Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund
A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

# Call for Proposals
# Palestine

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| **Call Opens:** | **12 May 2026** |
| **Deadline for Submissions:** | **21 June 2026 at 11:59 Central Europe Time** |
| **Submit Application online at:** | **https://share.hsforms.com/1ai7RIXkCR4-iV8WtwSmjGgctfxv** |

## 1. Objectives and Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to provide grants to local women and young women led organizations and civil society organizations in country focused on peacebuilding and recovery in conflict and humanitarian contexts. The call for proposals specifically contributes to WPHF's overall goal of contributing to peaceful, safe and equal societies.

Initiatives should aim to reach those women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those excluded due to geographical location, ethnicity, disability, age, migratory status, among others and which is in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

This Call for Proposals is part of the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement that is managed by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and linked to the Action Network on Forced Displacement. Please see the appendix for more information about the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement and the Action Network for Forced Displacement.

## 2. Country Context Linked to Call for Proposals

The 2026 OCHA Flash Appeal[1] highlights a deepening humanitarian and protection crisis across Gaza and the West Bank, driven by ongoing hostilities, mass displacement, and the collapse of essential services, including protection services, and livelihoods, with disproportionately severe impacts on women and young women.

In Gaza, UN Women estimates that more than 38,000 women and girls had been killed as of December 2025, and close to 11,000 women and girls with lifelong injuries[2]. Nearly one million women and girls have been displaced, with many more than four times. Vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, women with disabilities, and women heads of households, are disproportionately affected. Women and girls face starvation, gender-based violence (GBV), heavily impacted by the economic collapse and facing heightened exclusion as mobility barriers compound humanitarian vulnerability, disrupt livelihoods, and deepen poverty[3,4,5]. The proportion of women-headed households has grown significantly, rising from 9% before the war to approximately 14%[6], with women sustaining families alone amid famine, displacement, and collapsed services[7]. These women face heightened exposure to GBV, food insecurity, chronic health

[1] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory 2026.
[2] Advocacy brief: The cost of war in Gaza on women and girls | Publications | UN Women – Palestine Country Office
[3] Advocacy brief: The cost of war in Gaza on women and girls | Publications | UN Women – Palestine Country Office
[4] Final Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment | United Nations in Palestine
[5] Final Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment | United Nations in Palestine
[6] Advocacy brief: The cost of war in Gaza on women and girls | Publications | UN Women – Palestine Country Office
[7] UN Women (2026). Sustaining Families Alone: The Experiences of Crisis-Affected and Displaced Women-Headed Households in Gaza.

needs, and restricted access to assistance, while carrying intensified unpaid care and decision-making burdens.

In the West Bank, similar vulnerabilities and challenges persist. Since October, 2023, more than 7,100 Palestinians have been displaced[8] including over 2,000[9] women. Displacement driven by military operations, systematic demolitions, movement restrictions, and settler violence has left women and girls disproportionately affected by shelter insecurity, overcrowding, and increased protection risks, further eroding community cohesion and coping mechanisms.[10] Food insecurity is also particularly severe among women-headed households relying on subsistence agriculture[11], access to reproductive health services is severely constrained[12] and women human rights defenders report increased targeting through surveillance, arbitrary detention, and ill-treatment[13].

Despite these challenges, Palestinian women and their organizations continue to play a critical role in enhancing social cohesion, delivering humanitarian assistance and advancing gender equality across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, by transforming harmful social norms and advocating for legal and policy reforms to advance women's rights. Yet, they remain severely under-represented in humanitarian governance and chronically underfunded, with direct negative impacts on the critical services they provide[14,15]. Within this context, a Women, Peace and Security–humanitarian nexus approach is essential to link life-saving response with peacebuilding and early recovery, recognizing women as key agents in sustaining families, rebuilding social cohesion, and driving community recovery. Supporting women-led livelihoods, collective resilience, and meaningful participation in decision-making is critical to restore dignity and advance inclusive, gender-responsive recovery in Palestine.

## 3. Scope (Location and Duration)

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in Palestine with a geographical focus on the **Gaza Strip** and **the West Bank,** specifically the governorates **of Jerusalem, Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Hebron, and Jordan Valley.**

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 also led by women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are encouraged to apply, including displaced persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc.

[8] Occupied Palestinian Territory: Flash Appeal
[9] PCBS (2025), book2727.pdf
[10] UN Women & Shelter Cluster (2026). Gender Matters Bulletin – Nowhere to Call Home: The Impact of Displacement on the Shelter Needs of Women and Girls in the West Bank.
[11] Hidden hunger: The gendered impacts of food security and malnutrition on women and girls in the West Bank - occupied Palestinian territory | ReliefWeb
[12] Humanitarian Situation Update #354 | West Bank | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory
[13] On the brink: Women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory | OHCHR
[14] UN Women (2026). Leading in Times of Crisis: The Role of Women's Organizations in the Humanitarian Response in Palestine.
[15] Leading in times of crisis: The role of Women's Organizations in the Humanitarian Response in Palestine - occupied Palestinian territory | ReliefWeb

**Women's Rights or Feminist Organization:** The organizations 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?**

**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, 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 to 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.

**4.6. Can we use artificial intelligence (AI) to write our proposals?**
Civil society organizations are encouraged to write in their own voice. WPHF does not evaluate proposals based on the quality of the writing, but rather the content and alignment to the call for proposals. Please also be aware of the risks in using AI, including identifying information being public, data security, generic information, etc. Proposals which are plagiarized will be excluded.

## 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.**

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| **Institutional Funding: (USD $2,500 - $50,000)**<br>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 IS NOT to finance programmatic activities.<br>Organizations who apply for institutional funding should have a mandate aligned to the objectives of the call for proposal. | **AND/ OR** | **Programmatic Funding: (USD $30,000 - $200,000)**<br>This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically at funding programmatic activities aligned with the following impact area:<br><br>**WPHF Impact Area: Peacebuilding & Recovery -** Enhanced peacebuilding and economic empowerment and inclusion of women and young women in crisis and conflict settings<br><br>Under this impact area, projects should specifically target women and young women that are internally displaced in Palestine. Projects will be part of the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement (please see the Appendix for further information). |

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

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

☐ Institutional Funding Proposal Template [download]

**AND/OR**

☐ Programmatic Funding Proposal Template: Impact Area: Peacebuilding & Recovery [download]

**AND**

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

### 6.1 How to Submit a Proposal

**Online:**
Applicants can submit online using the following link, including uploading the proposal template and registration certificate: **https://share.hsforms.com/1ai7RIXkCR4-iV8WtwSmjGgctfxv**

Email submissions are not eligible.

**Deadline: Application packages are to be received no later than Friday 12th of June 2026 by 11:59pm Geneva time (Central Europe Time).**

**Please Note:**
- Applications can be submitted in English and Arabic. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- The proposal template is to be uploaded on the online form in .doc, or .docx format.
- Legal registration certificates must be uploaded on the online form in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format.
- Both proposal template and registration must be submitted on the online form. Missing documents from the application with not be considered.
- 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 confirmation of receipt within three days. If a second application is submitted, only the first submission will be considered.

## 7. Obtaining More Information about the Call for Proposals

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on **Tuesday 19th of May** from 10 to 11:30 am Jerusalem time. To register, please send an email to fairouz.mughrabi@unwomen.org and hani.alfarra@unwomen.org.

Questions about this CfP can be sent to fairouz.mughrabi@unwomen.org and hani.alfarra@unwomen.org no later than the 17th of June 2026. 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) |
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| **Project Objectives**<br>☐ Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change and mission aligns with the WPHF impact area<br>☐ Clear rationale how the current crisis affects the organization's institutional and financial capacities | **Project Objectives**<br>☐ Organization's mandate is aligned with WPHF's theory of change and overall project responds to the specific call for proposal and impact statement.<br>☐ Definition of clear expected results which respond to the current conflict/crisis with a women peace and security and/or humanitarian lens, and taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches |

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| ☐ Clear outputs and activities which contribute to strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained<br>☐ Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures | ☐ Clear and realistic outputs and activities planned to accomplish the expected results, and achievable within the time frame<br>☐ 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. |
| **Budget**<br>☐ The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%)<br>☐ The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account | **Programme Management and Monitoring**<br>☐ Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures<br>☐ Identification of relevant and appropriate feminist monitoring and evaluation approaches, including Do no Harm, and including management structure of the project |
| | **Collaboration and National Ownership**<br>☐ 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. |
| | **Budget**<br>☐ The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7.0%)<br>☐ 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 Regional/National Steering Committee (R/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 Participating United Nations Organization (PUNO) of the WPHF (UN Women).
- 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
- Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet: Institutional Funding
- Impact and Indicator Tip Sheet: Peacebuilding and Recovery
- Results Based Management Capacity Building Webinar
- Project Design and Proposal Writing for Women-Led CSOs Working in Conflict and Crisis Contexts: Recording and PowerPoint Presentation

### 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 1,800 civil society organizations and is present in 49 countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Global Steering Committee at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently Germany, United Kingdom, Norway, and Italy), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently Politics4Her, Women for Women International, She's the First and Reach Out Cameroon).

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

**About the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement**

The Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement is managed by the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and linked to Action Network on Forced Displacement. The Funding Initiative promotes the participation and leadership of displaced women and girls in socio-economic and political decision-making. It currently supports 149 projects with 227 civil society organizations in 11 countries with a current investment of over 30 million EUR by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Projects are implemented in partnership with UN Women Country Offices. The members of the Action Network have an important role in the Funding Initiative on Forced Displacement. Members of the Action Network select the countries that the Funding Initiative is active in, inform the thematic orientation of the Funding Initiative, disseminate the Call for Proposals in their local networks, make recommendations on the selection of projects that are considered in the final selection of projects by the Regional/National Steering Committees, and support the implementation of organizations with their knowledge and expertise in the WPHF Mentorship Scheme of the Funding Initiative.

**About the Action Network on Forced Displacement**

The "Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change" is a global platform bringing together women leaders who are actively engaged on behalf of and together with displaced women. This includes decision-makers from political, economic and social spheres, activists and displaced women themselves, who are implementing projects in crisis and conflict settings. The Action Network facilitates exchange and policy recommendations to promote women's political and economic leadership in displacement settings. Comprising 33 members from 21 countries, including Afghanistan, Georgia, Syria, Yemen, Nigeria, Sudan, Honduras, and the Philippines, the Action Network leverages diverse perspectives and serves as a platform for exchange and recommendations to policymakers, the private sector, civil society and local actors. This collaboration aims to transform displacement settings by positioning women as pivotal agents of change. Among other activities, the Network focuses on supporting displaced women through leadership training and advocacy in Afghanistan and Syria as well as technical and vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities in Nigeria and Sudan.

**Annex: Permitted Activities under Institutional Funding**

The proposed additional areas for support stem directly from the demonstrated needs of Palestinian CSOs, many of which have experienced severe damage to their offices, safe spaces, and operational infrastructure due to the ongoing crisis, resulting in significant constraints on their ability to deliver essential humanitarian, protection and GBV-related services.

**Construction:**

In this context, “safe spaces/shelters/offices” refers strictly to existing structures used for service delivery, such as women- and girl-friendly spaces, psychosocial support rooms, and organizational offices, not new construction.

- Permitted: **Minor rehabilitation, repairs, and essential functionality upgrades only,** and without crossing into construction.
- Not permitted: Any **new construction** of spaces/shelters/offices

**Equipment:**

- Permitted: Given the relatively small grant size, support will be limited to a **pre-defined list of allowable equipment**, such as solar panels, basic furniture, IT and communications equipment, and safety items—ensuring clarity, policy compliance, and risk mitigation while enabling CSOs to restore minimum operational capacity.
- Not Permitted: The applicant will be allowed to use up to 40% of the total budget to purchase equipment.