

Call for Proposals

CLIMATE SECURITY RESPONSE Bangladesh

Call Opens:	28 th May 2025
Deadline for Submissions:	27 th July 2025
Send Application package by email OR	WPHFapplications@unwomen.org
Complete Online Application Form	https://share.hsforms.com/1Pw2YBbEdTp-xT6NWXr8Algctfxv

1. Objectives and Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to provide grants to local civil society organizations in Bangladesh, focused on responses related to women's participation and leadership in the prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice as well as in economic and political decision-making of women in climate security and climate justice. The call for proposals specifically contributes to WPHF's overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies.

Initiatives should aim to reach those women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those excluded due to geography, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, age, migratory status, HIV status, among others and which is in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

2. Country Context Linked to Call for Proposals

Climate change is now impacting all corners of the world. Over 3.3 billion people are “highly vulnerable” to climate change, according to a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Recognized as an increasing risk to security, climate change negatively impacts environmental systems resulting in secondary risks such as an increase in conflict, political instability, population displacements, poverty, and hunger, all of which have disproportionate effects on women and girls. In the face of rising temperatures and increasingly unpredictable weather, structural and gender inequalities are making women, girls and marginalized groups disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of the global climate crisis, leaving them with fewer resources and opportunities to prevent, adapt, and recover. These issues are exacerbated in climate-induced crises, where economic loss, growing conflict, forced migration, and the lack of access to basic resources are heightening the risk of gender-based violence and putting the livelihoods of women and girls at stake.

Bangladesh: Bangladesh has made significant progress in human development, poverty reduction, and economic growth, and it is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026. At the same time ranked 7th in the Global Climate Risk Index, 2021¹, the country is highly vulnerable to the

¹[Germanwatch](#)

impacts of climate change (sea level rise, salinity, lightening heatwave, drought, etc.) and climate-related disasters (flood, cyclone, tidal surge, etc.) despite being one of the lowest contributors of global emission

(less than 0.47%²). Over the years, the intensity and frequency of natural disasters has increased. In 2024, the country was ravaged by cyclone Remal on May 26, 2024, impacting a staggering 4.6 million people³ in southwest coastal districts and causing widespread damage and disruption, leaving many vulnerable. Following the cyclone, a devastating flood caused by heavy rainfall and upstream water flows inundated 11 districts of eastern Bangladesh in August, with an estimated damage of US\$ 1.2 billion⁴. Economic loss due to climate change-related disasters is estimated to be USD 4.075 billion per year ⁵.

However, as is the case in many other contexts, the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh are not gender neutral. Women and girls across the country continue to bear the brunt of climate change due to societal norms, systemic gender inequalities, intersectionality, and gender roles. Restriction on girls' mobility from puberty in Bangladesh continue to limit their economic and social empowerment, putting them at a higher risk during emergencies such as climate disasters and exacerbating ongoing conflict within the country. Climatic events also exacerbate health risks, including poor access to healthcare, waterborne diseases, malnutrition, reproductive health challenges, and exposure to gender-based violence. Limited access to decision-making platforms further hinders women's access to relief and rehabilitation interventions and limit their participation in community adaptation strategies. Women living in rural and coastal areas are particularly vulnerable due to loss of nature-based livelihoods in agriculture and fisheries while managing increased caregiving responsibilities with inadequate resources.

Women and men have different vulnerabilities and capacities to adapt to climate change impacts due to differing roles, opportunities, access to information and resources. This is well recognized in national policy frameworks including the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (CcGAP). Further the National Action Plan-NAP 2022 on Women Peace Security-WPS, recognizes, enhanced access to livelihoods, leadership and participation, gender-responsive means of implementation, safety, social protection and assistance, and public services (including health and education) to women and girls as critical to preventing tensions and promote peace and security as well as address the growing threat of climate change. Capacity building, knowledge management and communications are also vital parts of the NAP which ensures gender-responsive and inclusive adaptation processes. Recognizing these critical issues, the Bangladesh United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026) includes a strategic priority (3) on Sustainable, Healthy and Resilient Environment.⁶

Cox's Bazar, coastal district in southeast Bangladesh, faces extreme risks of climate change and has been projected to be the worst-hit district in South Asia, if greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated⁷. The district is home to about 968,981 Rohingya refugees⁸ who live in 33 camps taking refuge in temporary shelters made of bamboo and tarpaulin. Deforestation and vanishing ground water reservoirs present an imminent threat to the densely populated and space constrained Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of the Cox's

² [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change](#)

³ [United Nations in Bangladesh](#)

⁴ [The Daily Star](#)

⁵ [Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan](#)

⁶ Strategic Priority 3 By 2026, ecosystems are healthier, and all people, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized in both rural and urban settings, benefit from and contribute in a gender-responsive manner to a cleaner and more resilient environment, an enriched natural resource base, low carbon development, and are prosperous and more resilient to climate change, shocks and disasters. For details see UNSDCF 2022-2026, available here: <chromeextension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://bangladesh.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/UNSDCF%202022-2026.pdf> ⁷

World Bank Group. (2018). [South Asia's Hotspots: The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards](#). ⁸ [Joint Government of Bangladesh – UNHCR Population breakdown](#). (December, 2024).

Bazar district, which host the refugees, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and insecurities faced by Rohingya and host community women and girls and undermining social stability and -cohesion. The effects of climate change and related hazards, including flash floods, landslides, waterlogging, water shortages and water contamination, present particularly disastrous threats to Rohingya refugees due to movement restrictions and lack of access to sustainable livelihoods.

Recognizing the risks, the Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis includes a strategic objective on combating the effects of climate change.⁹

Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, forced displacement, HIV status, among others.

All humanitarian initiatives in Cox's Bazar should demonstrate their contribution toward the Joint Response Plan's strategic objectives. Applicants submitting proposals related to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis should ensure alignment with and demonstrate how their interventions contribute to the Joint Response Plan.

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in Bangladesh with a geographical focus only in: Cox's Bazar (Teknaf, Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar Sadar sub-districts), Bandarban, Bhola, Chattagram, Comilla, Feni, Jamalpur, Khulna, Kurigram, Noakhali, Satkhira, Sirajganj, Sunamganj, and Sylhet.

Multi-country projects, or projects outside the geographical focus will NOT be accepted.

CSOs can apply for a project duration of maximum 2 years (24 months)

4. Eligibility

4.1. Who can apply and receive funding?

National, regional or local/grassroots women or young women led, women's rights, youth rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women, young women and girls, are eligible to apply. Organizations who are led by women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including due to ethnicity, disability, diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, age, displacement, and HIV status among others, are encouraged to apply. Organizations whose mandate focuses specifically on addressing climate security and climate justice are especially encouraged to apply.

Women's Rights or Feminist Organization: The organization's must have gender equality and women's rights at the core of their official mission/vision statement. The organization's experience should clearly reflect addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights and aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, and work to transform these.

Women-Led Organization: must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

Youth Focused Organization: To be considered "youth focused", the organization's core mission/vision must focus on supporting the social, economic and political participation of young women and young men and addressing

multiple/ intersecting forms of discrimination against young women and men. WPHF will provide specific attention to youth focused organizations supporting young women, advancing gender equality and peacebuilding.

Young Women Led Organization: must be headed by a young person aged between 18 - 29 years old who serves as director/head of organization

⁹ [2024 JRP | Rohingya Response](#). (The 2025-2026 JRP is at the time of this CFPs undergoing final review by the Government of Bangladesh and includes a strategic objective on climate change and disaster risk management).

The following are **NOT** eligible to apply for a grant from the WPHF:

- ☐ International non-governmental organizations;
- ☐ Government agencies or institutions;
- ☐ UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- ☐ Private individuals;
- ☐ Private sector entities;
- ☐ Universities, Think Tanks or Education or Research Institutions.

4.2. Do we need to be legally registered as an organization in our country to apply?

YES, for the lead applicant. The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation and must submit proof of legal registration with the application package. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

NO for co-implementing or consortium partners. Co-implementing partners are not required to provide legal registration, only the lead applicant organization.

4.3. Can we apply in partnership or consortium with other organizations?

YES. Joint projects with other local women's rights, youth focused, or women or young women led civil society organizations are encouraged. Joint projects in partnership with other local women's rights, young women-led, and civil society organizations which are led by marginalized groups including those who are forcibly displaced, gender-diverse persons, living with disabilities, indigenous, etc. are also encouraged.

For joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria. For joint projects, the roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application template.

4.4. May we apply for funding for an ongoing or existing initiative or project?

YES. The WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects funded by other donors. However, the specific value added of the contribution should be clearly outlined.

4.5. Does my organization have to contribute to the project budget?

NO. Civil society organizations are not required to contribute to the budget.

5. Type of Funding Available

Under this call for proposals, WPHF is accepting applications for both institutional/core funding and programmatic funding. An organization (lead applicant or co-implementing partners) can submit one application for institutional funding, AND/OR one application for programmatic funding. **Organizations who apply for both institutional and programmatic funding need to submit two separate applications packages based on the related templates of each stream as noted in Section 6.**

<p>Institutional Funding: (USD \$2,500 - \$30,000)</p> <p>Aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of women's rights/led organizations working on climate security and climate justice issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate that the organization's mandate, mission or past activities</p>	<p>AND/ OR</p>	<p>Programmatic Funding: (USD \$30,000 - \$200,000)</p> <p>This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the following impact area(s):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WPHF Impact Area 2: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response</p>
<p>includes a focus on climate security and climate justice issues. They also need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity. The purpose of this funding stream <u>IS NOT</u> to finance programmatic activities.</p> <p>Organizations who apply for institutional funding should have a mandate aligned to the objectives of the call for proposal.</p>		<p>In the context of this CfP, this means activities that promote women's leadership and participation to inform decision-making processes and responses related to the prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WPHF Impact area 6: Improved socioeconomic recovery and political participation of women and young women in peacebuilding contexts</p> <p>In the context of this CfP, this means activities that promote women's leadership and participation in green socio-economic recovery and political decision-making to reduce climate-related conflicts and injustice.</p>

Please read through the WPHF Impact and Indicator Tip Sheets for guidance on the impact focus and required indicators. (Section 10 below)

6. Application Package and Procedures

Applicants are required to use only the WPHF templates provided. DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.

- ☐ [WPHF Proposal Template for Institutional Funding](#) (download)
- AND/OR**
- ☐ [WPHF Proposal Template for Programmatic Funding](#) (download)

AND

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

6.1 How to Submit a Proposal

Applicants can submit their application in two ways:

Online:

Applicants can submit online using the following link, including uploading the proposal template and registration certificate: <https://share.hsforms.com/1Pw2YBbEdTp-xT6NWXr8Algctfxv>

OR

By Email:

Application packages can be emailed to WPHFapplications@unwomen.org, with “Bangladesh CfP2 – Climate Security” in the subject line.

Applicants are required to use only the WPHF templates provided. DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.

Please Note:

- ☐ Applications can ONLY be submitted in English.
- ☐ Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format only.
- ☐ Legal registration certificates can be submitted in .jpeg, .doc, .docx, or pdf format.
- ☐ All documents should be submitted together as one package.
- ☐ You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- ☐ Proposal templates, including any annexes cannot be altered. Incomplete applications, or use of different templates will not be considered.
- ☐ Please DO NOT resend your application unless you do not receive a confirmation of receipt within three days.

7. Obtaining More Information about the Call for Proposals

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on 16th June 2025. To register, please email ashrafur.rahman@unwomen.org by 12th June 2025.

Questions about this CfP can be sent to UN Women Country office at ashrafur.rahman@unwomen.org, no later than 23rd June 2025.

Response to queries will be provided by 30 June.

8. Evaluation Criteria

As you write your proposal, keep in mind that proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Institutional Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 1)	Programmatic Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 2)
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Project Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change as per the Cfp <input type="checkbox"/> Clear rationale how the current crisis affects the organization's institutional and financial capacities <input type="checkbox"/> Clear outputs and activities which contribute to strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures 	Project Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change and overall project responds to the specific call for proposal and impact statement. <input type="checkbox"/> Definition of clear expected results the project aims to achieve and intervention approach, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and realistic outputs and activities planned to accomplish the expected results, and achievable within the time frame <input type="checkbox"/> Ensures meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, among others which are in clear alignment with Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.
Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%) <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account 	Programme Management and Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of relevant and appropriate feminist monitoring and evaluation approaches, including Do no Harm, and including management structure of the project Sustainability and National Ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of national and local ownership and collaboration in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players. <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.
	Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%) <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

9. Next Steps After Submission of Proposals to WPHF

After the close of the call for proposals, the following will take place:

- ▶ Submitted proposals which are complete and received within the timeline will be screened for compliance based on the requirements of this call for proposals (longlisting)
- ▶ Longlisted proposals will undergo a technical evaluation by WPHF based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section 8 above. Those which score over 50/100 will be shortlisted.
- ▶ A Regional/National Steering Committee (R/NSC) will convene to review the shortlisted proposals and will select proposals based on the available funding. The NSC may also make recommendations on the revision of budgets of proposals.
- ▶ Only selected CSOs for funding will be contacted directly by email by the UN country Management Entity of the WPHF (UN Women or UNFPA).
- ▶ Please note that this process can take up to 4-5 months after the closure of the call for proposals.
- ▶ We encourage you to visit <https://wphfund.org/calls-for-proposals/> for future funding opportunities.

10. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet Institutional Funding](#)
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet Climate Security Initiative](#)
- [Results Based Management Capacity Building Webinar](#)

About the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

The WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 1,400 civil society organizations and is present in 46 countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Funding Board at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently France, United Kingdom, Germany, and Norway), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently She's the First, Reach Out Cameroon, Women for Women International, and Politics4Her).

At the country level, the final selection of shortlisted proposals will be undertaken by a National Steering Committee, which is comprised of UN agencies, civil society organizations, donor representatives and governments.

Appendix: Activity examples for programmatic funding

Activity examples for programmatic funding for each impact area are shared in the table below. The list is non-exhaustive, and civil society organizations are encouraged to make additional suggestions that are in line with the objectives and the impact areas of this Call for Proposals. Please read through the WPHF Impact and Indicator Tip Sheets for guidance on the impact focus and required indicators (Section 10).

Impact Area 2: Conflict Prevention Increased meaningful participation and decisionmaking of women in conflict prevention processes and response	Impact Area 6: Peacebuilding & Recovery Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and young women in peacebuilding contexts
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<p>means activities that promote women's leadership and participation to inform decision-making processes and responses related to prevention of climate-related conflicts and justice. Interventions can include:</p> <p>Interventions which establish and/or strengthen early warning and response systems, mechanisms or committees to better identify and monitor climate-related conflicts or injustice, their risks, prevent them from happening, and enhance social cohesion. Activities that promote women's meaningful participation in the prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice (e.g. women-led advocacy campaigns and information sessions to raise awareness of climate security and climate justice and which are linked to conflict prevention). Activities to enhance coordination between civil society organizations and community-based organizations to identify women and girls' needs for more gender-responsive conflict prevention interventions to respond to climate insecurity and injustice. Activities to strengthen the capacities of women mediators to actively participate in decision-making bodies, community committees or other spaces, focused on the prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice. Activities which promote the inclusion of gender provisions in climate security and climate justice decisions and strategies (e.g. by including GBV, sexual assault and trafficking as climate-related security risks, or inclusion of gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction decisions). Provision of local climate justice services such as legal advice for land-related disputes or other climate related disputes to support affected women and girls.</p>	<p>climate-related activities that promote women's leadership and participation in socio-economic and political decision-making to reduce conflicts and injustice. Interventions can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Activities which address the risks and needs of forcibly displaced women and girls due to climate insecurity such as climate-related extreme events and natural disasters. Activities led by women to respond to adverse effects on the environment caused by forced displacement, such as efforts to restore ecosystems, promote reforestation and renewable and cleaner energy sources within communities, and training women to respond to climate change and disaster risks. ▶ Activities which increase the economic empowerment and leadership of women, including indigenous activists, that advocate for land conservation, climate justice and land rights. ▶ Activities which strengthen women's political participation in the analysis and decision-making on natural resource management in contexts of resource scarcity and environmental degradation driven by climate insecurity and climate injustice. Activities which include environmental/agricultural and climate-smart livelihoods initiatives to empower women and girls to address climate related conflicts and injustice (e.g. food and water security or addressing and mitigating the impacts of environmental degradation). Women-led advocacy campaigns and information sessions on the importance of women's participation in decision-making on climate security or climate justice initiatives which are linked to social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Activities which support the capacity strengthening and training of women's right organizations and women leaders to build their skills in climate dialogues, on the prevention of climate driven natural resource-related disputes affecting their communities. 	<p>cohesion and peacebuilding and recovery, including the impacts of climate change on food, water and energy supplies and increased competition over natural resources and loss of livelihoods. Development of policy briefs/media/research that is produced on women's participation in climate security and climate justice actions.</p>

- ▶ Activities which support the capacity strengthening or technical assistance to women's rights/led organizations in advocacy and leadership in climate security and climate justice in social cohesion and peacebuilding contexts.