

Call for Proposals

Syria

Call Opens:	26 September 2025
Deadline for submission:	20 October 2025
Submit application package	Complete online form: https://share.hsforms.com/1ifOujOOYQteEbEn0xODCigctfxv

1. Objectives and Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to provide grants to local women and young women's rights civil society organizations in Syria focused on i) humanitarian and crisis response, ii) protection of women and girls, and iii) peacebuilding and recovery. The call for proposals specifically contributes to the [Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund \(WPHF\)](#)'s overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies.

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

Part of the funding envelope of this Call for Proposals is under the [Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement](#) that is managed by WPHF and linked to the [Action Network on Forced Displacement](#). UNDP and UNFPA will function as management entity. Please see the Appendix for more information.

2. Country Context Linked to Call for Proposals

Humanitarian needs in Syria have reached an all-time high, with 16.5 million people requiring assistance in 2024, marking the highest number since the crisis began in 2011. The situation has worsened due to ongoing economic deterioration, lack of livelihood opportunities, and the lingering impact of the February earthquakes, despite more than two years having passed. Women and girls face heightened risks in their pursuit of food and employment, as social cohesion continues to erode under mounting pressure. Meanwhile, the conflict in Lebanon has compounded Syria's crisis by disrupting trade routes, straining an already fragile economy, and increasing security risks across the region.

With the major development that led to the takeover of new Interim authorities on 08 December 2024, new vulnerabilities were added due to the ongoing economic challenges, but **this transition also opened potential avenues for recovery and growth if resilience-building measures are pursued**. As of 23 January, UNHCR reported that nearly 210,000 Syrians have crossed back to the country since 08 December 2024. This includes the return of more than 20,100 Syrian refugees from Jordan since 08 December, of which 91 per cent are returning for the first time. Furthermore, the return of over 400,000 Syrians since early 2025 has placed significant pressure on limited local services, Furthermore, **the return of over 400,000 Syrians since early 2025 has placed significant pressure on limited local services**, contributing to disease outbreaks, worsening food insecurity, and shelter shortages. Further returns are expected, potentially compounding the situation.

Women and girls are facing disproportionate challenges in this context. They encounter heightened risks in their pursuit of food, work, and safety, while also struggling to access essential services, legal protection, and economic opportunities. However, empowering women and integrating their voices into decision-making offers a strategic opportunity to reinforce community resilience and drive sustainable recovery.

Over 90% of the population lives below the poverty line as a consequence of protracted conflict, **previous sanctions, and regional instability**. Meanwhile, significant reductions in Official Development Assistance (ODA) are curtailing available humanitarian and development resources, **particularly undermining women's organizations and their ability to sustain critical services**. Across Syria, the lack of safety, public services, and persisting economic challenges continue to weigh heavily on communities and hinder humanitarian response. Many households are unable to put food on their tables due to reduced purchasing power, limited employment opportunities, especially in rural areas—and liquidity constraints. Cash withdrawal limitations continue to affect NGOs, contractors, and service providers, directly impacting aid efforts. Critical infrastructure, including electricity networks, roads, and waste management, urgently needs rehabilitation and repair after nearly 14 years of conflict.

In this worsening humanitarian landscape, strengthening the capacity of local NGOs / CSOs, and particularly women led organizations WLOs, and women rights' organizations, is essential. Supporting women's empowerment and ensuring their equitable access to essential services, livelihood opportunities, legal protections, indispensable influence and access to decision making forms must be a priority. A gender-inclusive and responsive approach that places local women, formal and informal women networks and their organizations at the center of crisis response for achieving an effective, sustainable humanitarian and recovery response.

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects throughout Syria.

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

Project Duration:

For Impact 3 and 5

- ▶ Implementation deadline: **30 September 2026**

For Impact 6

- ▶ Implementation period: max. **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 in forced displacement, are eligible to apply. Organizations who are led by women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are encouraged to apply, particularly displaced persons, disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc.

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

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

Youth Focused Organization: To be considered “youth focused”, the organization's core mission/vision must focus on supporting the social, economic and political participation of young women and young men and addressing multiple/ intersecting forms of discrimination against young women and men. WPHF will provide specific attention to youth focused organizations supporting young women, advancing gender equality and peacebuilding.

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

Organizations led by a displaced person (refugee, IDP, returnee or asylum seeker): must be headed by a refugee or displaced person as director/head of organization.

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

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

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

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

NO for co-implementing or consortium partners. Co-implementing partners are not required to provide legal registration, we encourage to work and coordinate with women-led groups under-registration- only the lead applicant organization have to be legally registered.

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, 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

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.

Institutional Funding: (USD \$2,500 - \$30,000)	AND/ OR	Programmatic Funding: (USD \$30,000 - \$200,000)
Aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of women’s rights/led organizations that have a specific focus on women and young women in forced displacement in their mission, that have project activities that are led by women and young women who are forcibly displaced and/or that have displaced women and young women as staff members. It aims to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity.		This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the following impact area(s): ☐ WPHF Impact Area 3 (Humanitarian & Crisis Response) Enhanced participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response ☐ WPHF Impact Area 5: Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls’ and their human rights respected ☐ WPHF Impact Area 6 (Peacebuilding & Recovery): Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and young women in peacebuilding contexts.
The purpose of this funding stream <u>IS NOT</u> to finance programmatic activities. Organizations who apply for institutional funding should have a mandate aligned to the objectives of the call for proposal.		Under Impact Area 6, projects should specifically target forcibly displaced women and young women in Syria (including internally displaced, refugees, returnees, or asylum seekers). Projects will be part of the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement (please see the Appendix for further information).

Please read through the WPHF Indicator Tip Sheets for guidance on the results framework (Section 10 below) and required indicators in the attached proposal template.

6. Application Package

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 link](#))

AND/OR

☐ WPHF Proposal Template for **Impact 3** ([download link](#))

OR

☐ WPHF Proposal Template for **Impact 5** ([download link](#))

OR

☐ WPHF Proposal Template for **Impact 6** ([download link](#))

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

Online: Applicants should submit online using the following link, including uploading the proposal template and registration certificate: <https://share.hsforms.com/1ifOujOOYQteEbEn0xODCigctfxv>

Deadline: Application packages are to be uploaded to the online form no later than **20 October 2025** by 11:59pm Geneva CET.

Please Note:

- Applications can be submitted online in English or Arabic.
- Applications can be submitted in .doc and .docx
- Legal registration certificates can be uploaded online 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

Several information sessions will be organized with prospective applicants. Please register at the following links:

- ▶ **Main Information Session:** Thursday 2nd October 2025 from 11 am - 12:30 pm Damascus time: [Zoom link](#)
- ▶ **How to Upload your Application- Information Session (Option 1):** Monday 13th October 2025 from 12 pm – 12:45 pm Damascus time: [Zoom link](#)
- ▶ **How to Upload your Application- Information Session (Option 2):** Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 12 pm – 12:45 pm Damascus time: [Zoom link](#)

Upon your registration, you will receive a Zoom link to participate in the meetings at the specified dates/times.

If you are applying to **Impact 3** (Humanitarian and Crisis Response) or **Impact 5** (Protection of Women & Girls), questions can be sent to the **UNFPA Country office** to cfp.syria@unfpa.org.

If you are applying to **Impact 6** (Peacebuilding & Recovery), questions can be sent to the **UNDP Country office** to syria.ngo@undp.org, syria.gender@undp.org.

Please allow a minimum of 72 hours for responses to any questions.

8. Evaluation Criteria

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

Institutional Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 1)	Programmatic Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 2)
Project Objectives ☐ Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change ☐ Clear rationale how the current crisis affects the organization's institutional and financial capacities ☐ Clear outputs and activities which contribute to strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained ☐ Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures	Project Objectives ☐ Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change and overall project responds to the specific call for proposal and impact statement. ☐ Definition of clear expected results the project aims to achieve and intervention approach, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches ☐ Clear and realistic outputs and activities planned to accomplish the expected results, and achievable within the time frame ☐ 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 ☐ The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.00%) ☐ The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account	Programme Management and Monitoring ☐ Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures ☐ 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 ☐ 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. ☐ Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.
	Budget ☐ The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.00%) ☐ 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 National Steering Committee (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 (UNFPA or UNDP).
- ▶ 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: Impact 3: Humanitarian & Crisis Response](#)
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact 5: Protection of Women & Girls](#)
- [Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact 6: Peacebuilding and Recovery](#)
- Project Design and Proposal Writing for Women-Led CSOs Working in Conflict and Crisis Contexts: [Recording](#) and [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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 1,600 civil society organizations and is present in 48 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 Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Norway), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently She's the First, Reach Out Cameroon, Women for Women International, and Politics 4 Her).

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.

About the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement

The [Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement](#) is managed by the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and linked to Action Network on Forced Displacement. The Funding Initiative promotes the participation and leadership of displaced women and girls in socio-economic and political decision-making. It currently supports 149 projects with 227 civil society organizations in 11 countries with a current investment of over 30 million EUR by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Projects are implemented in partnership with UN Women Country Offices. The members of the Action Network have an important role in the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement. Members of the Action Network select the countries that the Funding Initiative is active in, inform the thematic orientation of the Funding Initiative, disseminate the Call for Proposals in their local networks, make recommendations on the selection of projects that are considered in the final selection of projects by the Regional/National Steering Committees, and support the implementation of organizations with their knowledge and expertise in the WPHF Mentorship Scheme of the Funding Initiative.

About the Action Network on Forced Displacement

The "[Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change](#)" is a global platform bringing together women leaders who are actively engaged on behalf of and together with displaced women. This includes decision-makers from political, economic and social spheres, activists and displaced women themselves, who are implementing projects in crisis and conflict settings. The Action Network facilitates exchange and policy recommendations to promote women's political and economic leadership in displacement settings. Comprising 33 members from 21 countries, including Afghanistan, Georgia, Syria, Yemen, Nigeria, Sudan, Honduras, and the Philippines, the Action Network leverages diverse perspectives and serves as a platform for exchange and recommendations to policymakers, the private sector, civil society and local actors. This collaboration aims to transform displacement settings by positioning women as pivotal agents of change. Among other activities, the Network focuses on supporting displaced women through leadership training and advocacy in Afghanistan and Syria as well as technical and vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities in Nigeria and Sudan.

Annex 1: Suggested priority topics for projects under WPHF Impact area 6 (Forced Displacement)

This list of suggested topics for projects is based on priorities identified by the members of the [Action Network on Forced Displacement](#). The list is non-exhaustive, and grantees are encouraged to make additional suggestions that are in line with the objectives of this Call for Proposals.

Themes	Suggestions from the Action Network
Women and young women's leadership and participation	☐ Support displaced women and young women's access to local government and local power structures ☐ Hold government accountable to promote gender equality and the rights of displaced women and girls in their legal and policy frameworks ☐ Facilitate leadership trainings for displaced women and girls ☐ Address the lack of security for women activists, local organizations and advocates working on forced displacement ☐ Ensure women's access to justice incl. access to legal services and advice and promote a gender lens in justice processes
Women and young women's socio-economic empowerment	☐ Facilitate displaced women and young women's access to financial services, banking services and credit ☐ Support displaced women's and young women's access to economic resources and jobs ☐ Provide displaced women and young women that have business projects with counselling ☐ Secure displaced women's and young women's economic rights ☐ Support displaced women's, young women and girls' access to vocational training in their host communities and in refugee or IDP camps or settlements ☐ Promote displaced women's and young women's entrepreneurship and business development through access to digital devices and tools as well as access to the internet ☐ Increasing job security of displaced women and young women experiencing conflicts and new threats ☐ Prevent abuse, exploitation and human trafficking of displaced women and young women through socio-economic empowerment measures
Women's and young women's networking, experiences sharing, and integration in host communities	☐ Promote the integration and networking of displaced women and young women in their host communities ☐ Promote changes in social norms of displaced women, young women and girls as well as of host communities – e.g. by promoting empathy and support through shared success stories. ☐ Promote displaced women's, young women's and girls' experience-sharing and social cohesion as a group and with host communities ☐ Make voices and stories of displaced women, young women and girls as well as host communities heard ☐ Help grassroots initiatives working with displaced women, young women and girls establish partnerships between each other as well as with international women's organizations