

April 2025

WPHF GLOBAL LEARNING HUB (L-HUB)

ENHANCING CAPACITIES AND MOVEMENT BUILDING BETWEEN WOMEN LEADERS

The United Nations **Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)** is a global partnership mobilizing critical financing for local women-led and women’s rights civil society organizations (CSOs) and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) to prevent conflict and sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), respond to emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities in fragile settings. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has established itself as a credible multi-partner trust fund, channeling urgently needed support to over 1400 civil CSOs working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action (WPS-HA) in 44 countries around the world.

In fulfillment of its mandate to serve as a global knowledge center for local CSOs working on the front lines of conflict and crises, the WPHF Secretariat has established a Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) to connect WPHF civil society partners, reinforce their capacities and support their growth and resilience through online and in-person activities.

Through leveraging partnerships with I/NGOs, private sector actors, governments, and the academia, the L-HUB offers training, knowledge exchange, and mentoring opportunities to women peacebuilders and humanitarians and their organizations. Since 2020, the L-HUB has strengthened the institutional development of over **3735 staff**^[1] from **598 CSOs** and WPHF-supported WHRDs across **41 countries**^[2].

WPHF CSO partners have highlighted the added value of the L-HUB initiatives as a meaningful way to keep in contact with fellow women peacebuilders and humanitarian activists facing similar challenges across regions. CSOs have also reported improved skills in project monitoring, communications, resource mobilization, gender-responsive humanitarian planning, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction, recognition of trauma and addressing sexual exploitation in emergencies. L-HUB initiatives have also proved to support CSOs in developing or updating their internal policies in finance, procurement, child protection, etc and implementing innovations and new practices inspired by other CSOs such as behavior change communication and radio production and using software for data collection^[4].

L-HUB INITIATIVES

- ▶ Capacity Strengthening Programme
- ▶ Peer Exchange Series
- ▶ CSO Peer Learning Awards
- ▶ Mentorship Scheme
- ▶ In person Global Convenings

L-HUB CHANNELS

- ▶ Digital Library with Resources
- ▶ E-mail Listserv
- ▶ Safe Facebook Group

L-HUB BY THE NUMBERS (2024)

- 31** capacity strengthening, peer exchanges and knowledge cafés sessions
- 1,592**^[3] CSO participants from 38 countries from 392 organizations
- 7** Youth Speakers featured in L-HUB sessions
- 52** WPHF partners who presented at capacity strengthening, peer exchange or knowledge café sessions
- 80.5%** of CSOs actively using new knowledge and skills acquired through the L-HUB
- 50** CSOs working in tandem to support each other through 25 peer learning projects
- 709** CSO staff members increasing their capacities through the peer learning projects
- 1** joint initiative resulting in increased advocacy for more women’s influence over humanitarian coordination mechanisms as a follow up to the 2023 Global Women’s Forum



Learning from our tandem’s initiatives with displaced women prompted us to adjust our programs, incorporating more targeted approaches to address the unique challenges faced by refugees and NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training) youth

CSO from Moldova

[1] Data as of December 2023. Please note CSO members can attend multiple sessions.

[2] Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Malawi, Moldova, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Philippines, PNG, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Venezuela, and Yemen.

[3] Refers to participants who have attended multiple sessions

[4] For more information, see the [L-HUB Annual Report 2024](#)

L-HUB INITIATIVES AND TOOLS

The L-HUB is managed by the WPHF Secretariat and provides WPHF civil society partners with the initiatives and tools described below.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

It tailored to the CSOs' needs as per WPHF's capacity building strategy^[1] designed to support the survival of CSOs and reinforce their internal policies and processes. Through mobilizing the expertise of the CSOs and external partners (I/NGOs, think tanks, UN entities and other organizations), WPHF offers online training webinars on the topics prioritized by the CSOs based on a survey conducted every year^[2]. The webinars are provided in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Dari and Ukrainian languages. The webinars address critical skills such as feminist monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, communications, advocacy skills, prevention of sexual harassment and abuse, youth mainstreaming, climate change integration in WPS-HA work, food security, gender-based violence programming in emergencies, anti-corruption and fraud, and project design and resource mobilization. Evaluation questionnaires are distributed after each webinar to collect feedback and inform the planning of future capacity development initiatives.

PEER EXCHANGE SERIES

It provides a safe space for CSOs to share strategies, good practices, and challenges on WPSHA topics and present the findings of their research work. The Peer Exchange Series constitute: 1) the Peer Exchange Sessions spotlighting the expertise and experiences of WPHF civil society partners on programmatic topics (conflict prevention, conflict resolution, women's protection, etc.), 2) the Knowledge Cafés where a CSO presents a knowledge product and their findings.

GLOBAL IN PERSON CONVENINGS

Fostering connections and joint advocacy between WPHF civil society partners will be organized every three-year contingent on available funding. For example, in May 2023, in collaboration with the Germany's Federal Foreign Office, WPHF convened the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF) in Berlin with 200 international and government stakeholders, including 87 CSOs and 2 WHRDs across 29 countries. The Forum provided women leaders a unique opportunity to build relationships, showcase their impact, and liaise with government donors and high-level decision makers, UN entities and INGOs. The GWF culminated with the adoption of the Berlin Declaration, capturing the CSOs' priorities that will serve to influence key policy processes. Following the GWF, the L-HUB launched a call for proposals for CSO partners that participated in the forum to identify advocacy actions pushing forward the Berlin Declaration's recommendations and four CSOs received a grant to lead two joint advocacy actions to be implemented in 2024. One of these actions resulted in establishing a coalition advocating for the recognition of local women's expertise in humanitarian and political decision-making spaces, and as positive outcome, grassroots women's organizations are now included in monthly cluster coordination meetings organized by UNHCR in Nigeria.

SMALL GRANTS FOR PEER LEARNING

Allowing WPHF civil society partners to work in pair (or tandem) with another CSO to exchange knowledge and experience and reinforce long-term relationships between their staff members:

- ▶ The **CSO Peer Learning Awards** have been launched in collaboration with [Women Have Wings](#) to promote the work and recognize the efforts of women CSO leaders engaged in peace and crisis response and support mutual capacity building between their organizations. The women are provided with an honor recognition and their organizations receive a grant of up to \$8,000 to collaborate with a tandem CSO. Since 2021, 40 women leaders from Bangladesh, DRC, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Solomon Islands, Uganda, Ukraine, and Vanuatu have received such an award.
- ▶ The L-HUB **Mentorship Scheme** as part of WPHF's Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement, mobilizes the expertise of [Germany's Action Network on Forced Displacement](#) to provide capacity strengthening to WPHF civil society partners and provide grants of up to \$10,000 to CSOs focusing on women in displacement. The Mentorship projects aim to foster collaboration and solidarity between pairs of CSOs promoting improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of displaced women and girls. So far, 21 CSO tandems have been selected in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Yemen.
- ▶ 40 grants have been provided since 2021 for a value of USD 385,000 - 25 of which in 2024. As a result of these 25 peer learning projects, in 2024, 709 CSO personnel enhanced professional capacities.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

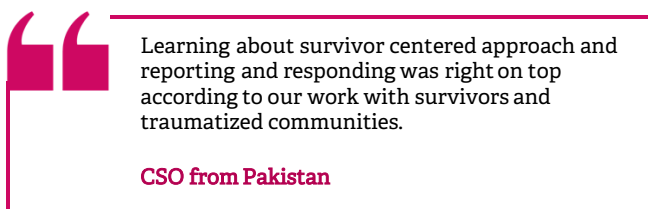
Of customized training resources and knowledge products on women, peace and security and humanitarian issues for WPHF CSO partners in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The Library also highlights WPHF CSO partners' knowledge products and other useful materials on peacebuilding and humanitarian response.

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION GROUP

Enabling WPHF to disseminate capacity strengthening resources and training and dialogue opportunities. Through the L-HUB Monthly Update, WPHF civil society partners are constantly informed of WPHF L-HUB events, knowledge resources and activities.

FACEBOOK GROUP

Empowering WPHF CSO partners to engage with fellow civil society peers from around the world and exchange impacts, ideas, professional advice, and solutions.



Learning about survivor centered approach and reporting and responding was right on top according to our work with survivors and traumatized communities.

CSO from Pakistan

^[1] WPHF Capacity Building Strategy is available at [WPHF-Capacity-Building-Strategy-Updated-January-2023.pdf](#)

^[2] 2022 Annual CSO Survey on WPHF L-HUB Initiatives <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Annual-CSO-Survey-on-WPHF-Global-Learning-Hub-Initiatives-2022.pdf>

LOOKING FORWARD: L-HUB PRIORITIES 2025

- ▶ Continue offering **quality training** and **peer learning opportunities** for CSOs in multiple languages and formats to respond to the CSOs' demand of providing regular opportunities for learning, exchange, and knowledge sharing. In addition, many new CSOs are integrating the WPHF on a continuous basis and are provided access to the L-HUB services, hence the need to sustain the L-HUB programmes.
- ▶ Mobilize resources to organize a **new Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action in 2026**. While 2026 will mark the ten year anniversary of the WPHF it will be important to take stock of the progress and challenges in advancing women's roles in peace and humanitarian response and increase visibility and support to the CSOs working on localizing the WPS Agenda. Most participants in the 2023 Global Women's Forum expressed the need for more regular organizing of such convening spaces to foster movement-building between women's rights CSOs. This was reflected in the [last GWF main recommendations](#): "International organizations, INGOs and the UN should regularly convene regional and global experience exchanges to build trust and genuine collaboration among women's rights and women-led organizations and women and young women leaders."

L-HUB PARTNERS AND PRO BONO TRAINERS 2024



LEARN MORE AT [WPHFUND.ORG/LHUB](https://wphfund.org/lhub)

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WPHF IN ACTION

OUR VISION TO ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINES

The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is a multi-partner trust fund mobilizing urgently needed financing for local women's organizations and WHRDs working on the frontlines to respond to crisis and build lasting peace. Guided by a range of civil society, government, and UN actors, WPHF supports women and their local organizations in fragile settings around the world across six outcome areas through three key funding mechanisms:

1

Regular Funding Cycle

Provides institutional and programmatic funding to local civil society organizations to support their work on women, peace and security and humanitarian action.

2

Rapid Response Window for Women and Peace Processes

Addresses short-term strategic interventions aiming at ensuring or strengthening women's meaningful participation in track 1 and track 2 peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.

3

Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders

Supports the advocacy and the protection of women peacebuilders, humanitarian responders and human rights activists from crisis countries.

JOIN THE WPHF #INVESTINWOMEN GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AT [WPHFUND.ORG/INVESTINWOMEN](https://wphfund.org/investinwomen)



CONTACT THE WPHF SECRETARIAT TODAY AT [WPHFUND.ORG/CONTACT](https://wphfund.org/contact)