



Annual Project Narrative Progress Report **Window on Women Human Rights Defenders**

Reporting Period:
1 January – 31 December 2025

<p>Project Title: The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders in crisis and conflict affected countries</p> <p>Project Numbers: Global: 00131366 Afghanistan: 00131365</p>	<p>PUNO(s): UN Women</p>
<p>Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2024</p> <p>Report Submitted by: UN Women as the Secretariat of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund Name: Tonni Ann Brodber Entity: UN Women Title: Head of WPHF Secretariat Email: tonni.ann.brodber@unwomen.org</p>	<p>Implementing Partners: N/A</p> <p>Project Locations: Global – Secretariat based in New York and Geneva</p>
<p>Project Description: The WHRDs Window’s overall objective is to ensure that WHRDs, whether in their native countries or exile, have access to adequate protection support mechanisms, as well as to guarantee their secure and equal participation in key advocacy events/meetings to promote women’s rights and reflect women’s needs in political decision-making, peacebuilding, and humanitarian response. The WHRD Window serves as a demand-driven, multi-partner funding mechanism for rapid, flexible support, to enhance the protection and participation of women human rights defenders. The scope for requests is purposely diverse and open, to encompass demands to support WHRDs' meaningful participation and protection.</p>	<p>Total Approved Budget (2025): Total: USD 1,171,868 Global (00131366): USD 599,844 Afghanistan (00131365): USD 572,024</p> <p>Total budget transferred to the Secretariat during the reporting period: Total: USD 1,473,649 Global (00131366): USD 716,942 Afghanistan (00131365): USD 756,698</p> <p>Project Start Date: April 1, 2022 Project End Date: December 31, 2025 Total Duration (in months): 45 months</p>
<p>WPHF Outcome the Project is contributing to: WPHF Outcome 5: Ensuring that women and girls’ safety, physical and mental health, and security are assured, and their human rights respected.</p>	
<p>WPHF indicator the Project is reporting on: 5.4 Number of WHRDs supported through flexible funding (type of support, age group, country of origin)</p>	

Summary

This report covers the consolidated progress and results achieved by the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s (WPHF) funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) between 1 January and 31 December 2025¹, as per the approved Project Document by the Global Steering Committee.

Following Funding Board approval in September 2021, the Secretariat officially launched its Window for WHRDs on the 18 January 2022 on the margins of the first ever UN Security Council open debate, chaired by Norway, on the protection and participation of WHRDs and peacebuilders.

The Window for WHRD’s overall objective is to provide rapid, flexible assistance to protect WHRDs working in and/or from conflict and crisis settings, as well as advance their advocacy efforts. The program is comprised of two components. The Safety Net stream provides emergency funding, in partnership with international and national non-governmental (INGO) partners, to WHRDs at risk as a result of their activism and work. The Advocacy Support stream provides direct logistical support to WHRDs to facilitate their advocacy and participation in local, national, regional, or international events, or other forms of decision-making. The Window works with 8 INGO partners, who collectively provide support to WHRDs from, or working in conflict- and crisis-affected countries.

2025 was a monumental year with the highest number of WHRDs supported in a given year, across the two funding streams. The Window successfully supported 391 requests for 456 WHRDs (32.2% young women between 18-29 years) from 20 countries, and their 1,432 dependents² in crisis and conflict settings. Of these, a total of 225 unique³ WHRDs were from Afghanistan (32.0% between 18 and 29 years old), representing 49.3% of all supported WHRDs in the year. Since its launch, the Window and its partners have supported 1,132 requests for 1,224 unique WHRDs (37.8% between 18 and 29 years old), and 3,784 dependents across 30 countries.

456 WHRDs supported in 2025	86 WHRDs through the Advocacy Stream	\$14,327 average size of support
	370 WHRDs through the Safety Net Stream	\$3,776 average size of support
From 20 countries	32.2% 18-29 years old	

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs also received 61% more proposals than 2024 – indicating the continued need to provide accessible financing to WHRDs and activists on the frontlines. Over, 2,500 proposals from 77 countries and in six languages were received using secure channels, including WPHF’s encrypted webpage and Signal for sensitive cases. Just over half of all proposals under the safety net stream (51.0%), were transferred to INGO partners for verification, and 17.0% forwarded to the Advocacy Committee for direct logistical support, of which all except two, were recommended by the Committee. The majority of requests under both streams is consistent from the previous year and come from Afghanistan (56.8%), followed by the D.R.C (8.9%), Myanmar (8.5%), Sudan (6.9%), and Palestine (3.6%).

¹ This report represents the consolidated progress and results of the WHRD Unit, with disaggregation for Afghanistan (00131365) and for Global (00131366).

² Support for dependents is provided only through the Safety Net Stream

³ Please note that WHRDs can reapply for multiple grants. For a given reporting year, the number of requests is presented, potentially including multiple WHRDs, whereas for cumulative values, the unique value is presented.

During the reporting period, WPHF also conducted its second global impact survey with 160 WHRDs participating from 11 countries across Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with the objective to demonstrate the impact of the safety net funding to facilitate the protection of WHRDs. The findings reveal that 68% of WHRDs face frequent threats as a result of their activism and work, however (77%) of WHRDs indicate that the grant has still helped reduce the risks and threats they face to a certain extent, and 78% have been able to continue their activism. While the safety net grants have been critical for WHRDs to improve their protection, over half (57%) of WHRDs continue to face new threats, including new arrest warrants, kidnapping of children, detention and cyber-bullying, among many others. This also demonstrates that while safety net support has increased WHRDs' overall protection in the immediate and medium-term, in many cases various challenges remain for the long-term period. Political action and continued funding to WHRDs from/working in crisis and conflict-affected contexts remain critical.

Finally, the Window for WHRDs has adapted and updated various strategies for better reach, diversity, and accessibility, including refined eligibility criteria, the development of disability accessible application forms, available to WHRDs on request, more precise tracking of multiple identities and reprisals, and support to WHRDs for advocacy and safety plans. The Window has also made system-level adjustments to the review and processing of safety net and advocacy support applications, which has significantly increased the timeliness on support to WHRDs. Moving into 2026, the Window for WHRDs will continue to incorporate lessons in consultation with its INGO partners and directly from WHRDs themselves to increase efficiency of operations and increase visibility for the Window, and the importance of supporting WHRDs on the frontlines.

1. Results Achieved

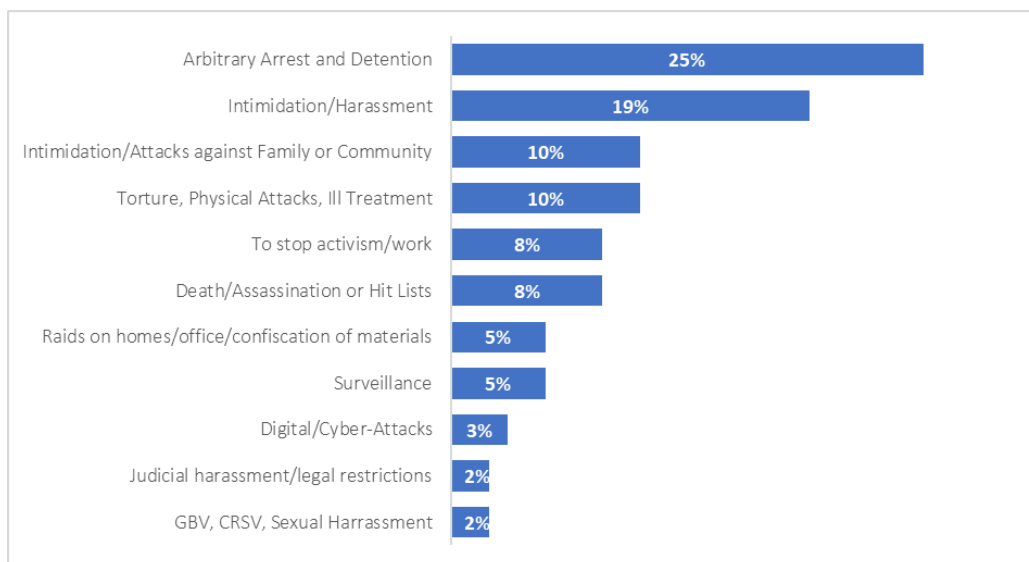
Outcome 1: Increased access of WHRDs in crisis and conflict settings to protection mechanisms and advocacy opportunities, for their safe participation in the promotion of human rights and peace

The intended outcome of the Window for WHRDs is to increase ‘access of WHRDs in crisis and conflict settings to protection mechanisms and advocacy opportunities, for their safe participation in the promotion of human rights and peace. This is linked to the WPHF’s Theory of Change and outcome of enhanced safety, security, and mental health of women and girls and their human rights respected.

In 2025, the Window received a significant larger number of requests under both the Safety Net and Advocacy Support streams for support with over 2,500 proposals received, representing an increase of 63% from the previous year. The diversity of applicants in terms of intersectional identities, thematic work and geographical location, demonstrates that the Window is proving to be an essential mechanism for WHRDs from and working and living in conflict and crisis affected countries.

The instances of threats against WHRDs were also both alarming and varied. Most predominantly, there were 25% of instances where WHRDs faced arbitrary arrest and detention, followed by 19% who were intimidated or harassed, 10% who faced torture or physical attacks, and whose family experienced intimidation. Other WHRDs reported they had to stop their activism, were put on assassination lists, their homes or offices were raided and were surveyed and faced cyber-attacks.

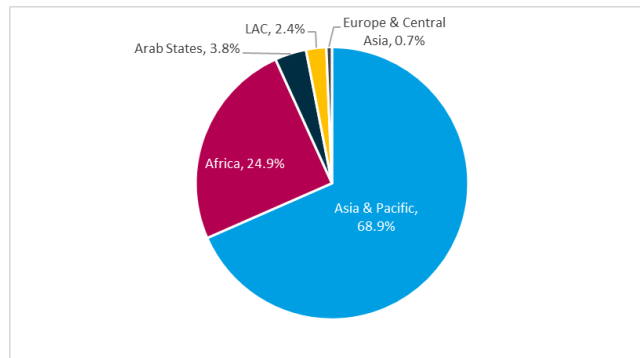
Figure 1 : Top Threats to Supported WHRDs in 2025 (Safety Net)



In collaboration with its eight INGO partners, the Window provided critical support to 456 WHRDs⁴ and 1,432 of their dependents from 20 countries. The majority of these WHRDs were from Afghanistan (49.3%), followed by Myanmar (14.6%), the D.R.C (10.9%), and Sudan (9.2%).

⁴ A total of 27 WHRDs were provided multiple grants since the Window’s establishment, bringing the cumulative total of unique WHRDs to 1,224, or 1,251 for non-unique. Support for dependents is provided only through the Safety Net Stream

Figure 2 : WHRDs Supported, by Region, 2025

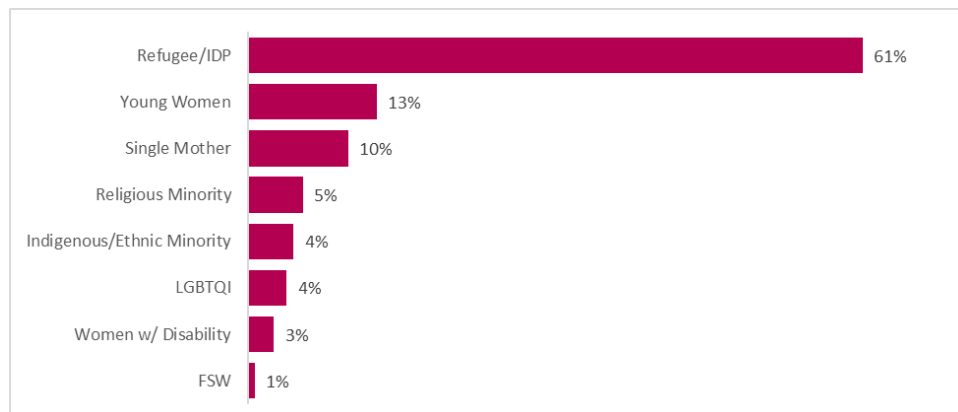


Cumulatively, since 2022, 1,224 unique WHRDs have been supported through 1,132 requests through both streams. 37.8% of WHRDs supported were between the age of 18 and 29 years old. Over half of all WHRDs (47.8%) supported were from Afghanistan, followed by Sudan (14.0%), DRC (11.8%), and Myanmar (7.1%).

The Window for WHRDs is also proving to reach a diverse range of WHRDs, including those facing exclusion, and made vulnerable by forced displacement, ableism, ageism, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and /or gender identity, ethnic ties, religious affiliations, and discrimination against indigenous people, among others.

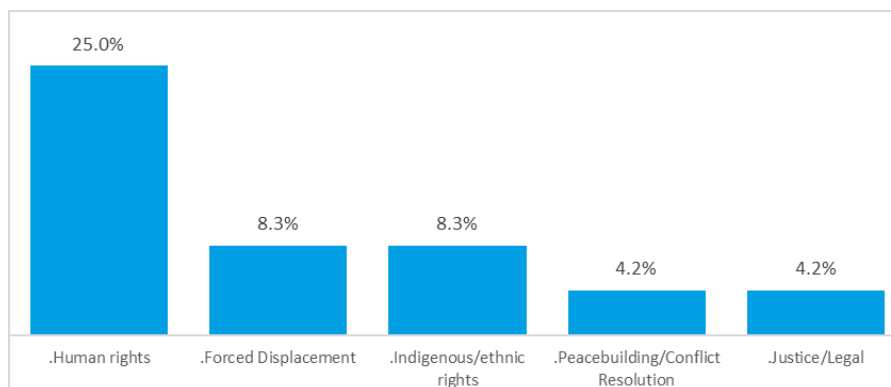
In 2025, 314 (71.6%) WHRDs supported identified as having multiple and intersecting identities. Of these, the majority were refugees or internally displaced persons (60.6%), followed by 12.7% as young women, 5.4% from a religious minority, 4.4% from an indigenous/ethnic minority group, and 3.8% who identified as LGBTQI+. Another 9.8% identified as a single mother, while respectively 0.6% identified as being a female sex worker (FSW). Cumulatively, 20.9% of WHRDs supported during the year identify as having multiple and intersecting identities.

Figure 3 : WHRDs with intersecting identities, main identity, 2025



The thematic areas of advocacy of the WHRDs supported by the Window has also been diverse, from indigenous and ethnic rights, rights for refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers, calling for cease fires, access to justice and legal services for survivors of violence, and broader human rights, demonstrating that the experiences and expertise of WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis-affected contexts are not confined to the promotion and protection of women’s rights or “women’s issues”, and are essential to resolving conflicts, ensuring accountability, and offering pathways to justice and peace.

Figure 4: WHRDs Thematic Areas of Advocacy (2025)



Advocacy Stream

Under the advocacy stream, WPHF covers the cost of travel, accommodation, visa fees and terminal expenses to facilitate the participation of WHRDs in key decision-making events and meetings at the national and international level. In 2025, **22 requests from 86 WHRDs**, including 17 delegations (10 requests with 59 WHRDs from Afghanistan), were supported for advocacy initiatives in order to directly share their inputs and recommendations at strategic engagements and decision-making processes at national and international levels.

This funding has enabled WHRDs to amplify their voices and advocate at a range of events, including participation at CSW69, the 60th Session of the Human Rights Council, side events at WPS in New York, and the Global Refugee Forum, among others, and focused on human rights, indigenous/ethnic rights, justice and legal rights, conflict resolution, and women’s rights more broadly. Without this funding, several WHRDs reported that their participation would have not been possible otherwise. Enabling local WHRDs to apply as delegation has strengthened coalition building and collective actions.

Safety Net Stream

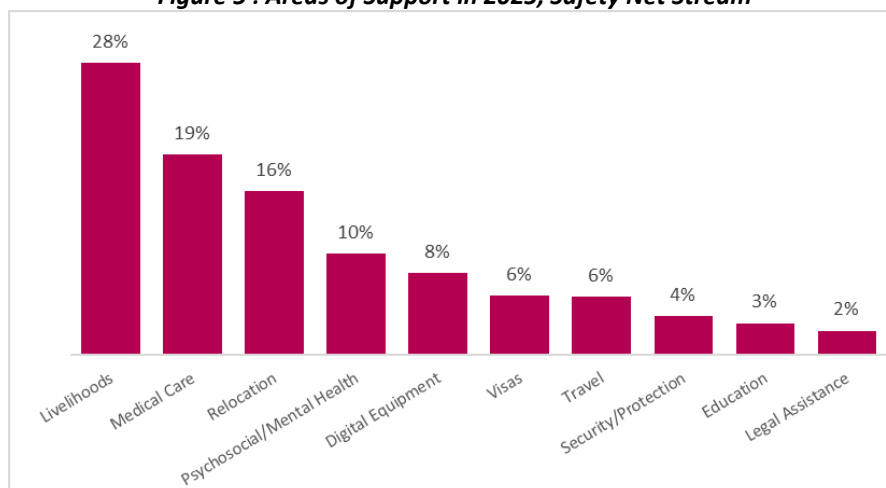
Under safety net grants, 370 WHRDs (36.8% 18-29 years old) were supported, along with their 1,432 dependents. From Afghanistan, 166 WHRDs (41.6% between 18 and 29 years old), and their 759 dependents were supported with urgent protection grants.

Of the WHRDs and their dependents supported under this stream, livelihoods⁵ was supported in 27.9% of instances, followed by medical care (19.1%), relocation to another location or country (15.5%), psychosocial and mental health (9.6%), and digital equipment (7.9%), among others. The average investment for each safety net case was 3,776 USD.

Refer to Section 2 for stories of impact.

⁵ Support for livelihoods generally revolves around support to continue daily work/activism. Some examples include payment for rent, food, medical expenses and other utilities.

Figure 5 : Areas of Support in 2025, Safety Net Stream



Cases of supported WHRDs demonstrate the hostile environments in which WHRDs operate. They are first and foremost impacted by protracted conflicts and crises, and increased militarization. In addition to facing physical attacks, harassment and intimidation, kidnapping, and arbitrary detention, “sexual and gender-based violence remains an ever-present threat”⁶ to WHRDs. Their multiple and intersecting identities such as displacement, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, among others, are risk-multipliers. The objective of such threats is to silence the voices of WHRDs, peacebuilders and activists and force them out of public life, where they are not seen as equal nor legitimate actors.

With a no one-size-fits-all approach to the protection of WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected countries, the Window has demonstrated it is flexible enough to meet intersectional needs. Under the safety net stream, the Window for WHRDs Unit operates in partnership with trusted INGO partners who are the ultimate decision holders to assess and respond to the protection needs of WHRDs. Shortlisted applications by the Unit are shared with an INGO partner covering the region, who in turns reviews further, analyzes the needs and context, and applies its organizational criteria to make a final decision for support. Beyond covering traditional temporary relocation and livelihood costs, the Window has approached protection holistically, including support for dependents, as well as psychological and medical assistance, digital equipment, and online safety and security.

⁶ Mary Lawlor, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, UN Doc A/78/131, 7 July 2023,

2. Impact

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs Unit and its INGO partners⁷ carried out its third global impact survey with WHRDs who received safety net grants during the year with the overall objective of demonstrating the impact of the funding mechanism on providing protection support to WHRDs in conflict and crisis affected countries in order to advocate for more financing towards the protection of WHRDs.

WHRD 2025 Impact Survey⁸

In 2025, WPHF conducted its second global impact survey with 160 WHRDs supported under the safety net stream from 11 countries across Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with the objective to demonstrate the impact of the safety net funding to facilitate the protection of WHRDs.

The findings reveal that 68% of WHRDs face frequent threats as a result of their activism and work, which has remained consistent over the past three years. These threats have come from armed actors (26%), military and security forces (15%), and police and law enforcement (10%), and experienced both in-person and through online channels. 63% of WHRDs also highlight that the risks they face have forced them to stop their activism and work at some point, to ensure their protection. 24% of WHRDs also indicate that the threats have been consistent, while 9% highlight an increase in the threats they receive.

“The Taliban raided my home and wanted to re-arrest me. The reason for this raid was my failure to fulfill the obligations imposed on me during my imprisonment. They had followed all my human rights activities on my Facebook page, and others had also maliciously reported me to them. When they could not find me, they found my father and beat him.” (WHRD from Afghanistan)

At the same time, a good portion (77%) of WHRDs indicate that the grant has still helped reduce some of the risks and threats they face, albeit a decrease from 2024 by 2%, and 78% have been able to continue their activism to an extent. Support related to relocation within their country or elsewhere, livelihood support such as food and secure accommodation, the purchase of security cameras and new phones, and addressing trauma through psychosocial support and accessing medical care are among the few areas WHRDs highlight as helpful in order to continue their activism.

“The grant resulted in a lot of improvement in my protection and security because it addressed several urgent risks that I was facing. First, I relocated to a safer place, which significantly reduced exposure to surveillance, informants, and immediate security threats. Stable housing reduced my visibility and vulnerability. Second, the grant supported legal documentation processes, which lowered the risk of arrest, detention, or deportation. This also greatly improved my sense of safety and freedom of movement. Third, I was able to access healthcare, including treatment related to miscarriage complications and support for my mental well-being. Improving my physical and emotional health strengthened my overall resilience as a WHRD. Finally, the support ensured food security and basic living expenses for three months, reducing economic instability and allowing me to focus on protection strategies and continue my activism more safely. Overall, the grant significantly strengthened both my personal safety and the security of my dependents, enabling me to stabilize my situation and continue my work with reduced risk.” (WHRD from Myanmar)

“The subsidy allowed me to pay the rent in a secure neighborhood where I have been in forced exile since February 2025. Thanks to the [grant], I benefited from psychological therapy sessions, I was also able to pay for medical care, food and transport. In addition, it allowed me to keep in touch with my family back in the DRC, and to take care of my dependents!.” (WHRD from Burundi)

“The grant allowed me to move to a safer place for a while, limit and conceal my movements, and provide for my basic needs. As a result, the level of direct threat against me decreased and I was able to live more cautiously.” (WHRD from Afghanistan)

⁷ See Output 1.1 for more about NGO partnerships

⁸ Complete findings and advocacy brief are forthcoming in May 2026.

WHRDs highlight a variety of protection measures and strategies which they have been able to adopt to keep them and their families safe. The majority highlight that relocation (25%), including finding a safe house as the first strategy, followed by avoiding public spaces and keeping a low profile (20%), and adopting both physical and digital security measures (17%). WHRDs have also used the small grant to cover basic needs such as rent and food, obtaining visas for relocation to another country, and to address medical and mental health issues. Conversely, in a few cases (5%), WHRDs have increased their activism and advocacy work.

While the safety net grants have been critical for WHRDs to improve their protection, 57% of WHRDs continue to face new threats, including threats to cease their activism and work, digital threats, kidnapping of children, homes being confiscated, harassment, detention or arrest, and cyber-bullying, among many others.

“Since receiving the grant, I have experienced new threats primarily through community members. Instead of confronting me directly, some individuals approached my husband, accusing me of “hiding” in another country and sharing information with organizations. These messages were framed as warnings, pressuring him to tell me to stop engaging in advocacy related to human rights violations. There have also been indirect signals that individuals connected to official structures, such as the embassy, and the monitoring and documentation about my activities. This has increased my concern about surveillance and reputational targeting. For security reasons, I do not publicly present myself widely as a human rights defender.” (WHRD from Sudan)

The countless of other testimonies other than the WHRD above, demonstrates that while safety net support has increased WHRDs’ overall protection in the immediate and medium-term, in many cases, repeated threats and various challenges remain for the longer-term, and WHRDs safety and protection is an on-going concern. Political action, advocacy and continued funding to WHRDs from/working in crisis and conflict-affected contexts remain critical.

WHRD Impact Profiles⁹

Advocacy Stream

Global Refugee Forum – Representing Migrant and Refugee Women

A delegation of three WHRDs from Ecuador attended the Global Refugee Forum, held from 15–17 December 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representing migrant and refugee women working to prevent gender-based violence, promote safe migration pathways, and advance rights-based, community-driven cross-border responses, the delegation participated in high-level dialogues and multi-stakeholder discussions with the objective of influencing global responses of women-led organizations supporting refugee and displaced women. The delegation advocated for inclusive, feminist policies that reflect the realities of women on the move in Latin America and the Caribbean and called for increased investment in women-led organizations. They further promoted the integration of community-based data into protection systems, highlighted refugee and migrant women as agents of change, and showcased the strength of regional collaboration among grassroots feminist organizations. Through these efforts, they sought to ensure that global-level decisions reflect the concrete needs, priorities, and solutions generated by women at the community level.

Highlighting the Situation of Rohingya in Myanmar

In September 2025, support was provided to a young Rohingya refugee woman under the advocacy stream to attend the High-level Conference on the *Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar* at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. During the conference, the WHRD delivered remarks at the opening segment and participated in a series of side events organized by Refugee Women for Peace and Justice, the Global Justice Center, Women’s Peace Network (WPN), and the Rohingya Consultative Council. Through her engagement, she sought to strengthen direct communication between the Rohingya community and international policymakers, ensuring that their concerns and priorities were clearly articulated and heard. In doing so, she represented the voices of more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees residing in the Cox’s Bazar camps, as well as thousands more in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

⁹ Please note that all names and identifying details have been anonymized or changed for protection and security reasons.

Safety Net

From Silence to Strength

Ayla¹⁰, 31, is a digital activist from Country X who built a following by using social media to challenge gender-based violence and advocate for women's rights. When she publicly condemned the whipping of a woman accused of defying traditional practices, a prominent influencer launched a smear campaign against her. It rapidly escalated into death threats and violence, forcing Ayla to flee her home and ultimately her country. She lost her income, her home, and her sense of safety — describing the experience as a "mental health crisis". In early 2025, DefendDefenders provided Ayla with a protection grant, enabling her to secure safe housing abroad and stabilize her situation. The support gave her, in her own words, the space to, *"find a place to live, set up and not have to rush to make money"*. Today, Ayla has resumed her advocacy with renewed resolve. *"They've played all their cards," she said. "I feel more empowered than ever. They called me names, but I'm still here — still speaking."*

Digital Advocacy and Documenting Human Rights Violations

X is a woman human rights defender from Country Y, whose work focuses on digital and international advocacy. Since 2020, she has used mobile journalism to document and broadcast human rights violations, working closely with civil society organizations. Her work amplifies voices of marginalized communities, challenges state repression, and provides international visibility to human rights concerns in her Country.

"Defending human rights has always given me the best feeling. Because when you know you're shaping somebody's life, that's the best feeling" she says enthusiastically.

However, her advocacy work has placed her in direct conflict with the state. In 2022, she was shot at close range by police during a peaceful protest. This attack not only endangered her life but also that of her unborn child at the time. Following the shooting, she and her family were subjected to harassment, raids, surveillance and online threats. Her home was broken into, her work equipment confiscated and she was forced to internally relocate multiple times due to safety concerns. These persistent threats created a situation where her safety, livelihood and ability to continue her advocacy were severely hampered.

Recognizing the high risks, she faced, DefendDefenders and its partners Front Line Defenders and Southern Defenders interconnected their protection mechanisms to provide Selin with support. Through the WPHF grant, she relocated to a different country and remains safe. She replaced work equipment and is active in different advocacy networks. While threats and surveillance persist from the State, she has continued to participate in advocacy projects, including an EU-funded initiative where she continues to document human rights abuses from her country.

A Lifelong Defender of Women's Rights in Darfur

Salama¹¹ is a teacher and women's rights advocate from Darfur who has spent her life championing education, equality, and peace amid decades of conflict in Sudan. When the Darfur war broke out in 2003, she co-founded a network uniting women across ethnic and political divides to provide humanitarian aid, rebuild livelihoods, and advocate for women's rights. Her leadership extended nationally, engaging with UN Women and partners to amplify women's voices in peacebuilding efforts. In 2023, during the 16 Days of Activism campaign, Salama led a peaceful protest to deliver a memorandum to regional authorities. Government orders abruptly halted the campaign, and her refusal to back down made her a target. By mid-2024, threats had escalated to include surveillance, theft of work equipment, and intimidation of her family. With support from DefendDefenders and WPHF, Salama safely relocated to another country in February 2025. Despite displacement, Salama remains active in supporting vulnerable women in Sudan. She allocated part of her protection grant to keep her organization's operations running back home — a testament to a commitment that no amount of pressure has been able to silence.

¹⁰ Names have been changed for protection/security reasons

¹¹ Ibid.

Digital Threats and Protection, Syria

A young Syrian WHRD, due to her activism and identity (from a socially conservative area and a religious minority), the WHRD had received threats on social media from unknown persons. She relocated with urgent support provided by EMHRF and reported that this significantly improved her situation and enabled her to resume and strengthen her activism, *“The EMHRF grants [through WPHF] was a decisive turning point that helped me regain my balance and shift my work from spontaneous reactions to proactive risk management through psychological stability, strengthening digital protection, and sustaining community impact.”*

Advocacy Stream

59th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council side event, “From Afghanistan to Geneva Afghan Women Calling for Action”

Supported through the advocacy stream, a WHRD indicated that since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan five years ago, there has been little change or progress made on the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls. Her participation in the EID on Afghanistan in 2025 was therefore crucial to ensure that the voices of women and girls from Afghanistan continue to be heard, and that the status of women and girls in the country remains on the international human rights agenda. The WHRD reiterated that Afghan women are going through the hardest time in the history of women in Afghanistan, and felt it was important to share the ongoing experiences of women and girls, their continued challenges, and to ensure that Afghan women and girls are not forgotten by the international community. She also emphasized the importance of male engagement in efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, and to provide support to Islamic scholars who are committed to challenging perceptions that Islam and the rights of women and girls are in contention, including female Islamic scholars who bring a unique voice to the conversation, and who do this work with little to no support from human rights stakeholders.

80th Session of UN General Assembly side event, 'Weaponization of Religion by the Taliban & Its Consequences on Afghanistan and Beyond'

A male WHRD was supported to attend the UN General Assembly side event in New York from Sep 22 to Sep 26, 2025” hosted by FARAGEER. Although he only spoke for 8 minutes, the impact of what he said has been significant. Within 15 hours of his speech, simultaneously translated into Dari, the event had received over 299,000 views on social media platforms, including viewers from Afghanistan. Shortly after, the WHRD was invited to multiple interviews to speak about the Taliban laws, decrees and bans on women’s education, as well as on the Penal Code introduced by the Taliban, being legitimized with its basis in Islam and Sharia Law. The WHRD acknowledged that his voice is unique and rare within the Afghanistan context, and he has become known for encouraging Afghans to truly reflect on the teachings of Islam and the misalignment to the Taliban’s restrictions on the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. The WHRD’s voice was not only amplified for the Afghan people, for the United Nations, and for CSOs concerned with human rights, but in other Muslim countries. The WHRD highlighted the lack of support for Muslim scholars, who are engaged in challenging the Taliban narrative and providing an alternative to what has become the status quo for the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. While faced online harassment and abuse for his participation in the event, he remains committed to speaking up on the intersection between Islam and human rights and encourages others to do the same.

Under the advocacy stream, key results and impact also occurred for WHRDs. In 2025, post-advocacy surveys were conducted with 18 WHRDs, who all reported that the support enabled them to fully or partially achieve their advocacy objectives at the events they attended. Additionally, all WHRDs stated they were able to fully or partially influence policies, recommendations, decisions, or outcomes related to the event's theme. For example, at COP29, WHRDs successfully advocated for the inclusion of young people as climate negotiators, leading to dedicated youth training sessions. At CSW69, they also highlighted the link between climate change and gender inequality in Nigeria, influencing donor support for women-led climate resilience initiatives. WHRDs also successfully engaged representatives from Lebanon to promote the value of adopting a human rights–based approach to policy reform. They also

played a key role in establishing a national security task force and a mixed advocacy framework bringing together civil society, legislators, and ministry representatives.

The impact of WHRD's engagement in advocacy opportunities is also seen in other areas. Many WHRDs (72%) noted increased confidence in public speaking and received invitations to participate in further advocacy initiatives. Another 44% highlight the key result was their ability to provide recommendations to other policies and strategies, while 28% reported mobilizing new resources for their advocacy work and 11% establishing new partnerships with donors, respectively. Despite the success, 23% also reported experiencing reprisals or intimidations following their participation participating in their respective advocacy events.

3. Progress Achieved

Output 1.1: Efficient, effective, and timely management and implementation of the WHRD Window is ensured

The Window for WHRDs Unit undertook and coordinated all day-to-day tasks necessary for the smooth management and delivery of the Window, ensuring compliance with approaches and procedures set out in its project document and concept note.

Management of Window (1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.5)

In 2025, the WHRDs Window Unit convened its civil society and UN partners for an online mid-year review (two meetings, one focused on the advocacy stream and the other on safety net stream) where it documented best practices and collected feedback on the Window's scope, processes and procedures. As a result, the Unit:

- Reviewed, adopted, and circulated the ToR of the Advocacy Committee¹².
- Reviewed and adopted clear criteria for repeated support under the Advocacy Support stream.
- Developed standardised methodology and criteria for repeat grants under its Safety Net stream.
- Adopted criteria to prioritize requests from WHRDs from civil society backgrounds, and made vulnerable by displacement, age, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, disability, etc.
- Developed and agreed on criteria to prioritize requests for advocacy support to attend fora where women have been traditionally marginalized.
- Updated its Safety Net and Advocacy stream application forms available in both Word format and an online platform in six languages (English, Arabic, Dari, Pashto, French, and Spanish).

Throughout the year, the Window for WHRDs Unit, which consists of a team of 2 staff members, and 2 consultants, continued to review requests from WHRDs submitted through the WPHF web portal or email. The WHRD Unit reviews these applications to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria of the window (18 years and above, from a country in crisis/conflict, demonstrated peaceful engagement in the advancement of human rights, either individually or through a civil society organization, demonstrated current/past serious security risks because of the WHRDs commitment to human rights and peace, and that such risks compromise the ability of the WHRD to keep working on behalf of human rights and peace).

Compliant proposals are transferred to one of 8 INGO partners, who conduct further review and verification of the information. The final decision to approve or reject the application lies with the INGO partner, and once the application is approved, a grant commensurate to the needs of the WHRDs, and not exceeding USD 10,000 is disbursed by the INGO partner to the WHRD. If the application is not approved, the INGO partner contacts the WHRD to notify them of the decision.

Similarly, under the advocacy support stream, the Window reviews applications submitted by WHRDs to ensure alignment with the window's eligibility criteria. Once the eligibility criteria is met, the Window forwards the application to an advocacy committee that consists of UN Women country office WPS-HA focal points, HR focal points from OHCHR, and the WPS INGO working group. Two endorsements from the advocacy committee members are needed for approval, and subsequent approval from the Deputy Head

¹² The WPHF WHRDs Window's Advocacy Committee (comprised of UN Women, OHCHR and civil society representatives coordinated by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security) is an advisory group which provides expert advice on shortlisted applications under the Advocacy Support mechanism and facilitates coordination to reduce duplication of support and amplify the impact of the WHRDs efforts. The Committee also contributes to sharing information on the Window to various networks to increase support to WHRDs in their diversity.

of the WPHF Secretariat prior to processing of logistics and administrative support to facilitate travel of the WHRDs to the relevant event/platform.

In 2025 the Window for WHRDs guided applicants who sought support to fill in application forms and redirected applicants, as necessary, to appropriate streams. Cases not eligible to be supported through the Window were referred to other relevant mechanisms. For example, the Unit redirected to other partners those requests for protection grants from WHRDs outside of the Window for WHRDs geographical scope.

In 2026, the Window will transition to fully online receipt of applications through its HubSpot platform to improve the speed and efficiency of compliance review and ensuring that grants get into the hands of WHRDs faster. The Window has also developed a guidance sheet for WHRDs seeking advocacy support from the WPHF to ensure WHRDs understand the type of information that is required to review and process an advocacy support application, and to streamline the process of review and approval/rejection of advocacy support applications.

Selection and onboarding of INGO partners for Safety Net implementation (1.1.3)

In 2025, no new INGO partners were onboarded, with the focus placed on consolidating and strengthening the existing eight partnerships to enhance the quality and accountability of support provided. Key efforts included reinforcing due diligence and financial monitoring processes, improving coordination mechanisms, and formalizing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including detailed guidance on the management of cost extensions (CEs), no-cost extensions (NCEs), and related processes to improve consistency and efficiency. The Window also conducted spot checks for the first time and integrated provisions for audit costs across partner budgets to strengthen fiduciary oversight and assurance mechanisms. These measures are expected to further strengthen accountability and risk management in 2026.

OHCHR Partnership (1.1.4)

In 2025, the partnership with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued. OHCHR actively participated as a member of the Advocacy Committee, helping review Advocacy Support applications, providing recommendations, identifying relevant entry points for applicant's advocacy, amplifying visibility and influence of the window, and ensuring synergies between advocacy applications for similar events, while avoiding duplication of funding.

In line with the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Advocacy Committee developed in 2023, OHCHR conducted due diligence, ensured diversity, provided feedback on the eligibility of applications, helped finding entry points to augment the meaningful impact of support, advised on potential risks and reprisals related to the applicant's advocacy plan and recommended mitigation measures. Quarterly meetings with OHCHR were also convened for improved coordination and collaboration for protection and advocacy support to WHRDs, as well as a regular forum to discuss challenges, lessons, and best practices.

Importantly, WPHF and OHCHR collaborated to address potential reprisal cases of WHRDs who were at risk due to their collaboration with the United Nations. This joint effort aimed to enhance the accountability of the United Nations and contribute to the documentation and addressing of reprisals against WHRDs. As a result, when potential risks arose, the Window evaluated any threats that might have been associated with collaboration with the United Nations and took a proactive approach by sharing application details with OHCHR, obtaining consent from WHRDs in advance. In response, OHCHR conducted dedicated meetings with the WHRDs to comprehensively discuss the security risks and threats.

In 2025, the Window also joined the OHCHR-led Global Protection Community of Practice (CoP), an informal network of protection actors, donors, and civil society organizations working to collectively address protection challenges faced by human rights defenders and social movements. Participation in the CoP enables the Window to contribute its operational experience in supporting WHRDs while engaging in joint learning and strategic discussions on strengthening protection ecosystems, addressing emerging risks, and enhancing coordination across actors. This engagement also provides opportunities to identify collaborations and contribute to broader efforts to strengthen political support for civic space and protection mechanisms.

Proposals Received (1.1.6)

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs Unit continued to receive applications for both streams through an encrypted webpage, to ensure online safety and ‘do no harm’ principles. The management of all documents and communications with partners are also password-protected, with access limited to the Window Unit only. Committed to the safety and security of the WHRDs who engage with the Window, sensitive cases were also communicated through Signal, and shifted, as advised by its partners, to open-source video-conferencing software such as JITSI for sensitive online meetings and information sessions.

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs Unit completed the technical review of 2,502 proposals from WHRDs under both streams from 77 different countries in 6 languages¹³ - the highest number of proposals received since the establishment of the Window in 2022, and a 63% increase since 2024, demonstrating the increased demand for financing from WHRDs and activists.

Just over half of all proposals under the safety net stream (51.0%), were transferred to INGO partners for verification after meeting eligibility criteria, and 17.0% forwarded to the Advocacy Committee under the Advocacy Support stream, of which all except six were recommended by the Committee. The majority of requests under both streams is consistent from the previous year and come from Afghanistan (56.8%), followed by the D.R.C (8.9%), Myanmar (8.5%), Sudan (6.9%), and Palestine (3.6%). Applications from Uganda, Colombia, Nigeria, Yemen, Venezuela and Syria also made up 6.8% of applications received during the year.

2025	Proposals Received/Reviewed	Countries	Longlisted, Transferred to INGOs or Advocacy Committee	Shortlisted ¹⁴ (% of received)
Advocacy	159	43	27	13.2%
Safety Net	2,343	65	1,194	51.0%
Total	2,502	77	1,221	48.6%

Cumulatively, since 2022, a total of 7,232 proposals have been received directly from WHRDs from 77 different countries. Over half of all requests under both streams come from Afghanistan (55.4%), followed by Sudan (12.0%), the D.R.C (8%), and Myanmar (5.2%). Applications from Uganda, Colombia, Palestine, and Cameroon also make up 6.5% of applications received to date.

¹³ English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Dari and Pashto

¹⁴ Under the Safety Net stream, proposals transferred to NGO partners (longlisting) and shortlisting is the same. Under the Advocacy stream, shortlisted are those recommended by the Advocacy Committee.

Cumulatively (2022-2025)	Proposals Received/Reviewed	Countries	Longlisted, Transferred to INGOs or Advocacy Committee	Shortlisted ¹⁵ (% of received)
Advocacy	520	76	78	12.9%
Safety Net	6,712	102	3,345	49.8%
INGO Partners	81	N/A	60	18.5%
Total	7,313	178	3,484	46.9%

Eligibility and Rejection

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs Unit saw a consistency from 2024 in terms of the eligibility rate of applications received under both streams – just under half at 48.6% - a trend that is not concerning due to the fact that women tend to apply irrespective of their eligibility.

Specifically, under the Safety Net Stream, where the majority of proposals are received, the reason for ineligibility vary, including the threat not being linked to human rights work or activism (52.3%), threat was not within the last two years (25.4%), incomplete applications (12.8%), outside of an eligible country (6.3%), or the applicant was below 18 years old (3.2%), or a male applicant (0.3%)¹⁶.

Of the 1,194 applications transferred to INGO partners in 2025, just under half were not supported (49.0%), with the main reason being the lack of evidence of threats related to human rights work (47.5%), followed by incomplete or unverifiable information (21.1%), suspected fraud or untruthful information (8.5%), or not a WHRD or activist (6.9%). In line with this, in 2026 the Window will continue to work closely with INGO partners who have access to real time data on the ground to verify the identity of WHRDs who apply for support under the window, and the nature of their activism to ensure resources intended for WHRDs in conflict and crises are not misallocated.

Under the advocacy stream, while many applications came from women who work on gender equality and women’s empowerment, they were not from conflict/crises settings, or whose applications did not consist of impactful advocacy strategies. In order to address these challenges, the Window has developed a new guidance sheet for WHRDs seeking advocacy support which will be published with application templates and will continue to coordinate with partners in 2026 on best practices, lessons learned, and strategies to overcome challenges on the eligibility and verification of applications.

Advocacy Support Management (1.1.7, 1.1.8)

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs continued to work closely with the Advocacy Committee, which consists of UN Women, OHCHR and various INGO and CSO partners to review applications submitted by WHRDs to participate in national, regional and international advocacy events/platforms. The committee proved to be an invaluable resource in confirming the identity of WHRDs, verifying their activism, and supporting networking and other strategic advocacy opportunities between WHRDs and key women, peace and security stakeholders, including Member States, UN agencies/entities, and INGOs and CSOs. The advocacy committee in some instances flagged unverifiable cases, including one from DRC, which further enhanced the ability of the window to prevent disbursement of funds to individuals that are not WHRDs, or engaged in human rights activism.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ In 2026 the definition for WHRDs is being expanded to include males which specifically work on women’s rights and who are under threat.

In 2025, the Window also continued to link consenting WHRDs supported by WPHF with the Global Learning Hub (L-Hub), which fosters synergies and networking between CSOs and women leaders while strengthening capacities across key areas related to WPS-HA. In 2026, in coordination with the WPHF L-Hub team, the Window will explore opportunities to provide tailored capacity-building support for WHRDs, particularly those supported under the advocacy stream.

Risks Management (1.1.9)

Drawing on discussions during quarterly meetings, and annual workshop and a series of engagements with the Advocacy Committee members, the Unit's Risk Matrix was updated and approved by the Global Steering Committee. Notably, these modifications included:

- Strengthened mitigation measures to support the timely release of second tranches and cost extensions to Safety Net INGO partners;
- Additional measures to address operational bottlenecks related to UN Women procurement and travel processes, particularly for advocacy support;
- Enhanced measures to manage expectations and timelines for advocacy support, including clearer communication with applicants;
- New mitigation measures related to the planned digitization of the application review process, particularly in response to the high volume of applications received;
- Updated measures to strengthen coordination with INGO partners, including regular reviews of geographic coverage and eligible costs;
- Additional measures to improve transparency with applicants regarding verification processes and the role of INGO partners; and
- Continued emphasis on conflict-sensitive approaches and data protection to mitigate risks related to WHRDs' exposure and safety following support.

The Unit will continue to review and update the Risk Matrix on a quarterly basis to reflect evolving operational and protection challenges and feedback from implementing partners.

INGO Partnerships (1.1.10)

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs continued to strengthen its partnership with eight current INGO partners under the safety net stream. Partners played a multifaceted role in the overall functioning of the Window, including in the verification and assessment of applications, expediting the transfer of grants to WHRDs, and ensuring continuous financial management and progress reporting on a quarterly basis.

- ▶ Agir ensemble pour les droits humains (AEDH)
- ▶ East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (Defend Defenders)
- ▶ Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF)
- ▶ Front Line Defenders (FLD)
- ▶ Madre
- ▶ Mina's List
- ▶ Forum Asia
- ▶ The Gender Equality Network (GEN)

All INGO partners received costed extensions in 2025 to respond to the impacts of funding cuts on the human rights protection ecosystem and building on their work under the safety net stream and the high needs of WHRDs. Partners continued to also provide invaluable strategic guidance and maintained

consistent communication with WHRDs. Their active participation in annual evaluations, monthly coordination calls, and quarterly updates, where challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned are openly discussed with WPHF, contributed to the Window's overall knowledge management. Their communication efforts further amplified the visibility of the Window and underscores the collective importance of the mission in supporting and safeguarding women human rights defenders globally.

Monthly coordination meetings held throughout 2025 served as an important platform for the Window for WHRDs and its INGO partners to maintain a proactive and effective partnership in responding to emerging needs of WHRDs from/working in conflict crisis-affected countries. These meetings served to evaluate progress, allowing the Unit to assess the status of ongoing transferred cases to partners, discuss specific issues and challenges, and collaboratively find solutions. The sessions facilitated open communication, knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and the creation of a learning environment for both the WPHF WHRDs Window and its INGO partners.

In addition, the Window for WHRDs conducted bilateral quarterly calls with each INGO partner. The quarterly meetings provided a space for comprehensive reflection on the preceding quarter, as well as an opportunity to showcase their initiatives and activities. The meetings also provided space for candid discussions about challenges or bottlenecks faced, particularly in the realm of grant management and other operational facets. Equally important, these sessions unveil the key actions planned for the upcoming quarter. As a result of this partnership, INGO partners have reported having expanded their support to WHRDs, enhancing their coordination with other actors and networks, and improving their gender-sensitivity approach to protection throughout the year.

Referral Process for WHRDs who do not qualify for support from the Window (1.11)

The Window also rolled out in 2025 a list of referrals for women who are not eligible for support under the window, to enhance access to other service providers at the community, national, regional and international level. This list is composed of institutions and organizations who also provide support to HRDs, including WHRDs, and provides visibility of and access to other service providers who can respond to the needs of WHRDs that are not covered by the mandate/eligibility criteria of WHRD Window.

In 2026, the Window will continue giving priority to the online safety of its partners and explore ways to further strengthen its cautious use of information technology, including exploring viable and secure options to automate the application process under the safety net stream, to reduce the timeframe between receipt of an application, to transfer and disbursement of an approved grant by INGO partners.

Output 1.2: Monitoring and evaluation of best practices and lessons to ensure flexible and responsive support to meet evolving needs of WHRDs is generated and utilized

The Window for WHRDs organized and participated in several consultations with WHRDs, civil society organizations, UN Women, and OHCHR to inform the design of the Window, and ensure these stakeholders usefully contribute to regular review and refinement of its processes.

Consultations and Dialogues with INGO partners, UN Agencies (1.2.1)

In 2025, a series of follow up calls with supported WHRDs under the advocacy stream were conducted to discuss: i) advocacy objectives achieved; ii) challenges encountered; iii) reprisals faced, or any potential further risks; iv) impact of protection mitigation measures and need for any further protection support; and v) follow-up advocacy plans, capitalizing on outcomes of participation in this initiative. To

complement this, post-advocacy surveys were conducted with WHRDs six months after their participation in global events to measure the impact of the work of WHRDs as a result of this opportunity.

Towards the second half of 2025, the Window for WHRDs adapted its approach to post advocacy engagement to prioritize more accessible and needs-responsive engagement. Post-event follow-up calls were replaced with lighter-touch monitoring through surveys, complemented by pre-event check-in calls held shortly before participation. These calls serve to gather final updates on advocacy plans, assess any emerging risks or protection considerations, and provide a dedicated logistical coordination point, ensuring WHRDs are supported without increasing reporting fatigue.

This adjustment reflects the Window's commitment to feminist principles of do no harm, reducing extractive practices, and ensuring that accountability and learning processes remain proportionate, context-sensitive, and centered on WHRDs' time, safety, and priorities.

In cases where intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the UN were identified or alleged, the WHRD Window Unit sought consent of the participant to share details with the OHCHR reprisals team, for their follow-up to help document the case, and for the eventual inclusion in the SGs report on reprisals.

Coordination with Organizations and Networks on WHRD needs (1.2.4)

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs facilitated meetings between WHRDs and other actors including UN Women, OHCHR, and Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur for the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan. The Window also created spaces where WHRDs could interact directly with donors concerned with the WPS agenda, and the protection of human rights in conflict and crises settings.

Monitoring and Evaluation (1.2.3)

In 2025, the Window for WHRDs Unit sustained its utilization-focused, feminist, flexible, and 'do no harm' approach to monitoring and evaluation to minimize the burden for both WHRDs and implementing INGOs. It updated its M&E Strategy for the Window, including an updating reporting schedule for INGO partners.

As part of this strategy, the second global impact survey was carried out in 2025, in collaboration with INGO partners, with the aim of documenting the impact and to understand the sustained impact of the emergency and protection grants on WHRDs supported by the Window on WHRDs. The impact of the global financial landscape was also integrated into this year's survey. Findings and recommendations will also be used to advocate for increased financing among the international community for the protection and participation of WHRDs from conflict and crisis-affected countries. Participation in the survey was voluntary, anonymous and confidential, and encrypted software used to ensure the mitigation of digital risks to WHRDs. The preliminary findings from the impact survey are found in Section 2 above, and an advocacy brief will be developed and disseminated in early 2026. Follow-up calls with INGO partners, and anonymous post-support surveys under the advocacy stream to understand more about the impact of participation in local, national, regional and global advocacy efforts were also carried out.

The Unit also strengthened its M&E system by tracking variables such as multiple intersectionalities and carrying out periodic rejection and time analysis to inform the Window's decision-making process and find solutions with INGO partners to increase eligibility under its safety net stream. In late 2025, the Window also transitioned to online proposal forms through HubSpot solely (rather than email) and preliminary data shows that review rates have significantly decreased by 89% (or 35.7 days).

In 2026, the WHRD's Unit will continue to share the best practices and lessons learned resulting from its monitoring and evaluation processes with the WPHF Funding Board, as well as donors, and feminist civil society organizations more broadly.

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

Information Sessions (1.3.1)

In 2025, the Window on WHRDs, did not organize any new window specific information sessions for WHRDs. However, the Window did participate in Fund wide information sessions, including an information session for women from Libya participating in the Ra'idat Programme for Young Women Leaders hosted by UN Women, UNSMIL, UNICEF and UNDP.

Capacity Strengthening: WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) (1.3.2)

In 2025, based on the needs and priorities identified in WPHF's Annual CSO survey in 2023 and 2024, WPHF's Global L-HUB carried out 30 capacity strengthening sessions. Of these, 18 WHRDs attended 11 sessions, including on disability inclusion, leveraging artificial intelligence and risks, qualitative methods, localizing peace efforts, and climate security, among others.

Facilitation of Dialogue between UN Member States and WHRDs (1.3.3)

In 2025, the Window did not convene dedicated dialogue events between UN Member States and WHRDs. Looking ahead, the planned WPHF Global Women's Forum in 2026 is expected to provide an important opportunity to facilitate dialogue between UN Member States and WHRDs, alongside other advocacy initiatives.

Advocacy and Visibility Events (1.3.5)

In 2025, the WHRD Window did not convene a standalone visibility event, reflecting a shift toward integrating the Window's results, data, and supported WHRDs into WPHF-wide visibility and advocacy initiatives. This approach enabled the Window to contribute to broader engagement efforts while continuing to highlight the challenges faced by WHRDs in conflict and crisis settings and to promote the application of the Leave No One Behind principle for their enhanced protection and meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to peace, security, and humanitarian action.

Throughout the year, the WPHF Secretariat also leveraged its communications channels to highlight the global impact of the Window for WHRDs, and the support provided to its beneficiaries through both streams. The WPHF Communications team amplified the messages of WHRDs delivered at key events including messages from a young Afghan woman attending the different Human Rights Council Session in Geneva, and the messages of indigenous WHRDs at COP30.

The WHRD Window also amplified the voices of WHRDs it has supported since the establishment of the window, including an article written by Homira May Rezai, a Hazara rights activist, scientist and human rights defender from Afghanistan, [“I Grew Up Under the Taliban. I’m Still Fighting – But Not Without a Cost”](#), which was followed up with a [Live Interview on Instagram](#). This digital engagement contributed to maintaining visibility of the Window's work and expanding outreach to broader audiences through WPHF's communication channels.

4. Best Practices, Lessons Learned and Adaptations

Based on continuous dialogue and consultations on the Window's operations and processes with key stakeholders, and taking stock of best practices, challenges and lessons learned, the Window for WHRDs Unit has already been able to address some of the teething issues experienced as with programming in complex operating environments. Throughout the year, several best practices have emerged, as well as various lessons learned and adaptations for improved decision making and improvement of the Window.

Timeliness of processing applications for safety net grants in emergency, conflict, and crises setting

One of the key challenges the Window has faced has been the continuous volume of proposals received, and the time required the initial compliance review of proposals, prior to transfer to INGO partners. In 2025, the Window saw a 61% increase in the number of proposals under this stream from the previous year, and as a result had a backlog of proposals, putting WHRDs at greater risk. On a short-term, the M&E consultant engaged in evaluations to support in reducing this backlog.

However, in order to ensure a more sustainable and efficient solution, in collaboration with WPHF's M&E team, internal data interpretation and system analysis sessions were conducted. As a result, three substantive changes were made, significantly reducing manual work and the time to process applications. First, the Window shifted from a hybrid application model (Word and Online), to online only through its HubSpot platform, reducing the need to verify both the Window's inbox and HubSpot platform. Second, and perhaps more monumental, was better leveraging of the capabilities of HubSpot with the downloading of applications directly into the Window's monitoring system, as opposed to a copy/paste model. Finally, the transfer of the applications to INGO partners are now also done in batches, every few days, rather than weeks, using protected files generated from the monitoring system itself, rather than sending individual applications. With additional orientation to evaluators, including on the compliance criteria, preliminary analysis of the new system, established in late 2025, and the implementation of these simple steps, already indicates incredible success - it has taken an average of 4.2 days, as opposed to 35.7 days previously, representing a significant time reduction by 89% for internal application review. The Window continues to maintain strict data protection protocols and will explore in 2026, data retention policies in line with UN guidelines.

Processing of Safety Net Grant and Transfers

During the reporting period, a number of the Window's partners faced challenges in transferring approved safety net grants due to national policies that complicated international money transfers to WHRDs including WHRDs from East Africa, Myanmar and Afghanistan. The Window worked closely with its INGO partners to resolve these challenges, including subcontracting in country partners to facilitate transfer of safety net grants to WHRDs. Given the escalation of humanitarian crises in countries where the WPHF and Window for WHRDs are active, the Window also received over 20% of unverifiable applications from WHRDs, which affected the rejection rate of safety net applications to the window. In response to this the Window facilitated the exchange of knowledge and information among its INGO partners to enhance the capacity of each partner to respond to unverifiable applications from WHRDs.

Increase investment in WHRDs' mental and physical wellbeing

A continued area of concern is the scarcity of trusted and culturally sensitive psychosocial support services available for WHRDs from/working in conflict affected contexts who have experienced trauma and urgently need assistance to continue their work. The percentage of WHRDs who sought psychosocial and health-related assistance in 2025 was in 28.7% of instances, consistent from 2024, indicating the continued need and urgency for mental health and medical services for WHRDs. INGO partners noted that even if this demand was not routinely accorded as a top priority in their requests, an overwhelming

number of WHRDs supported nonetheless explained that they face health challenges that impede their ability to continue their work, and that a significant proportion would appear to face psychological trauma, even if they may not be comfortable expressing this openly. The WHRDs Window Unit mapped and publicized information on available psycho-social referral pathways and encouraged INGO partners to cover for costs of psychosocial support. Moving forward, the WHRDs Window will continue investing in the mental health of WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected countries, and further research into options to address these proactively. In 2025 the window initiated the process to develop a concept note that will be circulated to donors of the WPHF and Window for WHRDs to mobilise increased investments into the Window that will allow for the integration of a comprehensive mental health program into the safety net support provided to WHRDs.

Maximizing the Impact of Advocacy Support provided to WHRDs

A key challenge identified at the 2023 WPHF retreat (and backed by feedback from WHRDs who have received advocacy support from the Window) is a need to explore ways to enhance the support they provide to WHRDs to lead and participate in national, regional, and international decision-making spaces, and moving beyond logistical support provided by the Fund. This would contribute to sustaining outcomes during and after participation in advocacy events. Moving beyond direct advocacy support and providing additional capacity strengthening opportunities would help to consolidate results. As such, the WHRD Window seeks to explore partnerships with INGOs and CSOs who can provide capacity building support to maximise the presence of WHRDs in decision-making spaces at the national, regional and international to deliver on the WPS agenda, and to protect and promote the rights of women and girls in conflict and crises settings.

To respond to this, in 2025 the Window adapted its advocacy support eligibility criteria to allow WHRDs to receive advocacy support from a maximum of 2 times in a calendar year, to up to 4-6 times in a calendar year. This decision was informed by the understanding that advocacy efforts need to be sustained over a period of time in order to yield tangible and sustainable human rights outcomes, and one-off engagements yield limited human rights outcomes.

In partnership with UN Women, the Window will contribute \$30,000 in 2026 with the INGO Working Group on WPS, in response to severe funding cuts, and to ensure continued support to civil society and WHRDs engagement with the UN Security Council. These additional resources will allow for the provision of support from the working group to women civil society organizations and WHRDs to brief the security council, amplifying the voices of women and girls from conflict and crises settings, and advocating for the protection and promotion of human rights in any peace and security initiative of Member States of the UN.

Customized support to address the specific needs of WHRDs

During the November 2024 Window Visibility Event, WHRDs had the unique opportunity to present to Member States the challenges they continue to face in conflict and crises settings in the defense of human rights and women human rights. Key challenges identified included access to asylum-seeking/refugee status, and related documents to allow them to safely live, and work in host countries. Other challenges identified included the lack of tailored support for WHRDs who face specific challenges due to the nature of their work, including journalists, who face extreme threats due to their access to public spaces/platforms to highlight human rights, and women and girls' rights violations. In 2025, the Window was able to provide safety net grants to 47 WHRDs who identify as journalists and/or who work on media freedom and justice. In 2026 the WHRD Window will continue to work closely with WHRDs, INGOs and

CSOs to develop strategies to influence policy on funding mechanisms for women and girls, and specialized areas.

Human Resource of the Window for WHRDs and prioritization of the mental health and wellbeing of the WPHF staff

In 2025 the WHRD window removed the option of submission of additional documentation to support safety net applications, as WHRDs would often attach graphic photographic evidence of abuse and torture faced by WHRDs. The daily viewing of such evidence has had a toll on the WHRD team, and such evidence, irrespective of its nature, was not necessary for compliance review of safety net applications. Key to this has been the prioritization of mental health and well-being of members of the team, and ensuring access at any time to psychosocial support and counselling through UN Women.

5. Planned 2026 Priorities

In 2026, and subject to the availability of funds, the Window for WHRDs will prioritize the following objectives:

- ▶ **Strengthen learning and innovation** through evidence generation, development of initiatives such as psychosocial support pilots and capacity-building efforts in collaboration with partners, and building synergies with the Global L-HUB
- ▶ **Continue resource mobilization** with Member States and other stakeholders for WHRDs.
- ▶ **Strengthen operational and programmatic capacity** through the recruitment and onboarding of key personnel, continued investment in operational support functions, and updates to digital infrastructure and application processes to improve efficiency and responsiveness.
- ▶ **Expand advocacy support and engagement opportunities for WHRDs** by providing direct support for participation in global, regional, and national policy spaces, organizing information sessions and partner briefings, and contributing to key advocacy moments.
- ▶ **Enhance visibility, partnerships, and coordination** through strategic communications, contributions to WPHF advocacy initiatives, organization of a dedicated visibility event, and continued engagement with INGO partners, UN entities, and other stakeholders.

6. Appendices

Appendix A: Process Map of Window

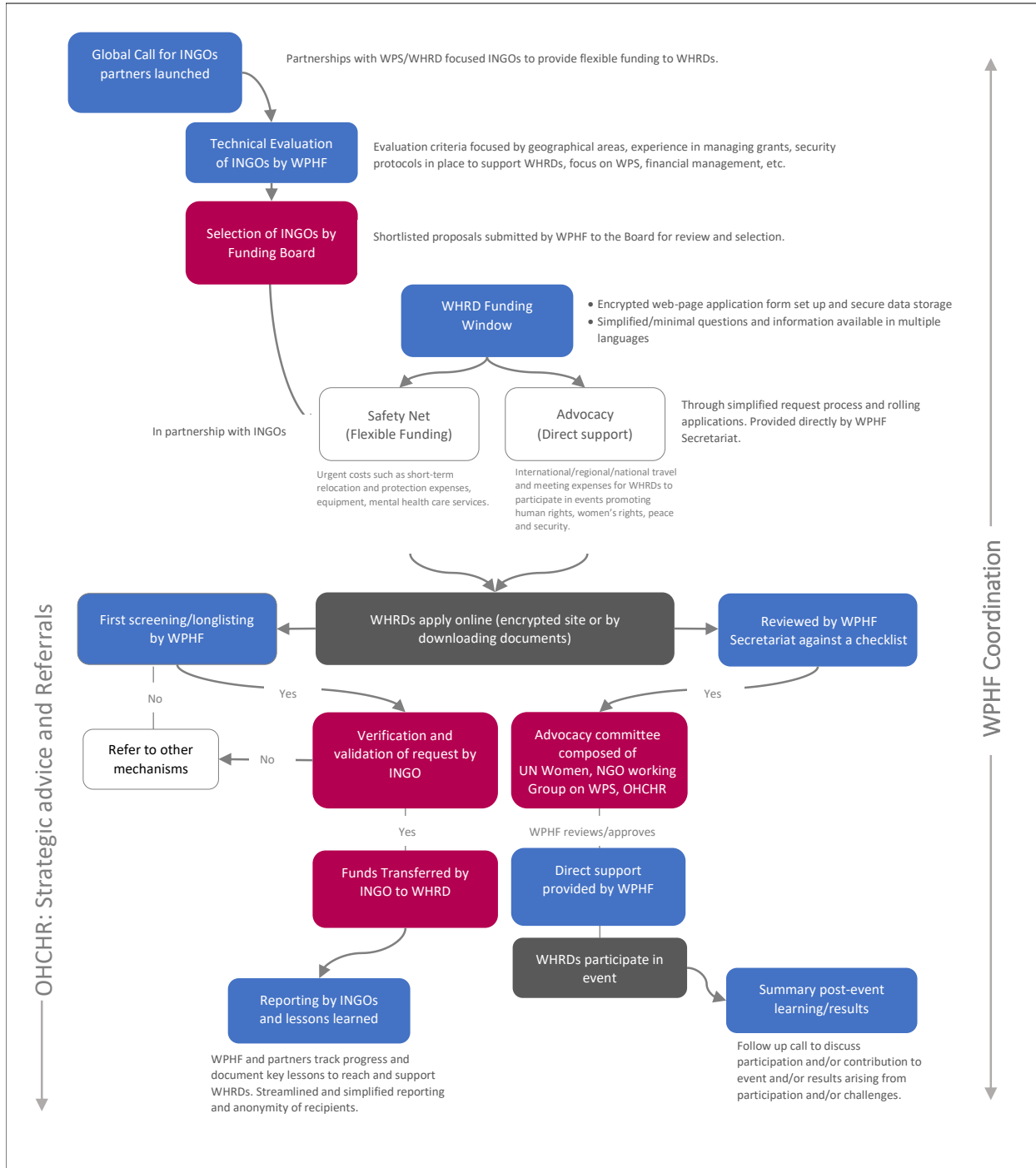
Appendix B: Risk Matrix

7. Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reasons for Variance
<p>Project Outcome: Increased access of WHRDs in crisis and conflict settings to protection mechanisms and advocacy opportunities, for their safe participation in the promotion of human rights and peace</p>	<p>1. Number of WHRDs supported through Safety Net funding (by age group and country of origin) Baseline: 38 Global; 26 AFG (2022) Target: N/A</p> <p>2. Number of WHRDs supported through Advocacy Support (by age group and country of origin) Baseline: 19 Global; 3 AFG (2022) Target: N/A</p>	<p>Safety Net Stream Total: 370 WHRDs supported (36.8% 18-29 years old) with protection grants in 2025. Cumulatively, 1,044 unique WHRDs supported (40.9% 18-29 years old), and their 3,784 dependents. Global: 203 WHRDs supported (33.2% 18-29 years old) with protection grants. Cumulatively, 545 unique WHRDs supported (34.6% 18-29 years old), and their 1,537 dependents. Afghanistan: 166 WHRDs supported (44.5% 18-29 years old) with protection grants. Cumulatively, 499 unique WHRDs supported (49.1% 18-29 years old), and their 2,247 dependents.</p> <p>Advocacy Stream Total: 86 WHRDs supported through 22 requests (7.0% 18-29 years old). Cumulatively, 180 unique WHRDs supported through 62 requests (13.9% 18-29 years old). Global: 27 WHRDs supported through 12 requests (11.1% 18-29 years old). Cumulatively, 95 unique WHRDs supported through 43 requests (18.9% 18-29 years old) Afghanistan: 59 WHRDs supported through 10 requests (5.1% 18-29 years old). Cumulatively, 85 unique WHRDs supported through 19 requests (8.2% 18-29 years old)</p>	N/A
<p>Output 1.1 Efficient, effective, and timely management and implementation of the WHRD Window is ensured</p>	<p>1.1a Selection and onboarding of new INGOs partner(s) Baseline: 5 (2022) Target: 1-2 (2023)</p>	<p>A full complement of INGO partners worked collaboratively with the Window: Agir ensemble pour les droits humains (AEDH), East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (Defend Defenders), Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), Front Line Defenders (FLD), Madre, Mina’s List, Forum Asia, Gender Equality Network (GEN)</p>	Exceeded targets since baseline to accommodate the increase in proposals from Afghanistan and Myanmar
	<p>1.1b OHCHR partnership is continued for quality technical and advisory support Baseline: 0 Target: partnership continued</p>	<p>Yes. The partnership with OHCHR continued with the review of advocacy support applications, identification of entry points for advocacy recipients, amplifying visibility and influence of the window, and advising on risks and reprisals related to applicant’s advocacy plans.</p>	No variance
	<p>1.1c Number of requests received and screened (by stream) Baseline: 333 Global; 1218 AFG (2022) Target: N/A</p>	<p>Safety Net Stream: 2,343 proposals received and reviewed for eligibility. For WHRDs from Afghanistan, a total of 1,388 proposals were received (56.8% of all safety net proposals). Cumulatively, a total of 6,712 proposals received and reviewed, with 3,900 from Afghanistan, or 58.1% of all proposals. Advocacy Stream: 520 proposals received and reviewed for eligibility, with 33 from Afghanistan. Cumulatively, a total of 520 proposals received, with 103 from Afghanistan (19.8% of all advocacy proposals).</p>	N/A

Results	Indicators	Progress Achieved against Targets	Reasons for Variance
	1.1d Types of additional support provided to WHRDs Target: referrals, training, protection planning, etc.	The Window rolled out a list of referrals for women who are not eligible for support under the window, to enhance access to other service providers at the community, national, regional and international level. This list is composed of institutions and organizations who also provide support to HRDs, including WHRDs, and provides visibility of and access to other service providers who can respond to the needs of WHRDs that are not covered by the mandate/eligibility criteria. In cases where participation in a UN led event has put the WHRD at risk, referrals with consent, to OHCHR. Training through the WPHF Global L-Hub and resources disseminated on mental health was also carried out.	No variance
	1.1e Risk and mitigation strategies table is reviewed and revised, as needed Target: Quarterly	Risk and mitigation matrix reviewed and updated in 2025	No variance
Output 1.2 Monitoring and evaluation of best practices and lessons to ensure flexible and responsive support to meet evolving needs of WHRDs is generated and utilized	1.2a Participatory review and consultation process with INGOs, WHRDs, CSOs and UN agencies conducted Baseline: 0 Target: Bi-Annually	Yes. Monthly coordination calls held with INFO partners in 2025, and quarterly bilateral monitoring calls held with each of the 8 INGO partners of the window. 1 online workshop hosted for INGO and UN partners of the window.	Review and coordination increased from bi-annually to monthly with INGO partners.
Output 1.3 Advocacy and visibility to increase access and support to WHRDs protection and participation on the global stage is promoted	1.3a Number of information sessions conducted with various stakeholders to disseminate information on the WHRD window Baseline: 4 (2022) Target: 4-5 (per year)	No information sessions conducted. Cumulatively, 11 information sessions have been conducted with WHRDs from over 10 countries.	Variance of four information sessions
	1.3b Number/Type of advocacy and visibility events conducted and knowledge products produced to increase visibility for more support and recognition of WHRDs contribution to peace and risks Baseline: 2 (2022) Target: 2 (per year)	i) online conversation with WHRDs from Syria and Venezuela; ii) contribution to article of a Hazara rights activist	Variance of one, due to a shift toward integrating the Window's results, data, and supported WHRDs into WPHF-wide visibility and advocacy initiatives.
	1.3c Number of WHRDS who have accessed capacity sharing opportunities through the L-HUB Baseline: 0 (2022) Target: N/A	18 WHRDs (along with 620 CSO representatives) attended 11 capacity strengthening webinars on a variety of topics including disability inclusion, leveraging artificial intelligence and risks, qualitative methods, localizing peace efforts, and climate security, among others.	N/A

Appendix A : Process Map of WPHF Window for WHRDs



Appendix B: WHRD Window Risk Matrix

TYPE OF RISK	Likelihood 5=Very High 4=Likely 3=Possible 2=Unlikely 1=Rare	Impact 5=Extreme 4=Major 3=Moderate 2=Minor 1=Insignificant	RISK MITIGATION MEASURES
Operational and Implementation Risks			
<p>Support provided under the WPHF WHRDs Window is delayed and does not respond to WHRDs emerging and urgent needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in financial transfers to INGOs partners under the Safety Net Stream and subsequent delays in supporting applications received. For advocacy support the WHRDs window disburses funds through means that are cumbersome and not accessible to WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis-affected contexts WPHF WHRDs Window develops a reputation for not being able to respond as rapidly as and responsively as claimed in certain regions. WPHF WHRDs window INGO partner is not able to consider the case, as the request is not aligned with the costs that can be covered. Applicants do not respond to INGO partners' email when contacted to validate their applications, because applicants do not recognize the connection between the WPHF WHRDs window and the INGO partner. Consequently, the application gets rejected for impossibility to verify the case. Applicants / References' lack of 	Unlikely (2)	Major (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear, quick and more adequate procedures for release of second tranche and cost extensions to Safety Net INGO partners are agreed, set up and communicated to INGO partners by the WHRDs window unit. UN Women procurement/operations processes and bottlenecks are reviewed and discussed with UN Women Headquarters to improve travel support advocacy stream. WPHF WHRDs window unit requests WHRDs to apply for advocacy support at least 6-weeks before the event takes place to ensure there is enough time to provide adequate support. Approval criteria are regularly reviewed and adjusted with INGO partners, as necessary, in response to the types and numbers of applications, as well as percentage of cases approved. The WPHF in 2025 will embark on a process to digitize the currently manual review of applications received by the 3 windows, with a specific focus on the WHRD Window due to the high volume of applications received in 2023 and 2024. WHRDs window unit regularly reviews geographical scopes and WHRDs costs covered by each INGOs to identify gaps and ensure the window can respond to requests and support is available where should be. Names of WPHF WHRDs Window INGO Partners are available online and, if applications are transferred to INGO partners' review, WHRDs window unit informs WHRDs that they will be contacted by our INGO partner on the status of their application under the safety net stream. WPHF WHRDs window unit transparently and directly communicates with applicants of the advocacy stream in order to manage expectations on process to follow and timelines for DSA disbursement and mitigate risks of independent booking arrangements. Applicants are also promptly informed via email when delays are expected in support provision.

<p>access to communications tools, including internet, delay WHRDs Window Unit and INGO Partners verification processes.</p>			
<p>WHRD's increased risks due to/following WPHF's support. WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts may face further risks and threats during and/or due to the support provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts supported under the Advocacy Support stream face reprisals after taking part in events/meeting/decision making processes. • WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts supported under the Advocacy Support stream might be at risk for traveling without Mahrams. 	<p>Rare (1)</p>	<p>Major (4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict sensitive approach is employed; utilized simple processed to avoid burden on applicants is used; protected data and information, with careful dissemination of information, including information on the amount of financial support to be provided, which is only communicated to the WHRD. • Public reports/messaging on this funding do not mention names, geographical location, or sensitive information, unless approved by the WHRDs. • All INGO partners providing safety net support undergo a PSEAH assessment every 24 months and the WHRDs window unit monitors the implementation of recommendations. Among others, the PSEAH assessment requires that INGO partners hold training for all personnel and have mechanisms and procedures in place to report SEAH allegations. • WPHF WHRDs window unit and INGO partners regularly exchange on these cases and directly check on/with WHRDs to make sure prompt context-adjusted actions can be taken if new risks arise, • In the provision of advocacy support process to assess, mitigate and follow up on reprisals is used, including for cooperation with OHCHR, and redirection to the WPHF WHRDs Window Safety Net stream when needed. • In the provision of advocacy support, WHRDs window unit applies option for funding accompaniment by male guardians to Afghan women (known as Mahrams), to increase feasibility and protection of WHRDs wishing to attend events. Before her travel is approved, the WHRD is asked to clarify whether for her safety she should be accompanied by a Mahram. • The WHRD window unit exchange regularly with other WPHF funding streams, the UN Women Country Office and implementing INGO partners, to review evolution of • political/security risks that may affect applicants.
<p>WPHF WHRDs Window is not accessible to grassroots WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts and/or living in situations of vulnerabilities or with intersecting forms of marginalization i.e. displacement, age, sexual orientation, disabilities, ethnicities, religious minority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to support is limited to a capital level/elite group of well-connected women human rights defenders. • WHRDs working at the local level might not be able to provide a well-known reference person, as they might not have particular connection to more established 	<p>Possible (3) (although level of risk varies by region)</p>	<p>Major (4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents and information are publicized in six languages. • Wide dissemination of information through webinars, social media posts, information session and meetings with multiple types of stakeholders are shared with INGO networks, to encourage applications from outside main cities and WHRDs from different backgrounds and living in different conditions. • Information sessions for UN Country Teams in Conflict and Crises Affected Contexts will be held in collaboration with the Window and the Funds UN partners, including UN Women and UNFPA, and the RC's office to ensure wider and more comprehensive dissemination of information regarding the protection and advocacy support that the window avails to WHRDs. • Application templates (in six languages) are revised in December 2022 and December 2023 to ensure simplicity of the application is balanced with the need for clarity on essential information. • Profiles of supported WHRDs are regularly reviewed to improve targeted outreach to rural women working at local community level and in different living conditions. • Under advocacy support stream, WPHF WHRDs Window Unit and the Advocacy Committee use prioritization criteria for WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts living with

international/national organizations.		multiple intersecting forms of marginalization.
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Contextual Risks			
<p>Mistrust of the United Nations impacts the WPHF WHRDs Window’s reputation as a trusted funding mechanism for WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHRDs do not apply to WHRDs window because they are against statements and/or actions taken by other UN agencies to which WPHF is perceived to be linked to. Following approval of their advocacy application, WHRDs are not granted visas or accreditations to participate in events. For advocacy support, WHRD might not feel at ease communicating/sharing information with people they do not know or have not been introduced to. 	<p>Rare (1)</p>	<p>Moderate (3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPHF WHRDs Window unit uses every public/closed door, formal and informal, opportunity to communicate on its values, grantmaking principles and mandate focused on mobilizing and channeling funding to WHRDs and works to strengthen its partnerships with trusted and experienced INGOs working with WHRDs. When appropriate, WPHF WHRDs Window publicly emphasizes how civil society organizations have equal participation and decision-making powers over the Fund’s strategic direction and funding decisions as Board member of the WPHF. WPHF WHRDs Window considers cultural sensitiveness and makes sure that the organizational culture and internal processes effectively empower women human rights defenders. Each application is assigned to a specific staff member to better communicate and facilitate partners’ communications.
<p>Challenges related to financial operations in crisis context delay or impede the Window to operate efficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts pay large fees to open and close accounts in USD, just to receive transfers from the WPHF WHRDs Window and its INGO Partners. Bank accounts of WHRDs frozen and impossibility to withdraw cash. Authoritarian regimes, DeFacto Authorities, Occupying Authorities might impose increasing scrutiny on sources of international funding, even with alternative money transfer mechanisms. 	<p>Unlikely (2)</p>	<p>Major (4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INGO partners review and adapt verification/ disbursement processes to increase efficiency and speed of disbursement to WHRDs and overall support under the safety net stream. Alternative transfer options such as Money Gram, Dahabhsiil, travel checks, the Hawala system, as well as other informal ways of collecting support in cash as used, such as transfers through relatives or friends in third or bordering countries. Under the safety net stream, INGO partners collaborate through monthly calls in sharing best practice on safe and efficient funds transfer mechanisms, to speed up disbursements into Afghanistan and other countries. WPHF WHRDs window unit works together with UN Women Country Offices on localized, flexible banking options. For Safety Nets stream, INGO partners work through/with their regional/local CSOs networks to facilitate transfers via these organizations.

Financial Risks			
<p>Duplication of Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants benefit from multiple sources of funding to address the same risks. 	<p>Unlikely (2)</p>	<p>Minor (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WHRD Window Unit INGO partners consult and coordinate with other UN and INGO entities regarding previous or parallel funding to WHRDs. Information on the INGO partnerships is included on the website, so it is clear which organizations are supporting Safety Nets implementation, and to reduce the number of applications these organizations receive in parallel from the same applicants. Receiving funding from another source is not eliminatory. However, the applications shall include information on how funding is complementary and not a duplication to WPHF's support.
<p>Funds being diverted from eligible WHRDs from/working in conflict and crisis affected contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraudulent applications selected. 	<p>Unlikely (2)</p>	<p>Minor (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the safety net stream, INGO partners conduct due diligence and a thorough verification of each application to verify the identity of the woman, threats and her role in human rights activism, including through consultations with references.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third parties request funding in exchange for being listed in an application as third parties. Funding is diverted to groups on the UN Sanctions list. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the advocacy support stream, the WHRD Window Unit conducts due diligence consultations with members of the Advocacy Committee. In cooperation with other protection mechanisms, a list of individuals/ organizations with a proven record of sending fraudulent applications will be developed. The process of release of funds and potential risks of money transfers are reviewed and discussed in the monthly coordination meetings with INGOs. Application forms state that being a reference person should be on a voluntary basis and unpaid. INGO partners do not disclose information on the amount of funds granted to anyone other than the WHRD supported. All INGO partners are required to submit audited accounts at the end of each project period, and the WPHF will undertake regular spot checks for increased oversight of budget expenditure as per project documents and approved budgets. As UN Women does not have a modality for safety net grants directly to Women Human Rights Defenders, the WPHF partners with MPTFO to initiate projects with the Window's INGO partners who disburse individual protection grants to WHRDs. Under the MPTFO Framework agreement the WHRD Window disburses grants ranging from \$90,000 USD to \$800,000 to INGO partners who subsequently process and disburse safety net grants to WHRDs from conflict and crises settings. Under the MPTFO Framework agreement a level of due diligence is conducted prior to signing of the agreement by both parties, during the period of the agreement, and following the conclusion of a project period/agreement. This includes ensuring that the INGO partners meet a low risk HACT assessment rating, review of the dependency ratio on WPHF funds, review of institutional audit reports, and financial statements submitted to MPTFO by the INGO partner. In addition to this MPTFO requires submission of quarterly financial reports and annual reports from each INGO partner. As an additional measure the WPHF has initiated four processes for streamlined review of documents submitted to MPTFO related to the management of the Framework Agreement, and for closer financial oversight of its INGOs partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Operating Procedure on Management of NUNO partners: The WPHF has developed a SOP that outlines the entire process of identifying and onboarding NUNO partners, disbursement of funds through various tranches, quarterly and annual narrative and financial reporting both to the WPHF and MPTFO, cost and no-cost extension requests, closure of projects and off boarding

			<p>of partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Checklist for Cost Extension/No Cost Extension Requests and Release of Tranches of Funding: The WPHF has developed a template that seeks to outline clearly the documents required from INGO partners to process cost extension/no cost extension and release of funds requests. Only requests that meet all the requirements outlined in the checklist are forwarded to MPTFO for review and processing. ○ Quarterly Spot Checks for NUNOs: As of Q2 of 2025, the WPHF requires its INGO partners to submit detailed transaction lists one month after the end of every quarter. The WPHF reviews the detailed transaction list, verifying quarterly expenditures against approved budgets and work plans of the INGO partners. The WPHF identifies at least 20% of transactions processed in the quarter, and requests submission of supporting documents to verify the nature and process of the transactions. ○ Audits for NUNOs: All NUNOs in 2025 have been required to include a budget for WPHF project specific audits, for closer oversight of utilization of WPHF resources disbursed to NUNOs.
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