

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



*Photo 1 AMII and ADMUCAICO peer learning project (Colombia) by Deisy Yohana Mazo Tamayo*

Reporting Period:  
1 January – 31 December 2024

<p><b>Project Title:</b> WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)</p> <p><b>Project Number:</b> 00131748</p>	<p><b>PUNO(s):</b> UN Women</p>
<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 1 January – 31 December 2024</p> <p><b>Report Submitted by:</b> UN Women as the Secretariat of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund Name: Tonni Ann Brodber Entity: UN Women Title: Head of WPHF Secretariat Email: <a href="mailto:tonni.ann.brodber@unwomen.org">tonni.ann.brodber@unwomen.org</a></p>	<p><b>Implementing Partners:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Project Locations:</b> Global</p>
<p><b>Project Description:</b> In 2020, WPHF launched its Global Community of Practice to enhance 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 additional types of training, exchanges, peer learning and grant opportunities to a broader scope of CSOs, through leveraging partnerships with new donors and partners.</p>	<p><b>Total Approved Budget (2022-2026): \$ 2,916,045</b></p> <p><b>Total budget transferred during the reporting period: \$ 480,269 (as of 31 Dec 2024)</b></p> <p><b>Project Start Date:</b> January 1, 2022 <b>Project End Date:</b> December 31, 2026 <b>Total Duration (in months):</b> 60 months</p>
<p><b>WPHF Outcome the Project is contributing to:</b> N/A</p>	
<p><b>WPHF indicator the Project is reporting on:</b> N/A</p>	

## Summary

This report covers the results achieved by the Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)<sup>1</sup> of the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in 2024. The L-HUB designed and executed a wide range of capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange initiatives and provided peer learning grants 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 implementation of the peer learning grants, WPHF-supported civil society organizations (CSOs) have enhanced their competencies in many areas to support their vital operations on the front lines of crisis and conflict.

During the reporting period, the L-HUB leveraged CSOs’ and external expertise to provide 31 capacity strengthening and knowledge sharing sessions to approximately 1,592<sup>2</sup> civil society participants in 38 countries. The sessions covered a variety of topics such as project design and proposal writing, strategic planning, advocacy tactics, public speaking skills, documenting human rights’ violations through video, fraud prevention, gender-inclusive food security, provision of mental health support to conflict-affected communities, leveraging the digital economy for women’s CSOs’ income generation, and gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction initiatives, among others.

This year, 50 CSO representatives and two WHRDs supported through WPHF (including six youth CSO speakers), and 16 external panelists (including one youth external panelist), shared their expertise in L-HUB webinars, whose themes were chosen according to the CSOs’ priorities identified in the [2023 WPHF Annual CSO Survey](#). Sixteen training resources and knowledge products were also created to encapsulate the key insights from the capacity strengthening and peer exchange webinars and made accessible through the L-HUB channels, and CSOs were provided with regular updates and useful information through the L-HUB Library, Facebook group and MailChimp communications.

As a result of these L-HUB initiatives, 80.5% of WPHF CSO partners reported applying new knowledge and skills in their organizations<sup>3</sup>, a trend that has remained consistent since 2023, demonstrating the usefulness of L-HUB initiatives to grassroots women’s organizations in developing their capacity. These new practices include improving project monitoring and reporting, project writing, integrating gender-responsive approaches in humanitarian planning, peace building and disaster risk reduction initiatives, identifying new funding opportunities, and addressing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). CSOs have also adopted new organizational practices and updated internal policies and strategic plans, inspired by successful strategies from other CSOs. This has resulted in more inclusive community engagement, more effective advocacy for vulnerable groups and better abilities to provide psychosocial support to conflict-affected women and gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, among others. Knowledge gained from the L-HUB webinars is often shared within the organization and with partners.

2024 L-HUB by the Numbers			
31	1,592 <sup>4</sup>	7	52
capacity strengthening, peer exchanges and knowledge cafés sessions	CSO participants from 38 countries from 392 organizations	Youth Speakers featured in L-HUB sessions	WPHF partners who presented at capacity strengthening, peer exchange or knowledge café sessions

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

<sup>2</sup> Represents multiple instances of participation as CSO representative can participate in several sessions.

<sup>3</sup> Source: 2024 Annual CSO Survey which was distributed in January 2025; the results and findings are forthcoming in 2025 and will be published on <https://wphfund.org/wphfund-community/> A total of 207 CSO representatives from 31 countries participated in the survey.

<sup>4</sup> Refers to participants who have attended multiple sessions

<b>80.5%</b> of CSOs actively using new knowledge and skills acquired through the L-HUB	<b>50</b> CSOs working in tandem to support each other through 25 peer learning projects	<b>709</b> CSO staff members increasing their capacities through the peer learning projects	<b>1</b> 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
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In 2024, L-HUB supported a total of 26 grants in 2024<sup>5</sup> from 16 countries<sup>6</sup> enabling collaboration and movement building between 52 CSOs. Of these, 25 grants were supported through peer learning projects and one grant supported through a joint advocacy action following the Global Women's Forum in 2023. Overall, 2,720 people directly benefited from L-HUB grants (78.3% women and girls, and seven LGBTQI+ individuals), and 2,327 people indirectly.

As a result of the joint advocacy action, 85 people (64.7% women and girls) were engaged in advancing women's leadership in humanitarian response processes in Africa. As a result of the 25 peer learning projects, 50 CSOs worked together in pairs and enhancing professional capacities of 709 members of their personnel (538 women and young women and 3 LGBTQI+) and the management structures of their organizations. The peer learning projects equally benefitted 2,625 people in conflict-affected contexts including community members, local and national governments and other stakeholders engaged through awareness raising and advocacy initiatives, with positive outcomes for displaced women's economic empowerment and women's participation in mediation and decision-making bodies.

Key results from these grants include,

- ▶ Five peer learning projects in D.R.C and Mali, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, and Palestine, engaged 203 CSO personnel (176 women, 25 men and 2 LGBTQI+)<sup>7</sup> who reported increased skills in conflict resolution, leadership, negotiation and communication, improved project management and financial reporting abilities, and strengthened capacity to mobilize local communities. As a result of the peer learning projects, one CSO tandem mobilized additional funding (41,400 USD) from their national government to implement a food delivery project.
- ▶ One peer learning project in Mali resulted in increased income for female internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are members of one of the CSOs as they sold cotton-based fabrics and other handicrafts' products for an amount worth of 8,500 USD to the personnel of the second CSO (their tandem partner).
- ▶ Another peer learning project in Mali managed to train 20 female IDPs who are supported by one of the CSOs in soap making and both CSOs advocated among local and regional authorities for better integration of IDPs resulting in getting support from the sub-national authority for 5 IDP women groups to establish soap making businesses.
- ▶ Twenty peer learning projects under the Mentorship scheme were implemented by 40 CSOs working in tandems across nine countries<sup>8</sup> engaging 506 CSO personnel (361 women and young women, and 1 LGBTQI+) who strengthened a wide range of skills in areas such as results-based reporting, procurement, budgeting, human resources management, resource mobilization, communications,

<sup>5</sup> Two peer learning projects in Palestine and Lebanon were delayed due to the crisis in Gaza and Lebanon. For more information on peer learning awards see: <https://wphfund.org/women-have-wings-2022/> and <https://wphfund.org/women-have-wings-2023/>.

<sup>6</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, D.R.C, Liberia, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Yemen.

conflict resolution, gender in humanitarian programming, recognition of trauma and reported increased confidence and self-esteem.

- Eighteen CSOs also developed or updated their strategic plans and internal PSEAH, finance, procurement, anti-fraud, child protection, and human resources policies to respond to international standards while several CSOs also improved their digital capacities and digitalized their organizational case and knowledge management processes. As a result, many CSOs reported that they felt better equipped to apply for new funding opportunities as a result of their projects, and four CSOs reported obtaining new funding of over \$362,500 USD to improve women's livelihoods in conflict and crisis affected contexts. The projects have also engaged 1,254 people from the community, local/national governments and other stakeholders (88.5% women and girls).

As a follow up to the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF) hosted in and by Germany in 2023, culminating in the adoption of the Berlin Declaration 2023, two CSOs from Liberia and Nigeria implemented one joint advocacy initiative towards gender-transformative localization of humanitarian action. Drawing on the movement building established at the GWF, the CSOs have established the African Feminist Organizations in Humanitarian and Emergency Response (AfricaForHER) coalition uniting over 160 feminist CSOs. As a result of this, the two CSOs have expanded their networks with new local and international organizations that are influential in humanitarian policy and advocated for their participation in planning and decision-making processes. | The L-HUB amplified the voices of several WPHF CSO partners who were inspired by the GWF to advocate for the recognition of local women's expertise and obtained tangible results in increasing their participation in humanitarian and political decision-making spaces. In Nigeria, grassroots women's organizations are now included in monthly cluster coordination meetings organized by UNHCR, enhancing their role in informing humanitarian and protection needs assessments which are gender sensitive. In addition, in 2024, the L-HUB launched two targeted calls for peer learning projects' proposals with a total of 24 proposals received. Overall, seven CSO tandems were selected, and projects will start implementation in 2025.

These positive results demonstrate that the L-HUB initiatives have significantly helped CSOs improve their institutional development, advocacy skills, and be better positioned to mobilize resources from donors. Generally, the peer learning approach has managed to create equal collaborations, sisterhood and meaningful partnerships between organizations supporting each other. More broadly, flexible and core funding can make a difference in CSOs' resilience and continuity because simultaneously investing in CSOs' improved internal processes and staff skills' development ultimately affect CSOs' self-confidence, performance, visibility, recognition and credibility. This in turn can contribute to attracting new funders.

However, continued funding and time are necessary to address CSOs' requests for organizational strengthening and enable them to fully apply new learnings for sustained operations in crisis and conflict settings. This underscores the critical role of the L-HUB mandate and highlights the necessity for WPHF to sustain its support for CSOs' development and survival over time, extending beyond mere grants. This is particularly vital in 2025, marked by a global push-back against gender equality, backlash against WHRDs and a significant decline in funding for women's rights and the CSOs advocating for them.

*“Mutual trust has been established between the two organizations. It's also a very emotional experience because we ultimately realized that there is a similarity between the realities of women's organizations regardless of where they come from.” (CSO from DRC)*

## 1. Results Achieved

### Outcome 1: Strengthened Institutional development of local CSOs working on issues of women, peace and security, and humanitarian action in crisis settings

During the reporting period, 80.5% of WPHF CSO partners reported applying specific new knowledge and skills acquired through the WPHF L-HUB initiatives as revealed in the 2024 Annual CSO Survey<sup>9</sup>. This trend has remained consistent since 2023, demonstrating the usefulness of the L-HUB initiatives to grassroots women's organizations in expanding their capacity.

These skills and organizational changes were notable in areas such as project management, monitoring and evaluation, qualitative reporting, prevention and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), resource mobilization, and risk management. Key results after participating in L-HUB webinars include:

- ▶ A significant number of CSOs have integrated **gender-sensitive approaches** into their programming. This includes revising needs assessments to include gender-specific questions, ensuring women's participation in decision-making in emergency response, as well as adopting new strategies for community engagement ensuring that the voices of women and girls and other marginalized groups are heard and addressed.
- ▶ CSOs reported an increased focus on **youth participation and inclusive engagement** in peacebuilding and humanitarian actions to address issues such as gender equality, GBV, and climate change.
- ▶ Training on resilience and psychological support has led to better handling of **trauma** and support for women in camps and other crisis contexts. CSOs have developed empathy and improved their response to natural disasters and conflict situations.
- ▶ Several CSOs mentioned integrating **innovation** in programming and improving systems and processes to ensure value for money and effectiveness through developing new tools, frameworks, and strategies for better project implementation, such as story writing, documentation, and the use of videos,
- ▶ Many CSOs have emphasized the **importance of networking** and building partnerships with other organizations, helping them gain new insights and enhancing the overall impact of their work.
- ▶ CSOs have used the knowledge gained to better **track** the impact of their programs and ensure transparency and accountability.
- ▶ Improved skills in **proposal writing** and preparation for donor meetings have been frequently mentioned.
- ▶ CSOs have used the knowledge gained from webinars to enhance their **advocacy** efforts and increase visibility on various social platforms.
- ▶ Knowledge gained is often **cascaded** to other staff members and shared with partner organizations. The L-HUB training resources and materials are often used to train further staff members, volunteers and communities.

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<sup>9</sup> The final findings and results of the 2024 CSO survey on the L-HUB Initiatives are forthcoming in 2025 and will be available at <https://wphfund.org/wphfund-community>. A total of 207 CSO representatives from 31 countries participated in the survey.





*Photo 2: RWBN and Provesin NGO, fundraising training, peer learning project, Ukraine, 2024 (by Harmash Oleksandra)*

Key results from the peer learning projects include fostering solidarity and professional growth between 50 CSOs across 15 countries who developed peer learning projects. As evidenced in post-peer learning projects' reports, the peer learning approach has effectively enabled CSOs to enhance their institutional resilience and staff's technical skills in various domains such as advocacy, communications and conflict resolution, partnerships and visibility. In addition, CSOs mentioned being better prepared to manage their organizations and their projects and deliver services that support women and girls in crisis and conflict settings. During this period, five CSOs accessed additional funding as a result of the skills and knowledge gained through the peer learning projects' implementation.

## 2. Progress Achieved on Outputs

### **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**

#### ***Calls for Proposals (1.1.1, 1.1.2)***

In 2024, WPHF launched two calls for proposals in six countries for peer learning grants among CSOs. A total of 24 proposals were received, with seven projects selected. These grants provide an opportunity for CSOs to work in pairs or tandems to increase their organizational development and professional skills and experiences.<sup>10</sup> Specifically, one call for peer learning Awards was launched in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda and Ukraine in collaboration with Women Have Wings (WHW), recognizing female CSO leaders' engagement in peace and gender inclusive humanitarian action, with five projects selected<sup>11</sup>. A second call was launched in Colombia for the Mentorship Scheme focused on forced displacement and supported by Germany (BMZ), with two projects selected.

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<sup>10</sup> The calls for proposals enable a current WPHF-supported CSO to partner with another WPHF CSO partner or another CSO non supported by WPHF. The number of eligible CSOs to apply as lead CSOs is often limited, particularly in single country calls (e.g. in Colombia only eight CSOs were eligible to apply), albeit increasing also the possibilities for selection.

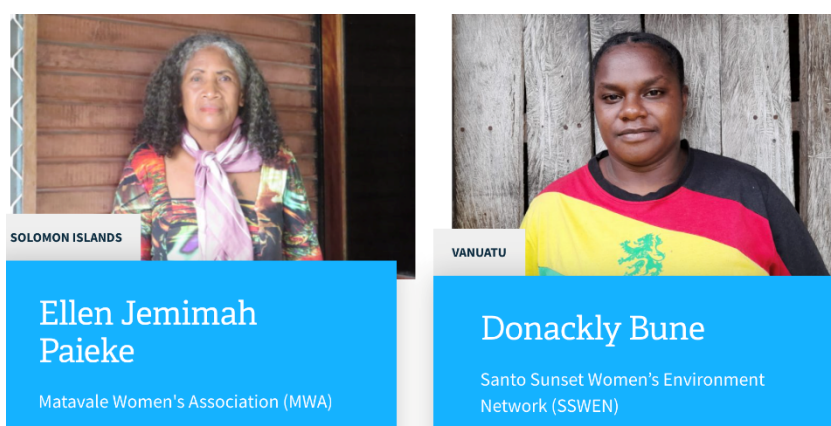
<sup>11</sup> The CSO Peer Learning Awards recognize the work of 10 women CSO leaders and support mutual capacity strengthening between their CSOs (5 tandems made of 2 CSOs each). Each CSO tandem must be led by one active WPHF CSO who can partner with a WPHF partner CSOs or other women's rights organizations 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-2024/>

The L-HUB grants contribute to reinforcing networking and collaboration between WPHF-supported CSOs with some tandems engaging both active and previous WPHF CSO partners, even after the end of the WPHF grant.

### **Peer Learning Awards (1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.1.7)**

In 2024, a total of five peer learning awards were implemented by 203 CSO personnel (176 women and 2 LGBTQI+) from ten CSOs in six countries (D.R.C, Mali, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, and Palestine), benefiting 875 people directly (69.8% women and girls) from the community, local/national governments, and other stakeholders.

Women selected as part of the peer learning awards in 2024 were highlighted in the WPHF’s website and communications channels<sup>12</sup> for their outstanding efforts towards peacebuilding, crisis response, gender inclusive food security, disaster risk management and advocacy for women’s rights to land, among others. These 10 women will collaborate to implement five peer learning projects (in tandem) in Bangladesh, Malawi, Uganda and Ukraine which will begin implementation in 2025.



*Photo 3: Winners of the Peer Learning Awards in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu*

In addition, five peer learning projects which had been selected in 2023, were implemented<sup>13</sup> in DRC and Mali (one project led by the Réseau des femmes opératrices économiques de Ségou with Fondation Femmes Plus), Mali (one project led by Aide au Développement Durable with Alliance en faveur des droits de la personne et la démocratie au Mali), Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (one project led by Matawale Women’s Association with Sanso Sunset Environment Network), Myanmar (one project<sup>14</sup>), and Palestine (one project led by Mothers’ school society and Cananiyat).

The CSOs’ staff reported learning new practices and experiences to better manage their organization, improved leadership during crisis, enhanced conflict resolution, negotiation and communication skills, increased project management and financial reporting abilities, and strengthened capacity to mobilize local communities. Several CSOs also noted an increased influence and recognition of their organizations by public authorities and other stakeholders at local or sub-national level, expanded professional networks and a broader outreach to certain groups such as rural councils’ members and youth with low rates of formal education who are at risk of joining armed groups. Several CSOs exchanged methods to provide legal and psychosocial support to GBV survivors and to foster vocational training for women affected by conflict and who experienced violations. In one CSO tandem, members of one CSO ordered

<sup>12</sup> <https://wphfund.org/women-have-wings-2024/>

<sup>13</sup> Three peer learning projects in Palestine and Lebanon were delayed to the crisis situation and will begin implementation in 2025.

<sup>14</sup> CSO names are anonymized due to security reasons.



fabrics-related products to their partner CSO resulting in additional income for the displaced women involved in their production.

### **Success Story: Enhancing displaced women and girls' participation in humanitarian response, peacebuilding and recovery in Mali**

*Aide au Développement Durable (ADD)* and *Alliance en faveur des droits de la personne et la démocratie au Mali (AFDPM)*'s in Mali, participated in trainings in communications and gender in humanitarian action. As a result, AFDPM now has a website and a comprehensive communications plan. Both CSOs also raised awareness on the prevention and response to GBV among internally displaced women and girls in two regions (Mopti and Timbuktu). As a result, the trained women and young girls are taking initiatives to prevent GBV in the camps through educational talks, youth groups, and radio programs.



*Photo 4: Soap made by IDP women, ADD and AFDPM peer learning project in Mali*

ADD and AFDPM also led an advocacy event with regional authorities for displaced women and girls to be prioritized in local development policies and action plans together with 20 other women's groups and community-based organizations. This joint advocacy has enabled ADD and AFDPM to join the protection clusters in Mopti and Timbuktu regions and to join the Prevention, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse National Network as focal points. In addition, ADD and AFDPM started to develop an online mapping of women-led organizations in Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal which enhances coordination and synergies between CSOs defending women's rights in crisis contexts.

Finally, the project also enabled the CSOs to rally funding from national authorities to launch a food delivery project of 855 tons of food grains for an amount of 41,400 USD for women and vulnerable people which they now manage. In addition, five women's groups partnering with ADD and AFDPM received a grant of 250 USD each (1240 USD in total) from a sub-national authority to start soap businesses with refugee women and increase their financial autonomy.

### **Quotes of Peer Learning Awards CSOs**

*“Based on the deeper understanding of community needs gained through the peer learning, we launched a new initiative named the Monitoring and Documentation Unit for violations committed against women and girls in the West Bank in which our tandem CSO is also collaborating.” (CSO from Palestine)*

*“After this peer learning programme, I gained valuable insights from our tandem organization, especially ways they manage their network, engage with diverse groups, and handle crises involving armed groups. I was especially inspired by how women played key roles throughout their processes. My goal is now to transform our organization where even if women are not in formal leadership positions, they have power and voice in decision-making for more women's participation. As a result of the peer learning project, our staff's opinions changed. For instance, get self-confidence. I also learned it is important to collaborate and*

*consult with other organizations in the region while working for vulnerable people in the same area, it increases understanding, openness, and trust between CSOs sharing targeted area and targeted groups, it can prevent overlapping and can avoid leaving anyone behind.” (CSO from Myanmar)*

Despite the peer learning awards’ projects achievements, political instability, armed conflict and extreme weather events such as floods have generated logistical and security challenges for many CSOs engaged in the peer learning projects, impeding them to meet in person, see first-hand the other CSO’s work in action and interact with the communities where they operate.

### ***Mentorship Scheme Focused on Forced Displacement***

In 2024, 20 peer learning projects were implemented between 40 organizations working in tandems across nine countries, including: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Yemen<sup>15</sup>. As forced displacement is a cross-border phenomenon, several tandems consisting of CSOs from different countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, Moldova and Ukraine, and Moldova and Tajikistan were formed. As a result, the professional growth of 506 CSO personnel ( 3 girls 0-17; 144 young women 18-29; 214 women 30+; 60 young men 18-29; 84 men 30+ and 1 LGBTIQ+) increased, and their organizations’ ability to better serve displaced women and girls, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) in crisis and peacebuilding contexts, for example through more gender-inclusive data collection and analysis in response planning.

The projects have also engaged 1,254 people from the community, local/national governments and other stakeholders (other than the CSOs’ staff): 123 girls; 663 young women; 324 women; 2 boys; 38 young men and 104 men. In total, in 2024, the Mentorship scheme projects reached 1,760 people directly and indirectly 2,327 people.<sup>16</sup>



*Photo 5: Yemen Peace School and Angela Foundation, strategic planning workshop, Yemen (by Mohammed Taha)*

<sup>15</sup> See Appendix B for a list of supported CSOs.

<sup>16</sup> The 2,327 as a result of the peer learning project from Pro Women UA (Ukraine) who conducted an online information campaign to raise awareness of the importance of partnerships between CSOs to address the needs of people affected by war and violence which was viewed by 1700 persons, and from ARDA and CATAI (Nigeria) who conducted an online advocacy campaign on girls’ education, and women’s inclusion in leadership and decision-making processes, garnering 627 reach/views.

### ***Summary of Mentorship Scheme Projects' Approaches and Effects on Skill Development***

- All CSO tandems met in person or online to **exchange approaches for supporting displaced women and girls**, and most CSOs tandems took part in training sessions to reinforce their skills in areas which they identified as gaps such as project design and management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), reporting, procurement, budgeting, financial management, human resources management, resource mobilization, project proposal writing, risk management, complaint and feedback resolution mechanism management, advocacy, behavior change communication (BCC), storytelling, social media management and sex-and-age-disaggregated data collection and data collection tools (Kobo Collect Toolbox). Each member of the tandem leveraged their areas of expertise to train their tandem's staff members while in a few cases both CSOs teams attended the same training delivered by external facilitators.
- CSOs' staff reported **increased abilities** in conflict resolution, displaced women's access to legal services, gender mainstreaming in humanitarian programming, strategies to enhance women's business initiatives, provision of psychosocial and emotional support to forcibly displaced people and GBV survivors, management of educational initiatives for displaced communities, including digital education for youth, mental health and recognition of trauma signs to create safer environments for survivors, and sustainable agriculture solutions to address environmental degradation impacting female IDPs.
- Several CSOs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Moldova, Nigeria and Ukraine reported that peer learning projects boosted their staff's **confidence and self-esteem** to perform their roles and fulfil the organization's mandate while helping to expand their visibility and outreach with new entities such as IOM, UNHCR, Feminist National Coalitions, etc.
- When possible, **onsite visits between CSOs were instrumental** to see each CSO's ongoing activities firsthand and engage deeply with one another. For example, one Moldovan CSO visited their tandem CSO in Tajikistan to learn about the role of e-commerce in fostering market linkages for displaced women and youth, and the use of technology in supporting the literacy and entrepreneurship of displaced women. In Colombia, CSOs also exchanged on agricultural products' processing such as turmeric and banana, hat crafting and the use of medicinal plants, highlighting economic autonomy as an additional mechanism of protection for women in regions hosting many IDPs affected by multiple forms of violence due to armed conflict and coca monoculture.
- Staff members of one CSO and refugee women and girls with whom they work gained skills and produced eco-friendly and culturally accepted reusable fabric hygiene pads, which will serve as a means of income earning for the refugees and will be used by the CSO to promote refugees' livelihood.

### ***Promoting Women's Influence on Public Opinion and Decision Makers***

CSO tandems' initiatives were successful in raising host communities' awareness and influencing decision makers in order to improve the rights to access to legal assistance, education and employment of Afghan refugee and displaced women in Pakistan, of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. In Yobe State in Nigeria, one CSO tandem's advocacy led to appointing women in mediation and decision-making bodies in various communities of Damaturu. In Taraba State in Nigeria, another CSO tandem's advocacy to apply collaborative data collection approaches on forced displacement resulted in sub-national entities such as the State Emergency Management Agency, UNHCR Field Office and other stakeholders, to involve displaced women and girls in the data collection strategy on women's access to maternal health in forced displacement contexts, an initiative which will be co-implemented in partnership with the CSO tandem.

To achieve these results, CSOs carried out a plethora of campaigns and other advocacy strategies:

- Online information campaigns on the importance of working with Ukrainian refugees affected by war and GBV survivors in Moldova.
- Online campaigns on Afghan female refugees' access to legal aid and support services for legal documentation and status in Pakistan.
- Advocacy meetings and road walk campaigns for GBV prevention and promotion of women's inclusion in peace in Nigeria.
- Online campaigns and radio drama production advocating for girls' education rights in displacement settings and women's inclusion in decision-making processes in Nigeria.
- Advocacy campaigns on displaced women's socio-economic recovery needs and humanitarian interventions for GBV survivors in Nigeria.
- Awareness campaigns on personal and menstrual hygiene management in refugees' settlements in Nigeria.
- A needs' assessment was conducted among 300 displaced women from Ukraine in Moldova and recommendations were issued for national and local policy makers to improve the quality of life and facilitate the social and professional integration of Ukrainian refugee women in Moldova (including proposals to provide language support, housing support, legal support, medical support, educational support and entrepreneurship support).

### ***Increased Organizational Capacities for CSOs participating in the Mentorship Scheme***

- At least eleven **strategic plans, organizational roadmaps and resource mobilization strategies** were developed by eighteen CSOs. CSOs' staff members also became more aware of their strengths, knowledge gaps and areas of improvement which they started to bridge through the peer learning initiatives.
- At least twenty-one **internal policies, manuals and codes of conduct were drafted, revised or updated** in procurement, finance, administration, human resources, M&E, gender equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion, and child protection and safeguarding to align them with modern international standards and enhance governance. For example, several CSOs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Yemen reviewed their safeguarding policies to address sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) risks more effectively, ensuring preventive measures and clear reporting mechanisms are in place. Several CSOs reported developing trauma-informed care policy manuals and advocacy policy manuals.
- **New knowledge resources were produced**, such as a toolkit for gender-sensitive programming in Ukraine, a toolkit on employment opportunities for host and displaced women's economic integration in Moldova and a self-care protocol for peasant and indigenous women in Colombia.
- **Software and IT were leveraged** for more efficient accounting, knowledge management and GBV case management processes, as well as the use of Kobo Toolbox.
- Two CSOs developed a website or activated social media platforms, improving their visibility and digital outreach capacity.
- Two **online platforms were established for resource sharing** between CSOs in Yemen and in Afghanistan.
- Three CSO tandems signed **partnership agreements** establishing a framework for long-term cooperation after the peer learning project (Colombia, Moldova and Afghanistan).
- Fourteen CSOs collaborated to submit **joint project proposals**. Six of them also applied alone (to entities such as Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Gates Foundation, PBF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, etc.). To date, four CSOs reported that their projects were approved (two of them from WPHF, one from UNDP, one from Otto per Mille alla Chiesa Valdese), worth over \$ 362,500 USD in total to improve women's livelihood and recovery in crisis and conflict affected settings. All other CSOs mentioned planning to apply jointly for future calls for proposals responding to refugees' needs in

their country and several CSOs reported that they felt better equipped and confident to apply for future funding. One CSO indicated that they have strengthened their capacities thanks to receiving an institutional development grant from WPHF and they felt prepared to transfer their knowledge and expertise to another organization which motivated them to apply for the Mentorship scheme grant.

### Quotes of Mentorship Scheme CSOs

#### ***On new technical skills and professional capabilities***

*“By leading training sessions for our partner’s employees, our staff have honed their facilitation skills”. (CSO from Afghanistan)*

*“The peer learning activities had a profound impact on my personal growth. Through engaging in collaborative learning, I was able to gain new perspectives and insights that I might not have encountered through independent research. Additionally, I developed better communication skills by explaining concepts to peers and receiving constructive feedback. The sense of community and shared learning also motivated me to stay committed to the project and boosted my confidence. The peer learning format fostered greater collaboration within the team. Through shared experiences and expertise, we improved our internal communication, not just within the team but across departments. Team members who participated in the project have become more proactive in sharing knowledge with colleagues, creating a more collaborative environment overall. This culture of mutual support has made the team more cohesive and efficient.” (CSO from Afghanistan)*

*“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)*

*“The programme team are now more gender-inclusive in their communication and approaches, especially in programme design. The learning exchange has helped us develop better advocacy strategies and funding proposals to support the sustainability of our projects”. (CSO from Nigeria)*



*Photo 6: CATAI team’s training on radio drama led by ARDA (peer learning in Nigeria)*



### **On the added value of networking and partnerships**

*“The project gave us an opportunity to meet and work with a new set of partners – including bigger organizations like the Family Health International, Jesuit Refugee Service and UNHCR, all of whom found our frontline experiences useful to their own works.” (CSO from Nigeria)*

*“We will continue to collaborate in terms of staff support and experience sharing, referrals of services from both partners”. (CSO from Nigeria)*

*“These experiences broadened our perspective and enhanced our understanding of diverse approaches to community support and collaboration, emphasizing the critical importance of psychological and emotional rehabilitation for rural women during the ongoing war. Such support enables women to continue as leaders, remain engaged in networks that protect them from potential burnout, and reduce the risk of becoming victims of gender-based violence”. (CSO from Ukraine)*

### **On digital abilities and leveraging new technologies**

*“The purpose of the training was to streamline the digital systems of both CSOs and ensure that organizational policies are easily accessible to staff, with a focus on maintaining security and control based on staff roles and authority”. (CSO from Afghanistan)*

*“Key activities included developing a system to enhance beneficiary case management, referral, intake systems and record-keeping, with an emphasis on digitizing paperwork. The transition from paper-based to digital systems has equipped our team with technical know-how to better manage beneficiary data, referrals and records. Additionally, the project has fostered stronger collaboration between departments, especially between programme management, IT and policy teams, creating a more cohesive working environment”. (CSO from Afghanistan).*

### **Challenges**

Despite the successes achieved through the peer learning projects in 2024, several challenges also emerged, particularly in restricted environments such as Afghanistan. The security and socio-political constraints faced by nearly all CSOs in this country, included restrictions on women's participation in public spaces and employment, limited CSOs' functioning and implementing activities, particularly in advocacy campaigns, and female CSO staff's participation due to Decrees implemented by De facto Authorities were cited as challenges during the peer learning projects. To mitigate these challenges, CSOs used different approaches such as online tools and working with local allies to create a secure environment for female participants, enabling them to attend safely. Other CSOs in Pakistan, Moldova, Ukraine and Yemen also mentioned security concerns impacting logistical planning for in-person gatherings and the coordination of joint visits to displaced communities as well as inconsistent internet connectivity impacting online meetings and training sessions. These challenges underscored the importance of robust planning and resource allocation to facilitate meaningful engagement and collaboration in supporting forcibly displaced women and girls. WPHF was also flexible in extending projects' end dates for some CSOs in Afghanistan and Pakistan facing some of these restrictions for civil society's work.

## **Output 1.2: Quality capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange opportunities are provided to women’s CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings**

### ***Capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange opportunities (1.2.1)***

In 2024, a total of 31 capacity strengthening webinars, peer exchanges and knowledge cafés were conducted involving 592 participants<sup>17</sup> from 392 unique CSOs and their co-implementing partners from 38 countries<sup>18</sup>, positioning the L-HUB as a crucial space to enhance capacity development, networking and knowledge sharing between women rights CSOs who are responding to crisis and emergencies. Fourteen WHRDs who have shown interest in the L-HUB opportunities without putting them at risk also engaged in the webinars<sup>19</sup>. In addition to the CSOs participants, 88 representatives of the WPHF Country Focal Points and I/NGO partners from the Rapid Response Window and the WPHF’s Window for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) attended various webinars.

The sessions’ topics and contents were designed based on the CSOs’ priorities captured in January 2024 through the 2023 CSO Annual Survey<sup>20</sup>.

Key topics in 2024 included a focus on project design and proposal writing, strategic planning, advocacy tactics, public speaking, risk management and fraud prevention, prevention and response to SEAH, gender-inclusive food security, provision of mental health support to conflict-affected communities, leveraging the digital economy for women’s CSOs’ income generation, women’s rights promotion through theater and gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction initiatives

The examples of how the CSOs have applied the new knowledge gained through the webinars are very diverse and eloquent<sup>21</sup>. Many CSOs reported an increased ability to monitor and report on their projects, to integrate women’s specific needs in humanitarian planning and programming, to identify funding opportunities and write proposals, and valuable strategies to report SEAH incidents in the CSOs and in the communities they serve. A CSO participant from Malawi indicated, *“As a positive outcome of the training, we have appointed a dedicated focal person to lead our efforts in addressing SEAH”*.

Likewise, after seeing what is working for other CSOs, many organizations have adopted new practices with their target groups and updating their internal policies in multiple areas (e.g. to engage local communities in peacebuilding, to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable groups, to prevent fraud etc.). As noted by a participant from Ethiopia, *“After participating in webinars on topics such as women’s participation in formal peace processes and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, we applied the new knowledge by integrating gender-sensitive approaches into our community engagement strategies. For example, in conflict-affected communities in the Afar region, we began organizing targeted dialogue sessions specifically for women to ensure their voices were heard in peace building initiatives. Additionally, we incorporated insights from published resource materials into our training modules, enabling us to better support women in disaster-affected areas with tools for resilience and risk reduction.”*

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<sup>17</sup> Includes representatives who have attended multiple sessions.

<sup>18</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, D.R.C, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, PNG, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen.

<sup>19</sup> From 2024 a process was put in place to enable WPHF-supported WHRDs that would be willing to be part of the L-HUB community. This number represents multiple participation as a WHRD can attend several webinars.

<sup>20</sup> <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2023-Annual-CSO-Survey-on-L-HUB-Initiatives.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Results and findings of the 2024 Annual CSO Survey on the L-HUB initiatives conducted in January 2025 are forthcoming in 2025, and will be made available in <https://wphfund.org/wphfund-community/>

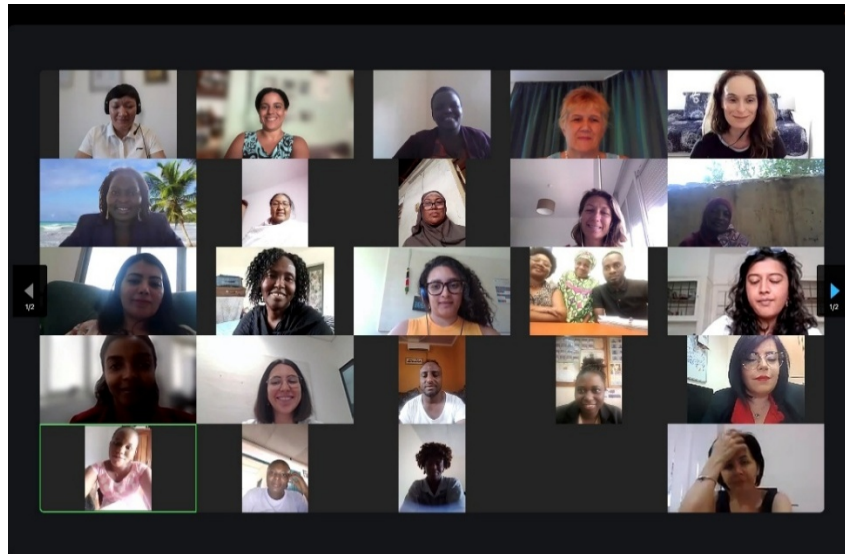


Photo 7: Online Peer Exchange Psychosocial Support for Women's Participation in Peace-making

Putting civil society at the center of all discussions and recognizing women CSOs' expertise on peace and crisis response topics, the L-HUB featured 50 CSO partners and 2 WHRDs from 21 countries as speakers, including 6 youth speakers. The L-HUB also mobilized 16 external speakers (one youth speaker) from several UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs and other institutions, including the GBV Area of Responsibility Helpdesk, UN Women, the World Food Programme (WFP), CARE International, Kvinna Till Kvinna, She's The First, Cordaid, GPPAC, WILPF and members of the Action Network on Forced Displacement supported by Germany who facilitated and moderated capacity strengthening webinars and peer exchanges contributing to enhancing the quality and broadening the scope of the sessions.

Feedback from post-webinar surveys highlight that 67.3% of participants found capacity strengthening webinars useful and relevant to their work and to their organization's mandate of effectively carrying out their mandate in crisis situations. Participants appreciated diverse topics, such as managing emotions in crisis situations and using risk management tools for the prevention of fraud. Specific highlights included the theory of change and advocacy strategies, deconstructing mental health stigma, and the importance of evidence collection in human rights documentation. Many participants recommended in-person training.

As noted by a CSO from Colombia, *"Our identity was re-signified after a session in which tips for obtaining project funding were mentioned...after an event that dealt with the security of communication, security mechanisms were included in our communication strategy; based on a session that dealt with innovative strategies for capacity building and talked about theatre as a didactic strategy, we included it in our meetings with the community; there are several adjustments that we have been making in the way we work as a result of the different knowledge we are acquiring through our participation in the WPHF Learning Centre including strategies for systematization of experiences; advocacy for the right to natural resources and climate security."*

L-HUB training webinars and knowledge exchange recordings were posted on WPHF YouTube channel in private mode and shared directly with CSOs. A total of 552 YouTube views of the videos were registered in 2024, an increase of 66% from 2023, showing that knowledge sharing must be made accessible in different ways and on different platforms in addition to the live webinar sessions.

### **Capacity Strengthening**

Specifically, for capacity strengthening sessions, the L-HUB conducted 22 webinars, including 5 live Help Desks that provided orientation to CSOs on the L-HUB's activities, and funding opportunities such as the 2024 Peer Learning Awards and the WPHF WHRDs' Window. These sessions engaged approximately 1,202 CSO participants<sup>22</sup>.

The training sessions covered topics such as project design and proposal writing, prevention and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and strategic planning for CSOs working in conflict-affected contexts. Interpretation was provided in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, or the same session was replicated in different languages, enabling more CSOs from a growing number of countries to benefit from the trainings.

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 used the L-HUB information in implementation of our projects and training of our staffs and communities as well as volunteers"* (CSO partner from Ethiopia). Another CSO from D.R.C participating in the Annual CSO Survey noted, *"We share the learnings received with other youth organizations that are not WPHF partners"*. As also noted, by a CSO in Uganda, *"Thank you on behalf of our team. We are participating with all the six staff who are working with us to handle sexual exploitation and abuse in the community."*

The capacity strengthening webinars featured two civil society experts from Afghanistan and Syria who were supported through the WPHF WHRDs' Window. The L-HUB also mobilized 16 external trainers in training areas such as theater for women's rights, designing effective advocacy campaigns and risk management. After each session, training contents, accompanying resources, and webinar recordings were shared with CSO participants in different languages to increase accessibility for more CSOs.

### **In Focus**

- ▶ The webinar on *Digital Economy Approaches to Increase Women's Income Generation in Crisis Contexts* was led by Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia, CEO of Women Arise Development and Humanitarian Initiative (WADHI) and member of the Action Network on Forced Displacement. The webinar provided tactics and ideas to foster business-oriented tactics and tools to increase women's digital skills.
- ▶ The webinar on *Providing Mental Health Support to Displaced Women* was conducted by Taban Shores, founder of the Lotus Flower and spokesperson of the Action Network on Forced Displacement. The session was held as part of an online workshop tailored and reserved for the Mentorship Scheme CSO partners who developed peer learning projects focused on displacement contexts. The session focused on culturally sensitive and trauma-informed approaches to address stigma and creating safe spaces to mitigate conflict-survivors and GBV survivors' mistrust and isolation. The session also highlighted the importance of working with professional therapists as well as building partnerships with different entities to enhance CSO staff's capacities. The training was attended by 35 CSO participants from 28 organizations (representing 18 out of 21 peer learning tandems).

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<sup>22</sup> Includes representatives who have attended multiple sessions.

According to the post-webinar surveys, 67.6% of participants<sup>23</sup> found capacity strengthening webinars useful and relevant to their work. Among the most appreciated topics, several participants in the Theater for Women’s Rights Webinar highlighted **managing different emotions and feelings** when dealing with victims of crises.

Several participants in the Gender-Responsive Action to Address Food Insecurity Webinar mentioned that the factors to be analyzed to improve women’s leadership in food security were especially useful as well as the **Sendai Framework Gender Action Plan**. Several participants also praised the **risk management tools** presented during the webinar on fraud prevention and management and one participant mentioned that the problem tree analysis method shared during the Project Design Webinar has been a powerful tool and new learning for their organization.

A participant from Moldova in the Designing Effective Advocacy for Advancing WPS-HA indicated that *“the theory of change, advocacy strategy and the power analysis of stakeholders were very useful.*

A participant from Nigeria in the Public Speaking Skills webinar highlighted: *“Cultural sensitivity and mindfulness is an important tip for preparing and participating in high-level meetings”.*

As noted by a participant from Nigeria in the Providing Mental Health Support Webinar, *“How to create tailored discussions that deconstruct shame and stigma around mental health was very useful for our organization”.*

Another participant from Colombia in the Using Video to Document Human Rights Violations’ webinar noted: *“The act of being aware when capturing evidence and images, thinking about whom we represent and how our actions can help, allows us to prioritize, improve the quality of our work, and focus on the true purpose and message we want to convey. ”*

A participant from Pakistan in the PSEAH webinar noted: *“Learning about survivor centered approach and reporting and responding was right on top according to our work with survivors and traumatized communities”.*

Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for list of capacity strengthening webinars conducted in 2024.

### **Peer Exchanges and Knowledge Cafés**

In 2024, a total of nine Peer Exchange and Knowledge Café sessions were conducted featuring 50 CSO partners (6 were youth speakers) from 19 countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen). These CSOs shared their experiences working with women during emergency crisis, fostering youth engagement in political processes for peace and advancing women’s leadership in crisis response with their peers from across the world.

The peer exchanges engaged approximately 390 CSOs participants from 342 organizations<sup>24</sup> and one WHRD and mobilized two experts from WPHF RRW INGO partner Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and one moderator from UN Women Afghanistan Country Office.

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<sup>23</sup> Based on a scale of 1-5 whereby respondent selected 4 or 5. 213 CSO representatives participated in post-webinar surveys while 1202 CSO representatives participated in the capacity strengthening (all numbers represent multiple participation as a same CSO representative can attend several webinars).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.



The Peer Exchanges enhanced the transfer of knowledge among CSOs in areas such as women’s organizations’ interventions in countries experiencing political transition in the Sahel, the importance of reinforcing women activists’ resilience to facilitate active engagement in peace-making and choosing the right social media platform and communications’ tactics to accelerate and scale up CSOs’ advocacy efforts.

Several participants from the D.R.C and Solomon Islands noted the value of discussing critical topics and learning new ideas and possible approaches that their organization can take to deal with psychosocial issues and trauma affecting women in their country.

*“The psychosocial trauma in the DRC is almost not monitored and treated and the repercussions are still felt in our society. We minimize this subject and yet the fallout is catastrophic”.* (CSO from D.R.C).

*“Today I attended a good meeting, the successful stories about psychological and social support are very important and useful. You know how we are suffering these days from the impact of the war in Sudan. The information provided will help us to work with displaced people in gathering sites.”* (CSO from 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 access the peer exchanges’ main takeaways even if they could not attend.

#### **In Focus:**

- ▶ On 20 November, a peer exchange session featured partners from the CSO Peer Learning Awards (seven tandems)<sup>25</sup> in order to present their success stories and challenges from implementing peer learning projects in conflict and crisis affected contexts. The session enabled to dig deeper into the relationships created between the CSOs and how they navigated multiple insecurity constraints, poor weather conditions and other obstacles to communicate with each other and brought innovative solutions: *“Unstable phone lines, difficulties in mobilizing team members, and understaffing were addressed by delegating tasks and partnering with another organization to deliver some of the training sessions as well as relying on the tandem CSO’s providers to print communication materials. Communications’ issues between CSOs’ teams were resolved through keeping an open mind and defining clearly the roles of each CSO in each tandem”* (CSO from Haiti). *“The political situation and insecurity were among the biggest challenges in Myanmar, particularly when traveling through areas where armed groups are present to go to attend a training session. Protection training, such as how to navigate check points etc., should be provided to our personnel”.* (CSO from Myanmar). *“The most useful part of the peer exchange was the sharing of experiences by different organizations regarding their achievements and results in their specific contexts”* (CSO from Ethiopia).
- ▶ On 4 December 2024, a peer exchange session was held to share impacts and lessons learned represented by 15 tandems from the Mentorship scheme peer learning projects focused on forced displacement. The session engaged 30 CSO participants representing 23 organizations from seven countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, Moldova, Ukraine and Yemen). To foster networking between the CSOs and provide a safe space, this peer exchange was reserved for the Mentorship CSO partners only, however, a knowledge brief highlighting the key discussion points was distributed among all L-HUB members.
- ▶ Participants in the peer exchange valued the knowledge sharing part and the different ways CSOs brainstormed and co-developed action plans to enhance the core competencies of their staff, while other CSOs conducted online surveys and consultations to assess their capacity strengthening needs and agree on what would be the response plan. The peer learning experience was beneficial for many

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<sup>25</sup> From CSOs whose projects were implemented in 2023 (two in Haiti, 2022 Awards) and in 2024 (three in Mali, D.R.C and Solomon Islands, 2022 Awards, and two from Myanmar and Palestine, 2023 Awards).

CSOs, especially those who did cross-cultural exchanges (CSOs from two different countries partnering in one tandem). A CSO from Ukraine highlighted that exchanging knowledge with a CSO operating in Moldova promoted mutual understanding and created supportive networks that transcend borders while it also came with the challenge of ensuring that insights from each organization's unique local context would be translated effectively into adaptable practices for the other. *“While both organizations work with displaced and marginalized populations, local economic and social conditions vary, necessitating tailored approaches to ensure that the solutions developed (models of economic support for displaced women) will be relevant and impactful for each setting”.*

Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for list of peer exchanges conducted in 2024.

Two knowledge cafés were conducted in 2024 shedding light on CSO-led studies employing qualitative interviews and/or data analysis to deepen understanding of women's perceptions of peace across women with different age, ethnicity, employment, and displacement status. and to amplify women's influence in negotiations and peacebuilding.

- The first knowledge café explored patriarchal structures in Sudan as underlying causes of conflict and the escalation of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) affecting women among other effects of the war<sup>26</sup>.
- A second knowledge café was dedicated to a research paper produced by WPHF's Rapid Response Window (RRW) on Women's Participation in Peace Processes<sup>27</sup>. This session presented several RRW CSO partners' inspiring stories of how women's CSOs have bridged informal and formal peacebuilding efforts and localized peace initiatives in Afghanistan, Colombia, Central African Republic, Guatemala, Kosovo, South Sudan, Sudan and Syria. The session provided clear examples of CSOs' adaptability, flexibility and versatility in mediation environments as well as coalition-building, and trauma healing experiences to foster women's resilience.

Such spaces contribute to increasing the visibility and uptake of evidence-based knowledge across countries and contexts and to highlight the impacts and strategies employed by women's rights CSOs to overcome persisting challenges that hinder women's engagement in conflict resolution.

Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for the list of knowledge cafés conducted in 2024.

### ***L-HUB Resources and Channels (1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5)***

The L-HUB digital library expanded to housing a total of 335 knowledge products and resources on WPS-HA related issues in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, of which 163 knowledge products were added in 2024. The library responds to the continued commitment to meeting CSO partners' needs to stay updated of news, trends and good practices, on women's roles in conflict resolution and GBV in emergencies among other topics. The library has provided CSOs with critical training materials and knowledge products which highlight CSOs-experienced interventions that can be replicated and adapted to other contexts as women's CSOs handle similar problems in very different ways. One CSO from Ethiopia noted *“The resources accessed through the L-HUB newsletter and Google digital library have strengthened our organization's capacity in designing and implementing more inclusive and impactful programs tailored to the needs of conflict-affected communities. (...) The materials have been instrumental in building the skills*

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26 Women, Patriarchy, War, and Peace: Findings from Qualitative Interviews with Women in Sudan (Sudanese Organization for Research and Development-SORD), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EydtHvYHDv57DixIXyTQW0027VZvPimB/view>

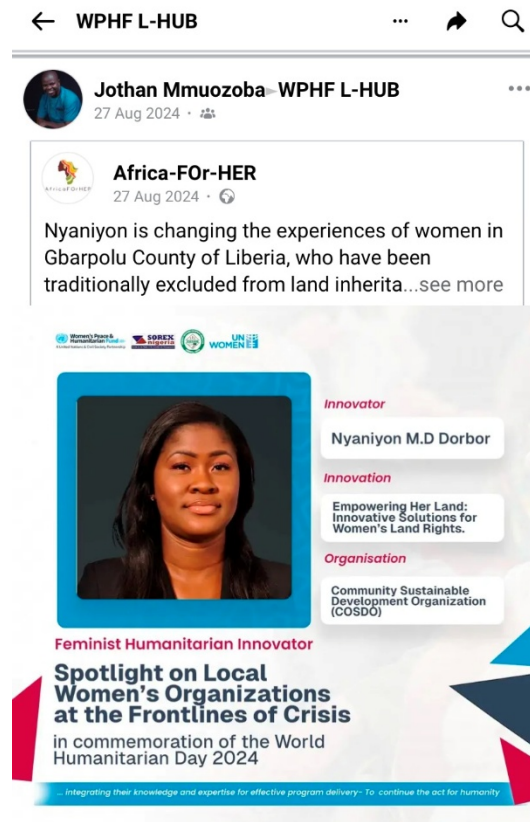
27 Furthering Women's Full and Meaningful Participation Amidst a Shifting Peacemaking Landscape (WPHF) available at <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WPHF-RRWstudy-FIN.pdf>

*of our staff, enabling them to better address gender equality and humanitarian challenges in their day-to-day work.”*

Resources, as well as other capacity strengthening opportunities, were disseminated regularly through the monthly L-HUB’s newsletter and regular updates in multiple languages leveraging the MailChimp platform and tracking abilities since September 2024 for more user-friendly and effective communications. In the first few months of use, 46.8% of the L-HUB subscribers (1,361 subscribers as of 31 December 2024) opened the L-HUB communications through this medium. Recordings of all online events were also disseminated through email.

In addition, 16 new resources (mainly training tipsheets and peer exchange briefs) were developed as a companion and building upon the contents of the capacity strengthening and peer exchange webinars. Topics ranged from mental health support for CSOs and activists, public speaking, digital economies for income generation in crisis contexts, documenting human rights violations through video, gender-responsive food security, and inter-generational dialogues in political processes. One key resource which was produced and disseminated widely through the L-HUB channels was an updated version of a mapping of funding opportunities for women’s CSOs working across the peace, humanitarian and development nexus which was initially produced in 2022.

At least 10 CSOs participating in the WPHF 2024 Annual CSO Survey mentioned sharing and utilizing the L-HUB resources to train their staff on different topics and for proposal development. A respondent from Iraq noted, *“We used the resources for staff training on psychological support and advocacy”*.



*Photo 8: Post from the CSOs SOREX (Nigeria) and COSDO (Liberia) in the L-HUB Facebook group*

### ***L-HUB Facebook Group (1.2.3)***

The WPHF L-HUB Facebook group<sup>28</sup> registered 86 new members in 2024 (425 cumulatively) with 4,372 new impressions, demonstrating continued engagement of CSOs. Among these members, one WHRD and 280 CSOs<sup>29</sup> are represented by 358 CSO leaders<sup>30</sup> (68 additional organizations compared to 2023). Members of the L-HUB Facebook group have used the space to share success stories, news, videos, and photos, with 166 posts, 106 comments, 479 reactions and 4372 impressions overall. Although 30% less than 2023, the decrease in the L-HUB impressions is partly a result of the popularity of other social media channels such as Instagram and Tik Tok, where the L-HUB does not have a presence. In 2025, the L-HUB team will analyze the options to continue providing relevant and accessible spaces for networking and movement building between CSOs.

Through the Facebook group, the L-HUB disseminated training opportunities, events, and resources for the CSO partners on a variety of topics and formats such as Oxfam’s Webinar on Conflict, Care and Decolonial Feminist Alternatives, a conference on Women at Peace Tables in a Changing Geopolitical Context focused on Ethiopia, Sudan, and Libya hosted by the African Union and UN Women and a hybrid event “Forced to Report? Understanding the Humanitarian Impact of Mandatory Reporting”, co-hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Examples of resources which were highlighted in the Facebook group are the Spotlight Initiative Learning Center, the Murad Code of Conduct for those who collecting information on conflict-related sexual violence and the research launched by Outright International on Inclusion of LGBTIQ People in Humanitarian Action.

Regular funding opportunities and prizes were also shared for peacebuilders and humanitarian workers such as the Equality Fund, the EU Youth Empowerment Fund, the UN SDG Action Awards, the UNICEF ESARO Monetary prizes challenge #BeyondBarriers, the Youth Climate Justice Fund and USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance “Locally Led Humanitarian Assistance Prize Competition 2024” as well as the Dalan Fund Call for communities in crisis prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery and in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central and North Asia (CEECCNA) regions.

Furthermore, through its email distribution list with 1,361 subscribers (721 CSOs), 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 Facebook group have been regularly revised to include new WPHF CSO partners and update contact people as there is continuous staff turnover in all organizations.

Finally, the L-HUB team also delivered two online information-sharing sessions on the L-HUB initiatives, tools and resources for WPHF CSO partners, one for CSOs in Pakistan on 28 May 2024 (during the CSO partners’ retreat) and one for CSOs in Malawi on 22 October 2024, during the WPHF projects’ kick off and onboarding meeting. Tips for documenting good practices, for gaining more visibility, for resource mobilization and proposal writing were also provided in these sessions to ensure that CSOs are aware of additional institutional strengthening opportunities and well prepared to make the most of them. Over 35 CSO representatives engaged in both sessions.

### ***WPHF Secretariat Rapid Poll on Additional Resources Mobilized by CSOs***

In order to obtain a snapshot of additional resources mobilized by CSOs as a result of WPHF and beyond, and the factors contributing to it, WPHF Secretariat conducted a rapid poll and qualitative work in 2024 engaging 51 CSOs from 19 countries. While the rapid poll exercise was limited to only a few qualitative

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<sup>28</sup> The Facebook group is open to past and current WPHF CSO partners and WHRDs, Rapid Response Window and WHRD Window INGO partners, UN Women country focal points and WPHF Secretariat’s staff.

<sup>29</sup> 259 lead CSOs and 21 co-implementing CSO partners.

<sup>30</sup> Several staff members from a same CSO can be part of the L-HUB Facebook group.

interviews and sample size, the findings revealed that 74.5% of CSOs who participated in the poll have mobilized new or additional funding beyond WPHF. Of those who had mobilized new resources, the majority (45.7%) of CSOs had accessed new resources from international non-governmental agencies, likely as a partner. This was followed by 40.0% who had accessed additional funding through a UN agency, either UN Women or another agency, and 14.3% who had mobilized new resources through a government or Member State.

Factors contributing to CSOs' ability to secure new financing is varied, with not one factor being attributed to their success. Rather, the combined reasons such as experience with WPHF and the UN, access to capacity strengthening opportunities, institutional funding, and innovative resource mobilizations strategies were highlighted as key factors by 48.6% of respondents. 8.6% of respondents also noted L-HUB as the primary contribution to additional resources, albeit not the only one.

More specifically, CSOs in Uganda, Iraq, Mali and Yemen described how a specific L-HUB webinar on resource mobilization (conducted in 2022) and one on project design and proposal writing (conducted in 2024) helped them build their skills for other proposal submissions. Organizations also mentioned the webinars on feminist M&E and economic empowerment and income generation strategies for CSOs as useful to supporting the content of their proposals and developing innovative resource mobilization strategies.

*“We closely followed the L-HUB webinars on resource mobilization and project [proposal] writing. The testimonies and experiences of other CSOs are useful. All this helped us when applying for new calls for projects. We learned to engage with the authorities to involve them in our projects.” (CSO from Mali participating in the Rapid Poll)*

Further, monthly newsletters shared by L-HUB which include lists of funding opportunities have also been useful for CSOs, and a CSO in Yemen shared that they have currently applied for three grants based on the information shared. Moving forward, WPHF will be institutionalizing and standardizing data collection of new resource mobilization of CSO partners through the 2024 country annual reporting process.

Moreover, one of the CSOs interviewed also attributes their experience with the peer learning grants through L-HUB as another factor improving their experience which will be used to leverage funding in the future, as well as building new networks and business opportunities. *“The peer learning project with the DRC NGO Foundation femmes Plus (FFP) also provided crucial knowledge and experience. We learned a lot from them and vice versa, and we became more united. The collaboration with FFP also brought new income as FFP bought us traditional ‘bazin’ fabric for an amount of 8,500 USD. In addition, FFP and RFOE’s programme staff are brainstorming ideas to develop a new joint project and apply for funding in the upcoming weeks.” (CSO in Mali)*

The rapid poll results resonate with the positive experiences of the CSOs who reported accessing new funding as a result of undertaking peer learning projects. The variety of actions and methodologies undertaken by CSOs to increase their institutional development shows that women's organizations are aware, creative and thorough in addressing their organizational gaps and individual training needs when they are provided with the space and freedom to do so. Approaches of CSOs toward peer learning also varied across countries, and in some cases, more experienced CSOs played a mentoring role when working with more emerging tandem partners. Generally, peer learning projects have managed to create horizontal collaborations and facilitate organizations supporting each other.

It also shows that peer learning grants, and more broadly, flexible and core funding, can make a difference in CSOs' resilience and continuity because investing in improved internal processes, consolidated strategic



plans and staff skills' building simultaneously, are all steps which ultimately affect CSOs' self-confidence, performance, visibility, recognition and credibility. This in turn can contribute to attracting new funders. Despite the successes of the peer learning projects, additional funding and time are still required to be able to bridge some of the identified weaknesses and apply the new learnings over time.

**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**

***Beyond the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (1.3.2, 1.3.3)***

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the GWF and take stock of how the Berlin Declaration helped CSOs advance their peacebuilding and humanitarian work and influence decision-making processes, an online peer exchange session was carried out on 29 May, featuring CSOs from Colombia, Ethiopia, Moldova, Nigeria, Palestine and Venezuela. The following examples show how the strategizing and movement building initiated in Berlin inspired women activists to continue advocating for women's local knowledge to be recognized and harnessed in decision-making spaces, obtaining tangible positive results:

- ▶ In Colombia, Conciudadanía, disseminated the Berlin Declaration among local women's organizations as a tool to support women's demands in local contexts. This resulted in formulating "citizen agendas" (proposals documents prioritized by the social organizations of a territory based on a process of deliberation and agreement) which were then presented at public events and through lobbying actions to candidates for mayor and municipal councils' elections. After Conciudadanía's advocacy work, 100% of the candidates included women's proposals in their government programs. An increase in the number of female mayors and female councilors in Eastern Antioquia was also registered.
- ▶ Faclia for Children and Youth Association in Moldova made significant strides in supporting local and displaced women in three regions (Balti, Ungheni, Cahul) by conducting research and awareness raising actions on displaced women's social inclusion and the WPS Agenda. Through partnerships with local authorities, policies have become more inclusive providing equal opportunities for displaced and host women in various spheres, including employment and entrepreneurship.
- ▶ Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered (SOREX) used the Berlin declaration to sensitize local women leaders to 'participate in making decisions that affect their lives'. As a result, women leaders participated in local needs' assessments and response planning sessions recommending ensuring equitable access to land which was, for the first time, included in a local crisis response plan. Following the adoption of the response plan, the community leadership institution allocated community farmlands to sixty female-headed households during the current farming season.

In 2025, the L-HUB will host the third Global Women's Peace and Humanitarian Forum (GWFP), previously known as GWF, in the countdown to the anniversary of Resolution 1325 on WPS, the 10th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 2242 on women's participation in countering terrorism and violent extremism, and the 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA+30). It will provide an opportunity for women CSO representatives and WHRDs to liaise with each other and identify opportunities for increased collaboration among themselves and with women in leadership across different sectors (Member States, I/NGOs, UN agencies, philanthropists, research entities and international organizations). The Forum also aims to highlight the gains made by women CSO representatives and WHRDs and how they have overcome challenges in engaging in decision-making frameworks and in political discussions about WPS-HA responses. In 2024, the L-HUB started working on developing a forum's concept note and mobilizing support and funding to host the GWFP.

As a follow up to the Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF) hosted in and by Germany in May 2023<sup>31</sup> and which culminated in the adoption of the Berlin Declaration 2023<sup>32</sup>, two CSO tandems consisting of four CSOs were selected to conduct joint advocacy actions to advance the Berlin Declaration's recommendations and strengthen women’s influence on the peace and humanitarian agendas<sup>33</sup>. One joint advocacy action was implemented in 2024 while the second advocacy action will be implemented in 2025.

### ***Implementation of Joint Advocacy Actions***

The Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered (SOREX) from Nigeria and Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO) from Liberia, drawing on the movement building established at the Forum, launched the African Feminist Organizations in Humanitarian and Emergency Response (AfricaForHER) coalition to unite feminist CSOs in advocating for gender-transformative localization of humanitarian action. Over 160 organizations have joined to date, including several WPHF CSO partners who attended the GWF 2023 from Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria, with the aim to influence humanitarian decision-making at country and regional levels.



*Photo 9: SOREX and members of the AfricaForHer coalition at a roundtable with UNHCR, Nigeria  
(Photo credit: Shadrack Ayuketa)*

SOREX and COSDO held pre-advocacy workshops both online and offline in Liberia and Nigeria to: (1) identify CSOs’ current strengths and expertise, (2) raise awareness of the Berlin Declaration and (3) share ideas that can help local women’s CSO leaders to effectively conduct in-country advocacy engagements with relevant humanitarian institutions. As a result, local cases of humanitarian innovations were documented, demonstrating local women’s expertise that could be integrated in country-level humanitarian action planning and decision making. Moreover, coalition members developed a common advocacy strategy with a list of localized demands around women’s CSOs’ active engagement in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and access to quality funding.

<sup>31</sup> More information about the Forum can be found at: <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/>

<sup>32</sup> Available at <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ENG-Berlin-Declaration-202362.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> For more information see: <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Joint-Advocacy-Actions-following-WPHF-2023-GWF.pdf>

As a second step, SOREX, COSDO and members of the AfricaForHer coalition met with key humanitarian decision makers. This included participation in panel discussions at the 2024 World Humanitarian Day event organized by UN OCHA on 19 August in Yola, Nigeria, and in an advocacy briefing with the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the U.S Department of States in Abuja, Nigeria. SOREX participation in the UN OCHA's event was facilitated by WPHF who is uniquely positioned to introduce local CSOs to UN sister agencies. As a result of these engagements, SOREX newly approved programme for refugees "Women's Space for Empowerment and Inclusion" has been updated to incorporate inclusive and refugee focused indicators in humanitarian coordination processes, as well as feedback sessions on programs that are designed to address their needs.

SOREX and several CSOs also organized a roundtable session in Nigeria, with the UNHCR and national and state level institutions such as the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs. While UNHCR usually coordinates with INGO partners, this is the first time direct coordination with grassroots CSOs and women's organizations has occurred, for their inclusion in the monthly cluster coordination meetings organized by UNHCR's livelihood and protection INGO partners in Nigeria, helping to inform humanitarian and protection needs' assessments.

As a result of their "joint advocacy action", SOREX and COSDO have expanded their networks to new local and international organizations that are influential in humanitarian policy and improved their strategy for future advocacy engagements with UN organizations at cluster level or within the humanitarian working groups providing services to the UN coordination system. Consequently, UNHCR's official humanitarian action reports in Nigeria are expected to include displaced women and girls' feedback on specific gender indicators identified in the response plans.

SOREX and COSDO also plan to continue their collaboration to ensure efficient delivery of their advocacy strategies. For the other African countries where AfricaForHER has active memberships, Country Coordinators have been appointed, in line with the Coalition's Constitution, to lead in-country advocacy engagements across Africa to continue pushing for the Berlin Declaration's demands.

### ***Research Partnership Mapping and Collaboration Action (1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7)***

The L-HUB developed an internal mapping of research entities or institutions organized by region and thematic areas of research which could become strategic partners in the future GWFP as well as in L-HUB future training sessions, technical support or collaborations with CSOs in research action projects. The mapping identified 38 entities located in at least 17 countries spanning across Asia-Pacific, Africa, Middle East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, prioritizing countries in which WPHF has a presence and entities aligned with WPHF's work and mandate. The mapping will be updated periodically based on needs.

Identification criteria included the entity's focus on WPS-HA and GBV issues; record of dedicated publications in the peace, humanitarian and development domains, especially with a feminist approach; ability to carry out research and produce publications in several languages; experience in undertaking joint research projects with CSOs, social work and/or involving CSOs in research initiatives; capacity to deliver training programmes on issues relevant to WPHF CSO partners and entity's scope, outreach, reputation and online presence to amplify the visibility of the CSOs' voices and the outreach of CSO-led knowledge products.

## **3. L-HUB Partnerships**

L-HUB partnerships contributed to enhancing the range, quality and diversity of the L-HUB initiatives and resources, showing that it is recognized as a credible programme which attracts new donors and

supporters to offer long-term networking and capacity strengthening opportunities for grassroots women's rights organizations.

In 2024, L-HUB 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).

Several other partners were also mobilized to facilitate training sessions in 2024 including the World Food Programme, UN Women headquarters/Disaster Risk Resilience, Uganda and Afghanistan country offices, two NGOs (Witness and Raizes Teatro) in collaboration with the Venice School Global Campus of Human Rights, RRW INGO partners (Cordaid, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict-GPPAC and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - WILPF) and Care International. In addition, INGO board members (She's The First and Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation) contributed to a capacity strengthening webinar on strategic planning as guest speakers.

During this period, WPHF continued coordination and collaboration with other UN initiatives such as the Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and UN Trust Fund on EVAWG around capacity strengthening of women and girls' organizations, including by participating in the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum in Cape Town (South-Africa) in October 2024.

Also, in collaboration with WPHF's partnership team, the L-HUB executed a Philanthropist Fundraiser Event to mobilize resources for the L-HUB which was co-hosted by long-standing partner Women Have Wings. This hybrid fundraiser event provided an overview of the L-HUB capacity strengthening initiatives and key results<sup>34</sup> and featured Joan Akiiza, from the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) in Uganda, a former WPHF-supported CSO partner and winner of the First Edition of the Peer learning Awards<sup>35</sup>. The event successfully mobilized USD 25,000 in new financing dedicated to L-HUB capacity strengthening and mentoring efforts for women's rights organizations.

Also notable in 2024, the L-HUB was mentioned in several high-level reports produced by governments and international organizations as a result of consultations and advocacy with these institutions. The L-HUB's visibility in such reports shows an increased recognition of the importance of providing capacity development opportunities, including flexible funding such as peer learning grants, for the existence and sustainability of women's rights organizations and their movements and solidarity while working in crisis settings.

## Reports citing the L-HUB

- ▶ Beijing+30: Report of the Federal Government of Germany on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), August 2024<sup>36</sup>
- ▶ Generation Equality Accountability Report 2024, UN Women, September 2024<sup>37</sup>
- ▶ Promoting Inclusive and Locally Led Action through Humanitarian Pooled Funds: Guidance Note for Donors, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Denmark, November 2024<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> A short video on the L-HUB was produced at this occasion and is accessible on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPDhgFIU8P4>

<sup>35</sup> <https://wphfund.org/women-have-wings/>

<sup>36</sup> [https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/b30\\_report\\_germany\\_en.pdf](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/b30_report_germany_en.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/generation-equality-accountability-report-2024-en.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/guidance-note-donors-promoting-inclusive-and-locally-led-action-through-humanitarian-pooled-funds>



Photo 10: L-HUB Partners in 2024

#### 4. Knowledge Products by WPHF L-HUB

Sixteen capacity strengthening resources and knowledge products were produced and disseminated in 2024:

- 2023 Annual CSO Survey on the L-HUB Initiatives
- Peer Exchange Brief Leveraging the social media to Amplify CSOs' Advocacy for Peace and Humanitarian Action
- Tipsheet Public Speaking Skills for Women Leaders Working in Crisis and Conflict Affected Contexts
- Peer Exchange Brief Advancing CSOs' Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Work Where Are We One Year After the Global Women's Forum
- Funding Opportunities for WPHF Partner CSOs and WHRDs (2024 version)
- Peer Exchange Brief Resilience and Psycho-Social Support for Women's Participation in Peacemaking
- Tipsheet Business Oriented and Digital Economy Approaches for Women's Income Generation in Crisis and Displacement Contexts
- Tipsheet Theater for Women's Rights in Crisis and Conflict-Affected Settings
- Peer Exchange Brief Promoting Intergenerational Dialogues in Political Processes for Peace in Afghanistan and Ukraine
- Tipsheet Addressing Food Insecurity with a Gender Inclusive Perspective
- Tipsheet Documenting Human Rights Through Video in Conflict and Crisis Affected Settings
- Peer Exchange Brief Lessons Learned from the CSO Peer Learning Awards' Second and Third Editions
- Tipsheet Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings
- Peer Exchange Brief Mentorship Scheme Round One Lessons Learned from CSOs Supporting Each Other
- Tipsheet Providing Mental Health Support to Displaced Women and Girls in Conflict and Crisis-Affected Areas
- Peer Exchange Brief Promoting Women's Participation in Times of Political Transition and Security Instability in Mali and Niger.



## 5. Planned 2025 Priorities

In 2025, and subject to the availability of Funds, the L-HUB will prioritize the following:

- Continuing capacity strengthening, experience sharing and collaboration opportunities between WPHF CSO partners in different formats and modalities (including peer learning grants and sessions by region or area of expertise to enable deeper conversations in smaller groups).
- Host the 2025 Global Women’s Peace Forum to celebrate the anniversary of 1325 UN Security Council Resolution and provide networking opportunities.
- Develop partnerships with other UN agencies and Funds facilitating WPHF CSO partners’ access to new funding opportunities, and opportunities to meet with international donors and key stakeholders to influence policies and programmes.
- New partnerships, especially with a research institution.

## 6. Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reasons for Variance
<b>Project Outcome</b> Strengthened Institutional development of local CSOs working on issues of women, peace and security, and humanitarian action in crisis settings	1. Percentage of WPHF CSO partners that report using new knowledge and skills from capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange opportunities Baseline: 0 Target: 85% by December 2026	According to WPHF 2024 CSO Survey, 80.5% of WPHF CSO partners reported using new knowledge and skills acquired through the WPHF capacity strengthening programme. This has remained consistent since 2023, demonstrating the usefulness and applicability of the L-HUB initiatives to local women’s organizations in building their capacity. On average, 82.8% of CSOs report using new knowledge and skills.	A small variance of 4.5% was experienced, however it remains consistent with previous years, with an overall average of 82.8% since 2021.
<b>Output 1.1.</b> 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: 12 by December 2026	Two calls for proposals have been launched in 2024: one in Colombia (Mentorship Scheme) and one multi-country (Peer Learning Awards). Cumulatively, eight calls for proposals have been launched in total since 2021, achieving 67% of the target to date	N/A as the target is set for December 2026.
	2. Number of CSOs who have applied to peer learning and mentoring opportunities Baseline: 0 Target: 300 CSO applicants (150 tandems) by December 2026	48 CSOs (24 tandems) have applied to peer learning and mentoring opportunities in 2024. Cumulatively, 206 CSOs (103 tandems) have applied to peer learning and mentoring opportunities since 2021, achieving 69% of the target to date.	N/A as the target is set for December 2026.
	3. Number of CSOs supported in peer learning and mentorship opportunities Baseline: 0 Target: 100 CSOs (50 tandems) by December 2026.	In 2024, a total of 26 projects were implemented in 16 countries and engaging 50 CSOs (including 5 Peer Learning Awards, 20 Mentorship Scheme initiatives, and 1 joint advocacy action). Cumulatively since 2021, 33 projects/tandems with 66 CSOs have engaged in long-term relationships and peer learning opportunities achieving 66% of the target to date.	One project was terminated due to fraud in Afghanistan, and projects in Palestine and Lebanon delayed implementation start date due to the crisis. Eight projects will begin in 2025 (the three delayed projects in Palestine and Lebanon and the five projects selected through the 2024 Peer Learning Awards).
	4. Number of mentors providing support to CSO tandems	The mentors’ roles and scope have been redefined to be better adapted to the CSOs’ needs and the peer learning	No mentors identified due to the change in scope. A new

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reasons for Variance
	developing peer learning relationships Baseline: 0 Target: 5 mentors by December 2026	projects' constraints after the first round of mentorship projects has been implemented. Instead of providing support to specific CSO tandems on site, members of The Action Network on forced Displacement will be involved in a dedicated workshop reserved for the CSOs participating in the Mentorship Scheme. This was piloted on 4 December 2024 with success with Taban Shoresh, Spokesperson of the Action network, who facilitated an online training on provision of mental health to women in crisis settings for all the Round 1 CSO tandems at once.	training session involving an Action network member is forecasted in 2025 for Mentorship Scheme Round 2 CSO tandems
<b>Output 1.2.</b> Quality capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange opportunities are provided to women's CSOs operating in crisis and conflict settings	1. Number and type of capacity strengthening, and knowledge exchange opportunities provided Baseline: 0 Target: 20 per year	A total of 31 capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange activities (22 capacity strengthening webinars, nine peer exchanges and knowledge cafés) were provided in multiple languages based on the CSOs' priorities and recommendations. Cumulatively, a total of 133 webinars, information sessions, peer exchanges, etc. have been conducted by L-HUB since 2020.	Exceeded target by eleven as multiple webinars are held in different languages to ensure accessibility to CSOs and ensure flexible and responsiveness to CSOs' needs and demands, leading to the addition of new sessions, if needed.
	2. Number of CSO representatives who have participated in capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange activities Baseline: 0 Target: 1000 per year	1,592 CSO representatives <sup>39</sup> from 392 unique civil society organizations (CSOs) and their co-implementing partners from 38 countries were engaged in capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange activities.	Exceeded target by 592 due to a high number of webinars and interest from CSOs. Increased participation is also due to updated communication mediums to share opportunities.
	3: Number of CSO representatives that have been featured as speakers or presenters in capacity strengthening and Peer Exchange events (adults versus youth speakers) Baseline: 4 (2020-2021) Target: 150 by December 2026	50 CSO representatives and 2 WHRDs were featured as speakers and presenters in L-HUB learning events in 2024. Cumulatively, 158 CSO representatives have been speakers in L-HUB capacity strengthening and peer exchange events since 2021.	Target exceeded by 8 as additional CSOs were invited to speak in sessions such as the knowledge exchange featuring the Peer Learning Awards winners. Featuring CSOs as speakers is a priority for the L-HUB in alignment with WPHF's

<sup>39</sup> Includes representatives who have attended multiple sessions.

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reasons for Variance
			principles of equal partnership and inclusivity.
	4: Number of capacities strengthening resources and knowledge products produced by L-HUB in multiple languages Baseline: 0 Target: 6 per year	16 capacity strengthening resources and knowledge products produced and disseminated, including resources on mental health support for CSOs, digital economies for income generation in crisis contexts, documenting human rights violations through video, theater to promote women’s rights, gender-responsive food security, and intergenerational dialogues in political processes, among others.	Exceeded variance by 10 due to the increase in the number of webinars planned.
<b>Output 1.3.</b> 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 Convenings (Global Women’s forum) Baseline: 0 Target: 60 per forum	Not applicable in 2024. The next Global Convening is forecasted in 2025.	N/A
	2. Number/Type of knowledge products resulting from the collaboration of the CSOs Baseline: 0 Target: 2 by December 2026	Not applicable in 2024 as this kind of knowledge product results from Global Convenings and none was organized in 2024.	N/A
	3. Number of partners that have collaborated with the L-HUB (UN, academia, INGO, etc.) as external speakers in the Global Convening Baseline: 0 Target: 20 by December 2026	Not applicable in 2024. The next Global Convening is forecasted for 2025.	N/A

## Appendix A: L-HUB Capacity Strengthening Webinars, Peer Exchanges and Knowledge Cafés (2024)

### Capacity Strengthening Webinars in 2024 (N=22)

1. Project Design and Proposal Writing for Women-Led CSOs Working in Conflict and Crisis Contexts (*English, French, Spanish and Arabic*)
2. Gender-Based Violence Programming in Emergencies for CSOs Working in Hostile Environments
3. Public Speaking Skills for Women Leaders Working in Crisis and Conflict Affected Contexts
4. Designing Effective Advocacy for Advancing Women Peace and Security and Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action
5. Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) for CSOs (*English with Arabic interpretation and in French with Spanish interpretation*)
6. Business oriented approaches for women's income generation in crisis and displacement contexts: Focus on digital economy
7. Risk Management with a Focus on Corruption and Fraud in Civil Society Organizations
8. Theater for Women's Rights in Crisis and Conflict-Affected Settings
9. Advancing Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Action to Address Food Insecurity in Conflict and Crisis Settings
10. Strategic Planning for CSOs Working in Conflict and Crisis Affected Contexts
11. Using Video to Protect and Defend Human Rights in Conflict and Crisis Affected Settings
12. Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings
13. Providing Mental Health Support to Displaced Women and Girls in Conflict and Crisis-affected Areas.
14. Live Help Desk in collaboration with focus on the WPHF Women Human Rights Defenders Window (*English and French*)
15. Live Help Desk with focus on the 2024 Call for Peer Learning Awards.
16. Live Help Desk with a focus on the L-HUB Mapping of Funding Opportunities (*English and Arabic*)

### Peer Exchanges in 2024

1. Leveraging the social media to amplify CSOs' advocacy for peace and humanitarian action.
2. Advancing CSOs' peacebuilding and humanitarian work: where are we one year after the 2023 Global Women's Forum?
3. Resilience and Psycho-social Support for Women's Participation in Peace-making
4. Promoting Intergenerational Dialogues in Political Processes for Peace in Afghanistan and Ukraine
5. CSO Peer Learning Awards Second and Third Editions
6. Mentorship Scheme CSO partners Experience sharing round 1
7. Peer exchange on the role of CSOs in times of political transition and security instability in Mali and Niger.

### Knowledge Cafés in 2024

1. Understanding women's experiences of patriarchy and war in Sudan for future gender-inclusive peacebuilding
2. Trends and Lessons Learned from Women's Participation in Formal Peace Processes.



## Appendix B: CSO Peer learning and Joint Advocacy Actions<sup>40</sup>

### Peer Learning Awards

#### Mali:

1. Aide au Développement Durable (ADD) with Alliance en faveur des droits de la personne et la démocratie au Mali (AFDPM)
2. Réseau des femmes opératrices économiques (RFOE) with Fondation Femmes Plus (FFP), D.R.C

#### Palestine:

1. Mothers' School Society (MSS) with Canaanat Association

#### Solomon Islands:

1. Matawale Women's Association (MWA) with Sanso Sunset Environment Network (SSEN), Vanuatu

### Mentorship Scheme

#### Bangladesh:

1. Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) with Shukhi Manush

#### Colombia:

1. Asociación municipal de mujeres ideales de Ituango (AMII) with Asociación de mujeres campesinas, afros, indígenas y mestizas de Condoto (ADMUCAICO)
2. Corporación Humanizarte with Resguardo Indígena Senú Puerto Bélgica las Palmas

#### Moldova:

1. Association for Children and Youth FACLIA from Moldova, with Refugees, Children and Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC) from Tajikistan
2. Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities from Moldova (AEFL), with Parteneriatul Aleselor Locale Pentru Sprijinul Comunitar (PALSC)
3. Women for Women (W4W) from Moldova, with Pro Women UA from Ukraine

#### Nigeria:

1. ARDA Development Communication Inc., with Centre for Advocacy Transparency and Accountability Initiative (CATAI)
2. Center for Child Care and Human Development (C3HD) with Muslim Sisters Organization of Nigeria (MSO)
3. Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered (SOREX) with Rhema Care International

#### Ukraine:

1. Rural Women Business Network (RWBN) with NGO Provesin

#### Yemen:

1. Itar Foundation for Social Development with Social Development Hodeida Girls Foundation (SDHGF)
2. Yemen Peace School Organization (YPS) with Angela for Development and Humanitarian Response (ADHR).

### Joint Advocacy Action

#### Nigeria/Liberia

1. Society for the Rights of the Excluded and Disempowered (SOREX) with Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO) in Liberia

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<sup>40</sup> CSO names in Myanmar (1 tandem), Afghanistan (6 tandems) and Pakistan (1 tandem) are excluded to ensure protection/security