

Call for Proposals LEBANON

Call Opens:	26 March 2024
Deadline for Submissions:	14 May 2024
Send Application package to:	WPHFapplications@unwomen.org

1. Objectives and Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to provide grants to local civil society organizations, particularly local women's rights organizations, in Lebanon focused on a) the protection of women and girls, and b) women's socio-economic recovery and (political) participation of women in conflict and humanitarian contexts. This call for proposals also provides an opportunity for civil society organizations working on the implementation of commitments related to Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPSHA) in Lebanon to apply for institutional funding that will be used to strengthen and sustain their capacities.

Initiatives should aim to reach women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as marginalized women and girls due to geography, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, migratory status, HIV status, among others in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principle of "leaving no one behind".

2. Country Context Linked to Call for Proposals

Lebanon continues to face a profound crisis with overlapping economic, political, and social instabilities that exacerbate long-term vulnerabilities. In early July 2022, the World Bank downgraded Lebanon to a lower-middle-income country. Following a cumulative four-year contraction of 37.2 percent of Lebanon's Gross Domestic Product (2018–2021), real GDP is estimated to have declined by 2.6 percent in 2022. As a result, Lebanon's financial and humanitarian situation ranks among the most severe crises in the world¹.

Political deadlock is another manifestation of the current crisis that has nearly paralyzed public institutions. In 2023, the local municipal elections were postponed until May 2024, which hampered women's political participation and access to decision-making positions. However, it also provided an opportunity to better strategize and lobby for reforms to enhance women's chances to participate and win in the up-coming municipal elections.

The crisis in Lebanon is further compounded by the recurring cross-border hostilities along the Blue Line especially in the southern region², as well as concerns in the Lebanese population over hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world.

¹ 8 World Bank "Lebanon Economic Monitor, Spring 2023", accessed at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/lebanon-economic-monitor-spring-2023-the-normalization-of-crisis-is-no-road-for-stabilization>

² Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon, 10 November 2023.

In 2023, Lebanon ranked 135 out of a 163 countries on the [Global Peace Index](#), with a score of 2.581³, indicating a low level of peace. As a result, protection has deteriorated – including from violence against women and girls – and contributed to urgent immediate and longer-term humanitarian needs with significant consequences on the well-being of women, children, and marginalized groups such as SOGIESC persons, migrants, people living with disabilities, and women and girls displaced due to the conflict in south Lebanon⁴.

3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in any location in Lebanon.

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

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

4. Eligibility

4.1. Who can apply and receive funding?

National, regional or local/grassroots women or young women led, women’s rights, youth rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women, young women and girls, are eligible to apply. Organizations who are led by women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are encouraged to apply, including displaced persons, LGBTQI+, disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

³ [GPI-2023-Web.pdf \(visionofhumanity.org\)](#)

⁴ UN Women, Gender Alert on the conflict in South Lebanon, December 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Type of Funding Available

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

<p>Institutional Funding: (USD \$2,500 - \$30,000) Aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of women’s rights/led organizations working on gender specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity. The purpose of this funding stream <u>IS NOT</u> to finance programmatic activities. Organizations who apply for institutional funding, should have a mandate aligned to the objectives of the call for proposal.</p>	<p>AND/ OR</p>	<p>Programmatic Funding: (USD \$30,000 - \$200,000) This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the following impact area(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WPHF Impact Area 5: <i>Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls’ and their human rights respected</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WPHF Impact Area 6: <i>Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and young women in peacebuilding contexts.</i>
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Please read through the WPHF Impact and Indicator Tip Sheets for guidance on the impact focus and required indicators. (Section 10 below)

6. Application Package and Procedures

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

- WPHF Proposal Template
[Institutional Funding Proposal Template \(download\)](#)
And/Or
[Impact Area 5 \(Protection\) Proposal Template \(download\)](#)
OR
[Impact Area 6 \(Peacebuilding & Recovery\) Proposal Template \(download\)](#)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization (if you are in the process for renewal, please share proof)

Submission: Application packages should be emailed to WPHFapplications@unwomen.org by 14 May 2024 by 11:59pm Geneva CET.

Please Note:

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

7. Obtaining More Information about the Call for Proposals

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants online on 3 and 4 March 2024, in Arabic and English, respectively, at 11 am Beirut time. Please register by 1 April 2024. The meeting link will be shared with you upon registration.

Arabic session registration link: [2024 صندوق المرأة للسلام والعمل الإنساني جلسة اعلامية 2024 \(kobotoolbox.org\)](https://kobotoolbox.org/2024-03-03-04)

English session registration link: [WPHF 2024 Cfp English Info Session \(kobotoolbox.org\)](https://kobotoolbox.org/WPHF-2024-CfP-English-Info-Session)

Questions about this CfP can be sent to cfp.lebanon@unwomen.org no later than 7 May 2024. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.

8. Evaluation Criteria

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

Institutional Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 1)	Programmatic Funding Evaluation Criteria (Stream 2)
Project Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change<input type="checkbox"/> Clear rationale how the current crisis affects the organization's institutional and financial capacities	Project Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change and overall project responds to the specific call for proposal and impact statement.<input type="checkbox"/> Definition of clear expected results the project aims to achieve and intervention approach, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear outputs and activities which contribute to strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and realistic outputs and activities planned to accomplish the expected results, and achievable within the time frame <input type="checkbox"/> Ensures meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, among others which are in clear alignment with Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.
<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%) <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account 	<p>Programme Management and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of relevant and appropriate feminist monitoring and evaluation approaches, including Do no Harm, and including management structure of the project <p>Sustainability and National Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of national and local ownership and collaboration in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players. <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.
	<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%) <input type="checkbox"/> The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

9. Next Steps After Submission of Proposals to WPHF

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

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

10. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- [Institutional Funding Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet](#)
- [Impact 5 \(Protection\) Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet](#)
- [Impact 6 \(Peacebuilding & Recovery\) Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet](#)
- 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>

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

The WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 1,200 civil society organizations and is present in 44 countries.

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

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