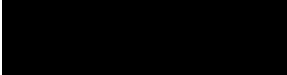


**Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
(WPHF)**

Project Document – Funding Window for WHRDs (Global)

I. Prodoc Cover Page

<p>Project Title: The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders in crisis and conflict affected countries (Global)</p>	<p>PUNO: UN Women</p>
<p>Project Contact: Name: Ghita El Khyari Entity: UN Women Title: Policy Specialist, Head of the WPHF Secretariat Email: ghita.khyari@unwomen.org</p>	<p>Implementing Partner(s): N/A</p>
	<p>Country: Global</p>
	<p>Total amount: 262,685 USD</p>
	<p>Proposed Project Start Date: 01 April 2022 Proposed Project End Date: 01 April 2023 Total duration (in months): 12</p>
<p>WPHF's Outcome the project is contributing to WPHF's Outcome 5 (<i>Protection of Women and Girls</i>): Ensuring that women and girls' safety, physical and mental health, and security are assured, and their human rights respected.</p>	
<p>WPHF's Outcome indicator the project will be reporting on: 5.4 Number of WHRDs supported through flexible funding (type of support, age group, country of origin)¹</p>	
<p>Name of PUNO Representative: Paivi Kannisto</p> <p>Title: Chief, Peace and Security Section, UN Women</p> <p>Signature : </p> <p>Date & Seal:</p>	

¹ To ensure protection of WHRDs and to ensure a limited reporting burden for WHRDs, WPHF and INGOs will be responsible for reporting against this indicator.

II. Context and Situation Analysis

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) that promote peace and defend human rights in conflict and crisis affected settings face many threats and challenges. They challenge systems linked to violence, question political power structures and aim to change gendered power relations to build more inclusive and lasting peace. WHRDs are at higher risk of experiencing sexual violence and rape² and are targets of femicide, sexual violence, attacks against their sexual and familial reputations, violence within the home and the organizations where they work, and gender-based travel bans.³ 2020 saw the most killings of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, recorded in more than a decade of tracking (331), but this alarming number was muted by the global pandemic and less covered by the media.⁴ When WHRDs face targeted violence, it is often with the aim of discrediting their work for justice and human rights and deterring or forcibly excluding them from decision-making processes.

Additionally, WHRDs' contributions to peace in their communities, during and after conflict, whether through assisting victims of violence, or negotiating with different armed actors and contributing to peace-building initiatives are often ignored. This lack of recognition can limit their access to solidarity organizations and networks, international institutions and donors, and increase threats to their security.⁵ Without WHRDs' perspectives in decision-making in conflict and crisis settings, it is less likely that provisions related to the protections of women's and girls' rights will be included in any peace process and political settlement.

There have been numerous calls for action for a dedicated funding mechanism for WHRDs, including specifically for the evolving crisis in Afghanistan.⁶ A recent open letter from the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, signed by 380 feminist organizations from 88 countries, called the Member States and the UN to do more to protect and support WHRDs and to ensure more safe spaces for their voices to be heard.⁷ It notes that "At present, few practical resources are available in urgent, life-threatening individual cases of defenders at risk, and the responsibility of providing protective measures falls largely on other civil society organizations. This represents a critical protection gap that both States and the UN must work with civil society to urgently address."

² UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Commentary to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. July 2011. Web. January 2014. page 19.

³ Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders, Internal Guidance Note, UN Women, August 2020

⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office Of the High Commissioner, UN Women, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Protection Women Human Rights Defenders in Conflict: A consultation with Civil Society held from January 10th to January 12th, 2022, Summary Report, January 2022.

⁵ Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, Global Report on the Situation of Women Human Rights Defenders. p. 27 and 28, 2012.

⁶ Activists calls for a UN-wide policy to support and protect women human rights defenders , 1 March 2019 (<https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/activists-call-un-wide-policy-support-and-protect-women-human-rights-defenders>); Appeal for Urgent Action to Protect Human Rights Defenders at Risk: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/statement-report/appeal-urgent-action-protect-human-rights-defenders-risk>; Afghanistan: Joint Call for Immediate End to Attacks against human rights defenders and need for protection and accountability: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/statement-report/afghanistan-joint-call-immediate-end-attacks-against-human-rights-defenders-and>; Afghanistan: Urgent action needed to protect women rights defenders - OMCT <https://www.omct.org/en/resources/statements/afghanistan-urgent-action-needed-to-protect-women-rights-defenders>

⁷ NGO working group on Women, Peace and Security, 2021 Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in advance of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2021-Sept-JointStatement-WPS-En.pdf>

Furthermore, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders recommended⁸ Member States to:

- Dedicate part of their budget to strengthening the participation of women in human rights activities, ensuring that they are supported to respond meaningfully to issues in a sustainable manner.
- Refrain from interfering with funding provided to women for human rights work and ensure that legal and administrative frameworks do not restrict access to funding for human rights activism.
- Address barriers to the participation of women defenders in public life, including in regional and international human rights forums, such as travel bans, visa restrictions, and their lack of identity or travel documents and resources.

Most lately, in his 2021 annual report on Women Peace and Security, the UN Secretary General called Member States to take concerted action to make “rapid and flexible funding available for the protection of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders in emergency individual cases.”⁹

Building on existing efforts and mechanisms, the WPHF has been working on the set up of a dedicated window to address funding gaps for the protection and participation of WHRDs working in/ on conflict and crisis affected contexts. This new Funding Window responds to the increasing needs and calls for support from WHRDs for flexible resources to support their work and needs and increase their participation in decision-making and advocacy spaces to build just and inclusive peace.

The WPHF has taken a participatory approach to set up the WPHF Window for Women Human Rights Defenders through consultations with women human rights defenders, and diverse stakeholders and experts.¹⁰ This participatory approach will continue throughout the implementation and evaluation of the window, with WHRDs and CSOs at the center of these consultations, as well as strategic guidance from UN agencies in particular UN Women and OHCHR.

III. Purpose and Functions of the WHRDs Window

The WPHF Funding Board approved the WHRDs Window end of September 2021.

The WHRDs Window’s overall objective is to ensure that WHRDs, whether in their native countries or exile, have access to adequate protection support mechanisms, as well as to guarantee their secure and equal participation in key advocacy events/meetings to promote women’s rights and reflect women’s needs in political decision-making, peacebuilding, and humanitarian response.

The WHRDs Window will serve as a demand-driven multi-partner funding mechanism for rapid, flexible support to enhance the protection and participation of women human rights defenders. The scope for requests is purposely diverse and open to encompass demands to support WHRDs’ meaningful participation and protection.

Type and modalities of support provided

Flexibility in the type of support will be key to responding to WHRDs’ changing needs and contexts. The support provided under the WHRDs will be granted for a period of up to 6 months, on a renewable basis. This allows for re-assessment of the situation and needs as the different crisis contexts evolve. The criteria for the support is indicative and will need to be reviewed based on the needs and in consultation with WHRDs and CSOs.

⁸ *Situation of Women Human Rights Defenders, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, 2019* - <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/004/97/PDF/G1900497.pdf?OpenElement>

⁹ Report of the UN Secretary General on Women, Peace and Security, 27 September 2021, paragraph 107. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/S_2021_827_E.pdf

¹⁰ This includes CSOs, INGOs, OHCHR, UN operations teams on processes, Member States representatives and more.

The WHRDs Window will support these initiatives through:

- **A safety net** through flexible funding for WHRDs to cover urgent costs such as short-term livelihood and protection expenses including (but not limited to): equipment (computers, printers, security cameras), internet, mental health care services, as well as advocacy costs related to the sustainability of WHRDs work in country and in exile.
- **Advocacy support** through direct logistical support to cover to arrange and cover for logistical expenses (transportation, visa fees, accommodation, translation, daily subsistence allowance, accessibility for WHRDs with disability etc..) to attend, either individually or as a delegation, a meeting, event or decision-making process, at the national, regional or international level, which contributes to their advocacy work for human rights and peace.

The Safety net will be provided to WHRDs through I/NGO partners of the window, following a screening undertaken by WPHF and verification and validation by the I/NGO partners of the window.

During the inception period, a pool of partner I/NGOs will be selected through a Call for Proposals. Partnerships with INGOs will be in place for 1 year (with a possibility of renewing). Single organizations can apply for up to 400,000 USD and consortiums up to 700,000 USD. The WPHF Secretariat will evaluate proposals and the Funding Board select the partners based on the shortlisting and available budget. I/NGOs will receive the funds directly from the financial administrative agency (MPTF) by tranches, with adequate funding on retainer to be able to disburse the safety nets rapidly.

The advocacy support will be provided directly by WPHF and the window unit. Requests will be shared with an advisory committee to avoid duplication and increase opportunities for more visibility and influence (see annex 1 for more details on the process).

Geographical scope

This window will be launched with a focus on crisis and conflict affected countries¹¹. This applies to WHRDs inside and outside of countries facing conflicts and crisis:

- o WHRDs relocated to a host country
- o WHRDs relocated to a transit country
- o WHRDs at risk inside their native country

Timeline for support

This support is short-term in nature due to the changing contexts and needs. It would be granted for a period of 1 to 6 months, on a renewable basis. This allows for flexibility and re-assessment of the situation and needs as the different crisis contexts evolve.

IV. The WPHF Funding Window for WHRDs Unit

The Funding Window for WHRDs will include:

- Advisory and technical support from OHCHR
- An advocacy advisory committee composed of UN Women, NGO Working Group on WPS, OHCHR, for increased coordination and mobilization for advocacy

¹¹ For the list of matters of which the UN Security Council is seized please see UNSC Resolution S/2022/10: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc>

- A window Unit within the WPHF Secretariat to support the establishment, processes and implementation of the window

The Unit, hosted by the WPHF Secretariat will have the following functions:

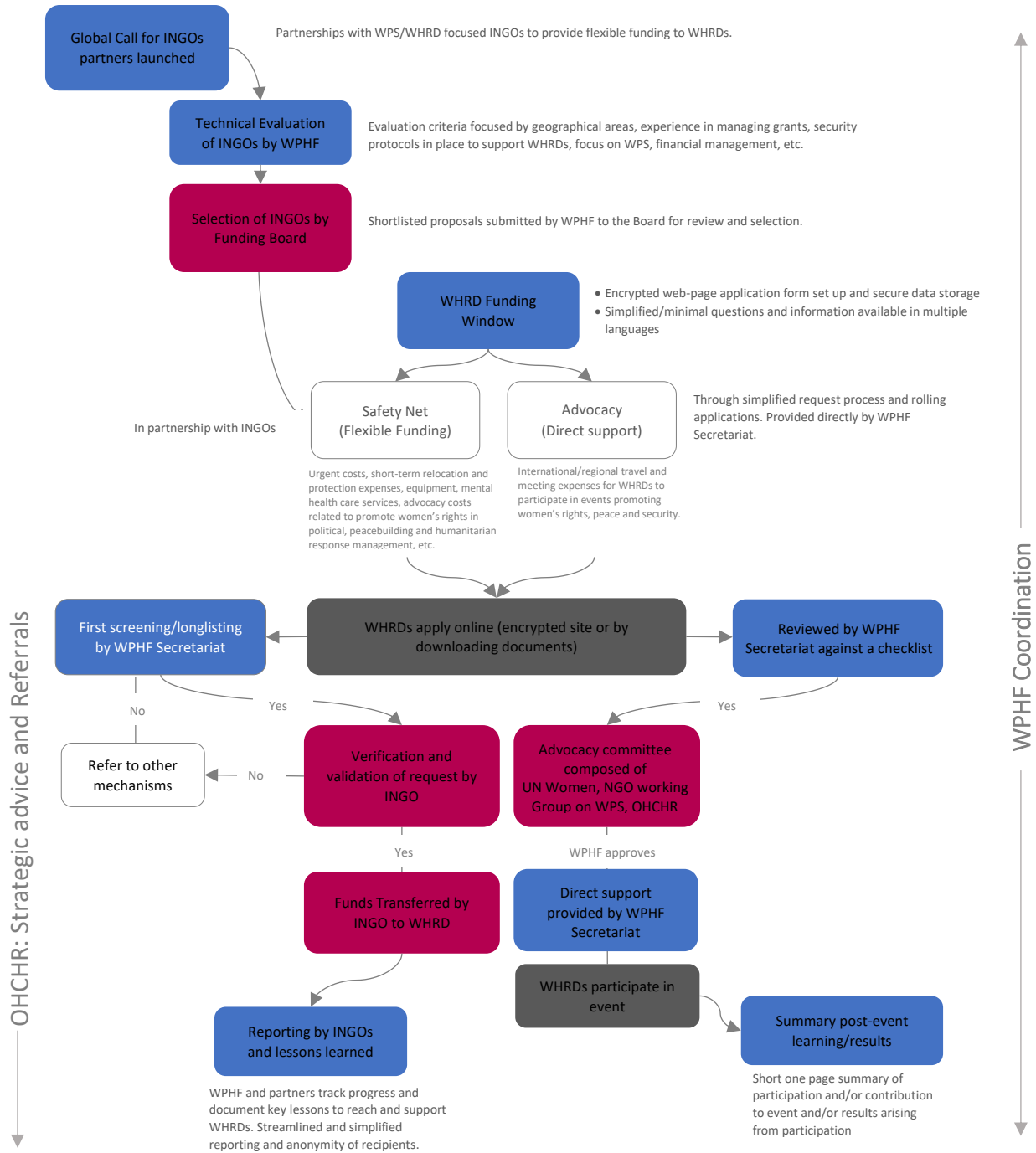
- Coordinate between different stakeholders, including implementing partners, UN entities, CSOs
- Provide technical and advisory support to the establishment and implementation of the window
- Manage the application for both streams of support
- Manage direct implementation of the advocacy support
- Manage partnerships with I/NGOs for safety nets
- Provide for risk management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting on the window
- Document lessons learned and best practices
- Monitor and review the risks and mitigation strategies on a regular basis

The RRW Unit will be overseen by the Head of the Secretariat and supported by the WPHF Secretariat, including the WPHF Secretariat programme coordinator(P3)¹² to set up the mechanism and lead on the coordination between the different partners. The unit will be composed of:

- A programme consultant to support on the screening of the requests and implementation of the advocacy support, and documenting challenges, lessons learned and best practices
- A part-time Programme Assistant (G5) to facilitate and process rapid funding requests and organize travel for WHRDs

V. Overview of the window process

¹² This position is currently funded through direct costs of the Fund (WPHF Secretariat project). The need of a full time staff member will be reconsidered depending on volume of operations of the window.



VI. Results and Resources Framework

The expected outcome of the Project is to enable the effective establishment and delivery of the WPHF funding Window for WHRDs, linked to the WPHF's theory of change and Outcome 5: Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls' and their human rights respected.

The Project will have 3 different Outputs:

Output 1.1. Efficient, effective, and timely management and implementation of the Funding Window for WHRDs is ensured

The window unit will support in the operationalization of the window in a timely and consultative manner. The unit will share relevant information with the Funding Board for the selection of I/NGOs partners of the window and undertake assessments of the selected organizations (HACT). The unit will liaise with the administrative agency (MPTF) to support the contracting and transfer of funds to selected partners. The unit will draft and translate all required documents for the window, including applications documents (simplified and based on best practice and consultations), check lists/evaluations and guidance.

The unit will consult and secure OHCHR as an expert UN agency to provide advisory support throughout the design and implementation, and consult partner I/NGOs in the design and finalization of documents to ensure the smooth implementation and that adequate information and process are in place.

The Unit will coordinate and manage all day-to-day tasks necessary for the smooth management and delivery of the Window and ensure compliance with the Window's rules and procedures as approved in the Concept Note. The unit will review all requests submitted through the secured WPHF web portal (and other requests by email). The unit will refer cases that it cannot support, to other relevant mechanisms.

- For the safety net applications, the unit will assess the requests and share them with relevant I/NGO partners for verification and validation in a timely manner.
- For the advocacy support, the unit will assess the requests and share them with the advisory committee to identify additional entry points for more influence and mobilization, and recommendations. Requests approved by the unit will be implemented directly by the unit through logistical support.

The Unit will ensure coordination with and between different stakeholders involved including UN Women, OHCHR, networks of women peacebuilders, international and local civil society organizations as well as other existing mechanisms supporting HRDs. During the first six months (and to be re-assessed after), the unit will coordinate and consult I/NGO partners on a monthly basis as well as review their narrative quarterly reports to ensure coordination and quality and timely support is provided to WHRDs.

The unit will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring risks on a regular basis, following the risk table (see page 9).

Output 1.2. Monitoring and evaluation of best practices and lessons for WHRDs support in crisis and conflict settings is enhanced

WPHF will regularly monitor the new Window for WHRDs and track how many WHRDs have been supported, types of support provided through the I/NGO quarterly reporting, as well as evaluate the efficiency of the processes to provide rapid and flexible financing to WHRDs. Specific sub-indicators will be considered for this Funding Window under WPHF outcome area 5: "Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls' and their human rights respected", against which I/NGOs will report. WPHF and INGOs will report against these indicators and document lessons learned and best practices on this mechanism in order to implement needed adaptations on an iterative and evolving basis.

Data protection of WHRDs is at the center of this window's processes and communications, to ensure a Do No Harm approach is applied throughout implementation. To ensure protection of the women human rights

defenders and to ensure a limited reporting burden for them, only WPHF and INGOs will be responsible for reporting against WPHF indicators. Short post-support surveys/interviews with WHRDs will be conducted, following all data protection and privacy parameters, to capture lessons learned in supporting them, including how the support has facilitated/helped with protection, how it can be improved for other recipients in the future, etc. This survey will be design and conducted jointly between WPHF and I/NGOs.

The unit will be responsible for incorporating findings from I/NGO reports and data into a global window report produced on an annual basis.

A participatory approach

The unit will organize twice a year online consultations with identified I/NGO partners, WHRDs, CSOs and UN agencies to collect and discuss challenges, best practices and lessons learned. The unit will incorporate recommendations accordingly into the design and processes of the window, following the Funding Board's approval. The unit will amplify the best practices and lessons learned resulting from these conversations and connections with a variety of actors, including through its annual report and participation in events/roundtables.

Output 1.3. Advocacy and visibility to increase access and support to WHRDs protection and participation on the global stage is promoted

Global advocacy support

In addition, to influence the international community to further support and recognize the contributions to peace and risks that WHRDs face, the unit with support of the Secretariat and in collaboration with I/NGO partners, will leverage its platform to increase visibility and spaces for WHRDs' safe participation and influence.

The unit will screen all applications under the advocacy support stream, share relevant ones with the advocacy committee for coordination of efforts and recommendations. Based on the feedback, the Head of WPHF Secretariat will approve or reject the request. The unit will provide the direct logistical support needed to the WHRDs and connect them to other relevant stakeholders to enhance their leadership and influence.

In addition, the unit will build on the momentum to facilitate conversations between UN, Member states and WHRDs on the sidelines of the UN Security Council Debate on WPS in October 2022 (in the form of bi-lateral meetings or a closed event, in person or online).

Additionally, all WHRDs supported through WPHF would be invited to engage - at their discretion and to the extent they feel comfortable - in institutional capacity building, peer exchange and global mentorship opportunities provided by the WPHF Global Learning Hub, with the aim of strengthening their strategic advocacy, communications and other skills relevant to their vital work.

Communication, visibility and dissemination

WPHF will disseminate information on the window with relevant stakeholders in the UN, civil society, donor government representatives (and relevant embassies) and other stakeholders as appropriate, to encourage applications, drive visibility, and refer cases to the window.

Building trust among WHRDs and applying do no harm principles is central to the implementation of the window and its communication/visibility efforts. A comprehensive communication strategy will be developed to guide outreach and public messaging.

VII. Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Level	Risk mitigation measure
Reputational – WPHF is supporting some women, but not others	Medium	Development of criteria to guide all decisions and clear messaging/transparency on the process. Dissemination of information through networks and organizations to encourage applications from outside main cities. Simplified application templates available in several languages.
Banking – women do not have access to their bank accounts	Medium	Use options such as Western Union, travel checks, Hawala system and other means identified through partnerships with I/NGOs.
Safety – increased risks against women due to the process	High	Conflict and language sensitivity approach, simplified process to avoid burden, protection of data and information, careful dissemination of information. Public reports/messaging on this funding will not mention names, geographical location, or sensitive information unless approved by the WHRDs.
Leaving No One Behind – access to support is limited to an elite group of women	Low	Documents and information will be translated into several languages, funding support will be provided to women both in capitals and rural areas, as well as inside and outside of the countries. Regular monitoring of the support provided will re-assess procedures to ensure that this support reaches women at the community level too.
Sustainability – resources are limited for support	Low	This support is aimed to respond to urgent needs for the safety and work of WHRDs. Renewal of support will be considered on a case-by-case basis, based on the changing needs. WPHF and partner INGOs will also explore additional programmes that can support the women. This is short-term support provided whilst referrals and longer-term solutions are being explored.
Sanctions lists – the funding is diverted to groups on the UN Sanctions list	Medium	The process and risks will be monitored on a regular basis and the most adequate channel selected. For women inside Afghanistan, the funds would be transferred in very small amounts. Due diligence will be undertaken through the process to verify the identity of the woman and her role in peacebuilding, promoting women's rights, and humanitarian response. This could be done for example, through a letter of referral from an INGO or UN entity with who this WHRD has worked in the past or had some interactions. Due diligence will be further elaborated in collaboration with selected INGO partners through the verification process of the requests.

Funding mechanisms duplication	Low	The design and operationalization of this window will continue to be done in close consultation with other INGOs and mechanisms that provide support to WHRDs and HRDs more broadly. Special attention will be given in terms of funding support to WHRDs working for peace. As support to WHRDs is often short-term, regular coordination with other mechanisms will help connect and refer women to access more funding. This window recognizes that the needs are many and the support often very limited and may not cover all the costs, therefore receiving additional funding is not eliminatory. However, the documentation process for requests will include a question on current, existing or past funding support received during the verification process.
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VIII. Partnerships

The WPHF Funding Window for WHRDs will build on WPHF and UN Women’s longstanding relationship with women’s organizations, particularly WHRDs that act as peace activists, and strengthen linkages and partnerships for flexible support to WHRDs working for inclusive peace and humanitarian action.

A partnership between WPHF and INGOs will be set up to complement organizations’ expertise and access to WHRDs with advocacy entry points for the rapid support of WHRDs worldwide. Close collaboration between WPHF, UN agencies (including UN Women and OHCHR), INGOs, and Member States will ensure coordinated efforts for the protection of WHRDs and their increased participation in decision-making and advocacy spaces.

WPHF, as a UN multi-partner trust fund, will continue to mobilize its partners and build on its strategic position in the UN and the diplomatic community to support the work of WHRDs working for inclusive peace and humanitarian response. The private sector is also a partner of WPHF and will be engaged as a key stakeholder and source of additional support for the flexible financing of WHRDs.

Annex A – WPHF WHRDs Unit Results Framework

Results	Indicators	Means of Verification/ Sources of Information	Activities
<p>Project Outcome: The Window for Women Human Rights Defenders in crisis and conflict affected countries is established and delivery of flexible funding and advocacy support for WHRDs is ensured</p>	<p>1. Number of WHRDs supported through flexible funding (type of support, age group, country of origin)</p>	<p>I/NGO reports, WPHF Web-Portal</p>	
<p>Output 1.1 Efficient, effective, and timely management and implementation of the Funding Window for WHRDs is ensured</p>	<p>1.1a Window is established with both type of supports open for applications Baseline: 0 Target: all aspects of window is established by end of April 2022.</p> <p>1.1b Selection and onboarding of I/NGOs partners Baseline: 0 Target: N/A</p> <p>1.1c OHCHR partnership is secured for quality technical and advisory support Baseline: 0 Target: partnership secured</p> <p>1.1d Number of requests received and screened (by stream)</p> <p>1.1e Risk and mitigation strategies table is reviewed and revised, as needed</p>	<p>WPHF website and encrypted page, Proposal documents, Internal operational manual for logistical support</p> <p>Call for Proposals, INGO evaluations</p> <p>OHCHR agreement</p> <p>Web-portal, Proposal documents Global Data/Management Information System</p> <p>Risk and mitigation matrix</p>	<p>1.1.1 Develop and translate required documents for window, including simplified applications, checklist/evaluations and guidance</p> <p>1.1.2 Establish encrypted web-page/web-portal and electronic application process</p> <p>1.1.3 Select I/NGO partners and undertake HACT assessments</p> <p>1.1.4 Coordinate with OHCHR for technical and advisory support</p> <p>1.1.5 Review quarterly narrative reports from I/NGO partners</p> <p>1.1.6 Coordinate/manage day-to-day tasks for implementation of the window</p> <p>1.1.7 Review/screen requests received for each stream</p> <p>1.1.8 Conduct regular and ongoing monitoring of risks</p> <p>1.1.9 Conduct regular meetings with I/NGOs on process and reporting</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Monitoring and evaluation of best practices and lessons for WHRDs support in crisis and conflict settings is enhanced</p>	<p>1.2a Participatory review and consultation process with I/NGOs, WHRDs, CSOs and UN agencies conducted Baseline: 0 Target: Bi-Annually</p>	<p>I/NGO reports, WHRD anonymous survey</p>	<p>1.3.2 Conduct online consultations and dialogue bi-annually with I/NGO partners, WHRDs, CSOs and UN agencies</p> <p>1.3.4 Design and conduct anonymous WHRD survey to capture needs and responses for protection</p>

Results	Indicators	Means of Verification/ Sources of Information	Activities
	1.2b Annual global consolidated data analysis to assess quality of support provided and how women have used it		
Output 1.3 Advocacy and visibility to increase access and support to WHRDs protection and participation on the global stage is promoted	<p>1.3a Number of information sessions conducted with various stakeholders to disseminate information on the WHRD window</p> <p>1.3b Number/Type of advocacy and visibility events conducted to increase visibility for more support and recognition of WHRDs contribution to peace and risks</p> <p>1.3c Number of women supported through direct logistical support for advocacy for peace and women's rights</p>	<p>Meeting minutes, event concept notes, event invitations</p> <p>Communication guidelines</p>	<p>1.3.1 Conduct information sessions with UN agencies and donor governments to disseminate information on window across relevant networks</p> <p>1.3.2 Facilitate conversation between UN, Member States and WHRDs on sidelines of UN Security Council Debate on WPS in October 2022</p> <p>1.3.3 Provide logistical services to approved requests for advocacy support</p> <p>1.3.4 Develop a Communications guidance note for WPHF and other partners involved</p>

Annex B - Budget per category

UNDG Categories	2022	Total
1. Staff and other personnel costs	120,000	120,000
2. Supplies, Commodities, and Materials		
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture, including Depreciation		
4. Contractual Services	29,500	29,500
5. Travel	96,000	96,000
6. Grants		
7. General Operating Expenses and other direct costs		
Sub-total	245,500	245,500
8. Indirect Support Costs	17,185	17,185
TOTAL	262,685	262,685