

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Call for Proposal

Call Opens: 1 February 2021

Deadline for Submissions: 8 March 2021 (5 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 Germany, the Netherlands, the European Commission and Canada), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network on women's rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Transitional Justice Institute and Women Enabled International).

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.

2. Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals

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

The Beirut Port explosions on 4 August created significant immediate humanitarian needs and severe long-term consequences. The explosion caused widespread casualties and material damage, over 191 people (120 males, 58 females, and 13 unspecified) have lost their lives, more than 6000 people are injured and over 40,000 buildings damaged or destroyed. In addition to the number of deaths and injuries, the explosion led to a severe level of psychological distress. Lebanon's nationals and inhabitants have little-to-no capacity or resources to respond to the destruction of their homes, new medical needs, increased food insecurity or lost livelihoods. The explosion came amid a deep financial and political crisis. Coping capacities of people and services were already stretched due to the Syrian refugee crisis, economic, fiscal, and financial crises, and a recent increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases.

[A rapid gender assessment of the Beirut Port Explosion](#) highlighted the large number of female headed households living in the explosion affected areas, and the large number of elderly women. It found that female headed households, elderly, refugees, disabled, LBQT women and migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity as they have less resources to repurchase or replace damaged or destroyed belongings (including documentation), reconstruct damaged shelters (often rented), and buy food and essential items. The assessment recommended increasing the meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in response, including around decision making in the design, implementation, management and evaluation of the various interventions. Furthermore, 46 feminist activists and women's rights organisations signed a charter of demand calling for, among other things, women's representation, leadership and inclusion in the reconstruction and recovery process.

The focus of this WPHF call for proposals is on women's participation in Beirut's explosion response and recovery process. Special attention will be provided to applications from small women-led organization and women's rights organization and proposals that target in their approaches women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, sexual orientation, lack of citizenship or because of their migratory status. The call encourages joint applications.

The proposal submitted must be aligned to the following WPHF Impact area:

- **Impact Area 6 (Peacebuilding & Recovery): *Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.***

More specifically, the Call for Proposals will focus on funding the initiatives which (projects can target one or more of the below areas):

- *Ensure that women's knowledge, expertise, skills, perspectives and needs are acknowledged and integrated into the response particularly at the district level.*
- *Ensure that women participate in the political recovery following the explosion.*
- *Ensure that the risk of exclusion from relief and recovery due to lack of formal documentation is addressed, including for the children of undocumented women and men.*

3. Duration of Grants

All national civil society organizations can apply for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 18 months.

4. Location

Projects should be implemented in the following location(s):

- Beirut Governorate
- Bourj Hammoud and Sin El Fil area in Mount Lebanon Governorate

Other parts of Lebanon, providing an explanation as to why they have been directly or indirectly affected by the impact of the Beirut port explosion and the need.

5. Size of grants

The WPHF will grant around a total 630,000 USD over 18 months to Lebanon. Requested funds from WPHF in project proposals should be between the below tier threshold:

- Tier I: Organizations applying independently: No less than 20,000 USD and no more than 100,000 USD
- Tier II: Organizations applying under a consortium: no less than 100,000 USD and no more than 200,000 USD.

6. Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process

6.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?

National and local women-led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations (CSOs) with a proven track record working with women and girls in their diversity, are eligible to apply. Grassroot 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, those that perpetuate gender-based violence, and work to transform these.

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

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

The call for proposal is especially targeting and encouraging small and newly emerging organizations. Youth-led and youth focused organizations are encouraged to apply.

The call for proposal encourages the design of inclusive projects that ensure the meaningful participation of women in all their diversity, including refugee, migrant workers, stateless, disabled, elderly and LBQT women.

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

- Organizations with a 2019 yearly budget of one million USD (or equivalent in LBP) and above;
- Organizations that are currently receiving funding under the [Lebanon Humanitarian Fund](#) or have received funding in the last two years
- International NGOs or branches of International NGOs;
- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- 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 (for organizations that are applying as a consortium, only the lead-organization is required to be registered).
- Universities and Educational 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 and women's groups 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 non-profit 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 may not submit more than one application, either as a lead or as a partner. If an organization or partner appears in more than one application, all applications will be disqualified.

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 6 as outlined in Section 3.

- Impact Area 6 (Peacebuilding & Recovery): *Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.*

Proposals must use at least one impact level indicators in their Results Framework (Annex A of Proposal template):

- Number and types of plans and/or policies in peacebuilding contexts influenced by women or civil society organizations
- Number of women participating in political and decision-making processes

In addition, both reach indicators need to be included at the Outcome level:

- 1. Number of people directly benefiting from the project (disaggregated by sex and age group)
- 2. Number of people indirectly benefiting from the project (disaggregated by sex and age group)

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, 11 February 2021 at 11am online organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: cfp.lebanon@unwomen.org or under the following link: <https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/yaSkxWV2> by Tuesday, 9 February 2021

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

- The deadline for submission of proposals is **8 March 2021**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Applications are accepted in **Arabic, English and French (English preferable)**. 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: cfp.lebanon@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 Lebanon 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.
- Questions regarding the Call for Proposal can be sent via the following email: cfp.lebanon@unwomen.org. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions. In addition, an online **information session** for prospective applicants will be organized on 11 February 2021 at 11am local time. If you would like to participate, please email: cfp.lebanon@unwomen.org or register under the following link: <https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/yaSkxWV2> by Tuesday, 9 February.

8.1. Required Components of the Application Package

Please note, incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Proposal (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
- Results Framework (see Proposal Template Annex: A)
- Project Budget (see Proposal Template Annex: B)
- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization

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

8.2. Evaluation Criteria

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

Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific Impact and indicator in its results framework.
- Definition of clear objectives, results and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.
- Partnership with, and capacity development of local women's organizations. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
- Identification of innovative approaches on how to ensure participation of women in all their diversity and on responding to challenges due to the current context (including lockdown measures)
- Demonstration of inclusion and participation of rights-holder in the design of the project.
- Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
- Alignment with the [Lebanon's Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework](#)
- Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

- A clear capacity building plan for CSO partners is in place to deliver programme results.
- Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame. In general, projects should not last for more than 18 months.
- Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

Budget:

- The project falls within the limits set by the national steering committee.
 - Between 20,000 and 100,000 USD for individual proposals
 - Between 100,00 and of 200,000 USD for joint proposals
- The project demonstrates its capacity to catalyse additional finance.
- 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%).
- Budgets can be submitted in USD or LBP.

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.

9. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's [Operations Manual](#)
- 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](#)
- 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