2022, the WPHF funding Window for WHRDs offers two

support streams to WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected countries: **(i)** a flexible funding safety net to cover urgent costs related to the security of at risk WHRDs (e.g. short-term livelihood, security equipment, etc..) and **(ii)** an advocacy direct logistical support to arrange and cover logistical expenses (transportation, visa fees, accommodation, daily subsistence allowance) for WHRDs willing to participate in meetings, events or decision-making processes that contributes to advancing human rights and peace.

To date, over 4,700 requests from 97 countries have been received.



Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders



Since its launch in June 2022, the Window for WHRDs has successfully supported 777 WHRDs (40% young women between 18-29 years) from 25 countries, and their 2,344 dependents in crisis and conflict settings. Under the advocacy stream (disaggregation): 100 WHRDs supported for advocacy initiatives at national and international fora, meetings and events. Under the safety net stream (disaggregation): 677 WHRDs and their 2,344 dependents supported through protection grants. For example, two young Roma rights activists working on Ukrainian Roma refugees' rights were supported to take part in the Annual Roma Genocide Remembrance Event, where they spoke about the impacts of the current war in Ukraine on the rights of Roma Refugee women and youth. In DRC, with the support of the WPHF Window for WHRDs, two young grassroots WHRDs working on women's and girls' rights in Goma were supported to participate in a meeting in the capital and successfully integrated gender-specific language in a strategic advocacy note to advance humanitarian aid localization in DRC. Two Afghan WHRDs who recently relocated due to the risks they were facing inside Afghanistan were supported by the window to bring Afghan voices in several dialogues and events in Geneva, including the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council.

"Having enough funds is always a challenge for WHRDs leading advocacy efforts. I am constantly thinking - am I going to run out of money? This is always the thing that limits your freedom of action." Fawzia Koofi, First Woman Deputy Speaker of the former Afghan Parliament

"Providing funds for WHRDs and women peacebuilders should be as if you are saving someone who is drowning: you throw them a lifeboat without the need to fill out all the paperwork. There ought to be trust in WHRDs and women peacebuilders. The standard should be -how can we support them rather than only -how can we ensure the funds are accounted for."

Hajer Sharief, Co-Founder of Together We Build It, Libya

Learn more about WPHF's WHRDs Window at WPHFund.org/WHRDs



Building Community. Supporting Capacity. Driving Innovation.

Fulfilling its mandate to serve as a global center for local civil society organizations (CSOs) working on the front lines of conflict and crises, **WPHF has established its Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)** to enable CSO partners from across the world to connect with each other, share success stories and methods, and develop their skills. The L-HUB aims to make the CSOs more resilient during and after the end of their WPHF-supported projects through customized trainings, dialogues and resources in multiple languages and formats. To date, the capacity strengthening webinars have featured 123 CSO representatives as experts and over 60 external speakers sharing their knowledge and perspectives on cross-cutting and programmatic topics such as data collection, resource mobilization, anti-fraud policies, coalition building, disability inclusion mainstreaming, use of arts to empower displaced women, conflict prevention strategies and integration of climate security risks into work.

To date, through its digital platform, capacity building webinars and peer exchange sessions, the WPHF L-HUB has engaged and strengthened the institutional development of over of 3,300 CSO participants representing over 600 WPHF CSO partners from 42 countries.

The 2023 WPHF CSO Annual Survey showed that 80.5% of partners are applying new knowledge and skills acquired through the WPHF L-HUB initiatives.

In addition, thanks to new partnerships with governments, I/NGOs and private sector entities, the L-HUB is offering innovative training and exchange opportunities such as the **Peer Learning Awards** and the **Mentorship Scheme** fostering mutual strengthening and collaborations between CSOs and women's rights civil society leaders in creative and flexible ways.



“We are satisfied because there's available a space where we can share our work, achievements, and experiences with our CSO counterparts.”

“Capacity building helps grassroots organizations strive in their work and create more impact through transparency and accountability.”

WPHF-supported Civil Society Partners

Learn more about WPHF's WHRDs Global Learning Hub at [WPHFund.org/community](https://www.wphfund.org/community)

WPHF is grateful to the donor governments of

**Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus,
Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan,
Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway,
Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,
Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America**

for their generous support

JOIN US

Join WPHF today and take your place in the global movement to accelerate support, **amplify** the voices, **unlock** the power and **scale up** the impact of frontline women's groups across the globe.

Follow **@wphfund** to stay engaged and find out more about the WPHF Invest-In-Women Global Campaign at [**WPHFund.org/InvestInWomen**](https://WPHFund.org/InvestInWomen)

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