



Women's Peace &
Humanitarian Fund 

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2029¹

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— Acronyms and Abbreviations —

CRSV	Conflict Related Sexual Violence
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GSC	Global Steering Committee
GEAP	UN-System Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP)
HDP	Humanitarian–peace–development
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
L-HUB	The WPHF Global Learning Hub
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
RC/HC	UN Resident or Humanitarian Coordinators
RFC	Regular Funding Cycle
RRW	Rapid Response Window
SP	Strategic Plan
PUNO	Participating Organization
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
UNSCR 1325	UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defender
WLO	Women Led Organization
WPHF	Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WPS-HA	Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action
WRO	Women’s Rights Organization

Foreword

Ten years ago, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) was created around a simple but transformative belief: **women on the frontlines of conflict and crisis must have the resources and space to lead efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, respond to crises, protect their communities, and build lasting peace.**

Across the world, women peacebuilders, humanitarians, women human rights defenders and local women's organizations are preventing conflict, delivering life-saving assistance, protecting rights and rebuilding communities. They do so amid escalating conflict, forced displacement, climate insecurity, shrinking civic space and growing threats to women's rights and gender equality. Yet the organizations closest to these challenges remain among the least resourced. As this Strategic Plan makes clear, only a fraction of global development and humanitarian financing reaches local women's organizations directly.

WPHF was established to help **change this reality.** Since 2016, we have grown from an ambitious idea into a mature and trusted United Nations pooled funding mechanism. By the end of 2025, WPHF had supported more than 1,700 women's organizations and more than 1,000 women human rights defenders across 48 crisis-affected contexts, directly reaching more than 5.5 million people, three quarters of them women and girls. Importantly, nearly half of the organizations we have supported received UN funding for the first time.

The **WPHF Strategic Plan 2026–2029** represents both continuity and ambition. Developed through an inclusive, evidence-informed process involving more than 150 stakeholders globally, it is grounded in the experiences and priorities of women's and civil society organizations, women human rights defenders, Member States, donors and our partners across the United Nations. It also draws on a decade of learning from WPHF's work on the ground and responds to an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving global context.

Over the next four years, WPHF will deepen

its investments across four interconnected areas: **conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian response, protection of women and girls, and peacebuilding and recovery.** At the same time, we will remain responsive to the forces increasingly shaping women's lives and leadership—from climate and environmental insecurity and forced displacement to shrinking civic and digital space and economic fragility.

But this Strategic Plan is about more than what WPHF funds. It is also **about how we fund.**

Our experience over the past decade has taught us that flexible, predictable and institutional funding is not simply a financing modality—it is fundamental to shifting power and enabling local organizations to define their own priorities, adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and sustain their work over time. We have also learned that grants alone cannot transform the environment in which women's organizations operate. We must work collectively to address the systems, financing practices and institutional barriers that determine who has access to resources, whose expertise is valued and who has a voice in decision-making. These lessons are central to the direction set out in this Strategic Plan.

This is why, during 2026–2029, WPHF will continue to champion quality, flexible and locally led funding, while strengthening learning, evidence, advocacy and coordination. We will improve continuity across our funding windows and advocate for a broader shift towards predictable, multi-year and unearmarked resources—so that women's organizations can move beyond short-term funding cycles and build strong, resilient institutions capable of sustaining their leadership and driving lasting change.

None of this can be achieved by WPHF alone. **Partnership has been part of our DNA from the beginning.** Our unique governance model brings together civil society, Member States and the United Nations in shared responsibility for the Fund's strategic direction and allocation decisions. This partnership—and the trust, accountability and

collective ownership on which it depends—will remain essential as we navigate an increasingly complex global environment.

As Head of the WPHF Secretariat, I have had the privilege of witnessing what becomes possible when resources reach the women who know their communities best. Again and again, our partners have shown us that women in crisis-affected communities are not simply beneficiaries of international action. **They are leaders, experts, first responders, peacebuilders and agents of change.**

Our collective responsibility is to ensure that the international system recognizes them as such—and resources them accordingly.

As we enter WPHF's second decade, this Strategic Plan is both a roadmap and a commitment: to **listen more closely, fund more boldly, learn continuously, strengthen our partnerships and use our collective influence to help build an international financing system that places local women's leadership where it belongs—at the center.**

The challenges ahead are significant, but so too is the opportunity. Together with the women and organizations we support, our civil society partners, Member States, donors and colleagues across the United Nations, we will continue working towards a future in which women in all their diversity have the resources, protection and power to lead—and to **shape more peaceful, safe and equal societies.**



Tonni Ann Brodber

Head of Secretariat, United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

— About the Strategic Plan —

This Strategic Plan sets the direction of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) for 2026-2029. It builds on the last Strategic Plan (SP) 2023-2025 and re-affirms the Fund's vision, mission, and priorities as outlined in the WPHF Terms of Reference (TOR) for advancing women's participation and leadership across protection and relief and recovery in conflict and crisis settings. The Plan serves as a framework for resource mobilization, partnerships, advocacy, programming and learning across all the WPHF's work.

Developed through an inclusive, evidence-informed process, the Plan draws on evaluations, surveys, and extensive consultations with over 150 stakeholders globally. Women's and civil society organizations, Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), UN partners at global, regional and national levels, Member States—including national

government partners in recipient countries, and donors—informed its analysis and priorities, whilst ensuring that the lived experiences and leadership of women in conflict and crisis contexts remain at the center of the Fund's strategy.

This Strategic Plan provides the overarching strategic direction, complemented by an annexed Results Framework (Annex A). It is supported internally by a set of operational instruments—including the WPHF TOR, Operations Manual, and annual implementation plans.

Executive Summary

WPHF is the only United Nations pooled financing mechanism dedicated exclusively to financing local women's organizations and women human rights defenders in crisis and conflict contexts. Guided by a human-rights-based and locally led approach, the Fund advances a long-term vision of peaceful and gender-equal societies. Its mission is to mobilize and deliver quality, flexible and timely funding that enables women to lead conflict prevention, crisis response, protection and recovery across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

Since its establishment in 2016, WPHF has evolved into a trusted UN pooled fund with measurable reach and results. It has supported more than 1,800 women's organizations and over 1,000 women human rights defenders across 48 crisis-affected contexts, with nearly half of partner organizations receiving UN funding for the first time. Independent evaluation and stakeholder consultations confirm the Fund's distinct niche, catalytic role and effectiveness in reaching actors and movements not systematically supported by other parts of the UN system.

In parallel, the Fund will strengthen its system-level impact by contributing to shifts in the institutional and financing environment for women's civil society. This includes widening access to predictable and flexible funding, improving continuity and sustainability for local organizations, and promoting greater coherence, accountability and locally led practices across the UN system and the donor community. WPHF's role extends beyond resourcing women's organizations to help improve the conditions under which they operate, influence and thrive.

The WPHF Strategic Plan 2026–2029 represents a commitment to local women's organizations and women human rights defenders, and to a more responsive and accountable international system. It calls on Member States, UN entities and partners to stand with the women shaping peace, protection and crisis response in the world's most fragile settings. Through accessible and flexible funding, strengthened partnerships and a model that places women's organizations at the center, WPHF will continue to translate global commitments into tangible and lasting change.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2026-2029

Building on a decade of delivery and a proven model, the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 will deepen its contribution to more peaceful, inclusive and gender-equal societies by supporting women's leadership, participation and protection across conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian response, protection of women and girls and women human rights defenders, and peacebuilding and recovery. These interconnected areas have been adjusted in the result framework to better reflect the lived realities of women's leadership across the humanitarian–development–peace continuum. The Fund will further invest in cross-cutting and emerging risks, including climate insecurity, forced displacement, shrinking civic and digital space, and economic fragility.

”

Women's leadership is central to just and lasting peace

António Guterres,
UN Secretary General,

UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, 6 October 2025.

HOW WPHF DELIVERS

WPHF operates through an integrated model that combines flexible and quality funding, learning and evidence generation, and advocacy, communications and coordination across partners. These interconnected functions enable the Fund to respond rapidly to local needs, strengthen the resilience and capacities of partners, and influence systems and policies to better support women's leadership and participation. WPHF delivers in an agile and efficient way in close coordination with UN Resident Coordinators and in partnership with several UN agencies and civil society organizations on the ground. This approach allows WPHF to address immediate priorities while contributing to longer-term change in crisis-affected environments.

A PARTNERSHIP BY DESIGN

WPHF is a multi-stakeholder partnership grounded in shared governance and collective accountability. Civil society, Member States and the United Nations jointly shape the Fund's strategic direction and allocation decisions through the Global Steering Committee, ensuring that decision-making is rooted in local realities while strengthening coherence across the UN system. This partnership model among the UN, Member States and civil society is central to the Fund's legitimacy, effectiveness and ability to deliver results at scale.

”

WPHF is one of the most effective tools we have in the United Nations to channel funding to women's organizations in conflict-affected countries

Sima Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

Briefing to the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, March 2023



Photo: WPHF

— Global Context and WPHF —

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Women peacebuilders, humanitarians, women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and community leaders are operating in an increasingly unstable and unequal global environment. Armed conflict has reached its highest level in three decades, intersecting with political instability, protracted and subnational conflicts involving non-state armed and extremist groups, democratic backsliding, shrinking civic space, digital and transnational repression are constraining the ability of civil society actors to operate for peace and human rights.² Climate change and environmental degradation are accelerating displacement, heightening resource pressures, and amplifying risks, particularly in rural, remote, and climate-vulnerable contexts.

In 2024, an estimated 676 million women and girls—one in six globally—lived within 50 kilometers of a deadly conflict,³ while 123 million people were forcibly displaced, more than half of them women and girls.⁴ Reports of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) increased by 87 per cent compared to 2022,⁵ and 90 million displaced people now live in countries facing both high conflict and high climate risk, highlighting the convergence of humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) challenges.⁶ WHRDs face escalating threats, including harassment, arbitrary detention, attacks and killings, as anti-rights and anti-gender movements, often driven by disinformation, gain traction and intensify backlash against women's rights; such backlash has been reported in nearly one quarter of countries worldwide.⁷

Women Leading across Humanitarian-Development- and Peace Contexts

Across conflict and crisis settings, women are at the forefront of prevention, protection, response and recovery. As peacebuilders, humanitarians, WHRDs and community leaders, they mediate disputes, deliver life-saving assistance, protect rights and sustain social cohesion—often in contexts where state institutions are weak or absent. Their leadership is indispensable, particularly in rural,

remote, climate-vulnerable and conflict-affected areas, yet remains under-recognized and under-resourced. Evidence consistently shows that when women participate meaningfully in—and lead—peace and humanitarian processes, outcomes improve.⁸ Peace agreements are more durable, humanitarian action is more inclusive, and recovery efforts are more responsive to community priorities.

Working across the HDP nexus⁹, women's rights and women-led organizations (WROs and WLOs), including youth-focused and young-women-led organizations, advance inclusive, prevention-oriented and people-centered approaches that address immediate needs while tackling the structural drivers of conflict, inequality and exclusion. This integrated approach underpins both effective crisis response and the long-term transformation required for sustainable peace. Yet their contributions continue to be constrained by chronic underfunding, restricted civic space, trauma exposure, and escalating digital and physical threats.¹⁰

Global Commitments in a Shifting Multilateralism Context

Twenty-five years after the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), the global normative framework on women's participation, protection and leadership in peace, security and humanitarian action is more comprehensive than ever. Major global commitments—including the Sustaining Peace resolutions, the New Agenda for Peace (2023), the Pact for the Future (2024) and the Beijing+30 Political Declaration (2025)—reaffirm that gender equality and women's leadership are central to conflict prevention, crisis response and recovery. These are reinforced by regional frameworks that translate Women Peace Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) principles into context-specific action.

Recent initiatives, including the Common Pledge on Women's Participation in Peace Processes, the Pasay Declaration (2024) and CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 (2024), establish clearer

expectations and measurable targets for women's inclusion.¹¹ Commitments to the protection and support of WHRDs and to the meaningful participation of refugee and forcibly displaced women and girls—reaffirmed through the Global Refugee Forum (2019, 2023)—further reinforce the centrality of women's leadership across peace and humanitarian action.

Parallel commitments within the humanitarian system—including the World Humanitarian Summit (2016), the Grand Bargain 2.0 (2021) and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) policies on gender equality and localization—affirm the importance of locally led, gender-responsive humanitarian action, with women's organizations recognized as central to localization efforts.[*] These commitments include directing at least 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local actors, with WLOs and WROs playing a central role, and require coordinated action across pooled funds, UN entities and donors.

The UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP) commits the UN system to allocate 15 per cent of programme expenditure to gender equality, mobilize USD 300 million for women's organizations in crisis contexts, and prioritize pooled funding mechanisms¹²—including through WPHF—as preferred modalities for gender financing.¹³ These priorities have since been reinforced through broader UN reform processes, including UN80, the Humanitarian Reset and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, which call for greater coherence, accountability and gender-responsive localization, extending beyond capitals to rural, remote and conflict-affected contexts.¹⁴

Yet implementation remains partial and uneven.¹⁵ As crises converge, the multilateral system itself is at an inflection point. The gap between global commitments and real change persists, and women's organizations remain chronically underfunded.

Funding – The Core Constraint

Funding is the defining fault line between ambition and action. Between 2014 and 2023, only 0.1 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) reached such WROs directly and less than 1 per

cent of humanitarian funding was channeled to local women's groups. In contrast, global military expenditure rose to USD 2,718 billion in 2024, while aid budgets declined.¹⁶ Bilateral support to WROs in high-fragility contexts averaged USD 186 million annually in 2022–2023—just 0.4 per cent of total bilateral aid to those contexts, well below recommended amounts.¹⁷

Recent aid reductions have further intensified this gap. A 2025 UN Women survey found that 90 per cent of women's rights organizations in crisis settings were financially affected, with nearly half at risk of closure within six months.¹⁸ These findings are echoed by WPHF's 2024 civil society survey, which highlighted growing risks to organizational continuity due to the lack of “quality” predictable, flexible and multi-year funding, alongside structural barriers such as risk-averse donor practices, sanctions regimes and banking de-risking.¹⁹

The Beijing+30 Political Declaration (2025) reaffirmed States' responsibility to protect civic space and ensure sustained, flexible and long-term funding for women's organizations in conflict and crisis settings.²⁰ In response to the persistent financing gap, the 2025 Report of the Secretary-General (UNSG) on WPS calls for a course correction, urging Member States to meet global minimum targets, including 1 per cent of ODA channeled directly to women's organizations in conflict-affected countries and 15 per cent of all aid allocated to gender equality as a principal objective, alongside reforms to donor risk frameworks to enable direct, flexible and long-term financing for diverse local women's organizations.²¹

The Case for Action – Why WPHF Is Needed Now

The Fund was established to address the funding gap for local women's organizations in conflict and crisis affected countries. The coming years will be decisive, as the international system enters a period of transition toward 2030. Four imperatives stand out:

- **Closing the financing gap.** Expanding direct, flexible and multi-year funding for women's organizations and WHRDs, while advancing demand-driven and risk-tolerant financing approaches across

[*] “Localization” refers to strengthening the leadership and agency of local and national actors through direct, flexible and predictable funding and meaningful participation in decision-making (World Humanitarian Summit; Grand Bargain 2.0).

humanitarian, peacebuilding and development contexts.

- **Making localization real.**

Shifting power and resources to the local level—including rural, remote and underserved areas—by reducing administrative and institutional barriers that limit access, flexibility and continuity of funding for women’s organizations.

- **Strengthening multilateral coherence and accountability.**

Contributing to a more coordinated and effective multilateral system that aligns pooled funds, UN entities and donors around women’s leadership, participation and protection across the HDP nexus.

- **Defending and expanding civic space.**

Providing holistic support to women’s organizations and WHRDs, including protection, wellbeing and digital safety, and recognizing that women’s leadership cannot be sustained where civic space is constrained or unsafe.

These imperatives frame the purpose of the WPHF Strategic Plan (SP) 2026–2029 and guide the strategic choices that follow. The Plan sets out how the Fund will continue to adapt and respond to the needs of women and girls by translating global commitments into action.

ABOUT WPHF

WPHF advances a long-term vision of a peaceful, safe and equal world in which women in all their diversity, including young women, lead, participate in and benefit from conflict prevention and resolution, crisis response, peacebuilding and recovery.

Origins and Institutional Legitimacy

The United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)[*] was established in 2016 in response to sustained advocacy by women’s movements, civil society organizations and Member States highlighting the chronic underfunding of women’s participation and leadership in WPS-HA. Originally recommended through the Global Study on the implementation UNSCR 1325 (2015) and endorsed by Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), the Fund was

created to fill a structural gap in the international system: the absence of a dedicated global financing mechanism focused on resourcing local women’s organizations across the HDP continuum.

Formally constituted as a United Nations multi-partner trust fund, with its Technical Secretariat hosted by UN Women, WPHF is governed through a multi-stakeholder Global Steering Committee (GSC) comprising Member States, UN entities and civil society representatives with equal decision-making authority. Its mandate has since been reaffirmed through successive UNSG and Security Council reports on WPS-HA, as well as system-wide reform frameworks, including the UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, the New Agenda for Peace and the Pact for the Future.

Core Institutional Functions

From its inception, WPHF was mandated to perform three interlinked institutional functions that distinguish it from other financing instruments and underpin its contribution across peace, humanitarian and recovery contexts:

- **Bridging financing silos** by providing a pooled funding mechanism that supports women’s leadership and participation across humanitarian, peace, security and recovery efforts, reflecting the realities of women’s work across the HDP nexus.
- **Closing structural funding gaps** through direct, flexible and predictable support to local women’s organizations and women human rights defenders, enabling them to sustain their work, manage risk and engage meaningfully in volatile and high-risk environments.
- **Enhancing system coherence and accountability** by complementing other UN financing instruments and strengthening alignment among multilateral, bilateral and civil society partners, ensuring that peace, humanitarian and recovery processes reflect and resource the priorities of women and their organizations.

These core functions provide the institutional logic that informs the Fund’s operational model and the outputs and system-level contributions described later in this Strategic Plan.

[*] WPHF was originally referred to as the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action.

Added Value and Complementarity within the UN System

WPHF occupies a unique and indispensable space within the UN system and the wider WPS-HA and HDP ecosystem. It is the only UN pooled funding mechanism dedicated exclusively to resourcing local women's organizations and WHRDs in conflict and crisis settings. Through its direct access approach, flexible funding modalities and inclusive governance structure, the Fund ensures that resources reach actors and movements that are not systematically supported by other mechanisms.

WPHF operates alongside—rather than in place of—UN entities' normative, coordination and operational roles, providing complementary financing that enables women's organizations to engage effectively within humanitarian, peace and recovery systems. An independent evaluation covering the period 2019–2023 confirmed the Fund's distinct niche, effectiveness and catalytic role within the UN funding architecture.

WPHF CORE PRINCIPLES 2026–2029

WPHF is guided by five interdependent principles that define how it funds, learns, and influences. Grounded in human rights, gender equality, and partnership, these principles translate WPHF's founding values into a practical framework for action—ensuring that its systems, partnerships, and funding practices reflect the leadership and priorities of women and girls in crisis and conflict-affected settings.

Locally Led and Demand-Driven

WPHF centers the leadership and decision-making of local women's organizations and WHRDs, ensuring that resources and strategies are shaped by women's priorities and lived realities. In practice: The Fund aims to channel resources directly to women-led and community-based organizations, support locally defined priorities, and design funding mechanisms that respond to women's agency and context-specific needs.

Intersectional, Inclusive, and Accessible

WPHF applies an intersectional lens that recognizes and addresses overlapping and intersecting inequalities and ensures that its systems and

partnerships are inclusive and accessible to all women and girls, especially those most excluded. In practice: The Fund aims to simplify processes, provide multilingual and flexible support, and proactively reach smaller, emerging, and marginalized organizations to ensure equitable access to quality funding and opportunities.

Adaptive, Flexible, and Resilient

Recognizing the rapidly changing nature of crisis and conflict, WPHF values flexibility and resilience as essential to effective and relevant action. In practice: The Fund aims to enable rapid and adaptive grantmaking, supports institutional resilience and care within women's organizations, and continually adjusts its systems and partnerships to stay responsive to emerging needs.

Shared Accountability and Collective Learning

WPHF builds transparent, trust-based partnerships grounded in mutual accountability, dialogue, and reflection. In practice: The Fund promotes participatory governance and feedback mechanisms with civil society, donors, and UN partners, investing in accelerating learning and knowledge sharing among women's organizations and learning from their WPS-HA expertise at regional and international levels and evidence generation to improve performance and impact.

Sustainable and Transformative

WPHF promotes long-term sustainability for women's organizations and systemic transformation toward peace and gender equality. In practice: The Fund provides institutional (core) support, builds organizational and collective capacity, and advocates for equitable, quality funding to shift power and strengthen the structures that sustain women's leadership and rights.

The Fund's long-term vision, mission, institutional legitimacy and core functions as a standing UN pooled funding mechanism remain consistent across strategic cycles and provide the foundation for the time-bound strategic results set out in subsequent sections of this Strategic Plan 2026-2029 and accompanying Results Framework.

Strategic Direction 2026-2029

DEFINITION OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS FOR THIS STRATEGIC PLAN

For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, references to “women’s organizations” encompass women-led and women’s rights-focused civil society organizations, including youth-focused and youth-led organizations, operating in conflict and crisis settings. References to “women human rights defenders” are made explicitly to recognize individuals and collectives at heightened risk due to their leadership, advocacy, and human rights work. Together, women’s organizations and women human rights defenders constitute the primary partners and rights-holders supported by WPHF.

Box 1

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES 2026-2029

Long-Term Impact

By 2029, WPHF will have contributed — together with governments, UN partners, and civil society — to more peaceful, safe and equal societies.

Change at this level will be tracked through the WPHF Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Index (See Box 2 below).

THE WPHF GLOBAL INDEX FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY & HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Tracking Peace, Gender Equality, and Civic Spaces for Women’s Rights Organizations in Conflict and Crisis Settings

The WPHF Women, Peace, and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Index is an innovative tool which captures changes in peaceful and gender equal societies across 15 indicators in three dimensions

- i) Peace, Security and Humanitarian contexts
- ii) Gender Equality
- iii) Women’s Rights Organization and Civic Space

Findings from 2024 demonstrate that across all domains there is still a long way to go toward peaceful and gender equal societies, with an overall value of 0.577[*] (where an ideal value of 1.000 is the highest score that can be obtained and considered to be peaceful and gender equal). This represents a small positive increase (+0.013) from 2022, where the value was 0.564.²²



Box 2

[*] The previous pilot index value has been re-calculated following the change in indicators and structure and differs slightly since the publication of the WPHF Annual Report (2022). Moving forward the values in this report will be used.

WPHF STRATEGIC PROGRAMMATIC OUTCOMES 2026–2029

By 2029, women, young women and women's organizations supported by the WPHF – and its partners - will lead, participate in and influence conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian and crisis response, protection of women and girls, and peacebuilding and recovery processes across crisis and conflict settings.

To contribute to this overall outcome, the WPHF will focus its investments across **four interconnected programmatic outcome areas** that advance women's leadership, participation, influence and protection in crisis- and conflict-affected contexts and contribute to progress across the HDP nexus.



Outcome 1. Conflict Prevention and Resolution: *Enhanced prevention and resolution of conflicts by women, young women and civil society in crisis and conflict settings.*

Women and local women's organizations actively shape dialogue, early warning mechanisms and mediation, influence peace processes and monitor the implementation of peace agreements, contributing to efforts and decisions that reduce conflict, foster social cohesion, and increase resilience.



Outcome 2. Humanitarian Response: *Enhanced access of women and girls to local, inclusive, gender-responsive, and life-saving humanitarian response and services in conflict and crisis settings.*

Women and local women's organizations lead and participate in humanitarian planning, implementation, and monitoring - particularly across Gender Based Violence (GBV), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and food security - to ensure that essential services effectively reach women and girls.



Outcome 3. Protection of Women and Girls:

Enhanced protection of women and girls, and their rights upheld in crisis and conflict settings.

Women and girls' safety, dignity, and human rights are safeguarded through stronger systems of prevention, protection and rehabilitation services, and accountability, supported by local women's organizations and women's human rights defenders.



Outcome 4. Peacebuilding and Recovery:

Enhanced peacebuilding and economic empowerment and inclusion of women and young women in crisis and conflict settings.

Women lead and/or participate in post-conflict and crisis governance, peacebuilding, and recovery processes to ensure that their priorities across gender equality, human rights and women's economic empowerment -are embedded in reconstruction, transition, and long-term resilience efforts.

Further details on each programmatic outcome, including illustrative results, are provided in Annex D.

These outcomes represent the aggregate results to which WPHF-funded partners contribute through support provided across the Fund's funding windows. As a demand-driven pooled fund, **WPHF does not apply fixed allocation targets across outcomes.** The balance of investments is guided by context-specific needs, expressed demand from women's organizations and WHRDs, feasibility, risk, locally identified priorities, resources mobilized and GSC decisions. The annexed Results Framework sets out how results will be monitored and aggregated across the portfolio.

A key shift in this Strategic Plan period is the Fund's ability to track investments across outcomes reflecting the HDP nexus. Recognizing that many partners contribute to more than one outcome, **WPHF will apply locally-led approaches to capturing cross-outcome contributions**, while maintaining clarity on the primary outcome focus of funding allocations for learning and accountability purposes.

WPHF CONTRIBUTION TO UN SYSTEM COHERENCE UNDER GEAP AND UN SYSTEM REFORM

WPHF contributes to UN system coherence under the UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP), particularly Pillar 4.3 on **increasing predictable and quality resources for women's organizations in crisis and conflict settings**.

Through its funding practice, evidence generation, and convening role, WPHF supports GEAP objectives by informing policy dialogue, promoting accessible and flexible pooled funding approaches, and elevating evidence on what enables women's leadership and organizational sustainability in fragile contexts. This contribution also aligns with broader UN system reform efforts under the **UN80 Initiative**, through which WPHF shares operational learning and practice-based insights that help inform efforts to streamline procedures, strengthen coherence, and improve how the UN delivers financing in support of women's organizations.²³

Box 3

WPHF MECHANISM AND SYSTEM-LEVEL RESULTS 2026–2029

WPHF Mechanism Outputs / Functions

The following three outputs describe how WPHF will deliver its contribution to the systems-level outcome above and contribute to the programmatic results. They operationalize the core functions set out in the WPHF TOR—bridging silos, closing funding gaps and improving coherence—and translate them into concrete results for local women's organizations, and WHRDs over 2026–2029.

Output / Function 1. Quality, Flexible, and Effective Funding:

WPHF provides accessible, timely, and flexible funding that closes critical financing gaps—including institutional (core) support—to local and women-led civil society organizations, women peacebuilders, and human rights defenders.

By expanding pooled and unearmarked resources,

simplifying access, and aligning funding with the HDP nexus, WPHF reduces structural barriers and models quality and inclusive funding practices within the UN system. WPHF aims to continuously strengthen its systems and advocate for enabling UN procedures to ensure its commitment to flexible, inclusive funding is effectively implemented (see Box 4 below).

Output / Function 2. Global Learning, Capacity Strengthening, and Knowledge Generation:

WPHF strengthens the institutional and collective sustainability of women's organizations and bridges silos through learning, mentoring, and peer exchange, as well as by connecting actors across the humanitarian, peace and development nexus.

The Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) and regional platforms connect partners across regions to share strategies, co-create knowledge, and generate evidence that informs both funding practice and system-wide understanding of what works to support women's leadership in crisis and conflict settings including through flexible peer learning grants that encourage mutual support and capacity development among women's organizations.

Output /Function 3. Advocacy, Communications, System Coordination and Coherence:

WPHF advocates and coordinates amongst its partners for more coherent, inclusive, and accountable funding, policies and structures improving coherence across UN System donor community.

Through its advocacy, communications, and partnerships, the Fund promotes a unified approach and influences global and institutional frameworks - internally within the UN and externally with donors and Member States - to advance the WPS-HA agenda, including to promote quality, flexible, and locally led funding for women's organizations, peacebuilders, and defenders.

Further detail on each output, including illustrative results, is provided in Annex E.

WPHF'S CONTRIBUTION TO UN SYSTEM-WIDE REFORM ON FUNDING FLOWS

WPHF contributes to the UN inter-agency initiative on a Funding Framework for women's and civil society organizations, advancing system-wide efforts to improve the quality, accessibility, and effectiveness of funding for women's organizations in crisis and conflict settings. Through this initiative, WPHF supports progress toward a more unified UN approach to quality funding, including by promoting shared principles and guidance, advocating for more standardized and simplified grant-making procedures, supporting the development of more enabling and coherent risk-management approaches, and contributing to UN-wide tracking and learning on funding to women's rights and civil society organizations. These efforts illustrate how WPHF leverages its operational experience to influence improvements in the broader UN funding architecture.²⁴

Box 4

AT A GLANCE: WPHF RESULTS FRAMEWORK (2026-2029)



CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES AND THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Across all results areas, WPHF applies a limited set of cross-cutting lenses to ensure that its funding, learning and advocacy remain responsive to the realities of crisis and conflict settings. Building on learning from the previous Strategic Plan period, **the Fund has narrowed its focus to a small number of priority risks that directly affect women's leadership, participation and protection under the WPS–HA agenda.**

These priorities are informed by global trends and sustained input from women's organizations and are reviewed through ongoing learning, partner feedback and contextual analysis.

During 2026–2029, WPHF will give focused attention to four thematic risk areas that increasingly shape women's engagement in peace and crisis contexts: **climate and environmental insecurity, forced displacement, shrinking civic and information space, and economic and livelihood fragility.** Engagement on these issues will be demand-driven and context-specific, primarily through flexible funding and, where appropriate, through targeted partnerships for joint learning, evidence generation and advocacy, including under initiatives such as Forced Displacement and Women, Peace and Climate Security (see Box 5).

In parallel, the Fund applies a set of core priorities across all contexts to strengthen the quality and sustainability of its support. These include **digital inclusion and safety; organizational and individual safety, well-being and trauma-responsive approaches; and the leadership of adolescent girls and young women through the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda** (see Box 6). An intersectional approach is applied across all priorities, reflecting differentiated risks and barriers linked to age, displacement, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, Indigenous and Afro-descendant identity, rurality and other factors.

WOMEN, PEACE AND CLIMATE SECURITY

Climate and environmental insecurity increasingly shape conflict, displacement and humanitarian need. Women-led and women's rights organizations are responding through prevention, adaptation and recovery initiatives, yet remain under-resourced. The WPHF Women, Peace and Climate Security initiative supports women's leadership on climate-related risks across peace, protection and recovery through flexible funding, learning and analysis, linking local action to broader peace and security agendas. Since 2016, WPHF has supported 37 climate-related projects by 61 women's and young women-led organizations across 19 countries, benefiting more than 36,000 people directly and over 2 million indirectly.

Box 5

YOUNG WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Young women play critical roles in peacebuilding and crisis response but face persistent barriers to resources, protection and influence. WPHF advances the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda by mainstreaming the leadership of young women and adolescent girls across all outcomes, supporting youth-led and youth-focused organizations, and promoting intergenerational approaches. Since 2016, close to 15 per cent of CSOs supported by WPHF have been led by young women or youth-focused organizations.

Box 6



Photo: UN Women

— Strategic Plan Implementation 2026-2029 —

How WPHF will implement the Strategic Plan

This section describes how WPHF will deliver the Strategic Direction through its funding model and investment strategy—translating the Fund’s mandate, results framework and governance arrangements into operational choices across countries, windows and partners. Implementation remains demand-driven and context-specific, and will be shaped by the availability, predictability and flexibility of resources mobilized, within the allocation parameters approved by WPHF Global Steering Committee.

FUNDING MODEL

WPHF delivers the Strategic Plan through its primary function: mobilizing and channeling **quality, flexible and timely resources** to local women’s organizations and WHRDs in crisis and conflict settings. Over 2026–2029, the Fund will consolidate its integrated funding model through its three complementary funding windows, joined-up delivery across its windows, and evidence use to strengthen performance, accountability and influence.

Through this model, the Fund will:

- **Mobilize pooled and predictable resources** from a diverse donor base to sustain accessible, quality funding for local women’s organizations and WHRDs.
- Provide **four complementary types of support**—programmatic, institutional (core) and individual grants—tailored to context and partner needs; as well as direct support to women peacebuilders’ and WHRDs’ advocacy.
- Strengthen **linkages across the three funding windows**, enabling referrals, transitions and shared learning to promote continuity and sustainability.
- Use learning and evidence from the portfolio to **improve design and delivery**, and to inform policy dialogue and system-level influence.
- Apply the WPHF Global Steering Committee approved criteria to guide **country engagement and sequencing**, prioritizing conflict, fragility and crisis contexts where local

women’s organizations are leading peace, humanitarian and recovery efforts.

- Where justified by evidence and demand, expand and/or launch **time-bound thematic initiatives** aligned with the Fund’s mandate and cross-cutting priorities, integrated within the overall funding model.

Who We Fund

WPHF funds **local women-led and women’s rights focused civil society organizations**, including youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as individual WHRDs, working in crisis and conflict-affected contexts. The Fund encourages applications from organizations representing or serving structurally marginalized groups, including displaced, Indigenous, young and LGBTIQ+ people. WPHF aims to expand access for smaller and emerging organizations while maintaining proportionate due diligence and risk management support.

How We Fund

WPHF provides three mutually reinforcing types of funding:

- **Programmatic funding for organizations:** Supports implementation of peacebuilding, humanitarian and recovery initiatives and women’s influence in decision-making processes.
- **Institutional (core) funding for organizations:** Strengthens organizational resilience, governance, sustainability and care systems.
- **Individual support for WHRDs:** Provides rapid, flexible assistance for urgent protection needs and for safe participation in key advocacy, peace and policy spaces.

WPHF provides also direct support to local women peacebuilders and WHRDs from crisis and conflict settings, to enhance and facilitate their participation and advocacy in national, regional and global fora (travel, interpretation, technical support, etc.). As a United Nations pooled fund, WPHF delivers its three funding windows through the combined capacities of the UN system and its civil society partners (see Box 8).

Where We Fund

WPHF operates in conflict, crisis and post-crisis contexts. Country engagement is determined through strategic analysis and approved through WPHF governance mechanisms. The Fund will build on established country presence and partnerships, drawing on contextual knowledge and lessons to strengthen impact, accountability and coherence across portfolios.

Funding Windows and Mechanisms

All WPHF resources are delivered through three interconnected windows. During this Strategic Plan period, **WPHF will strengthen complementarity across windows**—supporting referrals, transitions and shared learning—while preserving the distinct purpose of each mechanism.

REGULAR FUNDING CYCLE (RFC) Sustained support for local women's organizations	RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW (RRW) For women's participation in peace processes and implementation of peace agreements	WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (WHRD) WINDOW For protection, safety, and resilience
The RFC provides programmatic and institutional (core) support to local women's organizations in crisis and conflict contexts through country or regional call for proposals. It is guided by Regional/National Steering Committees, ensuring context-based priorities and participatory decision-making. RFC investments emphasize continuity, organizational resilience and learning, including by strengthening systems that enable partners to sustain operations in volatile environments.	The RRW provides timely, context-driven support for women's participation in peace processes and in the implementation of peace agreements, including in humanitarian and crisis settings. It operates at the global level, with applications submitted on a rolling basis for Direct Support and Short-Term Grants, enabling women's organizations to access logistical/technical support and to influence and monitor peace processes and their implementation. During 2026–2029, the Fund will strengthen RRW pathways to the RFC and WHRD Window, where feasible, to support continuity between rapid participation support, recovery-oriented programming and immediate protection needs.	The WHRD Window provides rapid and sustained support to WHRDs working in high-risk or restrictive environments, through Safety Net Grants and Advocacy Support for safe participation in relevant policy, peace and human rights spaces. It operates at the global level, with applications received on a rolling basis. During 2026–2029, WPHF will strengthen integration across the two modalities and reinforce complementarity with the RRW and relevant protection actors to enhance referral pathways, learning exchange and longer-term resilience support.
<i>By 2029, this mechanism will have deepened WPHF's contribution to sustainable peace by increasing financing for women's organizations as essential local responders - advancing localization, expanding direct and flexible funding, and accelerating implementation of the WPS–HA agenda.</i>	<i>By 2029, the RRW aims to stand as a recognized global model for adaptive, context-driven support that advances international commitments on women's meaningful participation in peace processes and strengthens women's engagement in monitoring and implementation in complex crisis settings.</i>	<i>By 2029, the WHRD Window will evolve into a trusted, survivor-centered and sustainable protection mechanism that links rapid response, collective resilience and advocacy for women defenders worldwide.</i>

DELIVERING THROUGH THE UN SYSTEM: HARNESSING COLLECTIVE STRENGTH

As a United Nations pooled fund, WPHF delivers its three funding windows through the combined capacities of the UN system and its civil society partners. At the country and regional level, the Fund channels funding to local women's organizations **through UN Participating organisations—such as UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM and UNEP**—supporting implementation in crisis, displacement and humanitarian contexts. At country level, NSCs convened under Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators bring UN agencies and civil society together to guide coherent, nationally grounded funding decisions.

Delivery of the Rapid Response Window is reinforced through coordination with UN DPPA on mediation and peace process support, while the WHRD Window works closely with OHCHR and UN human rights mechanisms to uphold survivor-centered protection standards. Across all windows, **WPHF works with civil society organisations and Regional/ INGO programme partners** to reach grassroots women's groups and individuals, ensuring that UN system investments directly support those leading peacebuilding, humanitarian action and human rights defense on the ground.

Box 8

FUNDING VISION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Funding Vision

WPHF exists to mobilize and channel resources to local women's organizations and WHRDs in crisis and conflict settings. As a UN inter-agency pooled fund established to bridge financing silos across WPS-HA, WPHF's ability to deliver impact depends on the **quality, flexibility, and sustainability of funding it raises and manages.**

In volatile and high-risk contexts, women's organizations and defenders require funding that can move quickly, adapt to change, and sustain safety, care and leadership over time. This is only possible through high-quality pooled funding, as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Group and the MPTFO: flexible and predictable contributions, low transaction costs, transparency, and joined-up support across humanitarian, peace and development efforts (see Box 9). The UN System-Wide GEAP reinforces this approach by identifying pooled funding as a preferred modality for gender equality financing.

Over 2026–2029, WPHF will strengthen its role as a high-quality pooled fund by increasing both the **quality and volume** of its resources. Priority will be given to **multi-year and unearmarked contributions**, enabling allocations across funding windows and eligible countries in line with the WPHF Global Steering Committee decisions. These resources underpin WPHF's ability to deliver programmatic grants, institutional (core) support and rapid protection assistance in a timely, risk-informed and sustainable manner.

While earmarked funding may continue to play a role, high levels of earmarking constrain agility and responsiveness. WPHF will therefore pursue a clear direction of travel toward a **greater share of unearmarked and softly earmarked funding** during the Strategic Plan period.

WHAT QUALITY POOLED FUNDING MEANS

According to the UNDG/UNSDG and the MPTF Office, UN inter-agency pooled funds are essential for a UN system “fit for purpose” to deliver the 2030 Agenda. They:

- **“Pool resources from multiple contributors”** into a common fund to support coordinated UN action.
- Provide **“flexible and predictable funding”** that enables “joined-up support across humanitarian, peace and development efforts.”
- **Reduce “transaction costs”** and increase “agility” through shared governance, reporting and results frameworks.
- Promote **“transparency and accountability”** through public financial and results information.
- **“Broaden the donor base,”** strengthen **“risk management,”** and help **“bridge silos”** across the UN system.

Sources: UNDG The Role of UN Pooled Financing Mechanisms to Deliver the 2030 Agenda; MPTF Office What Is a Pooled Fund? UN Pooled Funding: Key Concepts and Terms.²⁵

Box 9

FUNDING FOCUS FOR CSOS AND WHRDS (2026–2029)

As a fund dedicated to financing local women’s rights organizations, peacebuilders and WHRDS, sustained resource mobilization from Member States and private partners remains critical—particularly in light of rising demand and a constrained global funding environment. Indicative investment benchmarks illustrate scale and impact:

- **USD 5,000** can provide immediate protection for a WHRD and her dependents.
- An average grant of **USD 139,000** enables a women organizations to deliver meaningful impact in crisis and conflict settings, often reaching thousands of people directly.

For example, with **USD 30 million annually**, the Fund could support up to **195 organizations and 180 WHRDS**.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

To sustain flexibility, scale and reach, WPHF will pursue a resource mobilization strategy focused on:

- **Diversifying funding streams**, including pooled and aligned financing with UN entities, feminist funds and joint initiatives across the HDP nexus.
- **Broadening the donor base**, deepening engagement with Member States while expanding outreach to private foundations, philanthropies and non-traditional partners.
- **Retaining and reinforcing existing partnerships** through transparent reporting, evidence-based engagement and tailored donor relations.
- **Strengthening partnership management** to enhance coordination, visibility and shared accountability across contributors.

Resource mobilization will remain partnership-based and accountability-driven, including joint appeals, co-financing arrangements and engagement through global platforms such as the WPS–HA Compact.

WPHF’s investment approach is **anchored in complementarity with other financing mechanisms**. Globally, it aligns with funds such as the Peacebuilding Fund and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women; at country level, it complements humanitarian pooled funds and joint UN programmes. Collaboration focuses on reducing fragmentation, strengthening coherence and extending pathways for WPHF-supported partners to access additional financing, protection and programme opportunities—without duplication.

WPHF will use evidence, data and partner experience from across its portfolios to demonstrate results and influence financing norms. Through targeted communications and advocacy, the Fund will strengthen donor confidence, support accountability for gender financing commitments and reinforce the case for accessible, flexible and locally led pooled funding as a core pillar of effective UN action in crisis and conflict settings.

— WPHF: Results and Lessons Learned —

A DECADE OF IMPACT

Since its establishment in 2016, WPHF has evolved into a trusted, mature UN pooled funding mechanism driving measurable results for women's leadership, participation and protection across crisis and conflict settings. As of December 2025, WPHF has supported 1,757 women's organizations and more than 1,130 individual WHRDs across 48 crisis-affected contexts, with 43 per cent of the supported organizations receiving funding from the UN for the first time, directly benefiting more than 5.6 million people—three-quarters of whom are women and girls.

Through flexible, locally led support, WPHF partners have strengthened conflict prevention and mediation, advanced women's participation in peace processes, improved gender-responsive humanitarian action, expanded protection and safety for women and girls and defenders, and reinforced women's leadership in peacebuilding and recovery. Independent evaluation and stakeholder consultations confirm the Fund's distinct niche, catalytic effect and effectiveness in reaching local actors and movements that other parts of the UN system do not systematically support. More details on results and achievements (2016–2025) are presented in Annex B and available in WPHF's annual reports.[*]

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WPHF demonstrably increases funding for local women's rights organizations beyond the ability of any other UN mechanism.

Independent Evaluation of WPHF 2019–2023



Photo: UN Women

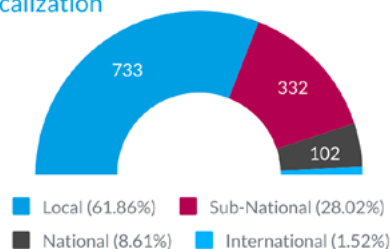
[*] <https://wphfund.org/annualreport2024/>

WPHF in Numbers

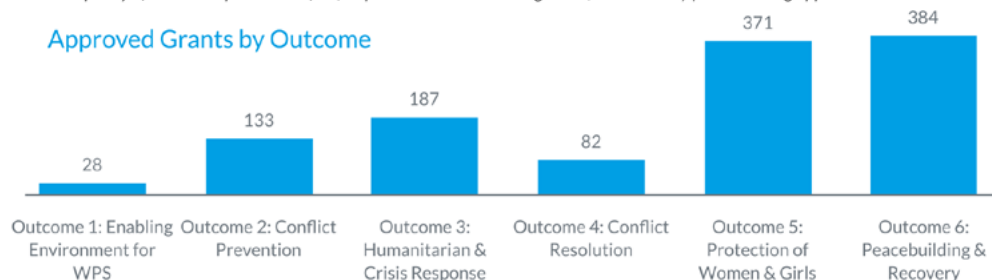
Calls for Proposals	Approved Grants	Number of Countries	CSOs Supported	CSOs financed by UN for the first time	Average size of grants	Types of CSOs	Resources Mobilized
131	1,185	48	1,757	42.7%	\$123,471 USD	87% women's rights and/or led 9% youth focused and/or led	\$260,831,074

The United Nations Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), launched in 2016, mobilizes critical support for local and grassroots civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action. WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism supporting quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

Localization



Approved Grants by Outcome

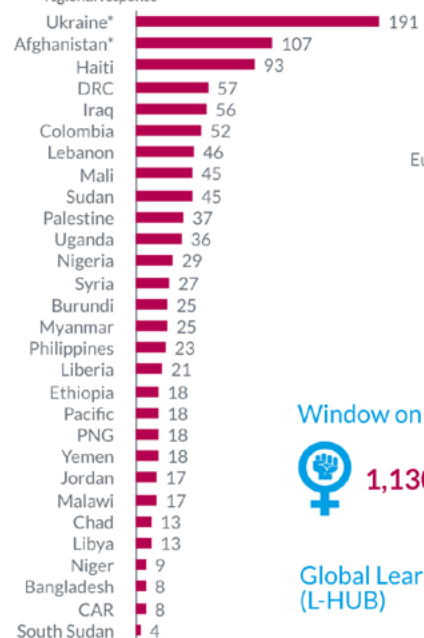


CSOs Led by a Forcibly Displaced Person
21.9% (of 1220 CSOs)

Lead CSOs **20.7%**
Co-Implementing Partners **24.9%**

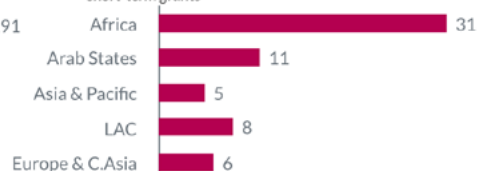
Regular Funding Cycle (1076)

*regional response



Rapid Response Window (61)

short-term grants



COVID-19 ERW (48)



Window on WHRDs



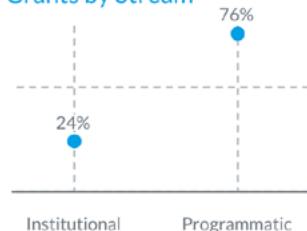
1,130

women human rights defenders supported through advocacy and safety net support in 29 countries

Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)

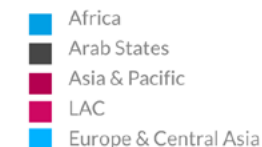
48 peer learning and mentorship grants in 19 countries
73% CSOs who have attended at least one webinar

Grants by Stream



Allocated Funds by Region

\$173.5 million USD



Leaving No One Behind (% of projects)



Improving the situation for women who are forcibly displaced (refugees and IDPs)
38%



Prevention and services for survivors of SGBV
33%



Projects targeting youth and young women's active participation
24%



Improving the lives of women and men living with disabilities
15%



Advocating for the rights of LGBTQI communities
3%



Projects supporting Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities
5%



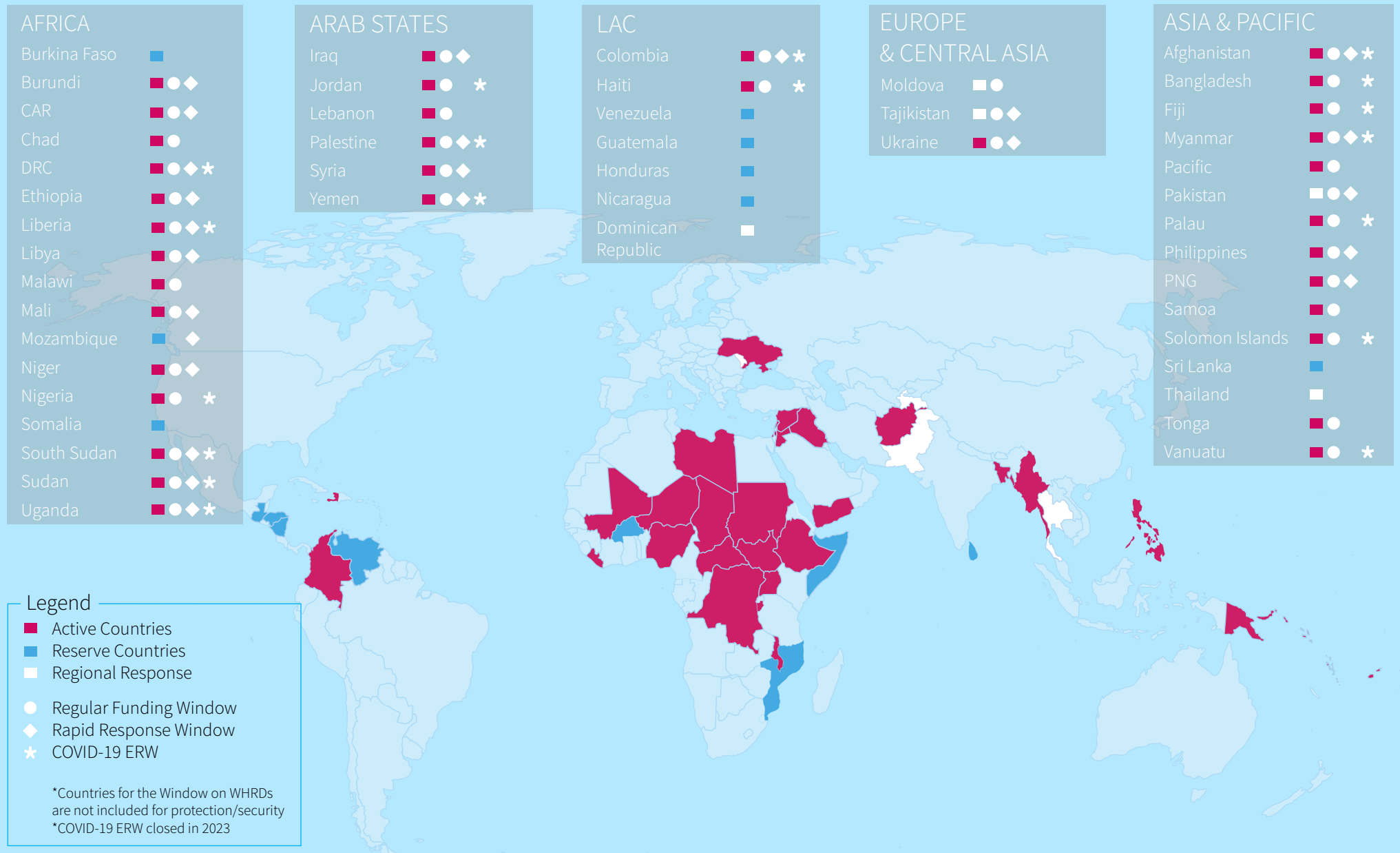
Projects focused on Climate Security
58 (5%)



Beneficiaries (2016-2024)

5.6 million directly served
74% women and girls
59 million indirect beneficiaries

Global Reach - Local Action



Lessons Learned

Since its establishment, WPHF has generated a substantial body of evidence on how women's organizations and WHRDs can be effectively resourced in conflict and crisis settings. This learning goes beyond results to include insights on funding modalities, governance, risk, and system-level coherence. Findings from the independent evaluation (2019–2023), stakeholder consultations and ongoing portfolio learning confirm that the WPHF model fills a persistent gap in the global financing architecture, while also highlighting where greater focus and alignment are required to sustain effectiveness.

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WPHF is a unique fund, not comparable with any other existing fund, and thus highly complementary to the UN ecosystem across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

Independent Evaluation of WPHF 2019–2023

Learning also identifies areas where greater focus, coherence and system-level action are required. The Strategic Plan 2026–2029 reflects design choices informed by this evidence and WPHF's value proposition. A more detailed lessons learned review is included in Annex C.

Strategic lessons informing the 2026–2029 Plan

1. The WPHF model is effective and should be consolidated rather than expanded.
2. Flexible, predictable and institutional funding remains the Fund's most distinctive contribution.
3. Strengthening the enabling environment requires a system-level focus beyond individual grants.
4. The three funding windows respond to real needs, but continuity across them must be strengthened.
5. Shared governance and inclusive decision-making are central to effective localization.
6. Scale, coherence and influence depend on pooled funding, partnerships and enabling system conditions.

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The co-governance model is rare and exemplary, enabling grounded and context-driven decisions.

Independent Evaluation of WPHF 2019–2023



— Governance, Management and Accountability

GOVERNANCE

WPHF operates through a multilevel, inclusive and decentralized governance structure that is central to its effectiveness as a United Nations pooled fund. Combining UN legitimacy with shared decision-making and civil society leadership, this governance model enables the Fund to deliver flexible, accountable and locally responsive financing while meeting UN fiduciary, oversight and risk management standards. It is a defining feature of the WPHF model and a key enabler of its results across crisis and conflict settings.

As one of the UN's fastest-growing pooled funding mechanisms—supporting women's organizations and WHRDs in more than 48 crisis-affected contexts—the WPHF governance system ensures coordinated oversight, shared ownership and accountability at global, country and regional levels.

Global Governance

At the global level, the **Global Steering Committee (GSC)** serves as the Fund's strategic and supervisory body. Bringing together UN entities, donor Member States and civil society organizations with equal voice and voting rights, the GSC embodies WPHF's **founding principle of shared governance between the UN system, donors and women's civil society**. This model—rare among UN pooled funds—ensures that strategic direction, allocation parameters and policy decisions remain grounded in the realities of women-led action in crisis and conflict settings.

Civil society plays a central and equal role within WPHF governance—not only as funding recipients, but as decision-makers and accountability partners. This inclusive governance model reinforces transparency, legitimacy and alignment with the Fund's mandate to resource and strengthen women's leadership in peacebuilding and humanitarian action.

Country and Regional Governance

At country and regional levels, governance and oversight are exercised through **National and Regional Steering Committees (NSCs/RSCs)**, operating under the strategic authority of the GSC. NSCs/RSCs are co-chaired by UN Resident or Humanitarian Coordinators and representatives of women's civil society, and bring together UN entities, donors, civil society and, where appropriate, government counterparts.

These committees provide a structured mechanism through which local women's organizations shape funding priorities, allocation decisions and accountability at national and regional levels. Decisions are context- and demand-driven, informed by gender-sensitive analysis, feedback from women's organizations, and the RC/HC's assessment of needs and risks across the HDP nexus. **NSCs/RSCs operate with decision-making autonomy within the policy and strategic parameters set by the GSC**, ensuring responsiveness while safeguarding independence and transparency.

Fund Administration and Accountability

The administration of the Fund is managed by the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), which serves as Administrative Agent**. As the UN system's central platform for pooled financing, the MPTFO provides a trusted and standardized mechanism for receiving and disbursing donor contributions, ensuring fiduciary integrity, financial oversight, and compliance with UN financial regulations. Through real-time public reporting on the MPTF Gateway, the MPTFO strengthens transparency and accountability to donors, partners and the public.

Implementation is carried out by UN and non-UN partners, including designated PUNOs, INGOs and NGOs. PUNOs channel funding efficiently and safely to women's civil society organizations in line with NSC/RSC and GSC decisions, while INGOs and NGOs serve as key programme partners to

implement the Rapid Response and WHRD funding windows.

UNFPA, UNDP, UNEP, UNHCR and IOM have signed a MOU with MPTF to partner with WPHF as a Participating organization on the ground.

Accountability within WPHF is understood as a shared responsibility between the Fund, its partners and the communities it serves.

It combines fiduciary oversight, risk-informed decision-making and results accountability with responsiveness to local realities and a commitment to do no harm.

WPHF Technical Secretariat

The WPHF Technical Secretariat, **hosted by UN Women** in line with UNDG guidance, provides the strategic, operational and coordination backbone of the Fund on behalf of the UN system (see Box 7). Hosting the Secretariat within UN Women **anchors WPHF firmly within the UN's normative, policy and coordination architecture on gender equality, women's empowerment and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.**

It also enables the Fund to leverage UN Women's system-wide mandate, technical expertise and field presence to support coherence, learning and partnership across HDP settings.

CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE WPHF TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

- Strategic and policy support to the GSC, including alignment with UN pooled-fund standards and WPS–HA commitments.
- Fund and portfolio management, including allocation processes, operational compliance and risk management.
- Programme cycle management, including calls for proposals, appraisal, monitoring, reporting and contributions to evaluations.
- Coordination across funding windows, including referrals, transitions and support to National and Regional Steering Committees.
- Resource mobilization, donor engagement, advocacy and communications; and
- Partnership engagement and capacity strengthening with UN entities, civil society and protection networks.

Box 10

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Mechanisms like WPHF exemplify the UN and UN Women's ability to empower grassroots organisations and amplify women's leadership in peacebuilding and humanitarian contexts

Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), UN Women Assessment, 2024²⁶



ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

In a context of shrinking civic space, growing gender backlash and heightened risks for women's rights actors, WPHF leverages partnerships, advocacy and communications as **strategic tools** to protect and expand the operational space for local women's organizations, amplify women's leadership, and influence policies and financing practices across peace and humanitarian contexts.

Advocacy and Communications as Partnership Tools

Advocacy and communications are core instruments through which WPHF and its partners translate local realities into collective influence and accountability. Over 2026–2029, the Fund will mobilize these tools in three interlinked ways:

1. Collective advocacy for women's leadership and protection

Joint advocacy with partners to advance women's meaningful participation in peace and humanitarian processes, protect WHRDs, and promote quality, flexible and locally led financing for women's organizations.

2. Strategic communications for visibility and influence

Communications that showcase results, evidence and stories of change from WPHF-supported work, strengthening visibility, donor confidence and public accountability, while amplifying the voices of women peacebuilders, humanitarians and defenders.

3. Evidence-informed policy influence

Use of practice-based evidence generated

across WPHF portfolios—through partnerships and learning platforms—to inform UN, donor and partner policies and standards, particularly on risk-tolerant, accessible and locally led funding.

Throughout, WPHF aligns its advocacy and messaging with partners and system-wide initiatives to reinforce shared priorities, avoid duplication and strengthen collective influence.

Added Value and Complementarity

Through its partnership, advocacy and communications approach, WPHF acts as a connector and amplifier within the global WPS–HA ecosystem—linking local women's leadership to global policy, financing and accountability processes. By working in complementarity with others, the Fund strengthens the conditions in which women's organizations can operate, lead and sustain impact across crisis and conflict settings.

By 2029, WPHF aims to have consolidated its position as a trusted, visible, and catalytic partnership mechanism within the UN system and the global WPS–HA ecosystem—bridging local action and global policy, amplifying women's voices, and driving collective accountability for gender-responsive peace and humanitarian action. Through its integrated partnerships, advocacy, and communications, WPHF will continue to demonstrate that sustainable peace can only be achieved when women's leadership, protection, and participation are at the center of crisis response and recovery.



Photo: UN Women

OPERATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The effectiveness of WPHF depends not only on what it funds, but on how it works. **Through its people, systems, and safeguards, the Fund ensures that resources are managed with integrity, efficiency, and care - enabling it to deliver results with speed and accountability in complex environments.** Over the next strategic cycle, WPHF will focus on consolidating and optimizing its operational systems to remain fit for purpose in a rapidly changing global landscape. The Fund will strengthen its organizational capacity, streamline procedures, and reinforce accountability to partners and donors.

People and Organizational Strengthening
WPHF's Secretariat is a multidisciplinary team with expertise in peacebuilding, humanitarian action, gender equality, finance, and partnerships. **The Fund will continue to strengthen its structure and regional coordination capacity to ensure staffing is aligned with evolving operational needs.** Human resource strategies will emphasize diversity, inclusion, professional development, and staff well-being, fostering a culture of integrity, responsiveness, and care.

WPHF will continue to enhance its operational efficiency and financial management systems, ensuring transparency and reliability across all funding windows. Key priorities include:

- **Streamlining procedures** for access, disbursement, and reporting to reduce administrative burden.
- **Strengthening financial planning,** monitoring, and reporting tools to ensure predictability and value for money.
- **Expanding digital systems,** including the Management Information System (MIS), to support data-driven decision-making.
- **Collaborating closely** with PUNOs and the MPTF Office to maintain quality assurance and timely fund administration.
- **Regularly updating the Operations Manual** to reflect evolving standards and best practices.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

WPHF will maintain a robust risk management and safeguarding framework aligned with UN

standards. The framework identifies and mitigates risks related to security, financial integrity, and partner capacity while enabling flexibility in high-risk environments.

Key priorities for 2026–2029 include:

- **Strengthening financial oversight** and due diligence through collaboration with the MPTF Office and PUNOs.
- **Supporting partners to build their own risk management** and safeguarding capacities.
- **Conducting regular risk assessments** and scenario analyses, with transparent reporting to the GSC.
- **Upholding WPHF's Do No Harm commitment** and ensuring that all funded initiatives maintain high standards of safety, ethics, and accountability to affected populations.

Continuous Improvement and Operational Excellence

WPHF will continue to embed continuous improvement across all areas of its operations. Lessons from evaluations, audits, and partner feedback will guide ongoing refinement of systems, workflows, and service standards. The Fund will invest in modernized digital tools and performance monitoring to improve transparency, responsiveness, and coordination across its portfolio.

By 2029, WPHF's operations will exemplify integrity, efficiency, and adaptability—a model of accountable, responsive, and values-driven fund management that strengthens women's organizations and delivers results in the world's most challenging contexts.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING AND REPORTING

Strong operations and demonstration of results require equally strong evidence systems. WPHF ensures that learning and accountability are embedded across all aspects of its work through a **results-based, learning-oriented and utilization-focused approach** to monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Its Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting (MELR) framework strengthens accountability, enables adaptive management, and generates evidence on what works for women's leadership, participation, and protection in crisis and conflict settings.

The WPHF M&E strategy is based on feminist, utilization-focused and learning-driven principles and is designed to inform strategy and decision-making at every level. Data collection is purposeful and streamlined to reduce administrative burden while producing actionable insights that support continuous improvement. All MELR activities are guided by “Do No Harm” principles of safety, ethics, and context sensitivity, ensuring that data collection methods are appropriate to local realities and compliant with the highest standards of security and confidentiality.

The WPHF **Results Framework** underpins performance monitoring at both global and country levels. Together, they track progress across WPHF's strategic outcomes and funding windows while also measuring the quality and flexibility of funding, the reach to first-time grantees within the UN system, and the capacity-strengthening results achieved by PUNOs through the Global Learning Hub (L-HUB). Country-level results frameworks developed by partners feed directly into global reporting, allowing for coherent aggregation and analysis across the Fund.

The Fund's **Management Information System (MIS)** enables real-time monitoring of financial flows, results, and partner data, and other variables. Integrated with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's reporting platform, the system supports regular and accessible dashboards and analytical reports for the GSC and public audiences. It tracks key data on allocations, grants,

beneficiaries, institutional outcomes, and trends in demand and access, supporting greater visibility and transparency across the Fund's operations.

Throughout the 2026–2029 period, WPHF will promote a **culture of reflection and continuous learning**. At least **one independent, external evaluation** during the SP period will assess performance, results, and strategic relevance, complemented by periodic reflection sessions with civil society partners, UN entities, and donors.

Global Learning Hub (L-HUB)

WPHF is committed to supporting capacity strengthening and movement building among women civil society leaders globally. To strengthen the institutional development and resilience of CSOs working in fragile settings, the Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) was established. To date, over 670 CSOs and 12 WHRDs have engaged with L-HUB training initiatives and resources or accessed peer learning grants, which provide vital professional development for staff and enable CSOs to deliver more effectively.

The Global Learning Hub will continue to strengthen partner capacities in key thematic areas, through blended learning modalities, online and in-person, and will oversee and coordinate significant convenings, including the Global Women's Peace Forum and international platforms for CSOs to exchange experiences. New and innovative programs will be implemented through strategic partnerships with UN agencies, Academia, INGOs, and donors, to provide offerings that enhance learning, growth, and organizational sustainability. These will be complemented by targeted grants, peer learning and mentorship schemes that have proven effective in bridging knowledge gaps and building capacity.

Leveraging internal M&E capacity, the L-HUB will support results-based management, adaptive monitoring, and data use in crisis settings. Together, these efforts will ensure that evidence and learning remain at the core of WPHF's strategy—turning data into insight, and insight into impact.

The tracking of progress of the Strategic Plan, particularly against the 2026-2029 five core principles, will draw on existing key performance indicators as well as qualitative information.

WPHF Results Framework, and Indicators

**January 28, 2026
Strategic Plan (2026-2029)**

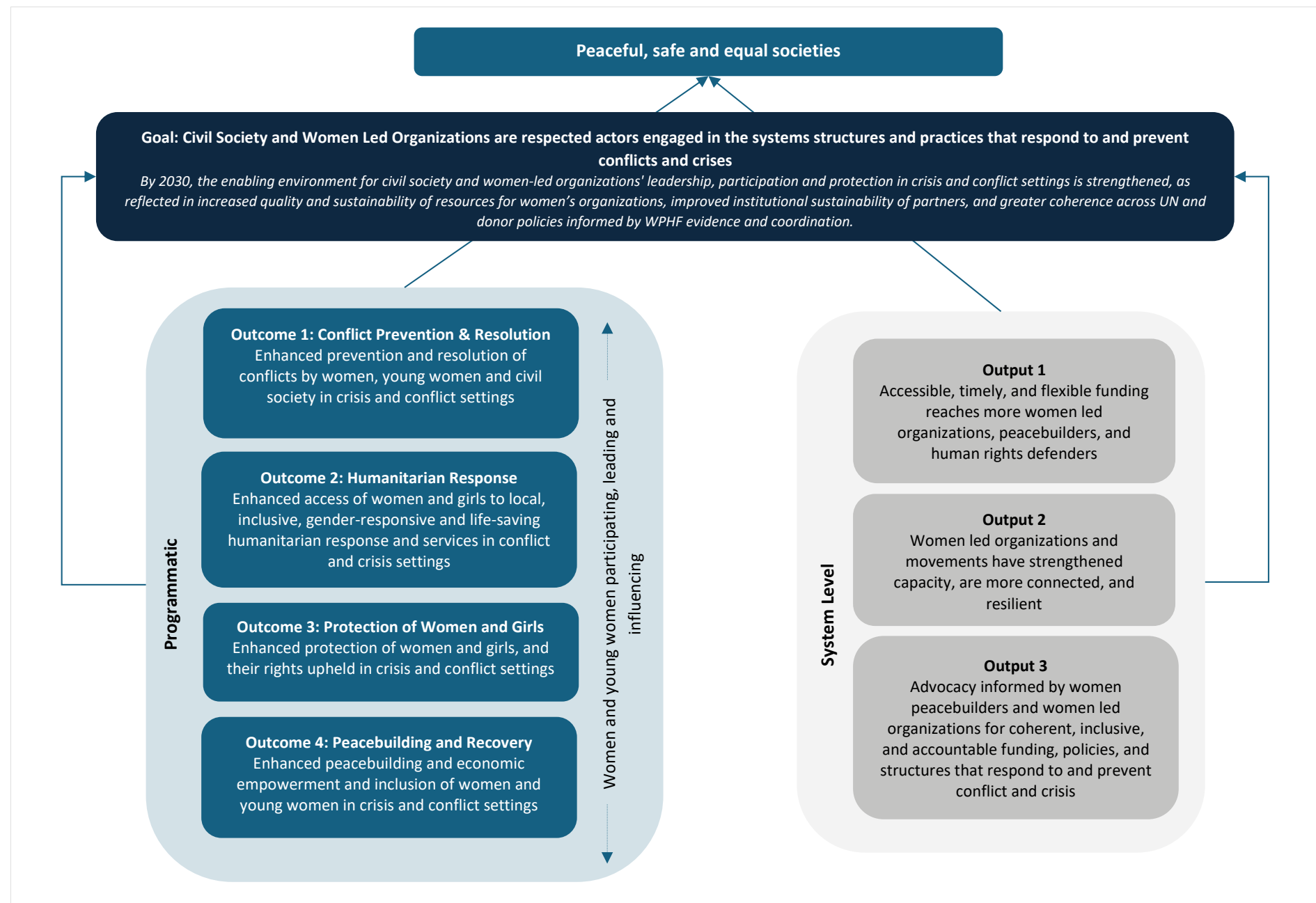


The following document presents the WPHF Results Framework for its four core outcomes which aim to contribute to **more peaceful, safe and equal societies**. The outcomes and indicators were initially developed in 2016 and were updated in July 2020 to reflect more closely the work of CSOs which WPHF supports.

In 2026, WPHF moves into a new strategic phase (2026-2029). The outcomes have been maintained to align with WPHF's mandate, however, as per the 2024 Evaluation and other consultations, two outcomes have been merged (previously enabling environment and conflict resolution). WPHF has maintained the majority of its indicators both at the Fund level (systems level) and programmatic level to ensure continuity and global aggregation.

Indicators at the systems level draw on existing data sources and data already collected by the Fund, while in some cases new indicators are proposed. Indicators at the programmatic level, continue to follow a nested model approach whereby the WPHF Outcome is the impact level for CSOs, and where CSOs select indicators appropriate to their designs. Notable changes include the reporting of CSOs' most significant changes and impact as a result of projects on a more longitudinal basis based on responses from WPHF's annual CSO survey. Individual Impact and Indicator Tip sheets will be updated/developed for programmatic indicators.

Results Framework (2026-2029)



Measurement Framework/Indicators

The following measurement framework outlines indicators, baseline (2016-2025), methodology and source of data for both systems level (fund level) and programmatic level. Baseline values are as of December 31, 2025. While the majority of indicators are quantitative in nature due to the need to aggregate globally, many of these also seek to obtain qualitative information and descriptions to qualify numerical values through annual reporting and/or the WPHF Annual Global CSO Survey.

Indicators at the systems level, draw on existing data sources and data already collected by the Fund, while in some cases new indicators are proposed. Indicators at the programmatic level, continue to follow a nested model approach whereby the WPHF Outcome is the impact level for CSOs, and where CSOs select indicators appropriate to their designs. Notable changes include the reporting of CSOs most significant changes and impact as a result of projects on a more longitudinal basis based on responses from WPHF's annual CSO survey. Individual Impact and Indicator Tip sheets will be updated/developed for programmatic indicators.

System Level

Indicator ¹	Definition (Notes)	Baseline (2016-2025) ²	Targets	Methodology	Source
Outcome: An Enabling Environment for Women's Leadership and Participation <i>By 2030, the enabling environment for civil society and women led org's leadership, participation and protection in crisis and conflict settings is strengthened, as reflected in increased quality and sustainability of resources for women's organizations, improved institutional sustainability of partners, and greater coherence across UN and donor policies informed by WPHF evidence and coordination.</i>					
Amount of resources mobilized by WPHF ³	Financial resources mobilized (transferred) by Member States and private sector to the Fund each year. Funds in the pipeline will be tracked separately but are not included in this value.	256.3 million USD	34 million in 2026 31 million each year after	Data Review	MPTFO
Proportion of funds which are unearmarked and multi-year by donors	The indicator measures the proportion of unearmarked and earmarked funds over the total amount of funds received by Member States. The Strategic Plan aims to reduce the amount of earmarking in line with WPHF as a pooled fund.	18.0% 21.3% (2025)	25% each year 30% in 2029	Data Review	MIS (STELLA2)
Percentage of CSOs that report accessing additional resources beyond their WPHF grant	This indicator uses a longitudinal period and refers to the number of CSOs, over the total responses within the CSO survey, which report 'yes', they have accessed additional funding beyond their grant with WPHF. A new question has been added to the upcoming 2025 survey to capture this. Data for this indicator is also available on an annual basis through annual reports, however, refers to the number of active CSOs each year who have mobilized funds and its amount. The use of percentage is preferred as calculations can only be carried out on total respondents, and census data is not possible.	N/A (new indicator)	N/A	Data Review	Annual CSO Survey Annual CO Reports

¹ Targets for certain indicators are not applicable, and results will be reported on actuals. Detailed definitions for each indicator are found in a separate internal version.

² For the period of 2016-2025, as of December 31, 2025. At the time of writing some 2025 data was still being updated and thus baseline values will be updated during annual reporting. Baseline values are not comparable to annual results for 2026, and further comparative analysis can be carried out year by year.

³ As per MPTFO on January 21, 2026. This includes funds that are pledged or transferred. It does not include funds mobilized, through multi-year, for 2026 and 2027. Additional analysis including single year or multi-year is also tracked, and available during reporting

Indicator ¹	Definition (Notes)	Baseline (2016-2025) ²	Targets	Methodology	Source
Percentage of CSOs that have been financed for the first time through the UN	The number of CSOs, over total available data, under both the regular funding cycle and rapid response window which have been financed through the UN for the first time. The denominator includes both lead CSO and co-implementing partners for available data. For RRW, this data is only collected for the lead CSO. In the narrative, also speak about how first-time financing is because the majority are local/emerging organizations with smaller budgets.	42.8% 40.0% (2025)	45%-50%	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Level of system-wide coherence	OECD-DAC criteria of coherence	N/A (new indicator)	High level of coherence	Document Review	WPHF Evaluation 2028/2029

Indicator	Baseline (2016-2025) ⁴	Methodology	Source
Output 1: Accessible, timely, and flexible funding⁵ reaches more women led organizations, peacebuilders, and human rights defenders			
Degree to which CSOs report flexibility by WPHF/UN during implementation in crisis and conflict settings	N/A (new indicator)	Data Review	Annual CSO Survey
Proportion of emergency track calls for proposals to respond to emerging and conflicts	19 (17.6%) : 89 (82.4%), or 1 EMR : 1.46 REG	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Amount of funds allocated to CSOs and WHRDs (by outcome) ⁶	190.5 million USD	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Number of CSOs and WHRDs supported (by country, funding window, nature of organization, and coverage of organization) ⁷	1,860 (unique)	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Percentage of proposals selected based on available funding from CSOs and WHRDs	31.0%	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Proportion of institutional funding provided for the sustainability and strengthening of CSOs (over total grants)	24.1% or 1 Institutional : 3.16 programmatic	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Output 2: Women led organizations and movements have strengthened capacity, are more connected, and resilient			
Percentage of CSOs with increased organizational and financial capacity to implement initiatives in WPS-HA	N/A (new indicator)	Data Review	CS Recipients OCAT
Number of peer learning grants approved (by region) ⁸	48 grants (84 CSOs)	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Percentage of CSOs that have established new collaborations or partnerships ⁹	50.3%	Data Review	Annual CSO Survey
Percentage of WPHF partners that report using new knowledge and skills acquired from WPHF capacity building initiatives	82.8% ¹⁰	Data Review	Annual CSO Survey

⁴ For the period of 2016-2025, as of December 31, 2025. At the time of writing some 2025 data was still being updated and thus baseline values will be updated during annual reporting. Baseline values are not comparable to annual results for 2026, and further comparative analysis can be carried out year by year.

⁵ For the measurement of flexible funding, the WPHF Annual CSO survey contains questions related to funding experience, including flexibility, constraints/barriers, etc. This will be used to also report against this output.

⁶ For distribution of outcomes and by country, see WPHF's Management Information System (STELLA). Allocation includes programmable costs, direct support costs and funds for capacity strengthening.

⁷ Distribution by outcome, country and other variables (disaggregation) are found in the WPHF Management Information System (STELLA).

⁸ Distribution by region is found in the WPHF Management Information System (STELLA) and will be reported on

⁹ Collection of the indicator is currently through Global L-HUB based on partnerships established as a result of participating in the L-HUB initiatives. Collection for this indicator will also be explored through the global annual CSO survey. The current baseline value only reflects the results from 2024.

¹⁰ 2022-2025

Indicator	Baseline (2016-2025) ⁴	Methodology	Source
Number of research, advocacy briefs or evidence products on WPS-HA used at global events and dialogues	N/A (new indicator)	Document Review	Knowledge Products MIS (STELLA)
<i>Output 3: Advocacy informed by women peacebuilders and women led organizations for coherent, inclusive, and accountable funding, policies, and structures that respond to and prevent conflict and crisis</i>			
Number of strategic global events, roundtables and campaigns in which WPHF advocates on WPS-HA and financing	89 (2022-2024)	Data/ Document Review	Emails, Invitations, MIS (STELLA)
Number/Types of coordination efforts conducted by WPHF with other UN entities and mechanisms ¹¹	N/A (new indicator)	Document Review	Emails, Invitations, Reports, WPHF Evaluation
Types of opportunities facilitated by WPHF for CSO partners to access opportunities to advocate for increased financing and share best practices	N/A (new indicator)	Data Review	MIS (STELLA)
Number of citations and references to WPHF in global reports, research and advocacy pieces	Approximately 32 (2021- 2025)	Document/ Content Review	Research, reports, citations, etc. MIS (STELLA)

¹¹ Inclusive of management entities, member states in global steering committee, RC/HC mechanisms, etc.

Programmatic Level

Programmatic indicators are similar since 2020 to ensure continuity and global aggregation. New indicators added/edited in the current Strategic Plan (2026-2029) are indicated by an asterisk (*). Please refer to the WPHF Impact and Indicator Tip Sheets for detailed definitions on the four outcomes which are provided to CSOs during each call for proposal.

- Regular Funding Cycle
- Rapid Response Window
- Window for Women Human Rights Defenders

Impact: Contribute to more peaceful, safe and equal societies		
WPHF WPS and Humanitarian Index		
<i>Index of internationally recognized WPS-HA indicators across three domains of peace, security and humanitarian action, gender equality and space for women's civil society organizations contributing to peaceful and gender equal societies and generated by region and domain. Individual country rankings are not published externally; results are published only by region (every 2-3 years). The Index is generated internally by the M&E and Reporting Specialist.</i>		

All Projects		
The most significant change reported by CSOs in advancing the WPS-HA agenda ^{12*}	Annual CSO Global Survey	● ●
Number of people directly ¹³ benefiting from the response (by sex, age group, or other variables) ¹⁴	Annually-CO Reports	● ● ●
Number of people indirectly ¹⁵ benefiting from the response	Annually-CO Reports	

Institutional Funding	
<i>Institutional funding is allocated to a specific WPHF outcome depending on the CfP and mandate/mission of organization</i>	
1.1 Average number of months organization can be sustained because of institutional funding in crisis and conflict settings	● ●
1.2 Number of staff retained as a result of institutional funding	
1.3 Number of CSOs that develop/update risk management, contingency plans or strategies to operate in crisis and conflict settings	
1.4 Number/Types of organizational tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations	

Outcome 1: Conflict Prevention and Resolution ¹⁶	
<i>Enhanced prevention and resolution of conflicts by women, young women and civil society in crisis and conflict settings</i>	
1.1 Number/percentage of women actively contributing to, influencing or participating in conflict prevention and resolution processes, mechanisms or response	●
1.2 Number of supported CSOs involved in NAP1325 design, budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation	●

¹² Qualitative analysis based on new question in CSO Global Survey in 2026

¹³ Direct beneficiaries refer to the individuals who benefit directly from the intervention, or who are the direct recipients of programming or services and are explicitly stated in the output and outcome statements of the results framework. Direct beneficiaries and the target groups are the same. For grantees implementing projects with a focus on forced displacement, disaggregation by type of displacement is required.

¹⁴ Other variables such as PWDs, survivors of violence, people who are forcibly displaced, child mothers, widows, elderly, indigenous/ethnic populations and female sex workers, etc. are calculated based on extrapolation methods of reported proportions of targeted beneficiaries reported on an annual basis.

¹⁵ Indirect beneficiaries refer to other individuals, groups or organizations who are not the direct target of interventions as outlined in the results framework, but could be other members of the community, or family members who benefit positively from interventions of direct beneficiary participation. Often the calculation of indirect beneficiaries is done by estimating a 'spillover' effect through the average family size, however, this also creates the practice of double counting. More conservative average size will be promoted.

¹⁶ Please note that while the majority of indicators are quantitative in nature due to the need to aggregate globally, many of these also seek to obtain qualitative information and descriptions to qualify numerical values through annual reporting.

Outcome 1: Conflict Prevention and Resolution¹⁶	
<i>Enhanced prevention and resolution of conflicts by women, young women and civil society in crisis and conflict settings</i>	
1.3 Number of conflicts that are averted, resolved or referred	●
1.4 Number of countries in which CSOs report improved social cohesion between displaced and host communities*	●
1.5 Number and percentage of supported CSOs involved in NAP1325 design, budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation	●
1.6 Number of peace processes and peace agreements where women peacebuilders have actively contributed to or influenced*	●
1.7 Number of women who actively contribute to peace processes or the implementation of peace agreements (disaggregated by age group, type of process, track)	●
1.8 Evidence of women's influence on peace efforts and/or peace agreements	●
Outcome 2: Humanitarian Response	
<i>Enhanced access of women and girls to local, inclusive, gender-responsive and life-saving humanitarian response and services in conflict and crisis settings</i>	
2.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian response	●
2.2 Number of CSOs that have provided gender-responsive humanitarian assistance and response (and type of assistance)	●
2.3 Number of women and their families that have accessed humanitarian assistance and response	●
Outcome 3. Protection of Women and Girls	
<i>Enhanced protection of women and girls, and their rights upheld in crisis and conflict settings</i>	
3.1 Number of CSOs that are coordinating efforts in the prevention, response and monitoring of conflict and crisis related violence and other harmful practices	●
3.2 Number of women who have accessed key protection services (disaggregated by type [medical, psychosocial, legal])	●
3.3 Number of survivors of violence who report increased resilience and well-being (disaggregated by age group)*	●
3.4 Number of WHRDs supported through flexible funding (by stream, region and age group)	●
3.5 Proportion of WHRDs that can continue their activism as a result of safety-nets (by region and age group) ¹⁷	●
3.6 Proportion of WHRDs that report a higher level of visibility of human rights issues (by region and age group)*	●
Outcome 4. Peacebuilding and Recovery	
<i>Enhanced peacebuilding and economic empowerment and inclusion of women and young women in crisis and conflict settings</i>	
4.1 Number of women and young women with increased agency as a result of productive economic resources in peacebuilding and recovery contexts	●
4.2 Number of women and young women who have established new businesses and income-generating activities in peacebuilding and recovery contexts	●
4.3 Number of CSOs that have contributed to or influenced gender responsive post-conflict and crisis governance, peacebuilding and recovery processes (by country)*	●
4.4 Types of social cohesion interventions that build community trust and collaboration as a result of peacebuilding and recovery processes*	●
4.5 Number of women participating in political and decision-making processes in peacebuilding and recovery settings	●

¹⁷ 3.5 and 3.6 are collected through the WPHF-WHRD Annual WHRD Impact Survey

Link between WPHF and Grantees' Results Framework

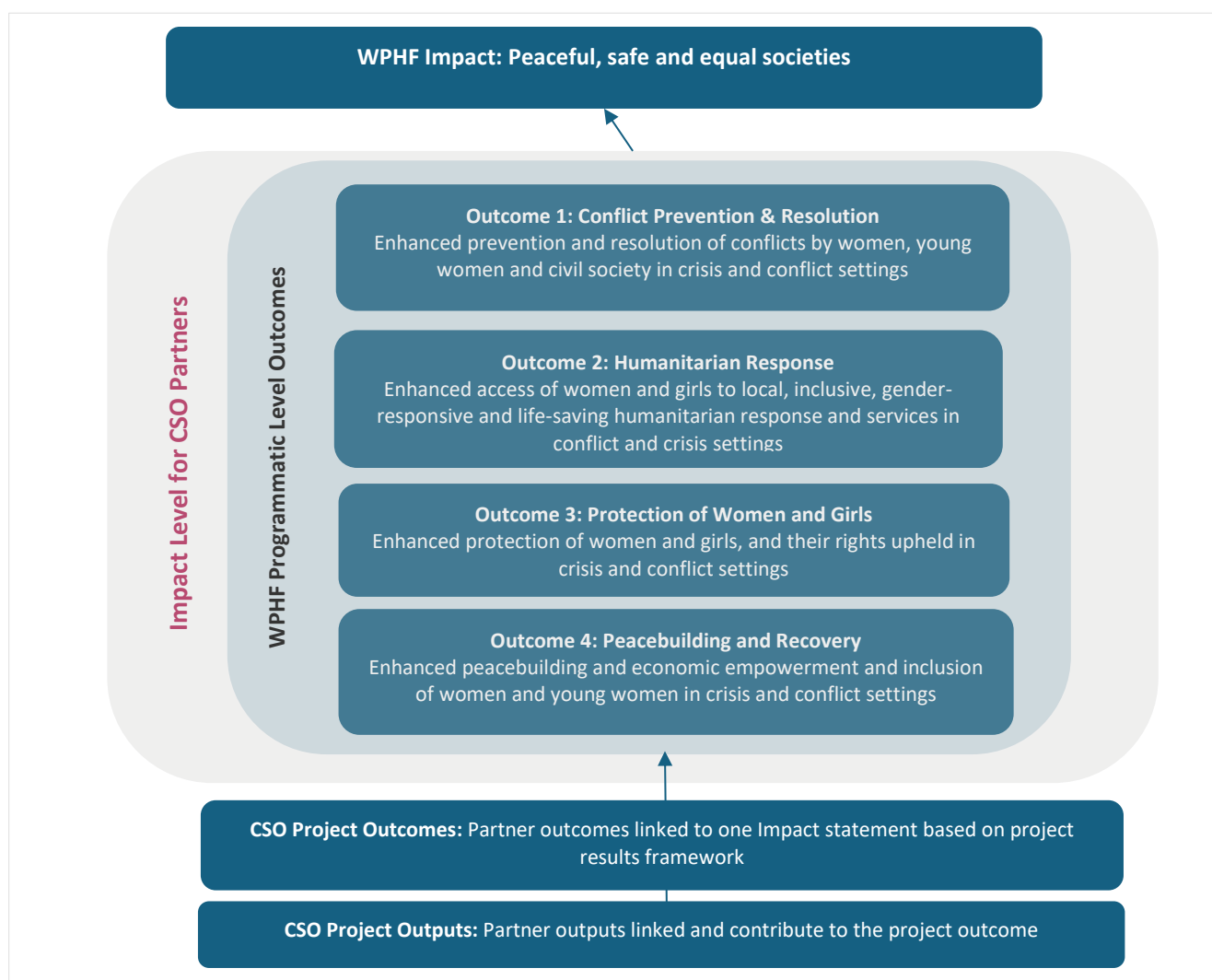
WPHF uses a **nested model** approach whereby each new partner project will use one (1) of the WPHF Outcomes as their Impact Level. This is aligned with the call for proposals and results framework. The impact level statements are static and do not change.

Selected partners develop their own outcomes which contribute to the achievement of the Impact area. WPHF promotes the use of only one outcome level given the size and scope of projects. For each outcome, a set of outputs are developed by CSO partners, as well as activities and process level indicators.

In addition, a core set of global and standardized WPHF outcome (CSO Impact) indicators have been developed for each WPHF impact stream. By selecting from this list, the WPHF will be able to articulate the consolidated efforts by CSOs and the impact that they are achieving. A set of optional indicators has also been provided to help guide CSOs in the development of their results framework.

A separate Monitoring and Evaluation Guide was developed in 2021 and will be updated in 2026, as well as a series of Impact and Indicator Tip Sheets for each Outcome providing technical guidance on definitions, methodologies and tools. This is circulated with each new call for proposals with selected partners.

Nested Model (WPHF Outcomes to CSO Partner Outcomes)



Endnotes

- 1_Condensed Version (23-12-2025) Revised version (22 – 01 – 2026)
- 2_See - Davies, S., Pettersson, T., Sollenberg, M. & Öberg, M. (2025). Organized violence 1989-2024, and the challenges of identifying civilian victims. Journal of Peace Research, 62(4). Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP). Available at: https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/replication_data/2024_ucdp-prio-acd-241.pdf and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Transnational Repression: Global Threats to Human Rights, United Nations, Geneva, 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/transnational-repression-1-en.pdf>
- 3_Rustad, S. A. (2025). Conflict Trends: A Global Overview, 1946-2024. Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). Available at: <https://www.prio.org/publications/14453>
- 4_United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2024. Geneva: UNHCR, 2025. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024>; and Food Security Information Network (FSIN). Global Report on Food Crises 2025. Rome: FSIN, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2025. Available at: <https://www.fsinplatform.org/report/global-report-food-crises-202>
- 5_United Nations. Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (S/2025/389). New York: United Nations, 29 March 2025. Available at: <https://documents.un.org/en/S/2025/389> and United Nations. Report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security (S/2025/556). New York: United Nations, 5 September 2025. Available at: <https://documents.un.org/en/S/2025/556>
- 6_United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). No Escape: The Frontlines of Climate Change, Conflict and Forced Displacement. Geneva: UNHCR, 2024. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/publications/no-escape-frontlines-climate-change-conflict-and-forced-displacement>
- 7_United Nations. Report of the Secretary-General on Cooperation with the United Nations, Its Representatives and Mechanisms in the Field of Human Rights (A/HRC/60/62). New York: United Nations, 9 September 2024; and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Women's Rights in Review: 30 Years after Beijing. New York: UN Women, 2025. Available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/03/womens-rights-in-review-30-years-after-beijing>
- 8_Krause, J., Krause, W. and Bränfors, P., "Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace," International Interactions, Vol. 44, No. 6 (2018), pp. 985–1016; United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security (S/2025/556); UN Women, DPPA and UNDP, Gendered Pathways to Peace: Building Inclusive Negotiations (2022); and EIP, Breaking Barriers, Making Peace: Global Report on Women's Participation in Peace Processes (2025).
- 9_European Institute of Peace (EIP). Breaking Barriers, Making Peace: Global Report on Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes. Brussels: European Institute of Peace, September 2025. Available at: https://www.eip.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/EIP_BREAKING-BARRIERS-MAKING-PEACE-Global-Report_12.9.2025_web.pdf and United Nations. Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly: Report of the Secretary-General (Advance Unedited Version). New York: United Nations, 17 December 2024, Available at: https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/e-cn.6-2025-3_sg-report-on-beijing30-advance-unedited-version-en.pdf; and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action (2024–2028). Geneva: IASC, 2024.
- 10_Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (2024). Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Available at: <https://wphfund.org/wphf-global-cso-survey-findings-on-women-peace-and-security-and-humanitarian-action/>
- 11_Moreover, the Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact (launched 2021) established a multi-stakeholder accountability framework through which governments, UN entities, regional organizations and civil society report annually on actions to advance women's participation, protection and financing across both peace and humanitarian action.
- 12_UN pooled funding refers to financing mechanisms where contributions from multiple donors are co-mingled (i.e., not earmarked to any one UN entity, project, or programme) and managed collectively by a UN Administrative Agent or designated Secretariat on behalf of the UN system. These mechanisms operate under a joint governance framework, with resources allocated to achieve commonly agreed results. See: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/UNDG-Paper-on-Pooled-Financing-for-Agenda-2030.pdf> <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/UNDG-Paper-on-Pooled-Financing-for-Agenda-2030.pdf>
- 13_UN Women. (2024). Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP): Detailed Framework. New York: UN Women. Retrieved from https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/geap_detailed_final.pdf https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/geap_detailed_final.pdf (accessed May 27, 2025).
- 14_United Nations. UN@80 Initiative – Shifting Paradigms: A New Agenda for Peace and Security. New York: United Nations, 2025. Available at: <https://www.un.org/un80-initiative/en/shifting-paradigms-1> <https://www.un.org/un80-initiative/en/shifting-paradigms-1>
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Available at: https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/2504_fs_milex_2024.pdf and OECD, "Cuts in Official Development Assistance: OECD Projections for 2025 and the Near Term." OECD Policy Briefs (2025). https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/cuts-in-official-development-assistance_8c530629-en/full-report.html

17_United Nations Security Council. Report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security (S/2025/556). New York: United Nations, 2025. Available at: <https://docs.un.org/en/S/2025/556>

18_United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). At a Breaking Point: The Impact of Foreign Aid Cuts on Women's Organizations in Humanitarian Crises Worldwide. Bangkok: UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, May 2025. Available at: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/at-a-breaking-point-the-impact-of-foreign-aid-cuts-on-womens-organizations-in-humanitarian-crises-worldwide-en.pdf>

19_Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (2024). Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Available at: <https://wphfund.org/wphf-global-cso-survey-findings-on-women-peace-and-security-and-humanitarian-action/>

20_Political Declaration on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing+30), adopted at the 69th Commission on the Status of Women, E/CN.6/2025/L.1 (March 6, 2025). <https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.6/2025/L.1>; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Letter from the Emergency Relief Coordinator to IASC Principals on the Humanitarian Reset, 11 March 2025. Available at: <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/humanitarian-reset-erc-letter-iasc-principals-11-march-2025>; and United Nations. 2025 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture: Advancing Coherence, Financing and National Ownership. New York: United Nations, 2025. Available at: <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/2025-review-peacebuilding-architecture>

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