**Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund**

**Call for Proposal- Humanitarian response**

***Call for proposals Regular Funding Cycle***

***Call Opens: 20 January 2022***

***Deadline for Submissions: 4 April 2022 (10 weeks)***

1. **About the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, the WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women’s participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF breaks silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women’s engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of crisis, peace and security, and development. It addresses structural funding gaps for women’s participation in key phases of crisis, peace and security, and development by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance. Notably, it will ensure a timely investment in conflict prevention after receipt of early warning signals from women and will accelerate the dispersal of development assistance after successful peace negotiations. It recognizes that peace cannot be created nor sustained without investment in civil society organizations. Therefore, the WPHF invests in strengthening civil society organizations, particularly in grassroots women’s organizations, with the required financial and technical support.

The overall goal of the WPHF’s theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 200 civil society organizations and is present in 20 countries or group of countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Funding Board at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently European Union (EU), Germany, Canada and Austria), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network for women’s rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Action Aid and Women’s Refugee Commission.

UN Women acts as the WPHF’s Technical Secretariat at the global level. UN Women also acts as Management Entity for civil society organizations where UN Women has a country presence.

1. **Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals**

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in **IRAQ**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

Armed conflicts, economic sanctions and displacement drive humanitarian needs in Iraq. Over 4.1 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance, out of which 2.4 million people are in acute need of assistance[[1]](#footnote-1). There are currently about 1.2 million internally displaced people in Iraq and more than half of them have been displaced for more than four years[[2]](#footnote-2). Other humanitarian challenges include the delayed implementation of recovery and resilience activities to address the socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly for women and girls. Iraq also remains prone to environmental challenges and natural hazards.

The Covid-19 pandemic further increased humanitarian needs and required more remote mechanisms of coordination and implementation. Despite efforts to ensure humanitarian activities continue uninterrupted during the pandemic, concerns have been raised around reduced services for vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. Iraqi women comprise half of the 39 million population and head one in ten Iraqi households3. Data shows that nearly 2 million women in Iraq are either widowed or divorced, a situation that increases their burden of care and their risk for economic hardship.

Despite the existence of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, women and girls remain among the most vulnerable populations in Iraq. They are targets of sexual and gender-based violence, have limited access to public spaces and economic opportunities, and are excluded from decision-making and peacebuilding efforts. As a result of international and local efforts to advance the WPS agenda, a second Iraqi National Action Plan on 1325 was adopted in 2020.

The focus of this WPHF call for proposals will be on **enhancing inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming**.Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and girls multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, HIV status, among others, which is in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The proposal submitted must be aligned to the impact statements of the respective WPHF funding stream that the organization chooses to apply to:

* **Programmatic funding stream** (WPHF impact area 3) to enhance inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.

Please read through theWPHF Tip Sheets for guidance on the result framework for Impact area 3 in Section 8 below.

1. **Duration of Grants**

All civil society organizations can apply for a maximum **of 1-year grants**.

1. **Location**

Projects can be implemented in **any geographical location** in Iraq; however, priority will be given to areas in need of humanitarian response.

1. **Funding streams and amounts**

The WPHF will grant around **1.3 million USD over one year** to IRAQ. The Call for proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women’s organizations in fragile settings, with the below funding stream:

**Funding stream 1: Programmatic funding: from 150,000 USD to 200,000 USD**

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the WPHF Impact Area 3.

**Please note: All selected grantees must ensure that there is continuous coordination with the Department of Women empowerment in their respective governorates.**

1. **Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process**

**6.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?**

International[[3]](#footnote-3), national and local women- led, women’s rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, are eligible to apply. Grassroots and local community-based organizations are particularly encouraged to apply. Joint projects are allowed and encouraged.

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

“Women-led organization” must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

To be considered “Youth rights”, the organization’s official mission/vision must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing the rights of youth.

“Youth-led organization” must be headed by a youth as defined by the country/organization

Other CSOs must demonstrate experience in addressing violence against women and girls, gender inequalities and/or women’s rights.

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

Organizations proposing a multi-country intervention;

Organizations proposing an intervention in a country different from the eligible country;

Lead-organizations that are not legally registered in the country/territory of implementation;

Government agencies or institutions;

UN agencies or UN Country Teams;

Private individuals;

Private sector entities;

Universities and Education institutions

**6.2. Do I need to be a legally registered entity/organization to apply?**The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation. Organizations that are not registered in the country of implementation may apply in partnership with a locally registered implementing partner as the lead applicant.

A proof of legal registration (or legal status) is a required attachment for any grant application. Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

Only the lead partner has to provide their legal registration. Implementing partners that are part of a joint proposal, do not have to be legally registered but have to be civil society organizations (non-profit and non-governmental).

**6.3. Can my project cover several countries?**

No, projects can only be implemented in one single country. Multi-country proposals are not eligible.

**6.4. May I submit more than one application?**No, organizations (either as lead or implementing partner) may not submit more than one application per funding stream. If an organization appears in more than one application in the same funding stream, only one project may be considered as eligible.

**6.5. Can more organizations apply jointly?**  
Yes, joint projects are encouraged. For joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria.

For joint projects, the roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application in the appropriate section in the proposal template. Proposals must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

**6.6. May I apply for funding for an ongoing initiative or project?**

Yes, the WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects. However, the specific value added of the contribution should be clearly outlined.

**6.7. What are the requirements for project design?**

For this Call for Proposal, the project(s) must contribute to the following WPHF Impact area 3 for programmatic funding.

***Impact area 3 for Programmatic Funding: Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.***

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one):

* 3.1. Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response
* 3.2. Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, frameworks and programming

**Please note that all projects are required to Include the following reach indicators:**

* *Number of people directly benefiting from the response (by sex, age group, or other variables)*
* *Number of people indirectly benefiting from the response*
* *AND develop 1-2 additional indicators for each outcome that captures the change of your project*

Please refer to the indicator tip sheets in Section 8 for additional information.

**6.8. Must applicants contribute to the project budget?**

Civil society organizations are not required to contribute to the budget.

**6.9 Where do we obtain more information about the call?**

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on **Thursday** **27 January 2022** online by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: [musab.othman@unwomen.org](mailto:musab.othman@unwomen.org) by **24 January 2022.**

**7. Where, when and how to apply for the Call for Proposals?**

* The deadline for submission of proposals is **Monday 4 April 2022.** Applications received after that date will not be considered.
* Applications are accepted in **English and Arabic.** Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
* You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
* Application packages should be emailed to: [iraq@unwomen.org](mailto:iraq@unwomen.org)
* Applications can be submitted in .**doc, .docx, or .pdf** format. No other formats will be accepted. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format. All documents should be submitted together as a package.
* The UN Women Country Office will aim to acknowledge receipt of application within three days of receipt. Please DO NOT resend your application unless you do not receive a confirm of receipt within three days.
* The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please note, that questions contained in this guidance note will be responded to. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions. In addition, an **information session** for prospective applicants online will be organized on **Thursday** **27 January 2022** **at 11:00 am** local time. If you would like to participate, please register here: [musab.othman@unwomen.org](mailto:musab.othman@unwomen.org)

**7.1. Required Components of the Application Package**

Applicants are required to use the WPHF templates provided. Please note, incomplete applications or use of different templates will not be considered.

* WPHF Proposal Template (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
* Results Framework (Proposal Template Annex: A)
* Project Budget (Proposal Template Annex: B)

AND

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

**DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.**

**7.2. Evaluation Criteria**As you write your application, please keep in mind that proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

**Stream 1: Programmatic Funding**

Project design and objectives:

* Alignment with the WPHF’s theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific impact in its results framework.
* Definition of clear objectives, results, and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.
* Ensuring meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, among others which are in clear alignment with Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.
* Partnership and capacity development of local women’s organizations and/or a clear capacity building plan for CSO partners in place to deliver programme results. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
* Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

* Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
* Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame.
* Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

Budget:

* The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.
* The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%).

Sustainability and national ownership:

* Promotion of national and local ownership in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players.
* Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.

**8. Useful Resources**

* The WPHF’s website [www.wphfund.org](http://www.wphfund.org/)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet for Impact Area 3 (Programmatic Funding)-English](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-3_Humanitarian_ENG-FINAL_09112020.pdf)
* [Indicator Tip Sheet for Impact Area 3 (Programmatic Funding)-Arabic](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Indicator-Tip-Sheet_Impact-3_Humanitarian_AR_11082021.pdf)
* The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s [Operations Manual](https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPHF-Operations-Manual_Dec2020_FINAL-1.pdf)
* The WPHF’s page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office’s Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
* The WPHF’s Twitter account: [@wphfund](https://twitter.com/AcceleratePeace)
* M&E and Results Based Management Terms. The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation available in English, French and Spanish. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf>
* M&E Standards and Guidelines. The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluations, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian <http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22>

1. OCHAR, 2021. Iraq. Available online: <https://www.unocha.org/iraq> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. OCHAR, 2021. Iraq. Available online: <https://www.unocha.org/iraq> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Only if registered at the national level. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)