


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

I. Prodoc Cover Page

Project Title: Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements	PUNO: UN Women
Project Contact: Name: Achille SOMMO Entity: UN Women Title: Programme Coordinator Email: achille.sommo@unwomen.org	Implementing Partner(s): N/A
	Country : Global
	1 st tranche: USD 500 000 2 nd tranche: USD 2 100 000 3 rd tranche: USD 2 810 000 4 th tranche: USD 1 556 560 5th tranche: USD 4 635 223 6th tranche: USD 1 485 669 <u>Total amount: USD 13 087 452</u>
	Proposed Project Start Date: 15 May 2020 Proposed Project End Date: 30 Septembre 2024 Total duration (in months): 64 months
WPHF's Outcome the project is contributing to: WPHF's Outcome 4: Conflict Resolution	
WPHF's Outcome indicator the project will be reporting on: 4.1. Number of women that participate in formal peace processes or negotiations 4.2. Existence of gender responsive elements/provisions in peace agreements, dialogues, and/or decision-making processes 4.3 Types of strategies used/implemented to participate in and contribute to the peace process and/or implementation of a peace agreement	
Name of PUNO Representative: Sarah Hendricks Title: DED for Policy, Programme, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Support, UN Women Signature : 	

Date & Seal: 8 December 2023

II. Context and Situation Analysis

A. Background

Twenty years after the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325, women remain significantly underrepresented in peace and transitional processes. The changing nature of wars, protracted and asymmetrical conflicts, have accelerated/increased the impacts of conflict on women, putting even more at risk their sense of identity and security within the family, community and beyond. In many instances, women's participation as delegates and decision makers has become increasingly difficult. Women from diverse settings, including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Libya, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen have faced and continue to face steep obstacles, direct resistance and great personal risks in their efforts to ensure their participation in processes pertaining to the future of their countries.¹ Furthermore, over 50 parties to conflict are credibly suspected of having committed or instigated patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations on the agenda of the Security Council.²

Women's meaningful participation in peace processes remains one of the most stalled areas in the WPS agenda. Although there is evidence of the value of women's meaningful participation in peace processes and implementation, with the likelihood of reaching peace agreements, implementing those agreements and sustaining peace being significantly higher, women's meaningful participation and gender equality are too often seen a secondary or apolitical concern to ending the conflict.³ As a result, data underline that the vast majority of agreements do not explicitly address gender equality or the rights of women. To spark change, a range of actors will need to be influenced, including those who may not see gender equality as central to matters of peace and security. There have been some recent examples in 2019, in Central African Republic, Mali and Libya, where parallel and joint advocacy by the UN, its member states and women civil society networks and organizations has contributed to women's direct -sometimes limited- participation in peace talks and peace agreement follow-up mechanisms.⁴

Diverse women's meaningful participation in peace processes is not only a question of human rights and women's rights, but one of accountability and justice, which are key to a sustainable peace. Engaging with and supporting women civil society organizations is essential to increase community-buy in, bottom up and inclusive decision-making processes to shift dynamics and broaden the issues discussed. Studies have shown that collaboration and knowledge building among diverse women groups, including linkages between women signatories and women civil society groups, contributes to better content of peace agreements and higher implementation rates of agreement provisions.⁵ This subsequently contributes to addressing root causes of conflict and supporting women

¹ UN Secretary General Women and Peace and Security Annual report, 9 October 2019, S/2019/800, p.6

² UN Secretary General Women and Peace and Security Annual report, 9 October 2019, S/2019/800, p.2

³ UN Women, Christine Bell (2018) Accessing Political Power : Women and Political Power-Sharing in Peace Processes, p.4

⁴ UN Secretary General Women and Peace and Security Annual report, 9 October 2019, S/2019/800, p.7-8

⁵ Jana Krause, Werner Krause & Piia Bränfors (2018) Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace, *International Interactions*, 44:6, 985-1016, DOI: [10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386](https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386)

in leading on reconciliation and rebuilding social cohesion, defining security, helping build gender-sensitive infrastructure and much more.

In order to accelerate the implementation of this agenda, in October 2019, in his annual report on Women, peace and security,⁶ the UN Secretary General called on the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) to open a rapid response window on women's participation in peace negotiations:

(f) To support rapid response funds to advance the meaningful participation of women in peace processes, which includes financial support for travel, visas, childcare, translation and related expenses, in particular by providing resources to the new window in the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund;
(j) United Nations entities are requested to identify resources in support of the meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements, and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is called upon to consider opening a rapid response window that allows for such support for women to participate in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements.

The Expert Group Meeting report⁷ on women's inclusion in Peace Processes organized by UN Women in 2018, also highlights the WPHF, the Peacebuilding Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives and the Innovative Peace Fund by ICAN, as innovative mechanisms to provide flexible and timely small and medium grants to support women's leadership in all stages of peace and security processes. Gaps in terms of rapid and flexible funding support for civil society led strategic initiatives to influence peace processes and peace agreement implementation continue to exist. Other existing funding mechanisms such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund and DPPA Multi Year Appeal, provide long term and larger amounts of funding support to international civil society organizations (UN PBF) or rapid support but mostly to UN and government stakeholders (DPPA MYA).⁸

Building on existing efforts, tools and networks, the WPHF is working on the design and set up of a Rapid Response Window (RRW) to address funding gaps for women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations to influence and participate in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.

Under the oversight of the WPHF Funding Board's Task Force, the WPHF has taken a participatory approach to setting up the RRW, through consultations with women peacebuilders and diverse stakeholders and experts.⁹ The information that follows is a draft proposed structure and process for the RRW, for feedback and inputs.

⁶ UN Secretary General Women and Peace and Security Annual report, 9 October 2019, S/2019/800, p.37

⁷ UN Women (2018), Women's Meaningful Participation in Negotiating Peace and the Implementation of Peace Processes, Report of the Expert Group Meeting.

⁸ A broader mapping on resources allocated to civil society on peace processes would be needed.

⁹ This includes women peace activists, CSOs, INGOs, UN Women Country Offices, Women Mediator Network, DPPA, PBSO, MPTFO, UN operations teams on processes, Member States representatives and more. Consultations will be ongoing as the Concept Note evolves.

B/ Purpose and Functions of the Rapid Response Window (RRW)

The WPHF Funding Board established the Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes during its annual 2020 meeting, held on April 6th.

The RRW's overall objective is to support women's meaningful participation during all stages, at all tracks, and at all levels of peace processes¹⁰. More specifically, it is a funding mechanism which will support strategic civil society led short-term initiatives to influence and participate in formal, national or international processes. The scope for requests is purposely diverse and open to encompass demands to support women's meaningful participation through punctual interventions which need urgent support. While the scope is large, initiatives will be short in duration aiming to address rapidly a specific gap with an identified impact-specific action at different stages:

- Before the peace negotiations : preparation/design
- During the negotiations : gender provisions/women's inputs
- After the negotiations : implementation and monitoring

The RRW will serve as a demand-driven and context-specific¹¹ multi-partner funding mechanism for rapid, flexible and short/medium term support to civil society organizations.

Funding support under the RRW is open to all ODA countries, beyond the eligible countries under WPHF.¹²

Type and nature of support provided

Flexibility in the type of support, timing and funding amounts will be key to responding to women's organizations and women groups' needs to influence and participate in peace processes from the local to the national level, both formally and informally, and at all levels.

Type of support provided

The RRW will look at funding the following types of requests and initiatives in the context of a peace process and peace agreement implementation:

- Travel and other logistical support (flights, DSA, visas, childcare, ...);
- Expertise and technical support to identify entry points and stakeholders, to strategize, access support and connection with key stakeholders for bilateral meetings/consultations/dialogues, and more;
- Coaching of women delegates and observers to peace negotiations;
- Advocacy and lobbying campaigns for women's inclusion in peace and political processes;
- Advocacy and lobbying campaigns for women's inclusion in the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of peace agreements;
- Language support including translations of key documents and interpretation in decision-making processes;
- Evidence based advocacy and collection of data to feed into a process;
- Preparatory sessions and capacity building for women participating in decision-making processes;
- Consultations and community engagement to feed into a specific process;
- Coalition building and strategizing to influence a specific process;
- Advocacy events and meetings, cross-border dialogues;

¹⁰ Including by enhancing women's leadership and engagement in political processes, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, constitution making, security sector and judicial reforms and wider post-conflict reconstruction and recovery processes.

¹¹ See Figure 1 page 3.

- Organizing and drafting participatory declarations/demands to influence decision-making processes.
- Providing protection for women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders (around activities related to peace processes specifically)¹³

Examples of requests mentioned through consultations:

- Translation of documents and interpretation during specific decision-making processes in Cameroon (English/French);
- Inter-country dialogue and exchange between women peacebuilders facing Talibans (Afghanistan and Pakistan) to strategize and share lessons learned in a safe place;
- Travel and logistical support to organize a side-meeting for advocacy along peace talks;
- Strategizing and political advice to influence key decision-makers for women's meaningful participation in talks (Libya);
- Consultations and dialogues between youth and decision-makers (South Sudan);
- Protection needs for women peace and women's rights advocates (Libya).

Note on longer-term initiatives: The WPHF regular funding through Call for Proposals provides longer support for civil society organization (up to 2 years). The current window will focus on financing rapid and strategic urgent interventions linked to a specific gap and process.

Nature of the support provided

The RRW will support these initiatives through:

- Small grants for CSOs; or
- Direct support/funding to the initiatives (for example, expert deployment to advise CSOs, flights to attend a meeting, childcare, ...)

Depending on the type of support requested, the support will be provided directly by the WPHF's Secretariat (such as travel, expert deployment, etc.) or by one of the RRW INGO implementing partners to transfer rapidly small grants support to local and national CSOs, whose request for support has been validated by the WPHF RRW Task Force.

During the inception period, a pool of partner INGOs will be selected through a Call for Proposals for the WPHF's Global Window. Partnerships with INGOs will be in place for 1 year during an inception period (until approximately November 2021). The budget of each partnership will not exceed 250 000 USD. The WPHF's RRW Unit, hosted by the WPHF Secretariat, will manage the grant-making to INGOs. WPHF will transfer the full budget requested by INGO partners to be held on retainer to ensure rapid disbursement of funds to local and national CSOs through both RRW streams (small grants or direct support).

III. Role of the Rapid Response Window Unit

The Rapid Response Window will be comprised of:

- A task force composed of the WPHF Board members.
- A technical committee composed of all the RRW partners, 1 UN Country staff (WPS expert *varies based on the country relevant to the request for support*), 1 UN Women's mediation specialist, WPSHA team, UN Women HQ, 1 representative from DPPA (*for requests that target a track 1 peace process*), 1 representative from DPPA (*for requests that target a track 1 peace process*), 1 representative of the WPHF

¹³ Exact modalities to be determined through consultations with relevant stakeholders

largest donor from the previous budget year is offered the possibility to be a member and provide overall feedback on the proposal – will make recommendations for approval (see figure 2 for more details on process), and .

- A Rapid Response Window Unit will be established within the WPHF Secretariat to support the process.

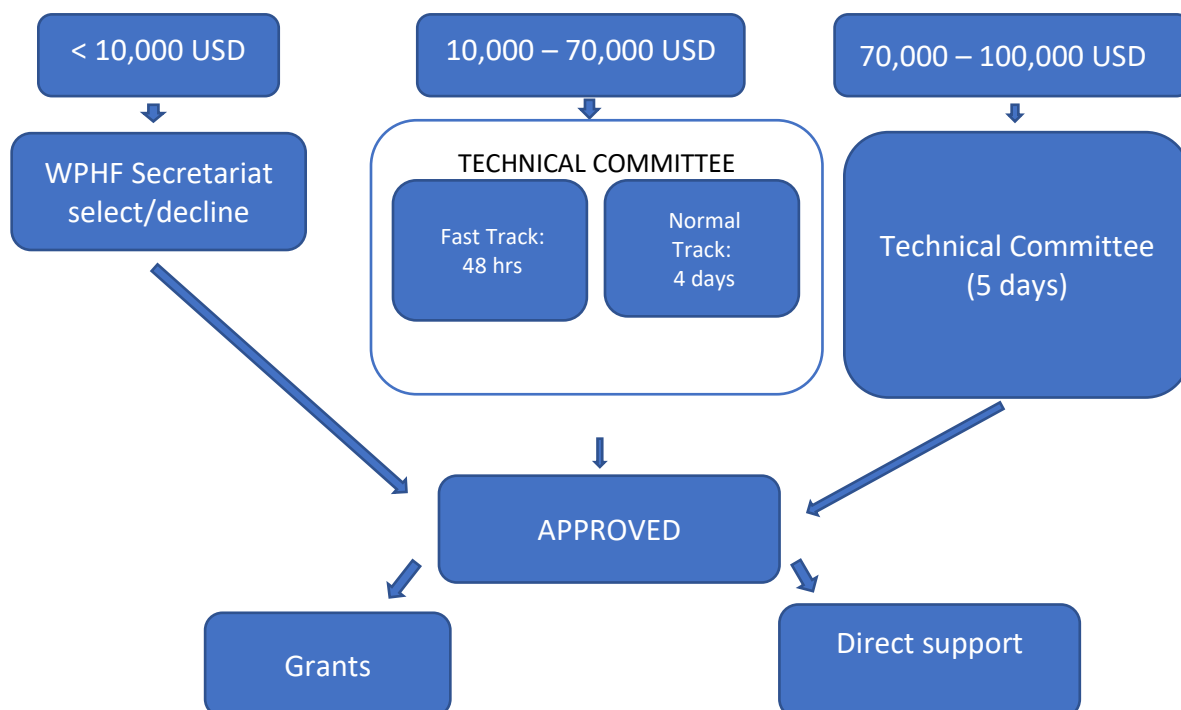
The Rapid Response Window Unit, hosted by the WPHF Secretariat will have the following functions:

- Coordinate between different stakeholders, including implementing partners, UN entities, CSOs and networks of women mediators
- Provide technical support to the task force and technical committee
- Oversee the entire funding cycle through selection of implementing partners and direct implementation (see figure below)
- Provide for risk management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting on the window
- Provide Direct Support services to CSOs and may provide Grant on an exceptional basis

The RRW Unit will be overseen by the Head of the Secretariat and supported by the WPHF Secretariat, It will be composed of:

- A coordination staff (P3) to set up the mechanism, ensure the coordination between the different partners, process the requests, and support the technical committee.
- An Operations Assistant (full time G5) to facilitate and process rapid funding requests and organize travel (flights).
- communication consultant(s) to support with the dissemination of information on the RRW at all levels and in different languages to enhance awareness and multiply requests for support (need to be reassessed at the end of the inception phase).

Figure 1: Selection process



IV. Results and Resources Framework

The expected outcome of the Project is to enable the effective establishment and delivery of the Rapid Response Window's Outcome result and indicators.

The Project will have 3 different Outputs

Output 1.1. Quality technical and advisory support to the RRW and its decision-making structures is provided

The Rapid Response Window Unit will support the Governing bodies of the RRW and prepare the relevant documents within the timeframes approved. It will also record and track all decisions made. It will follow-up on the meetings and ensure that its decisions are implemented in a timely and adequate manner, and report back to the decision-making structures if necessary.

The Rapid Response Window Unit will ensure coordination with and between different stakeholders involved including UN HQ and Country Offices, networks of women mediators, international and local civil society organizations as well as experts.

Output 1.2. Efficient, effective, and timely management of the Rapid Response Window and direct implementation of support is ensured

The RRW 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. It will also liaise with the Administrative Agent's office, notably submission of fund allocation and transfer requests on behalf of the Funding Board and national steering mechanisms. It will also liaise with the RRW implementing partners (outcome 1.3.).

The RRW Unit will also ensure direct implementation of projects or activities (directly below 10,000 USD and further to approval for amounts above 10,000 USD).

For both direct and indirect implementation, the RRW Unit will ensure quality and timely implementation of global projects. The Secretariat will develop a specific M&E strategy for the RRW and ensure reporting against identified results and indicators, in relation to WPHF's Outcome 4. The Secretariat will provide updates to the governing bodies on risk analysis and mitigation.

At the end of the inception period (6 months), the RRW Unit will lead an internal review of the window to assess and readjust its functioning and operations. The RRW draft a Management response to the internal review and will implement all the recommendations approved by the WPHF Board.

Output 1.3. Efficient, effective and timely management of INGO partnerships is ensured

The RRW Unit will manage and support the selection and coordination of INGO partnerships to strengthen support to CSOs under the RRW. It will ensure that selected INGO partners provide comprehensive coverage in terms of geographic reach, technical expertise and language capabilities.

The RRW Unit will manage the grant-making process to INGOs. It will oversee the capacities assessment of the selected INGOs and, with approval from the Funding Board, the transfer of funds to INGO partners.

In the implementation of support to CSOs, the RRW Unit will provide the necessary information to INGO partners as members of the Technical Committee so that they are well-placed to make recommendations for approval on shortlisted CSO proposals. The RRW Unit will resolve any difference of opinion on which INGO will take on partnership with any given CSO initiative. It will be a focal point for INGOs managing active partnerships with CSOs to address matters arising and to review and adjust processes as necessary during the inception phase. The RRW will organize regular follow up calls with CSOs or women peacebuilders grantees to collect their feedbacks on the funding mechanism and the partnership with INGOs, and will make adjustments or recommendations.

The RRW Unit will be responsible for incorporating findings from INGO reports into output 1.4.

Output 1.4. Communications, capacity building and Knowledge Management is provided to the Rapid Response Window

Communication, knowledge management and capacity building are at the heart of the WPHF's Strategy. The RRW Unit will ensure multi-lingual communications around the existence and functioning of the Rapid Response window and opportunities for civil society organizations and women's groups.

In terms of knowledge management, the RRW Unit will use the WPHF Community to ensure dissemination of lessons learned and good practices as well as capacity building for partners under the RRW. The RRW will contribute to the global advocacy for improving women's influence in formal peace processes through targeted outreach and events with their active partners.

V. Partnerships

The RRW aims to build on existing efforts and structures to provide additional flexible and responsive funding to women's rights advocates, women peacebuilders, women-led including young women-led civil society organizations. It aims to empower them to define their strategies and lead their initiatives, while amplifying their voices and building their capacity through the RRW partners and leverage multi-partnerships strengths for better and more impact.

Collaboration, coordination and communication amongst partners and actors will contribute to the effectiveness and reach of the impact of initiatives undertaken through the RRW. The WPHF Secretariat will regularly share information on the requests received with relevant actors (UN Country offices working on the peace processes, Women Mediators Networks, DPPA, PBSO, INGOs, Member States supporting peace processes and other relevant stakeholders) to leverage entry points, political influence and expertise for better and comprehensive support.

Annex A - WPHF RRW Unit Results Framework (2020-2023)

Results	Indicators	Means of Verification/ Sources of Information	Activities
<p>Project Outcome The Rapid Response Window on Women's Participation in Peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements is established and delivery of interventions from the window (under WPHF outcome 4) is ensured.</p>	<p>1. Number/type of demand-driven requests supported by RRW (direct-support) Baseline: 11 (as of December 2021) Target: Dependent on funding available; at least 50 supported directly by RRW unit by December 2023</p> <p>2. Number/type of short-term grants supported by RRW Baseline: 2 (as of December 2021) Target: Dependent on funding available; at least 24 supported by RRW unit by December 2023</p>	<p>Review of project documents/Management Information System</p> <p>Internal review WPHF external evaluation</p>	
<p>Output 1.1. Quality technical and advisory support to the Rapid Response Window and its decision-making structures is provided</p>	<p>1. Existence of RRW decision-making documents and packages for selection and review of requests Baseline: 0 Target: December 2020</p> <p>2. Percentage of decisions implemented within the timeframe Baseline: N/A Target: December 2023: 100%</p>	<p>Emails Project documents Annual reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of the RRW Unit - Establishment of the Technical Committee - Submission of necessary documents for decision making, including the selection of implementing partners and review of proposals received directly - Follow up and implementation - Update the RRW project document - Update of CfP documents, proposal templates based on RRW Review (2022)

Results	Indicators	Means of Verification/ Sources of Information	Activities
Output 1.2. Efficient, effective, and timely management of the Rapid Response Window and direct implementation of support is ensured	<p>1. Existence of a M&E Strategy and bank of indicators for the RRW Baseline: 0 Target: December 2020</p> <p>2. CfP and proposal templates available online. Baseline: 0 Target: December 2023</p> <p>3. Availability of an Internal review of the RRW and set of recommendations Baseline: 0 Target: December 2021</p> <p>4. Availability of RRW annual report Baseline: 0 Target: 3 annual reports before December 2023</p>	<p>Minutes of the FB meeting where OM is approved</p> <p>Risk management matrix</p> <p>M&E Strategy/Documents</p> <p>Internal RRW Review Document</p> <p>RRW annual report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft call for proposals for the RRW and support the selection process - Manage the window – application and review process - Ensure direct implementation for projects under the responsibility of the RRW Unit - Draft templates for submission and evaluation of the proposals - Elaborate and disseminate templates for application in each stream available online in 6 languages (FR,EN,ES, AR, RU, PO) - Quality control on requests submitted - Elaborate and update RRW risk management matrix - Elaborate and implement an M&E strategy with a bank of indicators and tip sheets - Coordinate and manage all day-to-day activities necessary for the smooth running of the Window - Guarantee compliance with the Window and WPHF's rules and procedures - Draft RRW SOP - Report on the RRW's results - Conduct an internal review - Liaise with the UN Administrative Agent's office in New York, notably submission of fund allocation and transfer requests on behalf of the Funding Board.
Output 1.3. Efficient, effective and timely management of INGO partnerships is ensured	<p>1. Pool of INGO implementing partners selected Baseline: 0 Target: December 2020</p> <p>2. INGO partners have funds on retainer Baseline: 0 Target: At least 6 by end June 2021</p> <p>3. Number of CSO initiatives supported by INGOs across both RRW streams</p>	<p>Emails from FB with selected INGOs</p> <p>Financial reports</p> <p>INGO reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft call for INGO partnerships with the RRW and manage the selection process - Draft templates for submission and evaluation of the proposals - Manage the application and review process - Manage the capacities assessment for selected INGOs - Ensure INGOs are transferred funds on retainer, based on their estimated budgets - Engage and coordinate INGOs through the Technical Committee to make recommendations to the Task Force on type of support and, when relevant, the proposed INGO partner

Results	Indicators	Means of Verification/ Sources of Information	Activities
	Baseline: 0 Target: At least 24 in total by December 2023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate Task Force decisions to INGOs - Support CSOs grantees and make recommendations to INGOs partners when relevant - Support INGOs to be active partners in both RRW streams - Organize and participate to joint missions with INGO partners - Organize and participate to INGOs-CSO Advocacy Events - Feed INGO reporting into RRW comms and knowledge management (Output 1.4.)
Output 1.4. Communications, capacity building and Knowledge Management is provided for the Rapid Response Window	<p>1.Types of communications tools and knowledge products developed and disseminated on the RRW in at least 4 languages Baseline: 0 Target: December 2023 : at least 4</p> <p>2.Number/types of information, and/or exchange of best practices sessions organized for RRW partners Baseline: 0 Target: 40 by December 2023</p>	<p>Community of Practice Knowledge products Mid-term review/evaluations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate and circulate information on the RRW in different languages - Conduct information sessions for CSOs on the RRW and its objectives and application process - Conduct information sessions on targeted country on the RRW and its objectives and application process - Liaise with partners within the WPHF Community - Design and disseminate fact-sheets about on RRW projects - Design and disseminate lessons learned and good practices from the Window - Support peer learning exchanges with the WPHF-L-Hub CoP

Annex B - Budget per category

UNDG Categories	2020	2021	2022	2023	(March 31-2024)	TOTAL
1. Staff and other personnel costs	56,670	167,815	380,000	806,000	190,750	1,601,235
2. Supplies, Commodities and Materials	25000					25,000
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture, including Depreciation						
4. Contractual Services	2,435	445,184	425,000	480,000	55,000	1,407,619
5. Travel		30,416	350,000	360,000	70,000	810,416
6. Grants		1,272,752	2,008,169	5,046,073		8,326,994
7. General Operating Expenses and other Direct Costs				30,000	30,000	60,000
8. Indirect Support Costs	170,093	183,832	101,831	376,230	24,203	856,188
TOTAL	254,198	2,099,999	3,265,000	7,098,302	369,953	13,087,452