



Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

Annual Project Narrative Progress Report

**Rapid Response Window on Women's Participation in Peace Processes and
the Implementation of Peace Agreements (RRW)**

Rapid Response Window Unit

Reporting Period:
1 January – 31 December 2023

<p>Project Title: Rapid Response Window on Women’s Participation in Peace Processes and the Implementation of Peace Agreements (RRW)</p> <p>Project Number: 00122550</p>	<p>PUNO(s): UN Women Rapid Response Window Unit, WPHF Secretariat</p>
<p>Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2023</p> <p>Report Submitted by: UN Women as the Secretariat of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund Name: Sophie Giscard d’Estaing & Matthew Rullo Entity: UN Women Title: Officers in Charge (acting) Emails: s.giscarddestaing@unwomen.org matthew.rullo@unwomen.org</p>	<p>Implementing Partners: N/A</p> <p>Project Locations: Global</p>
<p>Project Description: The Rapid Response Window on women’s participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements is a funding mechanism that addresses a gap in urgent, practical support to increase women’s participation in formal peace processes. It was established on the recommendation of the UNSG’s October 2019 annual report on WPS (S/2019/800, p.37).</p>	<p>Total budget transferred to the RRW Unit in 2023: \$5,022,543USD</p> <p>Total cumulative budget transferred to RRW at the end of the reporting period: \$ 11,989,103 (2020: \$ 2.6 million; 2021: \$ 2.81 million; 2022: \$1,556, 650; 2023: \$5,022,543)</p> <p>Project Start Date: May 15, 2020 Project End Date: March 31, 2024 Total Duration (in months): 46 months</p>
<p>WPHF Outcome the Project is contributing to: Outcome 4: Conflict Resolution</p>	
<p>WPHF Secretariat/RRW Unit indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number/type of demand-driven requests supported by RRW (direct-support) 2. Number/type of short-term grants supported by RRW <p>WPHF programme level indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	

Summary

This report covers the results and progress achieved of the Rapid Response Window for Women's Participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements (RRW) of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) between 1 January and 31 December 2023. The report highlights the key impact and results of women's rights civil society organizations (CSOs) and women peacebuilders working on peace processes and partaking in peace agreements in crisis and conflict countries, as well as the progress achieved by the RRW Unit in facilitating this critical work along with its partners.

In 2023, the Rapid Response Window (RRW) experienced continued growth and expansion with dedicated resources to bolstering the direct representation and influence of civil society organizations and women peacebuilders in Track 1 and Track 2 peace processes and in the implementation of peace agreements. This growth reflects the RRW's commitment to advancing its mission and making meaningful contributions to inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding efforts.

Overall, 42 initiatives by 95 CSOs and their co-implementing partners were supported during the year. Specifically, this was done through the provision of 16 urgent logistical support for 40 CSO recipients in 12 countries through the Direct Support stream, and 26 Short-Term grants to 55 CSOs and their co-implementing partners in 19 countries. The majority of interventions focused on the implementation of Track 2 peace processes (54%), followed by the implementation of peace agreements (35%), Track 1 peace processes (8%), and a focus on multiple tracks (4% respectively).

In 2023, the RRW has supported the participation of approximately 2,610 women and young women, in their active participation in Track I, Track II or the implementation of peace agreements or negotiations. A total of 8,014 people (82.9% women) directly benefited from interventions and direct support from the CSOs and 33,548 people benefited indirectly through various outreach and social media interventions to influence peace agreements in their countries. The RRW has enhanced the coordination and connection among grassroots women's rights organizations within countries where several projects are supported.

The direct support stream of the RRW, which aims to provide direct logistical and technical support, continued to demonstrate itself as a rapid mechanism to support women activists seize opportunities for their participation in high-level peace negotiations, as well as to develop more inclusive peace agreements accountability mechanisms. Women peacebuilders and women's rights organization have requested this type of support to increase their direct participation notably for the implementation of peace agreements by building coalitions and engaging key political actors and stakeholders; and to increase knowledge and awareness on women's participation in the peace process. The direct support stream also served as a mechanism to cultivate strategic alliances among women's rights organizations by fostering networking opportunities and enhancing the capabilities of women peacebuilders to discern urgent gaps and potential avenues for enhancing gender-related provisions within peace agreements.

Through short-term grants, which aim to address urgent gaps to women's meaningful participation to influence a lasting inclusive peace process, local women's rights organizations have generated specific recommendations and strategic initiatives aimed at influencing peace negotiations and amplifying women's voices. This has led to the development of innovative strategies for raising awareness among stakeholders, informing them comprehensively, and reinforcing gender provisions within peace agreements and their implementation frameworks. Key stakeholders have mobilized concrete and efficient solutions to enhance women's influence sustainably, notably leveraging existing monitoring

mechanisms across diverse parts of the world. In challenging and volatile contexts marked by outbreaks of violence that endanger civilian populations and disrupt the peacebuilding process, the RRW has demonstrated its capacity to offer flexibility to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This flexibility enables CSOs to adjust their projects to evolving circumstances while also receiving institutional support to effectively adapt in escalation of violence and conflict and intervene promptly when feasible.

Building upon the successes achieved during the past three years, the RRW will launch its second phase in April 2024 until December 2027. The upcoming phase is strategically designed to provide adequate support to women peacebuilders by improving RRW streams for more impacts, but also to address identified gaps to engage local women rights CSOs in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Europe, and South Asia. It will also amplify global advocacy efforts aimed at augmenting women's participation in peace processes, drawing insights from the experiences and narratives of RRW partners. Despite this, the RRW's impact is constrained by insufficient funding available to respond to the number of requests from women's rights organizations and impacting agreements with INGO partners. Initiatives are underway to secure additional funding and reverse this trend.

2. Results and Progress Achieved

Outcome 1: 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 is ensured.

In 2023, the RRW experienced significant growth and solidified its position. It actively facilitated the direct involvement of women's rights organizations and women peacebuilders in both Track 1 and Track 2 peace processes. Additionally, the RRW provided expert advisory and technical support to enhance women's impact in the implementation of peace agreements across various countries.

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Figure 1 : Tracks and Peace Agreements supported¹



Overall, a total of 8,014 people (82.9% women and young women) directly benefited from interventions and direct support from CSOs. A total of 33,548 people indirectly benefited through various outreach and social media interventions from CSOs and INGO partners.

An additional eight short-term grants were approved in late 2023 and will begin implementation in 2024.

Key Impacts²

In 2023, a total of 2,610 women, including 199 young women, participated in Track I and Track II processes, or in the implementation of a peace agreement through direct support or the implementation of short-term grants, drawing on various strategies to ensure gender-responsive provisions and priorities are integrated. This marks a significant change on the direct engagement of women in peace processes since the inception of the RRW in 2020.

Direct Support

In 2023, a total of 703 women peacebuilders and 32 men have influenced peace processes through Track I or Track II initiatives, or the implementation of a peace agreement with direct support either by INGOs partners or the RRW Unit.

In 2023, a total of 40 women's rights organizations and activists who were recipients of direct logistical and technical support through 16 initiatives, delivered multiple initiatives to facilitate the meaningful role in peace processes in context marked by different barriers and shrinking space by seizing rapid opportunities to intervene. Direct support on behalf of CSOs led by UN entities and RRW INGOs partners have led to foster strategic convergence for actions to fill urgent needs. Direct support led by CSOs have been a valuable mean to engage key stakeholders, to leverage advocacy efforts and build capacities for transformative actions.

The below section shares examples of how local women's rights organizations and activists, benefiting from direct logistical and technical support, initiated numerous efforts to actively participate in peace processes despite facing various barriers and a shrinking space. They swiftly seized opportunities to intervene. Moreover, direct support on behalf of CSOs led by UN entities and RRW INGOs partners (Inclusive Peace, Cordaid, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WIPLF)) facilitated strategic alignment to address urgent needs effectively. CSO-led direct support initiatives proved invaluable in engaging key stakeholders, amplifying advocacy endeavors, and enhancing capacities for transformative actions.

¹ Please refer to Appendix 3 for a list of CSOs supported.

² Please refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of results by indicator.

The RRW mechanism, through its direct support stream, allowed applications to be submitted by Country and Regional Offices of UN entities on behalf of women's CSOs and informal women's groups. This approach has fostered networking, collaborative efforts, and provided access to women's rights groups and peacebuilders with limited resources. Under this approach, four direct support CSOs recipients overall were provided technical guidance from UN Women country and regional offices in Senegal, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Enhancing the active involvement in peace negotiations, fostering coalition building, and generating knowledge on women's impact in peace processes

In the [Central African Republic \(CAR\)](#), two direct support initiatives were supported with UN Women, with the aim of increasing their representation and leadership in the implementation of the peace and reconciliation political agreement (2021) and the [Luanda Joint Roadmap for The Central African Republic](#) (2021), as well as the [Republican Dialogue](#) (2022). 50 participants including women leaders, members of women's organizations and youth; members of the Prime Minister's Cabinet and the Ministry of Gender; representatives of decentralized authorities (prefects and traditional leaders); UN system and media representatives gathered in Bangui from June 1st to 2nd, 2023, to evaluate women's participation in the implementation of Resolution 1325 and the mutualized political process in CAR.

Following this workshop, over 450 women leaders representing women's organizations from Bangui and 17 other locations in the country were trained and engaged in the implementation and accountability of national actors in the mutualized political process for peace in CAR. Through their commitment and outreach missions conducted in eight Prefectures of the country, the Offices and Members of women's organizations from 12 locations were sensitized and presented recommendations to promote their full participation in the mutualized political process and monitor the recommendations of the Republican Dialogue in their areas. As a result, the Prime Minister's office, as the guarantor of the mutualized roadmap, received on July 14, 2023, from a delegation of women, a proposed memorandum and set of recommendations to integrate their aspirations into the mutualized roadmap.

Together with UN Women Regional office of West and Central Africa, RRW supported an initiative in [Senegal](#) by *Réseau pour la paix et la sécurité des femmes de l'Espace (REPSFECO)*. This urgent request aimed at increasing the women's rights organization's influence in the upcoming national peace dialogue, which will be launched by the President of the country. The support provided a safe space and technical support for 38 women peacebuilders from women's rights organizations to come together for a two-day workshop to [identify solutions to restore a peaceful environment](#), followed by the development of a [roadmap of actions](#) to be carried out under women's leadership to influence the peace process and elections in Senegal.

In [the D.R.C](#), RRW also supported initiatives looking at addressing obstacles that hinder women's participation in the different peace processes ongoing in the country, including peace negotiations of Nairobi III & Nairobi IV, and to support their role in the implementation of the Nairobi III Peace agreement/report. With support of the UNW Country Office, *PACOFEDI* translated into Swahili the Nairobi III Report, with 100 copies distributed to women peacebuilders and survivors of violence in Rutshuru. In addition, 47 forcefully displaced women (and 3 men) enhanced their capacities to better understand and adopt the locally translated Nairobi III report and in conflict mediation skills. 50 women from Rutshuru and Nyiragongo also participated in an exchange meeting for their involvement and ownership of the Nairobi III peace agreement.

Direct support to gain access to key stakeholders in shrinking spaces

In [Cameroon](#), based on the results of their short term project supported in 2022, *Reach out Cameroon (RoC)* successfully presented their recommendations for the national dialogue in 2023, which received endorsement from the Prime Minister and key actors like embassies and UN entities. RoC showcased their findings and recommendations at an event hosted by the Canadian High Commission in Yaoundé, attended by 17 representatives from various organizations including UNICEF, the Swiss Embassy, the British High Commission, Global Affairs Canada, among others. Diplomatic missions expressed commitments such as modifying their own calls for proposals to incorporate themes on enhancing women's representation in decision-making processes and considering funding projects supporting research for evidence-based peacebuilding strategies. The report containing recommendations has been disseminated to stakeholders in Buea (20) and Bamenda (22), including religious leaders, traditional authorities, government bodies, and international organizations, fostering broader engagement and support for peacebuilding efforts.

In October 2023, a delegation of seven women peacebuilders from *Southwest/Northwest Women's Taskforce (SNWOT)* attended the Southern Cameroon Peoples Conference (SCPC) in Toronto, Canada, entitled "Stronger Together in Our Diversity." Capitalizing on the conference theme, the women used the opportunity to share a joint position paper and roadmap to peace. The final sessions of the SCPC 2023 focused on the deliberation and adoption and signing of the [resolutions](#), into which the SNWOT delegation provided pertinent inputs to add gender-responsive measures on forming a Cameroon that has equitable access to education, healthcare, and political participation. One of the key recommendation was to establish a Southern Cameroons People's Secretariat to work together to coordinate all the activities pertaining to the prosecution of the Southern Cameroons Liberation War. At the end of the SCPC, the women coalition drafted and implemented a post-conference communications action plan to ensure all learnings, challenges, and triumphs of the SCPC can be shared with other peacebuilders and separatist actors. In addition, a pre-and post-meeting security plan was issued to ensure the protection of all women peacebuilders in the coalition. The Coalition's attendance at the SCPC was key to ensuring that women were not only present, but able to influence the dialogues and forthcoming peace and political processes. The RRW Direct support was critical to gain access to these key actors and provide space for advocacy. As one women leader noted, "If you do you do not have money to get your transport, hotels, and childcare, how will you have the meeting?"

In [Syria](#), building upon the success of *Badael's* short term grant from 2022, the organization received direct support to create spaces that will enable Syrian women to conceptualize their positions on political topics without impediments from dominant political power holders. Following the publication of a think paper developed in 2022, significant progress was made in May 2023 when *Badael* successfully organized a co-think space in collaboration with EU policymakers. This event provided a platform for constructive dialogue and knowledge exchange, enabling four Syrian women and seven EU policymakers to explore strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of EU consultations in promoting gender-responsive outcomes. Through these initiatives, Syrian women have gained greater agency and visibility in political discourse, contributing to the advancement of gender equality and inclusive decision-making processes in Syria and beyond.

Direct support to strengthen advocacy efforts and promote cooperation among women peacebuilders

In [Ethiopia](#), *TIMRAN, the Coalition for Women's Voice* in National Dialogue with Inclusive Peace support conducted country-wide sensitisation and consultations with women to raise awareness about the National Dialogue and to develop a gender inclusive agenda which can feed into the agenda-setting process of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission. These consultations allowed 21 women

peacebuilders representing grassroots organizations to learn more about the dialogue process and share their concerns, needs, and perspectives. [These women peacebuilders not only fostered dialogue and trust within their communities but also worked towards bridging divides through awareness-raising and coalition-building efforts.](#) With the help of the Coalition for Women’s Voice in National Dialogue’s working relation with the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, the gender inclusive agenda has been an important means for advocacy efforts to strengthening the gender inclusivity of the National Dialogue’s preparatory phase which paved the way for the rest of the process.

In [Sudan](#), 100 Sudanese women and 25 men civil society actors have collaborated to analyse Sudan’s conflict context, pinpoint obstacles, and opportunities for influencing peace-making efforts, and devise strategies for coalition-building and advocacy. They received discrete technical and strategic support to Sudanese women civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders to assess the conflict context, identify obstacles and opportunities to influence peace-making efforts as well as coalition-building and advocacy strategies. To this end, consultations spaces were held in Nairobi, Kampala and Cairo, complemented by online consultations spaces in Ethiopia, UAE and South Sudan with Inclusive Peace support. The Cairo workshop which took place in June 2023 was the first time Sudanese women civil society and political actors had been convened to take stock and respond to the ongoing violence in the country. The engagement came at a critical time and resulted in a multi-track action plan prioritising advocacy, influencing, and strategies for ensuring inclusion of women in peace-making efforts. This collective effort resulted in the creation of a “shadow peace agreement,” serving as a comprehensive document outlining expectations and demands. Beyond its consolidating role, this agreement holds significant potential as a tool for advocating for more inclusive and gender-responsive peace-making endeavours.

Direct support as an opportunity for women peacebuilders to share experiences and best practices, fostering inspiration and mutual learning

In [Venezuela](#), the direct support extended to *Cauce Association*, a women’s rights CSO, focused on bringing a group of 20 Venezuelan women who participated in workshops supported by a short-term grant in Bogota, where they met with a variety of women’s organizations and influential women to exchange and learn about the Colombian peace process and about the levers of women meaningful participation. This direct support facilitated knowledge exchange between the Venezuelan group and various stakeholders engaged in Colombian peace negotiations. Throughout the mission, the group seized the opportunity to engage with international cooperation organizations and individuals and entities that played a role in introducing a gender perspective into the peace negotiations and their implementation in Colombia. Over the course of the initiative, the impressions of the participants were collected, and as a result, women leaders realized that their strength lied in the diversity of their group, that they have a common goal, the recognition that more trust among themselves is needed, and that more clarity and consistency in the focus of their work is required. Scaling up the successes of their work by allying with (and getting support from) other organizations and institutions at various levels will be the next step. Despite the successes, women leaders remain concerned about maintaining the momentum and continue to have a meaningful, sustainable impact.

Direct support as an opportunity for capacity building and transformative action

In [Kyrgyzstan](#), the *Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)*, received direct support to pilot a project aimed at strengthening local women actors' capacity as actors of change in the ceasefire negotiations to address the cross-border conflict between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan through trauma healing and resilience building as a form of empowerment for local women – an emerging need in the region, but for which they had not been able to find support for previously. The purpose was to prepare them to be actors of change in the peace recovery process. The trauma healing workshops held in March 2023, were

developed collaboratively with and drew upon the expertise of GPPAC members located in the Balkans with 13 women participants (and 4 men). Being part of the same network fostered a sense of safety, encouraging the sharing of [personal stories](#).

Participants noted that the workshop was useful, applicable, timely and relevant. Many participants noted that they gained new knowledge and will apply learning into their work, *“I received specific concepts on resilience and emotional literacy. I deepened my knowledge of critical thinking skills, dialogue and mapping techniques. I will apply this knowledge in my family, team and communities where we implement other projects.”* Another participant shared, *“It allowed me to look at my activities from a different angle and new ideas for further work appeared. [I feel] motivated for further actions”.*

Participants were also noted that following the workshop, it would be to continue meeting online, exchange experiences to strengthen cooperation between the countries, and develop common and joint projects or programmes. Some participants also recognized that other CSOs could learn from this workshop, *“Knowledge, information, and skills are indispensable for other NGOs as well. Because without our joint work, without cooperation, it is impossible to achieve the goals of peacebuilding, constructive conflict resolution, and resilience training. And such training is necessary to increase our potential.”* Another noted, *“It would be very useful for many CSOs from three countries to participate in such training. And we should conduct such training in our countries [including] CSOs in Tajikistan”.* As an outcome of the workshop, FTI, with regional partners and GPPAC formulated a concept note submitted to the RRW. Following the successful concept note, FTI submitted a STG proposal that was approved in July 2023.

Short-Term Grants

In 2023, the RRW supported 26 short-term grant initiatives to address the gaps to women’s meaningful participation to influence a lasting inclusive peace process in several parts of the world, with 1,907 women and young women actively participating in these processes. Most of these initiatives have been focused on the implementation of peace agreements. Women’s rights organizations have developed concrete recommendations and key actions to influence peace processes and include women voices. This has resulted in innovative strategies to raise awareness and inform stakeholders; and enhance gender provisions of peace agreements and their implementation. Key actors have been able to mobilize concrete and efficient solutions to improve women’s influence in a sustainable way, especially through the monitoring mechanisms in place in different parts of the world.

Addressing urgent gaps for women participation through strategic interventions for sustainable impact

Sub-Saharan Africa

In 2023, 14 short term grants were implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, D.R.C, South Sudan, Mali, Cameroon, Libya, Guinea, Niger and Uganda).

In [Ethiopia](#), together with INGOs partners, NIMD and Conciliation Resources, two short-term grants were implemented addressing women’s representation in the gender responsive monitoring mechanisms of the peace agreement signed in November 2022 and the National Dialogue process which started right after. The *Advocacy Centre for Democracy and Development (ACDD)* implemented an initiative addressing the gaps in women’s participation and leadership in women’s active participation and monitoring of the National Dialogue process. The CSO generated an evidence-based assessment highlighting the level of and gaps in women’s participation in the peace dialogues in Oromia and Somali Regions. The collected evidence has informed the design of advocacy-based workshops in the two regions, followed by the development of an action plan, where women leaders highlighted recommendations on how to increase their engagement in the National Dialogue process. The set of recommendations serves to consolidate

their agenda and shape collective actions into a concrete plan of strategies and activities. In conjunction with the workshops, ACDD also put in place gender-responsive tools, guides, and standards to monitor the effective participation of women in the National Dialogue Process.

In parallel, *Mums for Mums* focused on increasing the role of women leaders and women CSOs in the implementation of the “Permanent Cessation of Hostilities” Peace Agreement, signed between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigrayan People, under the auspice of the African Union. 149 women peacebuilders held a meeting with the Interim Regional Administration to advocate for the need for women-inclusive peace making. This was followed by a training workshop establishing Government and a CSO Forum for women CSOs and CBOs in ensuring democratic participation of women in the peace process. The project has also produced research on the roles of women in the Tigray peace process and transitional justice, including the direct involvement in peace negotiations. In the Nairobi technical arrangement for implementing the Pretoria agreement, two women were among the negotiators. Their ability to devise practical and viable solutions, evoke empathy from opposing parties, compel actors to confront the realities of violence, and facilitate collaborative problem-solving were acknowledged by male participants in the negotiations³. Concurrently, women's rights organizations participating in Track II dialogues endorsed incremental progress and leveraged innovative approaches to secure and built on small gains towards major peace agendas. In the Tigray region, women also engaged in advocacy endeavours aimed at challenging stereotypes surrounding women's involvement in conflict resolution. They emphasized the necessity of women's meaningful participation in addressing their grievances, fostering empathetic solidarity among women across political divides, facilitating healing, and ultimately initiating processes for reconciliation to address irreparable harm.

In [Kenya](#), *Garissa County Women's Peace Movement*, aimed to increase Somali women's leadership in the implementation of the Nanyuki 2 Peace Accord between Isiolo and Garissa Counties and the Tana 1 Declaration between Garissa and Tana River Counties in North-Eastern Kenya. The project provided space for Somali women peacebuilders to take part in the peacebuilding efforts at the county and national levels and to create space for women to coordinate their efforts and alter their exclusion by traditional male leaders, part of local peace committees, and decision makers. With support from Conciliation Resources, *Garissa County Women's Peace Movement* conducted several advocacy meetings with National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) in Nairobi, responsible for all peacebuilding efforts and implementation of peace agreements in the country. National and local actors participated in the project's launch event and joint dialogues, including the National Cohesion and Integration Commission NCIC, the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management under the Office of the President NSC, and the Frontier Counties Development Council. 336 women and 143 young women community members, together with elderly community leaders and male allies of local peace committees (362 men), from Garissa and Tana River counties, held joint community level dialogues, following the “Abaay-Abaay” method to roll out the peace agreement, calling for cessation of hostilities between the two communities. Since the conclusion of the project in October 2023, no violence has occurred between both counties.

In the [D.R.C](#), together with CORDAID, two short term grants were implemented by local women's rights organizations focused on strategic initiatives to increase women's participation, including forcefully displaced women, in the different peace processes of Nairobi III & Nairobi IV. In 2023, *Focus Droits et Accès* concluded its intervention working on engaging D.R.C leadership to advance women's

³ The roles of Tigray women and women agencies in the peace process and transitional justice in Ethiopia, *Mums for Mums*, p. 44, August 2023.

representation in the formal peace negotiations in Kenya, “Nairobi Peace Talks”, which took place earlier in the year. The project brought together 258 women peacebuilders, 56 young women and 17 men activists from women’s CSOs in Eastern Congo where they were able to combine their demands and develop an advocacy framework and action plan to engage with key stakeholders and channel their needs and recommendations with regards to their participation in the peace negotiations. Following the conference, women participants presented the terms of reference and demands of women from Eastern DRC for their participation in the peace process and the cessation of hostilities in Eastern DRC to conference attendees and key actors. The advocacy efforts were translated into a book of demands and disseminated to the command of the East African Community (EAC) force in DRC. In addition, 800 women and women's rights activists in 3 provinces of Eastern D.R.C were informed about the Nairobi peace process and women's efforts in the peace process.

Under a consortium of *Sauti Ya Mama Mukongomani (SMM)*, supported by CORDAID, the organization engaged women mediators, peacebuilders and network representatives in lobbying and advocacy efforts at the national and international levels, to increase Congolese women's influence and leadership in the implementation of formal peace agreements, as well as to influence the upcoming peace process Nairobi IV. The project complements and build on the results achieved under the initiative led by *Focus Droits et Acces* CSO in 2022.

In [South Sudan](#), *Women Relief Aid (WRA)*, with ICAN support, equipped 50 women and 40 young women with skills and opportunities to contribute to South Sudan's peace process at both local and national levels, with a focus on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). The project promoted the critical role of young women in South Sudan's peace process, notably through the training of women and young women on peacebuilding and mediation with diverse ethnic, socio-economic, and political backgrounds who represented all ten states. Two intergenerational CBO forums were conducted at local and national levels to discuss advocacy, gender roles, and women’s movements in peacebuilding. As a result, young women were able to learn from and with their older counterparts, ensuring both groups felt that their knowledge and capacity for impact was respected. Several mentoring relationships also resulted from these forums. These young women now have strengthened peacebuilding and leadership abilities and are more confident to participate in local and national level peace efforts, including joining South Sudan’s Women’s Coalition, a group that works to monitor the implementation of the R-ARCSS and disseminate the roadmap agenda to the grassroots level, and participating in community dialogues.

EVE South Sudan Women's Coalition, supported by Cordaid conducted a series of workshops with 180 women on the R-ARCSS 2018: Roadmap & Constitution making process, in Wau, Kuajok, Maridi, Torit and Bidibidi refugee camp in Uganda. Participants included women leaders from various states and Payams sectors, women’s organizations, women entrepreneurs, civil society, women in the security sector, members of Parliament, women in the media, church leaders, human rights organizations, faith-based organizations, women associations, academia, youth, and women from refugee camp in Bidibidi (Uganda). Sustained advocacy meetings with the parties to the agreement, and key government institutions were organized to ensure that the plight of South Sudanese women remains on the top of the agenda during the implementation phase of the R-ARCSS agreement and to reiterate the importance of women participation in decision-making. The stakeholders targeted included was Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, UN Women, RJMEC, the SPLM Secretary General and SPLM - IO Secretary General.

Members of the coalition also conducted consultations on the areas that they felt were of most concern and needed to be highlighted with the various stakeholders. Priority areas identified included, safeguarding the 35% women’s quota, security arrangements, engendering the Constitution making

process and elections, women economic empowerment and enterprise fund, funding women organisations, mental health and psychosocial support, key policies, and legal frameworks of the rights of women. As a result, three policy briefs which serve as a basis of evidence-based advocacy points were printed and shared with parties to the agreement, and key stakeholders:

- South Sudan’s Approach to Women’s Peace and Security: Political Parties as Shapers of a Gender-Inclusive Election in South Sudan
- Women's Participation in Constitution-Making Processes in South Sudan: Lessons from Previous Processes
- Investing in young women for sustainable Peace and Security in South Sudan

In [Guinea](#), with Cordaid support, *La Guineenne en Politique* (a consortium of eight CSOs) - and *Agir pour la Paix et le Développement en Guinée (ADPG)*, implemented a project aimed to increase gender provisions in the transition process. The direct support and short-term grant project, "Strengthening women's influence in the peace process for an inclusive transition" in seven administrative regions of Guinea (Boké, Kindia, Mamou, Labé, Kankan Faranah and N'Nzérékoré) and in the six communes of the special zone of Conakry (Ratoma, Matoto, Matam, Dixinn, Kaloum and Kassa), brought together 619 women from various political parties and civil society organisations in an overall movement to work towards peace and the effective inclusion of women in the transition by means of advocacy, lobbying, training and inter-generational dialogue. The project also aimed at providing rural women a space to express themselves publicly at major meetings through communication strategy in local languages.

MENA Region

In 2023, the RRW and its INGOs partners supported four Short-term grants initiatives in the MENA region.

In [Syria](#), *Dawlaty's* project aimed to enhance the participation of women relatives of arbitrary detainees and those who have been forcibly displaced in leading advocacy and networking operations to mobilize public opinion on the issue and international demands for accountability. Despite delays because of *Dawlaty's* response to the February earthquake in Syria, it was able to successfully implement its project. *Dawlaty* supported the participation of two women from its Families for Freedoms project in advocacy trips to New York and Washington D.C in advance of UN deliberations on a new institution for missing persons in Syria. As a result, the women shared key recommendations to UN Member States, and in a meeting with the penholder in the UN General Assembly, Luxembourg, and with civil society stakeholders. During a second advocacy trip to New York and Washington D.C, which took place days before the UN General Assembly vote on the UN mechanism, *Dawlaty* and the Syrian women representatives successfully mobilized international organizations to work on an open letter in support of the mechanism, whereby the General Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) to set up the new mechanism on 26 June 2023. The Resolution recognizes the impact of missing persons on women suffering and welcomes the work of survivor, family groups, and women’s organizations, in their work towards seeking truth and accountability. Further, a side event was hosted in Brussels with Syrian women, “Addressing the issue of disappearance in Syria: Syrian victims pursue the right to know.” *Dawlaty* noted that the event had a positive impact on civil society actors and international bodies and family groups, and a [video](#) was produced about the UN mechanism and women’s experience advocating for the institution. Finally, *Dawlaty* held a workshop for nine Syrian women to build their capacity on advocacy, awareness raising, and to strategize for ensuring implementation and effectiveness of the new UN mechanism. This workshop helped to prepare Syrian women relatives of arbitrary detainees and forcibly disappeared persons for the next phase of advocacy that will take place now that the UN mechanism has been created.

Also in [Syria](#), the *Centre for Civil Society and Democracy* (CCSD) with support from ICAN, increased women’s participation in the Constitution making process, and engaged with high-level decision makers, including participation in the UN General Assembly meeting in September 2023. CCSD carried out an advocacy campaign and disseminated a recommendation paper among key stakeholders and actively participated in key international events, including the UN General Assembly meeting in September 2023 and WPS week in October to ensure Syria remains on the minds of the world. Three women activists from various regions in Syria, accompanied by its CEO, Rajaa Altalli, presented the recommendation paper at a series of dialogues held in Turkey and different regions of Syria. Further, it was presented to the Syria Special Envoy, the US Special Envoy to the UN, and the Women Advisory Board (WAB). CCSD also organized a series of advocacy and outreach meetings across Europe, Turkey, Lebanon, Erbil, and Syria to present the recommendations paper and actively sought input from participants, which were further incorporated into the paper, transforming it into a consolidated document that reflects a diverse and extensive network of women activists and civil society actors, and their collective recommendations and requests for the peace process in Syria, effectively addressing gaps and providing a clear way forward. The document also called for cessation of hostilities between conflicting parties, while adopting a conflict sensitive approach for refugees and forcefully displaced communities. The impact of this initiative has been substantial, bridging the gap between women inside Syria and the ongoing political and peace processes outside the country. It has also strengthened the connection between women and decision-makers through impactful one-to-one meetings, network sessions, and events.

In [Libya](#), *Together We Build It-TWBI*, whose project closed in 2023, increased the participation of 37 women in the implementation of peace agreements by expanding its engagement with civil society, national, and international actors to promote women’s active engagement. Overall, TWBI engaged with 54 international and national actors, and civil society leaders. In 2023, the project also held five successful meetings with key national actors (all men), from Libya and Tunis with a focus on increasing women’s participation in the implementation of peace agreements, especially in relation to the UN’s new initiative on elections and the political agreement. To inform these meetings, the project consulted with seven women civil society actors, gathering valuable input to inform the recommendations provided to key national and international actors. These meetings resulted in increased collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders, fostering productive relationships towards achieving increasing Libya women’s participation in the peace agreements. TWBI also provided one-on-one tailored advice and recommendations to national and international stakeholders, resulting in significant advocacy uptakes. These meetings were crucial in promoting women’s inclusion in the implementation of peace agreements and discussing practical steps towards achieving this goal. The projects engagement with civil society actors also informed the recommendations provided to both national and international actors. Through its one-on-one approach, the project was able to customize its technical advice to the specific political situation of different actors, ultimately leading to increased impact and progress. In a March 2023 article, former UN Acting SRSG on Libya, Stephanie Williams, who successfully led the adoption of the ceasefire agreement and the political agreements that are the focus of this project, highlighted TWBI and the dialogue convened under this project as a prime example for women’s leadership in peace processes in Libya⁴.

In [Palestine](#), in partnership with GPPAC, the *Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy* (PCPD), was instrumental in engaging 24 youth (15 young women and 5 young men) in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the internal Palestinian Reconciliation process between Fatah and Hamas. Participants of training sessions gained new skills in the collection of survey data, to conduct stakeholder analysis, and to develop detailed strategies for conducting research on Palestinian women’s participation in peace

⁴ <https://en.majalla.com/node/287421/opinion/libyan-women-deserve-our-support-let’s-not-let-them-down>

processes. In January 2023, 22 young people also conducted dialogue sessions with 36 decision-makers (15 women leaders of CBOs and local foundations, five political party officials⁵, and 16 local authority representatives⁶), discussing critical questions about youth and women's participation in peace processes. The discussions focused on the research and highlighting the importance of applying UNCSR 1325 provisions in Palestine, decision-makers' roles, the challenges they faced in their careers, and emphasizing the importance of Palestinian women's political participation, in conflict resolution, and in negotiations. Similarly, young women peacebuilders and male allies conducted three awareness raising campaigns in the Old Town of Ramallah, Deir Al Asal (Hebron), and in Jenin in January 2023, focused on increasing women's participation in peacebuilding efforts and civic spaces, under the slogan "*Participate, Decide, Make the Change*". PCPD has finalized the study on the Future of young Palestinian women's action participation in political sphere and peace processes and the study will be published during 2024. This took place before recent escalations in Palestine, whereas the study focused on the formal Palestinian Israeli Peace Negotiations and the formal Palestinian-Palestinian Reconciliation Peace Process.

Following the attacks of October 7, 2023, and the subsequent increase in violence and escalation of the war in Palestine, implementation of a consortium project by PCPD, MEND and HCCD was put on hold due to risks to personnel. As a result, the WPHF Board approved institutional funding for these organizations. This funding will enable them to sustain their organizations until they can resume programmatic activities, and exemplifying the RRW's flexibility with CSOs, while also upholding "Do No Harm" principles.

South America Region

The RRW and its INGOs partners supported a total of four short-term grants in 2023 that have increased the leadership of women peacebuilders, including women victims of guerrilla and indigenous groups, and the commitments of political actors at different levels with immediate impact. Increased women's leadership as well as intersectionality and the localisation of peace processes are common grounds for the work of women's organisations in Colombia and Venezuela.

In *Colombia*, *Movilizatorio*, with the support of NIMD, built upon the agenda of regional dialogues led by the President, and channelled the voices of survivors of the conflict and ex-FARC organizations through advocacy efforts targeting newly elected members of Congress to inform decision-making and increase women's effective participation in the implementation of the Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. In the wake of Colombia's historic 2016 Peace Accord between the FARC and the government, *Movilizatorio* emerged with a transformative initiative known as "¡Nuestras Voces!" Recognizing the slow progress in implementing gender provisions of the accord, *Movilizatorio* harnessed innovative technologies like online surveys and petitions, and social networks to give voice to women affected by the armed conflict. Despite the Peace Accord's groundbreaking inclusion of gender equality provisions, challenges in its implementation were faced. *Movilizatorio's* initiative addressed this gap by creating a political agenda, ¡Nuestras Voces!, comprising

⁵ A Member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine who was previously a Minister of Social Affairs A Member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Popular Struggle, a member of the Palestinian People's Party, member of the political bureau of the Feda Party, a former candidate for one of the Jenin municipal elections lists, Executive Director of the Palestinian Association for University Students in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

⁶ Member of the National Council, and the Head of the Al Najda Organization, The Head of Deir Al Asal's village council, the Head of the Youth Department at Hebron's Governorate, A member of Fatah who is also a member of the Council of Women's Union Committees, head of the Women's Committee for Social Work, Qalqilya branch, a community activist and director of the governor's office, Governor of Qalqilya Governorate; , a member of Fatah Qalqilya region, a member of the municipal council, and a member of the Directorate of Education, president and vice president of Hajja's Village Council, Director of the Basma and Bas'ma Center, and Director of the Gender Department in Salfit Governorate, , member of Jaiyous' municipal council, mayor of Kifl Haris who is the youngest mayor in the cities of the West Bank, a former member of the Hebron Municipality and former candidate for the Legislative Council and currently the Dean of the College of Engineering at Khaddoury University.

16 proposals from women in conflict-ridden territories. These regions, often neglected, faced ongoing threats from illegal armed groups, requiring urgent attention for sustainable peace.

Building on the *Nuestras Voces!* agenda that was developed as a result of the workshop with 55 women and a young woman, signatories of the peace agreement, Movilizadorio furthered the campaigning on the agenda and strengthening of women’s organizations. The agenda was made publicly known through street action in Bogota as well as an online campaign which reached over 377,000 people and brought 491 signatures in support of the agenda. In addition, the online campaign collected letters from the public to members of Parliament. As a result, a Member of Congress⁷ advocated for the inclusion of two points from the agenda as indicators in the monitoring of the National Development Plan. This was a remarkable success, demonstrating that the agenda reached decision makers and that the needs identified by women signatories of the peace agreement resonate with them.

The project also resulted in developing a citizen-owned advocacy agenda reflecting realities, threats and needs of 56 women survivors of the conflict and ex-combatants, which was then used as an advocacy tool engaging 23 decisions makers and one congressman, holding them accountable to stronger consideration of women’s needs in the peace negotiations.



Movilizadorio – Reunion with women in Montes de María



Movilizadorio – Session with women in Montes de María, Colombia



Movilizadorio – Session with participants in Serranía del Perijá, Colombia

⁷ Daniel Carvalho

With ICAN's support, *Corporación Conciudadanía* capitalized on the results achieved by *Movilizadorio*, linking Track II and III levels of Colombian peace processes, in order to ensure women's needs and voices are reflected in the [recommendations of the Truth Commission report](#), influencing the 2023 elections and the government development plans. *Corporación Conciudadanía* highlighted the work of Colombian women's organizations in their efforts to effectively engage with the Truth Commission Report and brought others into this work around the country. They developed a campaign to make the Truth Commission Report more accessible, highlighting the importance of women's political participation. While many locally led women's organizations were aware of the Truth Commission Report, they had yet to engage with the *My Body My Truth* chapter or address the impacts of the report on the women in their communities. This project created opportunities for open discourse with 100 women who represented 76 organizations across nine municipalities that enabled the capturing of how the war affected women, particularly in Antioquia, a region historically excluded from government and development programs. *Corporación Conciudadanía* shared the recommendations of their report with these communities which outlined steps for implementation in the territories. *Corporación Conciudadanía* shared the recommendations of their report with these communities which outlined steps for implementation in the territories.

Beyond sharing these recommendations, the *Red de Mujeres de Occidente* (Regional Women's Network) was also formed among these groups to promote diversity, equality and gender equity, and to facilitate the development of advocacy proposals that are rooted in an intersectional understanding of human security.

In [Venezuela](#), with support from NIMD, two short term grants were supported. In the midst of Venezuela's complex political and humanitarian challenges, the *Cauce Association* initiated the program "Building Women's Leadership in Venezuelan Negotiation Processes." This endeavour symbolizes the collaborative efforts of 27 feminist women within the Women for Dialogue and Peace in Venezuela (MDPV) group. Women peacebuilders, who are involved in politics and peace-making and came from a wide range of backgrounds and political affiliations, participated in a workshop, and developed a common agenda comprising of 11 agreements and 37 recommendations for the inclusion of women in peace negotiations, as well as an action plan (Annex A). A summary of the consensus document was shared through social media and various journalists and news outlets. One participant mentioned after one of the workshops that, "polarization is a distraction for our feminist agenda to fight for our rights", and "women need to work together in political spaces with less patriarchal views. We need spaces that allow us to dialogue from our own experiences to try to reach agreements and move forward in coexistence for peace, life, and dignity".

Against the backdrop of pervasive political polarization and unsuccessful national dialogues, the group achieved a noteworthy milestone by crafting an agenda titled "From Partners in Conflict to Partners in Peace: Uniting to Safeguard the Rights of Women in Venezuela." Their objective was to highlight and transform the living conditions of Venezuelan women, incorporating diverse perspectives such as ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity, while addressing economic, political, and social aspects. By transcending ideological disparities, the women demonstrated that dialogue could generate trust, agreement, and empathy. Their ability to set aside personal interests and ideologies establishes a commendable precedent for collaborative action amidst shared challenges, providing a model for broader societal cooperation.



Cauce – Joint session of the groups



Cauce – MDPV group

Asociación Venezolana para una Educación Sexual Alternativa (AVESA), in collaboration with CAUCE began implementation of a joint project in December 2023. The initiative aims at increasing the participation and strategic engagement of Venezuelan women in the peace negotiations held by Colombia and other international actors, to reach a peace agreement and ensure independent elections internationally observed, by 2024. The intervention, which will continue into 2024, will capitalize on previous achievements by facilitating a group of 22 Venezuelan women from the group "Women for Dialogue and Peace of Venezuela", to advocate for greater participation of women in the peace process and unify positions on how to achieve peace and reach an inclusive peace agreement and to develop a feminist agenda that reflects more inclusive demands, expectations, and aspirations.



AMUTED IN Guatemala, NIMD, 2023

Europe and Asia

In 2023, the RRW supported three grants in the region. In [Ukraine](#), with WILPF's support, *Centre for Social and Labour Research (CSLR)*, engaged 35 women peacebuilders, feminist activists, and human rights defenders, including IDPs and refugees in the analysis and advancement of the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan of Ukraine. Although not part of a formal peace process, it is considered the closest to the framework of conceptualizing peace in Ukraine. The initiative, which will

continue into 2024, is offering a safe space for women to apply a feminist analysis on the current plans for recovery, and to be able to suggest alternatives, and which builds on previous work done by feminist organizations in Ukraine. The first inclusive dialogue was held 3-5 November 2023 in Truskavets and included the participation of 19 women—including 10 women that have been internally displaced from eastern Ukraine since 2014.

The presentation "Recovery and Reconstruction in Ukraine" was disseminated at the dialogue, focused on sharing the main concepts of peacebuilding at the national and international level, and provided an opportunity to vote on topics that they consider key for advocacy, including overcoming female poverty,

Ukrainian and Russian language rights, and healthcare infrastructure with the integration of women in politics. These topics will drive their advocacy during the future opportunities of peace talks.

In [Kyrgyzstan](#), *Foundation of Tolerance International and GPPAC*, facilitated cross-border discussions between women peacebuilders and CSOs and developed evidence-based recommendations and influence the high-level peacebuilding negotiations between [Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan](#). A preparatory workshop in Istanbul engaged 22 participants⁸ in the planning for a cross-border research which will identify challenges, risks, and mitigation measures, and in the identification of key stakeholders that should be engaged in advocacy activities on women's participation in peace processes in the Fergana Valley. Participants also included the Ministry of Interior Affairs, local self-government bodies in Kyrgyzstan, Ministry of Justice, State Women Committee, local self-government in Uzbekistan and Regional Department of Women Ministry, Regional State Authority Office in Tajikistan.

To date, the CSO has conducted a total of 87 focus group discussions in 48 locations involving 780 participants across the three countries (78% women) and 102 in-depth interviews engaging local authorities, civil society organizations, local women's committees, social workers, and young women. Findings from the research, in both English and Russian, will be available in 2024 and be used to inform a comprehensive report outlining the key findings for a national presentation and regional discussions, facilitated by the Country Focal Points.

In [Afghanistan](#), *OMID International*, which began implementation in October 2023, is leading on an intervention that aims at bringing a majority of young Afghan women, refugees and in the diaspora, together to strategize, coordinate, and build trust to influence the peace process in Afghanistan, facilitated by the international community. A three-day International Peace inter-generational Advocacy Conference for Afghan women, was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in December 2023, engaged 70 women peacebuilders and decision makers to highlight challenges, develop effective advocacy strategies, establish solidarity networks, and influence stakeholders in fostering peace and development for Afghan women, during the ongoing formal peace process. During this conference, Afghan women peacebuilders from inside the country and in diaspora jointly developed a Call for Action to strengthen young Afghan women efforts in influencing peace dialogues in the country, including urgent needs to ensure women's full engagement in the peace process, their safety and security, acknowledging the impact of informal initiatives and Track II diplomacy for peacebuilding, accessibility to safe education and capacity building, as well as investing in vocational training programmes for economic development and skills enhancement. In 2024, OMID with its local partners will build on this call for action as an advocacy tool for different national, regional, and international peace advocacy platforms and peace related activities.

2. Management of the RRW

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

In 2023, the RRW Unit supported the Technical Committee and the Funding Board by providing all the documents required for their recommendations and final decisions on CSO applications and partnership with INGOs. Regular follow up was carried out to ensure that recommendations and decisions were properly informed and implemented in a timely manner.

Bilateral meetings were also held with UN Women Country Offices in Cameroon, CAR, Colombia, the D.R.C, Ethiopia, Libya, Palestine, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, and

⁸ 19 local CSOs, one local researcher, one expert trainer and a GPPAC staff member

Venezuela, for their technical input, engagement in the evaluation processes, and the promotion of the RRW opportunities.

The technical and advisory support to the RRW decision-making structure have been dynamic due to the increase in the number of proposals supported, the interest from new countries, but also to some adjustments required to improve the relevance and efficiency of the funding mechanism, including the revision of the approval and application processes.

In 2023, the RRW unit has submitted a numerous of requests for approval, including:

- ▶ **Review and approval of seven cost extensions for RRW INGOs partners** to enable partners to support additional proposals, aligned with the increasing demand and in line with RRW objectives. While numerous projects were endorsed by the Technical Committee, budget constraints restricted RRW INGOs partners from accepting new grants or in assisting women's rights organizations in drafting proposals.
- ▶ **Review and approval of RRW no-cost extension for Phase I from March 2024 to 31 September 2024 to support STG proposals with remaining budget** to ensure that CSO projects already approved by the Technical Committee can continue. This extension was also necessary for a smooth transition between the RRW phase 1 and phase 2, ensuring that INGOs partners can still access new grants as the RRW remains open on a daily basis.
- ▶ **Review and approval of the call for Proposals for INGOs partners for the Phase 2** to incorporate lessons learned from managing Phase 1 of the RRW. Consequently, the new partnerships in Phase 2 will adhere to specific parameters, including a maximum ceiling of 25% for staff and administrative costs, a requirement for a minimum of 2 regions for each INGO partner's scope of interventions, guidance for swift onboarding of CSO partners, assessment criteria for evaluating commitment and engagement in outreach and advocacy by INGOs partners, and the introduction of new tools for extending partnership agreements.
- ▶ **Review and approval of RRW Project Document for Phase II (45 months) from 1st April 2024 to 31 December 2027.** Updates include exceptional cost-extensions for short-term grants for promising initiatives up to USD 50,000 (for a maximum of 3 months), up to USD 30,000 for direct support applicants, and approval of proposals by the head of the WPHF Secretariat under USD 20,000. The RRW will also provide strategic support to specifically youth and young women led organizations and target countries with dynamic peace processes that need more flexibility.
- ▶ **Review and selection of INGOs partners for phase 2.** 12 INGOs were shortlisted after a call for proposals. Four of them (CORDAID, GPPAC, Inclusive Peace, and NIMD) have been authorized by the WPHF Board to receive funds during the second phase. Extending the number of INGO partners will be considered as additional funds become available.
- ▶ **Institutional support for CSOs partners in Palestine.** Due to the attacks in 2023, a short-term grant by a Consortium of three CSOs was stalled. Following WPHF' grantmaking principles and Board's approval, part of the funding was re-programmed for institutional support to ensure the continuity of the organizations until the project can be re-launched.

Joint Missions

During 2023, RRW conducted two joint missions with its INGOs partners, providing advisory support to CSOs partners in sensitive contexts and amplifying the impact of local women peacebuilders efforts.

A joint mission to South Sudan was conducted with RRW INGO partners CORDAID, ICAN and Inclusive Peace, all of whom have been providing support to RRW CSO partners in the country. A workshop with

South Sudanese women's coalitions was conducted, resulting in a policy paper (Annex F) that is currently utilized by women's CSOs as an advocacy tool to increase women's influence on the implementation of the peace agreement. The policy paper has also been shared online on different platforms and has contributed to developing more strategic interventions that capitalize on previous results. In addition, the mission has contributed to establishing direct contact between South Sudanese women's networks, international delegations from the EU, Switzerland and the UK, as well as UN agencies (including UNMISS and UNFPA) for a better coordinated approach towards women's engagement in the country's political transitions, constitution making process and upcoming elections in 2024, as part of its peacebuilding efforts and the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. During the mission, Inclusive Peace and the RRW team finalized the [policy brief](#) and its infographics on South Sudan ensuring its endorsement and localisation for the use of women's CSOs.

A second mission took place to the D.R.C, alongside women's participation in the Nairobi III peace process, with *Focus Droits Access (FDA)*, a direct support recipient who submitted a request for direct support aimed at providing training and capacity building for women in advocacy strategy, strategic communication, monitoring and evaluation, learning, and accountability. With technical assistance from CORDAID and the RRW Unit, 25 youth, rural women, peacebuilders, and FDA representatives, gained valuable insights into advocacy strategy development. An action plan, aligned with the Nairobi peace process and other pertinent peace negotiation moments, was crafted for implementation over the next two years. Among the participants, 14 women peacebuilders traveled from outside of Goma to disseminate this strategy and action plans to other women involved in the Nairobi process.

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

Under this output, the RRW Unit coordinated and managed all day-to-day activities necessary for the smooth running of the Window. The Unit evaluated all concept notes and proposals received and forwarded shortlisted proposals to the Technical Committee for approval, in line with the WPHF Operations Manual and the Terms of Reference for the RRW decision-making bodies. The RRW unit worked towards increasing accessibility, efficiency and support through a feminist approach and based on feedback from civil society.

The RRW Unit monitored the WPHF-RRW@unwomen.org inbox daily, filing and evaluating CSO concept notes and proposals on a rolling basis, responding to a range of queries on the RRW, and where possible redirecting requests that were not specifically related to the RRW. This year, in parallel to reviewing applications submitted, the RRW unit has improved its support to CSOs in the process of proposal drafting to strengthen the design and implementation of their projects. This work led to improved project designs and closer alignment with the objectives of the RRW. As a result, the Technical Committee has achieved an approval rate of over 93% for proposals, albeit with some revisions required. This reflects the significant efforts made by the RRW unit to streamline the Technical Committee's evaluation process and prevent unnecessary delays for CSOs, thereby managing expectations effectively.

Review of proposals

In 2023, the RRW received a total of 457 proposals for direct support, short-term grant concept notes, short-term grants, and proposals for INGO partnership, with 109 proposals longlisted and 48 proposals shortlisted. As part of the updated application process, a total of 227 concept notes were received with 46 CSOs invited to submit full proposals. Overall, 55.9% of proposals were received from Africa, followed by 21.1% from the LAC region, 7.5% from Arab States, 8.8% from Asia & Pacific, and 6.6% from Europe

and Central Asia. In 2023, an increasing interest was observed from new countries for the first time such as Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo and Serbia.

2023	Received	Longlisted ⁹	Shortlisted
Direct Support	105	13	11
Short-Term Grant Concept Notes	227	46	N/A
Short-Term Grants	85	30	25
INGO partnerships	40	20	12
Total	457	109	48

Cumulatively (since 2020), the RRW has received 1,283 proposals, including concept notes and proposals for INGO partnership. Overall, 67.9% of proposals and concept notes were received from Africa, followed by 9.2% from the LAC region, 8.3% from Arab States, 7.3% from Asia & Pacific, 2.8% from Europe and Central Asia, and 4.5% from North America or other non-eligible countries.

2020-2023	CfPs launched	Received	Longlisted ¹⁰	Shortlisted
Direct Support	1	389	66	33
Short-Term Grant Concept Notes	N/A	273	59	N/A
Short-Term Grants	1	566	135	69
INGOs	4	55	32	20
Total	6	1,283	292	122

Support to CSOs in proposal development

In addition to providing technical support to CSOs in enhancing their shortlisted proposals, the RRW Unit conducted virtual meetings with CSOs applicants to offer feedback aimed at strengthening the relevance of their proposals. Given that many proposals were focused on initiatives occurring in contexts with stalled peace processes or undergoing political transitions following military coups, the RRW unit recognized the challenge facing women's rights/led CSOs in articulating interventions that could equally impact Track 1 or Track 2 formal peace processes. Consequently, the team offered guidance on identifying opportunities to advocate for, raise awareness about, and engage in dialogue with key stakeholders. This involved reinforcing CSOs' results frameworks to demonstrate linkages between grassroots peacebuilding efforts and potential entry points within formal peace processes or the implementation of peace agreements containing gender provisions at national level. Following these recommendations, many proposals were resubmitted with strengthened advocacy components and enhanced lobbying efforts targeting decision makers and the international community, including UN representatives, national constitutional committees, and local authorities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A monitoring and evaluation strategy is implemented for the RRW Unit and for RRW-supported CSO initiatives. The RRW has dedicated WPHF Indicator Tip Sheets to emphasise the specific nature of the RRW within WPHF Impact Area 4 on conflict resolution and against which CSOs under the Short-Term Grant stream use, with support from INGO partners.

In 2023, the RRW unit introduced some new features in the monitoring of projects. Under the Direct Support Stream, post-intervention debrief calls were conducted with CSOs and women peacebuilders to collect their feedback on their interventions. This provided an alternative to the submission of formal

⁹ Longlisting for concept notes refers to those CSOs that were invited to submit a full proposal

¹⁰ Ibid.

reports, reducing the burden of CSOs and women peacebuilders and allowing the RRW Unit to identify trends, key results, lessons and future opportunities for RRW's further intervention to increase women's participation in the peace process in the country by building on the initial impact. A total of five post-interventions calls were held with partners from Yemen, Mali, Uganda, Cameroon and South Sudan.

During the reporting year, the RRW unit also developed a monitoring tool to track the timeline from project submission to RRW to project startup, assessing the efficiency of onboarding CSO partners. This tool tracks overall timeframes and information is used to improve response and efficiency, as well as informed several recommendations, including:

- Regularly update data in an Excel sheet on onboarding CSOs partners and conduct frequent analyses to monitor progress and identify bottlenecks.
- Institute a six-week time limit for INGO startup for the RRW second phase, and share analyses of average project startup durations with INGO partners every six months.
- Adhere strictly to internal time limits for each stage of the proposal evaluation process with five days for evaluations by the RRW Unit and five days for the Technical Committee evaluation.

The analysis also led to new guidance for INGO partners, encouraging them to commit to sharing feedback within the submission deadline and engaging CSO partners within six weeks after the Technical Committee's final approval in RRW Phase 2.

In addition, a country-wide analysis and study was carried out to provide a snapshot of ongoing projects and supported initiatives in each RRW country, tracking impact and identifying remaining gaps for further proposals from these countries. This analysis focused on Cameroon, Colombia, the D.R.C, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria. The RRW unit will continue to update this analysis on a regular basis to assess ongoing activities, avoid duplication, and ensuring project relevance in countries. Additionally, this study complements a series of policy briefs led by Inclusive Peace¹¹, which identify entry points for women's meaningful participation in peace processes in the D.R.C, the Sahel Region, and Sudan.

Risk Management

In 2023, the RRW Unit updated, managed, and applied its risk and mitigation matrix. The risk matrix is elaborated in Appendix 2.

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

The RRW held monthly meetings with INGOs partners in 2023. The meetings served as a platform for continuous coordination, to avoid duplication of efforts, and to capitalize on previous results for initiatives in similar contexts. INGOs partners used these meetings to tackle challenges, mitigate risks, and identify priorities for targeted outreach in specific countries.

The RRW has also conducted quarterly operations-focused meetings with the operations and finance team of WPHF and INGOs staff to discuss financial reporting requirements, assets management, audit preparations, partners' capacity assessments and other operation-related questions, while ensuring flexibility of grant making to CSOs in the country of intervention.

¹¹ <https://www.inclusivepeace.org/resources/library/?res-search=Pathways+Towards+an+Inclusive+Peace+Process+in+Yemen>
<https://www.inclusivepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/South-Sudan-PolicyBrief-InclusivePeace-Aug2023-updated-.pdf>
<https://www.inclusivepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Sudan-PolicyPaper-InclusivePeace-Aug2023.pdf>
<https://www.inclusivepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PolicyBrief-final-Inclusive-Peace-Mar2023-UNW.pdf>

Seven cost extensions of agreements were granted to empower partners to provide additional support, thereby aligning with the growing demand in accordance with RRW objectives. The RRW worked closely with INGOs partners to facilitate the formulation and submission of their requests, ensuring they were realistic for the efficient onboarding of CSO partners based on their operational capacities. Each INGO partner engaged in bilateral meetings with the RRW unit to outline the narrative and budget for their cost extension requests. The extensions also highlighted ongoing initiatives to support CSO partners in proposal drafting, outreach and advocacy efforts to engage partners in countries where the RRW had no presence, and a commitment to support grants already approved by the technical committee with no other INGO expressing interest. Additionally, the narrative outlined a plan for budget disbursement during the expected extension period. This process facilitated a deeper understanding of the RRW's intervention perspectives for the year ahead and helped establish concrete milestones.

Audit of RRW's INGOs partners and follow up plan

In August 2023, UN Women, serving as the host entity of WPHF Secretariat and RRW unit, initiated an audit of all seven INGOs partners of the RRW for the 2022 fiscal year. Conducted by BDO International Limited, the audit process involved bilateral meetings with INGOs partners to gather pertinent information focusing on RRW portfolio management. The audit process presented a timely opportunity for learning and enhancing the RRW funding mechanism post-pilot phase.

During the audit, three INGOs partners received feedback on the financial findings (including cut-off errors, allocation of staff costs, expenditures for project purposes, and correct calculations of indirect costs), as well as management control findings (policies/procedures/guidelines, transparent expenditures on FACE forms, and in subgrantee management). In response to partner comments, the auditors proposed recommendations to address these issues in line with UN Women procedures and partner agreements.

Findings were primarily attributed to inadequate guidance at project level and lack of clarity on UN Women procedures and rules, implicating shared responsibilities between the RRW unit and INGOs partners. The RRW Unit acknowledged these findings and opted to implement a follow-up audit plan with INGOs partners as recommended by UN procedures. Key recommendations, practical solutions and lessons learned were disseminated to INGOs partners, and the first quarterly reporting phase of 2024 will focus on implementing all recommendations from the audit report.

Strengthening collaboration with UN Women Country Offices

In 2023, the RRW strengthened its presence in priority countries, through outreach activities and regular calls with COs and WPS focal points. These activities have also facilitated clarifying RRW objectives and stimulating CSO's interest, particularly in countries with lower numbers of applications are received, and where there are formal peace processes or implementation of a peace agreement in process.

In line with the increasing role of UN Women COs, several meetings were held to share information, drive collaboration, and seize opportunities. For instance, in Cameroon, CAR, Colombia, the D.R.C, Ethiopia, Libya, Palestine, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Venezuela the projects supported by the RRW are now integrated by the UN Women CO in a more global response to promote women participation in peace talks.

Output 1.4: Communications, Capacity-Building, and Knowledge Management is provided to the Rapid Response Window

The RRW Unit, with support from the WPHF Communications team and the Global Learning Hub (L-Hub), led the development of a wide range of knowledge products, communications campaigns and capacity

building initiatives to amplify the voices and work of women peacebuilders build the capacity of CSOs, support resource mobilization, ensure the continuity and sustainability of activities, support strategic advocacy to accelerate women’s participation in peace processes and enhance the visibility of the RRW.

Increasing Accessibility and Reach through Targeted Communications

In 2023, the [WPHF RRW webpages](#) were updated and optimized to make language more accessible, easier to navigate, and to provide better guidance to prospective CSO applicants to determine their eligibility for RRW support. Application materials were re-vamped and strengthened in accordance with the new application procedures.

A series of informational online webinars for prospective applicants of both RRW streams and INGOs partners were also carried out in 2023. In total, nine information sessions were held in English, French, Arabic and Spanish with approximately 265 CSO representatives, including targeted information sessions to optimize outreach, particularly for women peacebuilders in Niger and Colombia. A joint session with the Window on WHRDs was also conducted for CSOs and women human rights defenders in the D.R.C.

To foster deeper collaboration with INGOs partners and encourage them to actively promote the RRW across their channels, guidelines to reinforce communications best practices were provided, which supported WPHF to capture content from CSO partners demonstrating their unique impact (e.g., photos, video, publications, quotes, testimony), review knowledge products and promotional materials, enforce appropriate logo usage, leverage relevant social media hashtags, and reinforce effective outreach strategies among key RRW stakeholders to drive enhanced visibility for RRW worldwide.

Amplifying the voices of women peacebuilders

In 2023, WPHF continued to develop and disseminate social media messages and assets highlighting the unique added value of the RRW, promoting its application process, illustrating the direct impact of RRW-supported initiatives around the world, and promoting regular information sessions. The execution and refinement of a specialized visual identity for the RRW in 2023 helped to distinguish and drive visibility of this mechanism across all WPHF social media channels, strengthening its online brand recognition among INGO and CSO partners, donors, and prospective applicants across the globe.

A new engaging video series profiling RRW-supported women peacebuilders was produced and published on the [WPHF website](#) as the second phase launch of the WPHF #InvestInWomen Global Campaign. These new video assets provide a platform for women peacebuilders to share their experiences and critical contributions to peace processes while amplifying their voices and showcasing their challenges, solutions and innovative approaches to building sustainable and inclusive peace.

Knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening

As part of the WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB), aimed at connecting and building the capacities of WPHF CSO partners, RRW CSO partners accessed a wide range of training and knowledge exchange webinars on topics such as peer exchange on impactful communications and advocacy tools to enhance women’s influence in peace processes, in Colombia and Iraq. The RRW CSO partners were also invited to join the L-HUB Facebook group and added to the WPHF email list and a digital platform providing relevant information and resources for peacebuilding and humanitarian professionals.

In 2023, a total of 29 CSOs from 17 countries attended at least one capacity building or knowledge exchange webinar hosted by the L-HUB, showing interest and appetite for dialogue, and learning with their peers. A Knowledge Café, in collaboration with Inclusive Peace, was conducted on ‘Entry Points

Towards Ending Violence, Inclusive Peacemaking, and Democratic Transition in Sudan’ with a total of 25 CSO participants in attendance. Additional joint actions between the RRW Unit and the L-HUB are planned in 2024 to continue fostering exchanges and collaboration between CSOs from the RRW and other WPHF funding windows working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

INGO and CSO partners also produced a variety of studies, policies, advocacy documents, and knowledge products. For example, Conciliation Resources coordinated a learning workshop between 18 and 20 September 2023, bringing together eight RRW grantees from Liberia, Ethiopia and Kenya in Nairobi, to share experiences and best practices in highlighting the unique role of women in peace processes. Participants also discussed successful approaches to increasing women’s meaningful participation, as well as the types of resistance they have faced and the structural barriers that still hinder them. Key findings and lessons learned resulting from this workshop will feed into a forthcoming learning paper, highlighting new ways of thinking about, and approaching the WPS participation pillar, including how policymakers and practitioners can better support locally led efforts to influence peace processes.

AMUTED IN Guatemala, NIMD, 2023



NIMD led a series inspiring stories of resilience from women in [Colombia](#), [Guatemala](#), and [Venezuela](#), documenting resilience and commitment of Latin American women to shaping peace agreements in their countries as part of the Rapid Response Window. The stories highlight women’s led initiatives fostering unity among women from diverse backgrounds, establishing safe spaces for collaboration, and amplifying their voices to influence peace processes. The case studies were documented in English and Spanish. ICAN also draft a peace story, entitled [We Rise for a Peaceful South Sudan: The Role of Women in Shaping Post-War South Sudan](#). The article describes the tangible impact of the CSO WRA’s funded project on women’s participation in decision-making and transforming societal attitudes and behaviors about women’s roles in peace and security to create a more accepting and conducive environment for their participation. The story features Auma Concy, project coordinator of the RRW initiative in WRA, shedding light on the history of the civil war in South Sudan, cultural norms that exacerbate young women’s exclusion from the peace processes and effective advocacy efforts to engage with the R-ARCSS committee and state peace committees on young women’s roles in peacebuilding.

Advocacy Efforts of RRW

The growing interest in the RRW has resulted in the unit being invited to several advocacy meetings and platforms on peace and security issues. In October 2023, The RRW has been invited to attend the High-Level Event on the “Role of Women Mediators in Negotiating Ceasefires and Security Arrangements” . This high-level event provided an invaluable opportunity for the RRW unit to showcase the experiences of women peacebuilders and their contributions to reshaping narratives surrounding women’s

participation in peace processes. For instance, by fostering connections across different tracks of peace processes, women peacebuilders utilize diverse identities and innovative approaches to bring stakeholders to the table and facilitate dialogue.

During the Foreign Feminist Policy Forum held in The Hague in November, where the WPHF played an active role in various panels, the RRW Unit was invited to participate in several discussions during the Pre-Forum with CSO partners. The RRW served as a panelist at an event organized by CORDAID, "Promoting Localization through Feminist Foreign Policy: How Foreign Feminist Policy can support women and feminist-led approaches to humanitarian action, peace, security, and conflict-prevention." During this session, the RRW unit elaborated on its funding mechanism and intervention approach, which prioritizes flexibility, swiftness, as well as local ownership and accountability to women's rights organizations. Additionally, it emphasized how the partnership surrounding the RRW streams is built on trust and ensures equal voices among stakeholders.

RRW in collaboration with Inclusive Peace, hosted its first pilot podcast, "[Investing in Women and Peace: The Stories of Women's Essential Roles Shaping Peace Processes Worldwide](#)", as part of Geneva Peace Week. Three episodes bringing together six women peacebuilders from Venezuela, Eswatini, Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, and Ethiopia were aired focusing on opportunities for women's participation in ongoing national dialogues, participation of young women peacebuilders in contexts characterised by severely shrinking civic space, and the linkages between participation and protection of women peacebuilders in contexts where protection needs have recently become significantly more acute.

Two episodes featuring the Executive Director of Inclusive Peace, and WPHF Programme Coordinator, described the changing nature of formal peace processes, the recent trends in women's participation in Track I and Track II peace efforts and the adaptability of RRW as a flexible funding mechanism to respond to women's needs in those different contexts. The podcast episodes were featured on Geneva Peace Week digital Series Platform and Women's Peace and Humanitarian's Fund social media platforms.

Inspired by the positive outcomes of the Geneva peace week, the RRW Unit will initiate a pilot phase of quarterly podcast series throughout 2024. This series aims will aim provide a platform for a diverse range of women peacebuilders to share their experiences, highlight their efforts, and shed light on persisting challenges hindering women's meaningful participation in peace processes across various contexts.

3. Delays and Adaptations

In 2023, no significant delays were experienced, and relevant projects were approved and launched during this period. Despite the parental leave taken by the Programme Coordinator from July to October, the RRW Unit efficiently implemented key activities, including launching and reviewing the call for proposals for INGOs for the second phase and conducting the audit of INGOs partners.

4. Planned Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the RRW Unit will prioritize the following:

Expanding geographic & demographic reach

- Expand RRW interventions to priority countries, in Sahel (in Senegal, Chad, Burkina Faso, Eritrea), LAC (El Salvador & Guatemala) and Asia (Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar and PNG).
- Pilot an initiative focused on youth engagement in formal peace processes.

Stronger partnerships and collaboration:

- In-person retreat for INGO partners to share and discuss new tools and guidance for RRW Phase 2.
- Active participation in advocacy events such as Geneva Peace Week, Open Debate on WPS in New York.

Advocacy and visibility:

- Launch phase II with a high-level event co-hosted with donors and RRW's local partners
- Disseminate a study on RRW's impacts and key trends on women's participation in peace processes identified during Phase I
- Launch the second phase of the podcast series featuring women peacebuilders from different countries

Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of Impact by RRW Indicator

Appendix 2: RRW Risk Matrix

Appendix 3: Table of Approved RRW projects (2023)

Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reason for Variance	Source of Verification
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.	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	1. 16 direct support requests supported with 40 CSOs across 12 countries. Five of these were supported by the WPHF RRW Unit. Cumulatively, 29 direct support requests supported, including 15 through the WPHF RRW Unit.	As of 2023 the RRW until has reached 58% of the target under the direct support stream. In 2024, it will continue to support CSOs under this stream and it is expected to achieve this target, dependent on available funding. It exceeded its target for short-term grants by 37%.	Review of project documents/Management Information System Internal review WPHF external evaluation
	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	2. 26 short-term grants implemented with 55 CSOs across 19 countries. Cumulatively, 38 short-term grants supported.		
Output 1.1. Quality technical and advisory support to the Rapid Response Window and its decision-making structures is provided	1. Existence of RRW decision-making documents and packages for selection and review of requests Baseline: 0 Target: December 2020	All documents for decision making have been developed and in use, including monitoring templates, proposal templates, and documents used for the Technical Committee	N/A	Emails Project documents Annual reports
	2. Percentage of decisions implemented within the timeframe Baseline: N/A Target: December 2023: 100%	All proposals forwarded to the Technical Committee have been reviewed and final decisions taken within timely manner. The RRW Unit provides a synthesis of proposals forwarded for decision making	N/A	Emails Project documents Annual reports
Output 1.2. Efficient, effective, and timely management of the Rapid Response Window and direct implementation of support is ensured	1. Existence of a M&E Strategy and bank of indicators for the RRW Baseline: 0 Target: December 2020	Completed in 2020	N/A	M&E Strategy/Documents
	2. CfP and proposal templates available online. Baseline: 0 Target: December 2023	Proposal templates were updated in 2022 based on mid-term review recommendations, including new concept note phase. These have been translated into five languages and available on the WPHF website.	N/A	Risk management matrix
	3. Availability of an Internal review of the RRW and set of recommendations Baseline: 0 Target: December 2021	Completed in 2021. The majority of recommendations have been implemented in 2022 and remaining by 2023.	N/A	Internal RRW Review Document

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reason for Variance	Source of Verification
	4. Availability of RRW annual report Baseline: 0 Target: 3 annual reports before December 2023	Completed. Annual reports were completed in 2021, 2022 and 2023.	N/A	RRW annual report
Output 1.3. Efficient, effective and timely management of INGO partnerships is ensured	1. Pool of INGO implementing partners selected Baseline: 0 Target: December 2020	Completed in 2020. 7 partners were selected and supported CSOs in 2022. An additional Cfp was launched in 2023 for phase II. 12 INGOs have been shortlisted and four INGOs have been selected by the WPHF Board based on funds available. Extending the number of INGO partners will be considered as additional funds become available	N/A	Emails from FB with selected INGOs
	2. INGO partners have funds on retainer Baseline: 0 Target: At least 6 by end June 2021	Seven INGO partners were transferred funds in order to support CSOs through the Direct Support and Short-Term Grant streams.	N/A	Emails from FB with selected INGOs
	3. Number of CSO initiatives supported by INGOs across both RRW streams Baseline: 0 Target: At least 24 in total by December 2023	11 direct support initiatives and 26 short-term grants supported by INGO partners in 2023. Cumulatively, 14 direct support and 38 short-term grants have been supported by INGO partnerships.	Exceeded the target by 28 initiatives and grants	Financial reports INGO reports
Output 1.4. Communications, capacity building and Knowledge Management is provided for the Rapid Response Window	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	A total of 4 tools and knowledge products were developed in 2023, including two studies by INGO partners. A video series profiling RRW-supported women peacebuilders, and pilot podcast as part of Geneva Peace Week.	N/A	Community of Practice Knowledge products
	2.Number/types of information, and/or exchange of best practices sessions organized for RRW partners Baseline: 0 Target: 40 by December 2023	10 webinars and information sessions were conducted under the RRW, including one knowledge café hosted by the Global L-Hub on Entry Points Towards Ending Violence, Inclusive Peacemaking, and Democratic Transition in Sudan. Cumulatively, 42 information sessions, capacity building or exchange opportunities have been conducted	Exceeded target by 2 due to the reach of the Global L-Hub and focus on providing women peacebuilders with opportunities to share their experiences	Mid-term review/evaluations

Appendix 1: Impact Measurement

Indicator	Result
<p>4.1. Number of women that participate in formal peace processes or negotiations</p>	<p>In 2023, across 24 projects/initiatives approximately 2,610 women (including 199 young women) participated in Track I, Track II or formal peace negotiations and in formal national dialogues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine women observers in the D.R.C formal peace negotiations in Kenya in the “Nairobi Peace Talks”. An additional 258 women peacebuilders and 56 young women peacebuilders contributed to demands and develop an advocacy framework and action plan to engage with key stakeholders and channel their needs and recommendations with regards to their participation in the peace negotiations. • 50 women and 40 young women contributed to South Sudan’s peace process at both local and national levels, with a focus on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). • Ongoing accompaniment of the Coalition for Women’s Voice in National Dialogue in Ethiopia and who continues to play an important part in the agenda setting process of the National Dialogue which is meant to be finalised during the next year. Ongoing accompaniment of RIDEA’s project focusing on influencing women’s inclusion in Track 2 peace processes and the implementation of the 2023 ‘Agreement on the Path to Normalization’. • Joint community level dialogues with 336 women and 143 young women in Ethiopia following the Abaay-Abaay model to roll out the peace agreement and calling for the cessation of hostilities between the two communities. Since October 2023, no further violence has occurred. • Two women from Syria participated in advocacy trips to New York and Washington D.C in advance of UN deliberations on a new institution for missing persons in Syria. As a result, the women shared key recommendations to UN Member States, and in a meeting with the penholder in the UN General Assembly, Luxembourg, and with civil society stakeholders. • In Colombia, an open discourse with 100 women who represented 76 organizations across nine municipalities that enabled the capturing of how the war affected women, particularly in Antioquia, a region historically excluded from government and development programs. • A three-day International Peace Advocacy Conference for young Afghan women, held in Tajikistan, engaged 70 women peacebuilders and decision makers to highlight challenges, develop effective advocacy strategies, establish solidarity networks, and influence stakeholders in fostering peace and development for Afghan women, during the ongoing formal peace process.
<p>4.2. Existence of gender-responsive elements/provisions in peace agreements, dialogues, and/or decision-making processes</p>	<p>Evidence-based advocacy agenda, policy papers, strategic engagement action plans and studies channeling the needs of women peacebuilders and their recommendations on effective mechanisms to increase their influence on formal and informal peace processes, were developed and disseminated amongst international community representatives and key decision makers. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach Out and the Women’s Coalition shared “Action for the Effective Leadership and Representation of Women Peacebuilders in the Implementation and Monitoring of the Mechanisms of Cameroon Major National Dialogue”

Indicator	Result
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporación Conciudadanía supported leaders of women’s groups to developed recommendations for elections candidates to implement and adapt the recommendations of the My Body My Truth chapter to local contexts. • WRA facilitated young and rural women’s participation in local dialogues to promote peacebuilding and resolve local conflicts. • Following Mums for Mums in Ethiopia establishment of the Government-CSO forum, the Women’s Affairs Bureau has been established as an independent institution in the interim Government, which will monitor and ensure greater accountability on women’s participation. This institution had previously come under the Bureau of Social and Youth Affairs. • Following GCWPM’s meetings with Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River and national government administrative officers, women will now be included in the County and Sub County Peace Committees convened by the Ministry of Interior. This means that women are now fully represented in Lagdera, Garbatula, Ijara, Tana River and Garissa Township sub county Peace Committees, and are positioned to advocate for the inclusion of gender responsive elements in peace processes. • In Liberia, as a result of WONGOSOL advocacy, the TRC recommendations bill were a prominent feature in the election campaigns and two political parties (the Unity Party and the Liberia People’s Party) committed to implementing them, and their gender-specific provisions, as part of their policy pledges in the October 2023 elections. • ACDD conducted an assessment report on the participation and leadership of women in the National Dialogue Process. It includes 10 recommendations, such as supporting women and girls’ education, creating functioning partnerships with women led CSOs and enhancing the economic viability of local women. Additionally, as part of the workshops on women’s participation in the National Dialogue Process, ACDD used and disseminated various mechanisms (tools, guides, and standards) to monitor the effective participation of women in political processes. ACDD is currently working on a proposal along with the local organization ELiDA to further develop those tools in the coming year to track women’s participation in peace processes. • On 29 June 2023 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing a UN mechanism for missing persons in Syria, recognizing the disproportionate impact on women and the work of women’s organizations like Dawlaty’s Families for Freedoms project towards seeking truth and accountability. • WONGOSOL shared in the meeting in Nairobi in September 2023, that following their RRW work there has been increased representation and leadership of women in the public sphere and in the implementation of the Accra Peace Agreement. This includes the election of two female Chiefs in Grand Bassa County and one in Nimba County for the first time. Following the elections, there has been an increase in female candidates in other counties outside of the project target area. These women are positioned to advocate for the inclusion of gender responsive elements in decision-making processes.
<p>4.3. Types of strategies used/implemented to participate in and contribute to the peace process and/or implementation of a peace agreement</p>	<p>CSOs used a variety of participatory and inclusive strategies to contribute to and influence peace processes in 2023, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted advocacy and meetings with local stakeholders to start or re-start national dialogues or peace agreements (e.g. Cameroon, Ethiopia, D.R.C, South Sudan and Venezuela), as well as nation-wide sensitization on the National Dialogue in Ethiopia.

Indicator	Result
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and evaluation efforts on women’s participation in peace processes and reconciliation processes in CAR, and in Sudan with contextual analysis on the ongoing violence. • Dialogue platform for women’s participation as well as civil society and academia and government stakeholders in DDR and peace process in Mozambique where, priority to influence and engage in the new NAP process. • Drafting of recommendations to political representatives in Cameroon • Translation and increasing access of peace process reports, including in the D.R.C with the translation of the Nairobi III report into Swahili • Participatory workshops in Senegal to identify solutions to restore to a peaceful environment, followed by the development of a roadmap of actions to be carried out under women's leadership to influence the peace process and elections. International conferences involving women peacebuilders from Cameroon, and in Colombia with Venezuelan women peacebuilders, as well as in Kyrgyzstan. • Joint political statements in Guatemala with national and regional reach on indigenous women’s priorities to participate in the peace and security agenda. • Monitoring of the current status of women’s participation in peace and security efforts in Guatemala, resulting from the peace agreement, which provides evidence for advocacy for indigenous women to participate in peace and security and decision making. • Use of public spaces to carry out community consultations and dialogue to feed into and contribute to constitutional committee dialogue in Syria and opening up new channels between Track I actors, including those with diverse groups to ensure representation. • Strategic Documents on resourcing feminist movements and agenda, recentering local intersectional narratives, claiming spaces in decision-making, governance structures, and peace processes in order to strengthen local civil society’s participation in peace processes.

Appendix 2 : RRW Risk Matrix

Risk Area	Likelihood 5=Very High 4=Likely 3=Possible 2=Unlikely 1=Rare	Impact 5=Extreme 4=Major 3=Moderate 2=Minor 1=Insignificant	Mitigation
Contextual risks			
Rapid change of the political context ending a formal peace process or a peace agreement rendering the RRW-supported initiatives obsolete.	3	5	The RRW unit fosters open channels of communication with CSOs, and INGOs partners to facilitate rapid information sharing and coordination in times of uncertainty or crisis. Collaborating with INGO partners and UN entities, the RRW unit provides technical support in recalibrating activities, proposing alternative strategies, and devising project plans capable of promptly adjusting to evolving situations, while striving to uphold the original objectives outlined in the proposal approved by the RRW's decision-making body (Technical Committee), whenever feasible. Subsequently, the RRW unit will disseminate the revised project details to the Technical Committee and pertinent stakeholders for their awareness. If eligible, the RRW is sharing information with the WPHF WHRDs window to provide additional support if necessary.
Contexts including political, health, climate and security changes delay, prevent or impede RRW's partners to implement their projects	3	5	The RRW Unit, in collaboration with INGO partners and UN Country Offices, actively monitors contextual developments at the country or regional level to ensure that projects can be implemented while adhering to the "do no harm" principles. In the event of significant and irreversible changes in the context, at the request of CSOs, INGOs, or UN entities, the RRW may temporarily suspend projects due to risks to personnel. In such cases, the RRW Unit advises the Head of the WPHF Secretariat to submit a request to the WPHF Board to reallocate funding support towards institutional funding. This allows partners to sustain their organizations until they can resume programmatic activities, demonstrating the RRW's flexibility.
Operational and Implementation Risks			
Simplified application process and short turnover limits level of quality control and assessment	2	3	The mid-term independent review of the RRW included a review of the application package and approval process to benchmark it against good practice and suggest recommendations to improve the processes. The RRW Unit reviewed and revised the application template to help CSOs to self-select their/the initiative's eligibility for support. For Short Term grants proposals, a concept note stage was introduced to ensure that relevant proposals are submitted to the RRW's decision-making body, During the application process, the RRW Unit provided to CSOs where necessary, a technical support for promising initiatives to ensure that proposals were aligned with RRW objectives. The Technical Committee, as the RRW's decision-making body, () was well informed and engaged in a timely manner for decisions, ensuring that they had time to provide detailed feedback and make necessary informational demands of applicant CSOs. The RRW Unit, based on the final decision of the Technical committee, provided where necessary, supported the integration of feedbacks shared by the members of the Technical committee. .
Requests submitted to the Technical Committee do not meet the required quorum of 50% of responses	1	2	The RRW Unit prepared Terms of Reference for its decision-making bodies (the Technical Committee and WPHF Funding Board Task Force) to ensure they were clear on their responsibilities and timelines for decision making. The RRW Unit provided clear deadlines for responses in its communications with decision-making bodies. Where necessary, the approval time was extended for 1 day until the quorum was met.
WPHF Secretariat does not have adequate programming oversight for RRW grants managed by INGO partners	1	3	The RRW Unit uses UN Women processes to implement partnerships with INGO partners, including a capacity assessment. All RRW INGO partners were scored as "low risk" as responsible parties with the ability to sub-grant to CSOs. Regular monthly calls are conducted by the RRW Unit with all INGO partners to offer technical support for enhancing communication and ensuring effective oversight of grants extended by INGO partners to CSOs. Quarterly meetings focusing on operations issues are organized between the RRW Unit and INGOs to provide guidance and support if needed. In response to audits of INGO partners, the RRW Unit systematically implements action plans to address identified issues, offer clearer guidance, and prevent future occurrences.
Women engaged in the initiatives may face additional	3	5	The RRW Unit managed communications regarding selected CSO initiatives to ensure that any external communications were cleared by the CSO/women. The RRW Unit maintained regular contact with CSO partners to ensure it was aware of security issues and was taking appropriate steps to ensure protection. The RRW Unit communicated regularly with UN

security risks if exposed			country presence and CSO partners to ensure it was informed of political changes that might affect security risks. If eligible, the RRW is sharing information with the WPHF WHRDs window to provide additional support if necessary.
Impact and /or Reputational Risks			
Cash transferred to an INGO partner is not used as intended or reported in accordance with agreements and approved plans	1	4	The RRW Unit uses UN Women reporting processes (financial and narrative) on a quarterly basis to ensure that INGO partners are using funds transferred as intended and as reported. The RRW Unit also holds regular bilateral check-ins with INGO partners to agree project activities and identify opportunities to support CSOs through the RRW, as well as monthly coordination calls with all INGO partners. WPHF Secretariat finance and operations staff joined partnership inception calls with INGO partners to provide guidance on financial reporting requirements.
Request is not representative of diversity of women or groups	3	2	The template for applications includes a section on inclusive and participatory approach to intersectionality in initiatives. The RRW Technical Committee provided informed and adequate oversight at the CSO application stage and made targeted, practical recommendations to some prospective CSOs to strengthen commitments to the representation of diverse women in their planned initiatives.
Efforts are isolated and therefore impact is limited	2	3	The RRW Unit communicated regularly with UN country presence, INGO partners, Women Mediators Networks, DPPA and other stakeholders as relevant, to share information, ensure no duplication and the integration of efforts where possible. Catch up calls are organized between the RRW unit and CSOs partners during the implementation of their projects to seize opportunities for coordination and collaboration with other initiatives ongoing

Appendix 3 : List of Supported Projects

*supported by WPHF RRW Unit

Track	CSO Name	Country	Name of Peace Process/peace agreement
Direct Support (N=16)			
Peace Agreement	Movement Inamahoro	Burundi	Burundian dialogue & Arusha peace and reconciliation agreement in Burundi (2000)
Peace Agreement	Community Women Peace Mediators (COWOPEM)	Cameroon	Cameroon Major National Dialogue, 2019
Track 1	South West North West Women's Taskforce (SNWOT)	Cameroon	Major National Dialogue
Peace Agreement	UN Women CO CAR*	CAR	Shared political process for peace in CAR
Track1/2/Peace Agreement	Focus Droits Accès (FDA)*	DRC	Nairobi Peace process
Peace Agreement	Programme d'Action Communautaire des Femmes pour le Développement Intégré (PACOFEDI)	DRC	Nairobi Peace process
Track 1 and 2	TIMRAN	Ethiopia	Ethiopian National Dialogue
Peace Agreement	The Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)	Kyrgyzstan	Ceasefire negotiations to address the cross-border conflict between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Peace Agreement	Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network (DCFEN)*	Liberia	2003 Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement & 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Committee Report
Track 2	Réseau pour la paix et la sécurité des femmes de l'Espace (REPSFECO)*	Senegal	Political transition period and expected elections in 2024
Peace Agreement	EVE South Sudan Women's Coalition	South Sudan	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018 and its roadmap
Track 2	Association for Inclusive Peace	Sudan	Advocacy efforts engaging UNSG, regional and international actors to end the war and push for women's inclusion in formal peace negotiations (stalled peace process)
Track 2	Badael	Syria	Syrian peace and political process (stalled peace process)
Peace Agreement	Badael and TWBI	Syria and Libya	In Syria: Constitution making with the Syrian Constitutional Committee (SCC) In Libya: Political agreement of 2021: Roadmap "For the Preparatory Phase of a Comprehensive Solution" adopted by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (track I) convened by the UN – and the Ceasefire Agreement of 2020: adopted by security track convened by the UN.
Track 2	Cauce Civil Association	Venezuela	Venezuelan peace negotiations
Track 2	Women for Dialogue and Peace of Venezuela (informal group)	Venezuela	Venezuelan peace negotiations as part of the peace dialogues in Brussels within the framework of the European Union-CELAC summit
Short Term Grants (N=26)			
Track 2	OMID Foundation	Afghanistan	Formal peace negotiations efforts with UN Special Envoy and Member States and 2024 Doha peace dialogues (stalled peace process)
Track 2	Reach Out Cameroon	Cameroon	Major National Dialogue 2019
Peace Agreement	Movilizadorio	Colombia	Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace in Colombia, between the Colombian State and the FARC-EP.

Track	CSO Name	Country	Name of Peace Process/peace agreement
Peace Agreement	Corporación Conciudadanía	Colombia	Truth Commission Report, and its recommendations as part of the Peace Agreement signed between the Columbian government and the FARC - EP guerrilla, in 2016
Track1/2/Peace Agreement.	Focus Droits Accès (FDA)	DRC	Nairobi peace process and negotiations between armed groups in the East DRC and national Government
Track 2	Sauti ya Mama Mukongomani (SMM)	DRC	Nairobi 4 peace process and recommendations report
Track 2	Advocacy Center for Democracy & Development (ACDD)	Ethiopia	Ethiopian Inclusive National Dialogue
Track 2	Mums for Mums (MFM)	Ethiopia	Cessation of Hostilities agreement between the Government of Ethiopia and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)
Track 2	La Guinéenne en Politique/LGP	Guinea	Political Transitional Process and formal National Dialogue
Peace Agreement	Garissa County Women's Peace Movement	Kenya	Nanyuki 2 Peace Accord (2016) and Tana 1 Declaration (2016)
Track 2	Research Institute of Development and European Affairs (RIDEA)	Kosovo	The Peace Agreement on the Path to Normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia and its Annex
Track 2	The Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)	Kyrgyzstan	High-level peacebuilding & ceasefire negotiations to address the cross-border conflict between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan
Track 1	Together We Build it Norway (TWBI)	Libya	The Political agreement of 2021: Roadmap "For the Preparatory Phase of a Comprehensive Solution" adopted by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (track I) convened by the UN. And the Ceasefire Agreement of 2020: adopted by security track convened by the UN
Track 2	Coordination des Organisations Non Gouvernementales et Associations Féminines Nigériennes (CONGAFEN)	Niger	Mediation process and formal peace agreement efforts in Niger
Track 1	Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy	Palestine	The formal Palestinian Israeli Peace Negotiations The formal Palestinian-Palestinian Reconciliation Peace Process
Peace Agreement	Teduray Lambangian Women Organization Inc. (TLWOI)	Philippines	Crafting the indigenous people code, during the political transition period in the Philippines, under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority
Peace Agreement	Young Women Christian Association South Sudan (YWCA)	South Sudan	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018
Peace Agreement	Women Relief Aid	South Sudan	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018
Peace Agreement	EVE South Sudan Women's Coalition	South Sudan	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018 and its roadmap
Peace Agreement	Women Advocacy and Development Initiative (WADI)	Sudan	Juba Peace Agreement (before escalation of violence) Stalled peace negotiations (following eruption of the conflict)
Track 2	Dawlaty (My State)	Syria	UN level advocacy efforts on conflict resolution and peace negotiations in Syria (stalled peace process)
Track 2	Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria (CCSDS)	Syria	Syrian peace negotiations for conflict resolution, at UN General Assembly meeting and UN Special Envoy levels (stalled peace process)

Track	CSO Name	Country	Name of Peace Process/peace agreement
Peace Agreement	Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)	Uganda	2002 UNRF II peace agreement, in 2002 UNRF II peace agreement
Track 2	Centre for Social and Labor Research (CSLR)	Ukraine	Reconstruction and recovery plan as part of the framework of conceptualizing peace in Ukraine (stalled peace process)
Track 2	Cauce Civil Association	Venezuela	Negotiation process between the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Unitary Platform
Track 2	Venezuelan Association for Alternative Sex Education (AVESA)	Venezuela	The formal peace dialogues in Venezuela, led by Colombia and international key actors, leading to independent elections in 2024