

## United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

*Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements*

### Request for Proposals from International/Regional Non-Governmental Organizations (I/RNGOs)

Call Opens	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Deadline for Submission of Proposal Package	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 23:59 CET Geneva
Apply at	<a href="mailto:WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org">WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org</a>

#### 1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP)

The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is seeking proposals from experienced International or Regional Non-Governmental Organizations (I/RNGO) working in conflict affected settings to support the implementation of its Rapid Response Window (RRW) on participation of women in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.

The RRW's overall objective is to support short-term, strategic initiatives led by women peacebuilders and women's rights organizations addressing urgent gaps on women's participation and improving women's engagement in peace efforts, in Track 1, Track 2<sup>1</sup> and peace agreements,<sup>2</sup> in ODA eligible countries<sup>3</sup>.

Partners under this CfP will provide grant management support to civil society organizations (CSOs), informal group of women and women and young women peacebuilders implementing RRW initiatives, as well as the provision of technical and logistical services to approved CSOs in conflict affected settings.

#### 2. ELIGIBILITY OF ORGANIZATIONS

International and Regional NGOs, including Youth Focused<sup>4</sup>. I/RNGOs are eligible, and must be able to operate in conflict affected settings, in at least one of the following regions:

- Latin America
- Arab States
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Europe and Central Asia
- Asia and the Pacific.

Organizations must be legally registered. Note that articles of incorporation are **not** proof of legal status.

<sup>1</sup> <https://wphfund.org/definitions-of-peace-process-track-1-and-track-2-and-implementation-of-a-peace-agreement/>

<sup>2</sup> The WPHF refers to a 'peace process' as a political process to resolve conflict through peaceful means – usually a mixture of politics, diplomacy, negotiations, mediation, and dialogue in different areas. This could include, for example, enhancing women's leadership and engagement in political processes, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs, constitution making, security sector and judicial reforms, ceasefires, and wider post-conflict reconstruction and recovery decision-making processes.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/dac-list-of-oda-recipients.html>

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 (2015) is the first international policy framework that recognizes the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism, and building peace. The UNSCR 2250 was followed by the independent progress study on youth, peace and security: the missing peace (2018) and UN Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018).

The following are NOT eligible to apply:

- Government agencies or institutions
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams
- Private individuals
- Private sector entities
- Universities, Education institutions, or Research institutions

## 2. BUDGET

Applicants to this Call for Proposal can apply for a budget of up to 1,000,000 USD over two years.

Applicants are not required to contribute to the budget. Most of this budget should be dedicated for Short-Term Grants and Directs Support provided to CSOs and young/women-peacebuilders. The management and other administrative direct costs of the I/RNGO should not exceed 25% of the total budget (indirect support cost not included). Please note the indirect costs are lower than or equal to 7% of the total programmable funds.

## 3. ROLE OF I/RNGO PARTNERS

Selected partners will contribute to WPHF's Outcome of ***Increased prevention and resolution of conflicts by women and young women in crisis and conflict settings***, and overall goal of contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies, and will track and measure:

1. Number of peace processes and peace agreements where women peacebuilders have actively contributed to or influenced (disaggregated by region)
2. Number of women and young women who actively contribute to peace processes or the implementation of peace agreements (disaggregated by age group, type of process, track)
3. Evidence of women's and young women's influence on peace efforts and/or peace agreements

Specifically, the roles and responsibilities of selected partners will be to:

- **Provide support to CSOs and women/young women peacebuilders:** in the development of proposals, and identify strategic entry points to influence a peace process/peace agreement in their RRW's proposal. Selected I/RNGOs partners will be encouraged to apply an inclusive and feminist approach to their advocacy and outreach plans. In response to identified gaps and catalytic momentum in specific contexts, I/RNGOs will provide, if needed, technical assistance to local CSOs to support conceptualizing their initiatives and identify strategic entry points to influence a peace process/peace agreement in their RRW's proposal. Countries of priority and opportunities for targeted outreach will be determined in coordination with RRW's team.
- **Participate in the review of short-term proposals received by the RRW:** and provide technical input as part of the RRW's Technical Committee. Feedback is provided within a maximum of four to five working days. In urgent situations, a fast-track review process is available, allowing proposals to be assessed within two working days.
- **Manage and disburse Short-Term Grants (up to 100,000 USD) to successful CSOs and peacebuilders:** based on successful CSOs in the geography of focus, partners will manage grants, including providing technical and strategic support, capacity-strengthening and guidance, communication, knowledge management, and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

I/RNGO partners should have internal policies and procedures that enable rapid assessment and due diligence processes for CSOs including new local organizations and those that have not previously received funding from I/RNGOs or UN entities. These policies should also ensure the timely disbursement of funds, particularly in complex settings, in alignment with the partners' preferred geographic focus and technical strengths. I/RNGO partners should follow grant-making principles that are consistent with feminist principles. For short-term grants, I/RNGO partners will accompany CSOs throughout project implementation and remain available to provide technical assistance upon request from implementing partners.

- **Manage and disburse Direct Support (up to 30,000 USD) to successful CSOs and peacebuilders:** Direct Support are services provided, not grants or funds to be transferred to individuals, informal group of women or registered organizations. Partners will purchase the required services on behalf of the CSO to be used with the aim to increase women meaningful participation/influence in peace processes and peace agreements. Partners will also provide guidance and support on protection, safeguarding, and “do-no-harm” approaches, including for women peacebuilders and young women operating in high-risk contexts. This may include safety mitigation measures, rapid referrals, risk assessments for participants, and support mechanisms for women leaders facing threats, reprisals, or stigmatization because of their engagement in peace processes. An I/RNGO partner of the RRW could also apply for a Direct Support on behalf of women peacebuilders, young women or women rights organizations to provide urgent logistic and technical assistance. Direct supports proposals are reviewed by the RRW unit and approved by the WPHF Deputy Head of Secretariat
- **Provide technical support to CSOs during the implementation of their projects :** I/RNGO will provide strategic guidance, identify opportunities for catalytic impact, build sustainable coalition with local and support engagement of high-level stakeholders. As part of its role in monitoring the progress of the project implementation, I/RNGO partners will facilitate coordination between partners operating in the same context and promote practical measures to address risks or challenges raised by local partners during the I/RNGO partners can deliver tailored capacity-strengthening for emerging, informal, or community-based groups that often lack access to institutional funding. This may include mentoring, administrative and financial coaching, support in RRW proposal drafting, organizational development, and strategic planning, ensuring that women peacebuilders and young women can meaningfully access and benefit from WPHF and other funding opportunities.
- **Coordinate with the RRW Unit:** actively participate in regular meetings and check-ins, coordination meetings, quarterly thematic meetings, onboarding calls with new CSOs, regularly share information and carry out continuous risk monitoring, context analysis, and scenario planning to ensure that interventions remain conflict-sensitive and responsive to rapidly evolving political or security dynamics. Their field presence and networks can allow for early identification of opportunities for engagement particularly in volatile or hard-to-reach environments. This information will guide decision-making on Direct Support, Short-Term Grants, and overall program adaptation. The I/RNGO partner could also organize/or participate in a joint mission.
- **Strategic advocacy and Diplomatic convening:** I/RNGO partners can help broker relationships between local women-led CSOs and key stakeholders including Member States, regional bodies, mediators, and high-level UN actors and special envoys by leveraging their existing diplomatic, advocacy, and regional networks. Their convening power can help elevate marginalized voices into decision-making spaces and enable women peacebuilders to have greater access to key actors engaged in negotiations, mediation support and monitoring mechanisms. This can include global and regional forums and conferences, host and co-hosting side-events, meetings with donors, media interventions, shuttle diplomacy with RRW partners.

- **Contribute to Knowledge Products, Increase Visibility, and policy Influence:** I/RNGO partners will play a central role in generating, documenting, and disseminating knowledge derived from RRW-supported interventions. This includes capturing lessons learned, good practices, innovative strategies, and evidence emerging from Direct Support and Short-Term Grant initiatives across diverse contexts in the form of case studies, videos, thematic analysis, etc. Selected I/RNGO partners will therefore contribute to the WPHF's global learning hub, L-Hub.
- **Report to RRW Unit:** I/RNGO partners will collect success stories and share quality results-based reports and any key challenges related to the implementation of RRW partner's projects. They will be required to submit quarterly narrative and financial reports as well as an annual narrative and financial report, following MPTF (Multi Partner Trust Fund Office) rules and procedures for NUNOs and WPHF guidance<sup>5</sup>. They may also be subject to audits, quality assurance and spot-checks, and be required to respond to auditors' requests, as needed.

#### 4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will undergo a technical evaluation based on the following evaluation criteria:

Criteria	Points
<b>1. Experience in and commitment to supporting youth/women's meaningful participation in peace processes.</b> The organization should have significant technical expertise and longstanding commitment to supporting women and young women in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to influence and participate to peace efforts, notably in track 1 and 2 peace processes and/or the implementation of peace agreements. The organization should demonstrate how their technical expertise has strengthened local and national CSO-led initiatives on this issue, particularly women led and women's rights organisations and women peacebuilders in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.	20
<b>2. Geographic Reach and Languages</b> The organization should have experience in at least one region of Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Arab states, working with local and national CSOs and women/youth peacebuilders on peace processes. The organization should indicate in which languages it is able to operate, noting that RRW's applications are available in six languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese).	15

<sup>5</sup> The applicant shall confirm their acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in the annexed templates, namely the NUNO Framework Agreement and the Financing Agreement. Submission of the application will be deemed as acknowledgment and agreement to these terms. In addition, applicants acknowledge that, while reporting requirements under the NUNO Framework Agreement remain applicable, WPHF requires enhanced financial oversight. Therefore, recipients shall submit to WPHF, in parallel to their quarterly reporting to MPTFO, a detailed transaction list and supporting documentation for all expenditures financed under this agreement

Criteria	Points
<b>3. Flexible and rapid Grant-making policy.</b> Demonstrated experience in grant-making and sub-granting to local and national CSOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, including the ability to release funds and/or provide services in a short timeframe, with flexible and accessible requirements to meet the needs of CSOs. The organization should also have a rapid risk assessment/due diligence facility available to CSOs that have not yet received funding from UN agency or international donors.	15
<b>4. Financial Integrity.</b> Demonstrated robust financial management systems, including transparent reporting, the capacity to manage funds from UN entities and international donors, and compliance with anti-fraud, anti-corruption, and safeguarding standards <sup>6</sup> .	15
<b>5. Feminist or gender-transformative approaches.</b> Clear commitment to feminist principles or gender-transformative approaches within its policies and programming <sup>7</sup> .	15
<b>6. Conflict Sensitivity, Do-No-Harm and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Standards.</b> Experience in applying conflict-sensitive approaches and safeguarding principles when working with youth and women peacebuilders in fragile settings, and a clear PSEA policy in place.	10
<b>7. Budget compliance.</b> Proposals should not exceed 1,000,000 USD for 2 years. Applicants are not required to contribute to the budget. Most of this budget should be dedicated for Short-Term Grants and Directs Support provided to CSOs and young/women-peacebuilders. The management and other administrative direct costs of the I/RNGO should not exceed 25% of the total budget (indirect support cost not included) <sup>8</sup> . Please note the indirect costs are lower than or equal to 7% of the total programmable funds.	10

Shortlisted applicants will go through a HACT and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) assessments, where findings will be considered by the WPHF Global Steering Committee for the final selection of partners. The CFP can only be awarded to I/RNGOs with low risk HACT assessment results.

## 5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The I/RNGO should be a legally registered entity whose vision and mission have an international and/or regional scope. **Proof of legal registration (or legal status) is required.** Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

Application package must include:

- ☐ A fully completed proposal using the [\[proposal template\]](#)
- ☐ Proof of valid legal registration or status of the organization
- ☐ I/RNGO grant making policy
- ☐ Proof of financial integrity including audit reports from the 3 last years
- ☐ Proof of Do-No-Harm and PSEA Standards
- ☐ I/RNGO last public annual report

<sup>6</sup> The organization should also not appear on any sanctions list, including United Nations or major international donor sanctions lists. Applicants are encouraged to submit any currently valid HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers) assessment approved by a UN agency. The HACT is not mandatory at this stage.

<sup>7</sup> This includes adopting a Human rights-based approach, integrating gender analysis, feminist monitoring and evaluation methodologies, as well as fostering feminist leadership and promoting inclusive, intersectional approaches to peacebuilding.

<sup>8</sup> Including Staff and other personnel costs, Supplies, Commodities and Materials, Equipment, Furniture, including Depreciation, Travel, General Operating Expenses and Other Direct Costs

- ☐ Reference letter: UN reference or bilateral country donor reference, attesting to satisfactory financial and programmatic management of a grant in the last three years.
- ☐ HACT and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) assessments conducted less than 3 years ago, if available.

*(Please note that it is not mandatory to submit a HACT Assessment at the proposal stage; however, all shortlisted organizations will be required to either present proof of a previously conducted HACT Assessment with a low-risk rating, or to undergo a HACT Assessment process prior to onboarding. Shortlisted applicants without a valid low-risk HACT will be required to share additional documents during the assessment process; see annex.)*

- Applications can be submitted in **.doc, .docx, or .pdf** format. No other formats will be accepted.
- Applications are only accepted in **English**.
- WPHF will acknowledge receipt of application through a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation email within 5 working days, please contact WPHF.
- Only shortlisted applications will be contacted for next steps.
- You may **not** make changes to your application after it is submitted.

#### Information Session

\*RRW will host **an information session** on this CFP, planned on **9 January 2026 at 2pm (CET)**. You can register to access the information session through this link:

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/Kll1671eQ9ytY8kWlg5pEg#/registration>

## 6. USEFUL RESOURCES

- WPHF website [www.wphfund.org](http://www.wphfund.org)
- WPHF page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
- WPHF Twitter account: [@wphfund](https://twitter.com/wphfund)

## ANNEX: ABOUT THE RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW (RRW)

In October 2019, in his annual report on Women, peace and security,<sup>9</sup> the UN Secretary General called on the WPHF to open a Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace negotiations:

*(f) To support rapid response funds to advance the meaningful participation of women in peace processes, which includes financial support for travel, visas, childcare, translation and related expenses, in particular by providing resources to the new window in the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund;*

*(j) United Nations entities are requested to identify resources in support of the meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements, and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is called upon to consider opening a rapid response window that allows for such support for women to participate in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements.*

The RRW launched its pilot initiatives in September 2020 and was officially inaugurated at a high-level event in January 2021. It has since become a dynamic and flexible funding mechanism, receiving over 2,000 proposals to date. The RRW [Call for Proposals](#) to women peacebuilders is open on a rolling basis which enables the window

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<sup>9</sup> UN Secretary General Women and Peace and Security Annual report, 9 October 2019, S/2019/800, p.37



to respond to emerging needs and strategic entry points identified by women peacebuilders in their contexts to influence peace processes. Proposals are received on a rolling basis, 24/7, and may be submitted in six different languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese). In addition, proposals can be submitted in local (unofficial) languages, if requested by the applicant. Support is open to all\_ODA-eligible countries with ongoing peace processes at track I and track II and peace agreement.

By the end of 2025, the RRW will have supported the direct participation of more than 3,000 women and young women, including women with disabilities, in formal Track 1 and Track 2 peace negotiations and implementation of peace agreements in more than 35 ODA countries. Building on these achievements, the RRW is expanding its partnerships to strengthen support to women and young women peacebuilders and women/youth rights organizations. The RRW has been keen on documenting the unique experiences of women CSOs in their peace efforts, by producing different knowledge products, such as [podcast series](#).

### **Funding Structure of the Rapid Response Window**

Flexibility in the type of support, timing and funding amounts is key to responding to women's/youth rights organizations, women and young women peacebuilders and informal groups needs to influence and participate to peace efforts, notably in track 1 and 2 peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. The RRW has an [open call](#) to receive proposals from women peacebuilders and CSOs for initiatives through its two available streams: Direct Support and Short-Term Grants.

#### **Direct Support Stream**

RRW's [Direct Support](#) provides logistical and/or technical services (up to 30, 000 USD) to a woman/young woman peacebuilder, informal group of women/young women peacebuilders or local/national CSO, or a consortium of CSOs to increase their influence and participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. Legal registration is not required for Direct Support Stream. Under this stream, the applicant does not receive a grant but services. The duration of a Direct Support is maximum 6 months. In exceptional circumstances, cost extensions could be provided up to USD 15 000 for a maximum of 3 months

#### **Short-Term Grant Stream**

[Short-Term Grants](#) for projects (up to 100, 000 USD) address diverse barriers and urgent gaps hindering women's and young women's meaningful participation and influence in peace processes or in the implementation of peace agreements. These grants will be disbursed through the RRW's I/RNGO partners to support local and national CSO-led initiatives for an initial duration of six months. In exceptional circumstances, cost extensions could be provided up to USD 50 000 for a maximum of 3 months

CSO applicants can submit their proposals for **both** Direct Support and Short-Term Grant, using the relevant templates, and which will be evaluated independently.

## **OVERVIEW OF RRW'S PROCESS FOR PROPOSALS SUBMISSION BY CSOS, EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

- ❖ Request for support from woman/young woman peacebuilder, informal group of women/young women peacebuilders or local/national CSO, or a consortium of CSOs :
  - Submits the proposal under one of RRW's funding streams, using the corresponding proposal template, by email on [WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org](mailto:WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org).
- ❖ Request is reviewed by the RRW Unit :

- RRW Unit receives the proposal.
  - If aligned and strategic, it is shared with the Technical Committee<sup>10</sup>, for review and feedback on approval or rejection.
  - If approved, an I/RNGO partner is identified to support the initiative. An UN entity partner of the RRW could also provide the support if relevant.
  - RRW shares the feedback with the applicant and coordinates an onboarding call.
  - WPHF, as the Secretariat of the RRW, coordinates with experts and partners to support and inform other relevant stakeholders, avoiding duplication.
- ❖ I/RNGO transfer the grant or purchase the requested services:
- In case of Short-Term Grants, the supporting I/RNGO partner will conduct a flexible and rapid due diligence process to the local CSO. Contract is signed with the local partner, and the grant is transferred.
  - In case of a Direct Support request, the supporting I/RNGO partner purchases the services directly for the benefit/use of the local partner, with no need for a due diligence process.
  - Contracts and processes should align with the I/RNGO internal policies and procedures.
- ❖ Women influence or participate in peace processes/implementation of peace agreements:
- Initiatives led by CSOs are supported by WPHFs RRW and I/RNGO partners/ UN partners,
  - Continuous technical support, strategic guidance and capacity strengthening are provided by the I/RNGO partner along the way and according to the needs of the local partner,
  - WPHF and I/RNGO partner to share updates and information on the initiatives with other relevant stakeholders to amplify its impact. This will be done in consideration for women's safety and the "Do No Harm" approach.
- ❖ Impact and lessons learnt are documented and shared:
- Through quality quarterly and annual reports, success stories, learning papers and other knowledge products produced by the I/RNGO partners.

## ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND (WPHF)

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. 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 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 supported over 1,700 civil society organizations and is present in 48 countries or group of countries.

<sup>10</sup> The Technical Committee shall be composed at the minimum of the following members of experts and stakeholders in RRW implementation: RRW I/RNGO partners; 1 UN Women Country Office or Regional Office WPS representative – *varies based on the country relevant to the request for support*; UN Women's mediation specialist, WPSHA team, UN Women HQ; 1 representative from DPPA – *for requests that target a track 1 peace process*; UN Women operations focal point(s) – *for RRW Direct Support stream, in cases where WPHF Secretariat will provide the support*; 1 representative of the WPHF BOARD is offered the possibility to be a member and provide overall feedback on the proposal. The INGO partner supporting the CSO in drafting/submitting the proposal, will not review the proposal and will be removed from the email sent to the Technical Committee.



WPHF is governed by a Global Steering Committee at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Peacebuilding Support Office), four donor Member States (currently Germany, France, United Kingdom and Norway), as well as four Civil Society Organizations (currently She's the First, Reach Out Cameroon, Women for Women International and Politics4Her). The WPHF Secretariat will conduct evaluations of applications received through this Call for Proposals.

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR SELECTED PARTNERS

Shortlisted applicants will be required to send the below documents during the HACT assessment, additional documents might be requested during the assessment exercise

Documents
<b>Governance, Management and Technical</b>
Organization's legal registration documentation
Rules of governance of the organization
Organigram of the organization
List of key management at organization
CVs of key personnel of organization who are proposed for the engagement with WPHF
Details of organization's anti-fraud policy framework
Details of organization's PSEA policy framework
Documentation evidencing training offered by organization to its employees and associated personnel on prevention and response to SEA.
Organization's policy and procedure documents in respect to grant-making
Organization's policy and procedure for selecting partners. If applicable
<b>Administration and Finance</b>
Administrative and financial rules of the organization
Details of the organization's internal control framework
Audited statements of the organization during last 3 years
List of banks with which organizational bank accounts are held
Name of external auditors of organization
<b>Procurement</b>
Organization's procurement policy/manual
Templates of the solicitation documents for procurement of goods/services (e.g., request for quotation (FRQ), request for proposal (RFP) etc.) used by organization
List of main suppliers/vendors of organization and copies of their contract(s) including evidence of their selection processes
<b>Client Relationship</b>
List of main clients/donors of organization
Two references for organization
Past reports to clients/donors of organization for last 3 years