



Spotlight Initiative

ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT

PROGRAMME TITLE:

WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND (WPHF) GRANT-GIVING TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

PROGRAMME START DATE:

01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)

24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020

(Cover Page text: Arial 14 point, bold)



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| <p>Programme Title & Programme Number</p> <p>Programme Title: Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ Africa: 00117147 Afghanistan: 000123503 PNG: 000123505 Haiti: 000123504</p> | <p>Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme</p> <p>The WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership covers 8 countries: The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan</p> |
| <p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p>Civil society organizations</p> | <p>Key Partners</p> <p>Civil society organizations in particular local/grassroots women’s rights or women-led organizations</p> |
| <p>Programme Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Africa (DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda): 7,075,472 USD</p> <p>Papua New Guinea (PNG): 2,000,000 USD</p> <p>Haiti: 2,000,000 USD</p> <p>Afghanistan: 2,000,000 USD</p> | <p>Programme Start and End Dates</p> <p>Start Date: 01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)</p> <p>24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan</p> <p>End Date: 31 December 2022</p> <p>Report Submitted By:</p> <p>20 April 2021</p> |

¹ The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

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Acronym List

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| CfP | Call for Proposals |
| CO | Country Office |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DRC | The Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| EU | European Union |
| EVAWG | Eliminating Violence Against Women |
| FCI | Foundation for Community Initiatives |
| FSW | Female Sex Workers |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| GEWE | Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment |
| LRA | Lord’s Resistance Army |
| ME | Management Entity |
| NSC | National Steering Committee |
| P4SDP | Platform for Sustainable Development and Peace |
| PNG | Papua New Guinea |
| PWD | People with Disabilities |
| SAP | Slum Aid Project |
| SGBV | Sexual Gender Based Violence |
| SI | Spotlight Initiative |
| SRHR | Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| VAWG | Violence Against Women and Girls |
| WEN | Women’s Empowerment Network |
| WPHF | Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund |
| UN | United Nations |



Executive Summary

The partnership between the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative (SI) aims to channel funding to civil society organizations working on eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG) in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings. The partnership focuses on Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Results Framework (strengthening CSOs and building women's movements) and on WPHF Outcome 5 (Protection).

The partnership targets specifically local, grassroots and community-based women's organizations, with grants ranging in size from USD 2,500 to USD 200,000. During the reporting period, 40 new grants were approved in Africa² and 10 new grants were approved in PNG, bringing the total number under the Spotlight Initiative and WPHF partnership to 58 grants, 94.8% of which are implemented by local/national women-led and/or women's rights organizations.

Africa

The WPHF-SI partnership covers five countries in Africa: The DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda, with a total allocation of USD 7,075,472. During the reporting period, National Steering Committees (NSC) in the DRC, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda selected 40 proposals and 31 Partnership Cooperation Agreements were formalized; 33 out of the overall 48 selected are new to the UN, showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN. Partners were engaged in kick-off workshops as well as capacity building initiatives - often online due to COVID-19 - to guide them in starting implementation and to enable the sharing of experiences among partners.

In 2020, WPHF-SI partners reached overall **30,934** direct and **1,067,184** indirect beneficiaries during the reporting period. 70% of the direct beneficiaries were women and girls with 19,663 women 18 years of age and above and 2,041 girls reached. Among the direct beneficiaries, different age and population groups were reached, including Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors, human rights defenders, indigenous populations, refugees, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, child mothers, female sex workers etc.

During the reporting period, local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's networks as well as health and psychosocial workers have increased their knowledge on women's rights, SGBV prevention, SGBV referral systems, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) communication, peacebuilding as well as conflict management and resolution leading to the establishment of new SGBV structures and/or improvement and increased uptake of existing structures. Local authorities, customary leaders/chiefs, military and media representatives have been successfully engaged through a number of trainings on gender equality, women's rights and SGBV as well as through joint radio talks shows and community events, contributing substantially

² 8 grants in Liberia were already approved in 2019.

to increased awareness and knowledge on the promotion of women's empowerment and measures to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in target communities across the DRC, Liberia and Uganda.

WPHF-SI partners have set up and/or strengthened SGBV reporting structures and generated community support for reporting, which led to increased qualitative reporting of SGBV cases and caretaking of survivors. In the DRC, 60 psychosocial workers set up a functioning alert system and referral chain. In Liberia, peace desks ensure follow up on reported cases of SGBV. Innovative tools such as the SAVApp ensure more effective and streamlined reporting in Liberia and a popular song was developed in Uganda encouraging and socially conditioning men to speak out against VAWG and support the reporting of cases.

Initial project results also show the importance of economic independence as an effective deterrent of SGBV. During the reporting period, skills trainings and savings groups have enhanced women's income, leading to increased resilience towards SGBV, as reported, for example, in Uganda by a group of women with disabilities and female survivors of forced recruitment of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) or groups of adolescent girls in the remote areas of Karamoja. Women's movement building has also been strengthened through joint trainings. In the DRC, 100 representatives from CSOs were trained jointly. In Liberia, Women Peace Hut meetings led to the formation of the POWER coalition, which brings together women's groups, SGBV committees and local Community Based Organizations in two counties, advocating and creating awareness of women's rights.

Further, vulnerable women and girls have been linked together to support each other. In Uganda, Female Sex Workers (FSW) now jointly stand up for their rights through stronger relationships and the establishment of safe communication channels with the police and local authorities as a result of project activities. In the DRC, indigenous women lobbied together to strengthen their rights to land and a new framework to advocate for land rights was agreed upon with customary chiefs in Maï Ndombe.

Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG

In 2020, the WPHF-SI partnership was expanded to 3 additional countries: Afghanistan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea (PNG) with a total allocation of 6,000,000 USD. This new partnership, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, was designed to best respond to the needs of local women's organizations and the dire impacts of COVID-19 on their operations by offering the option to apply for either or both institutional (stream 1: from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD) and programmatic funding opportunities (stream 2: from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD).

During the reporting period, 3 Calls for Proposals (CfPs) were launched between July and September for 8 weeks in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG respectively. This resulted in a total of 280 proposals received, and reviewed against the criteria, with 219 longlisted and 62 shortlisted across



all 3 countries. To support the application process, 8 information sessions for prospective applicants were organized and attended by a total of 133 CSO representatives across all 3 countries. A pilot tutorial video³ was also developed by the WPHF Secretariat and streamed online for prospective applicants in PNG.

10 proposals in PNG were selected by the Spotlight National Steering Committee and passed the capacity assessment process⁴. These projects will be implemented by 7 organizations and 1 co-complementing partner, and include both stream 1 and stream 2 funding. All selected organizations in PNG are new to the UN, demonstrating the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that have been marginalized with limited access to financing.

2020 was also marked by the alarming spread of the COVID-19 global pandemic and its profound gendered impacts, particularly in the countries of focus under this partnership. The pandemic added an additional layer of complexity to the rapidly changing contexts at the national level, which has contributed to delay in securing representation and availability of members of National Steering Committees to proceed with the final selection of proposals in Haiti and Afghanistan. These challenges have also led to delay in the contracting process of Civil Society organizations (CSOs) as well as the start of implementation of their activities in Africa.

Several measures were adopted by WPHF, in close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat to ensure the Principle of Do No Harm remains central to the programme's approach and delivery. Flexibility to adapt to changing contexts was key to ensuring safe and smooth implementation. The WPHF Secretariat developed guidelines to offer the opportunity to CSOs to adapt their project activities and budget, due to the pandemic restrictions and inflation of prices, but also to prevent and respond to the increasing rise in gender-based violence. In addition, the 3 additional call for proposals in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG included an institutional funding stream to respond to the growing financial needs of local women's organizations and contribute to strengthening their capacity and adapting their processes to better serve their communities.

All CSO projects aim to leave no one behind and include women as target beneficiaries in their delivery, addressing women's needs and promoting their rights through an intersectional lens.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the dire situation for women and girls in all WPHF-SI partner countries, each of which saw an alarming rise in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). This added to crisis settings already marked by fragility and violence, where access to

³<https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/50928-call-proposals-womens-peace-and-humanitarian-fund-spotlight-initiative-partnership>

⁴ The NSC meetings and selection for the other two countries took place in 2021.



health services and justice are severely limited and women's exclusion from political and socioeconomic decision-making processes are even more entrenched. The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to roll back concrete gains made on women's rights during the past decades, exacerbate gender inequalities, increase violence against women and girls, and further limit women's access to critical services and resources to respond to the crisis.

In April 2020, WPHF conducted a survey that found almost 30% of local women's organization respondents felt that the existence of their organization was at risk due to funding being redirected to larger international organizations or governments.⁵ By the end of the year, this number had increased to over 44% of respondents reporting that their organization is at high or very high risk of not being able to sustain itself as a result of lack of institutional funding available.⁶ In addition, the WPHF survey found that during the reporting period, 76% of local women's organization respondents experienced some level of resistance or retaliation against women's rights or women-led organizations.⁷ This shows the importance of supporting the work of local women's organizations in increasingly difficult contexts.

Women's rights groups and movements are a crucial front against regressive forces that are pushing back against gender equality and peace gains. Advancing gender equality requires adequate and accessible resources for grassroots women's organizations. As a Liberia WPHF-SI local women's organization partner noted, *"Providing technical and financial support will help us to empower women-led organizations and groups, ensuring that women's voices are fully incorporated into surveillance, detection, prevention and recovery mechanisms."*⁸ WPHF, together with the Spotlight Initiative responded through increased flexibility and new institutional funding to these increased risks and needs to sustain local women's organizations' existence and impact.

In the **DRC**, political dynamics have been marked by continued tensions. The economic situation remains of serious concern and the security situation has further deteriorated, in particular in Eastern DRC. The humanitarian situation was marked by the resurgence of the Ebola pandemic in Equateur Province, inter-community violence in Ituri and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Women's rights continue to be undermined: poor access to sexual and reproductive health services; egregious hygiene conditions that fail to adapt to women's specific needs, the constant increase of SGBV cases; lack of food, decent and secured housing; poor access to education; difficulty in controlling family resources; and low representation of women in decision making. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges women face in the DRC. Women find themselves in a spiral of gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence - with an estimated increase of 28% of cases in 2020 -while the rise in girls' drop out rates from schools and incidents of early marriage and pregnancy remain an utmost concern across the country.

⁵ <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WPHF-COVID-19-Survey-Analysis-Final-9-April-2020.pdf>.

⁶ Survey findings soon available (in 2021).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Extract from WPHF survey, April 2020.



In **Liberia**, the COVID-19 global pandemic and the partial lockdown that initiated in April 2020 presented a grave threat to the health and safety of women and girls. In September 2020, community members, youth, CSOs and women's rights groups demonstrated due to the rising numbers of rape and other forms of violence against women and girls in Liberia. As a response, the President instated a National Taskforce against Rape and SGBV in Liberia. In October 2020, rape was declared as a national emergency for the next two years (2020 - 2022). The Anti-SGBV Roadmap was designed by the Taskforce composed of key CSOs and Government stakeholders with strategic technical guidance from UN Women and other UN agencies under the SI to ensure synergies and complementarity with the current SI Programme in Liberia. In December 2020, senatorial elections were held and a few demonstrations occurred, including one condemning violence against women in elections and politics.

In **Malawi**, new Presidential Elections took place in June 2020, leading to nationwide demonstrations delaying planned activities as the political climate remained volatile. During the reporting period, Malawi witnessed an increase in the frequency and magnitude of cyclical floods and drought, culminating in disasters leading to damage to infrastructure, loss of lives, property, and livelihoods. Malawi was one of last countries in Africa to be hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. A surge in the number of COVID-19 cases was experienced at the end of May 2020 due to returning residents and deportees mainly from South Africa. With temporary closure of schools due to COVID-19, Malawi recorded an unprecedented 13,000 cases of child marriages and over 40,000 cases of teen pregnancies in 2020. Cases of Gender based Violence were also noted to be on the rise.

In **Nigeria**, the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to devastate the livelihoods of the population in general and conflict-affected communities in particular. The number of vulnerable women and girls facing SGBV remained on the rise. Violent attacks by Boko Haram insurgents (including sexual violence against women and girls) have also increased. Nigeria's North-East region, particularly Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States have been besieged by over a decade-long insurgency that is perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups leading to the forced displacement of millions of people, destruction of property and loss of lives and rising incidences of human rights violations, which disproportionately affect women and girls. The high influx of IDPs into urban areas has intensified the existing security and humanitarian crisis which has exacerbated hunger, increased poverty, and widened inequality gaps. The challenge of having access to potable drinking water, food, healthcare, psychosocial support, and education, among others, is glaring and women and girls are experiencing various forms of abuse including SGBV and harmful cultural practices. Women and girls have to contend with increased forms of intersecting human rights violations and abuses with little or no support.

In the reporting period, the **Ugandan** government finalized its National Development Plan (NDP) III, its 5 Year Development Plan (2020/2021 – 2025/2026) and its third National Action Plan (2020-2025, NAP III). CSOs, including several WPHF - SI partners influenced the content of the NAP III. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda worsened the already existing difficulties of involving women and girls in meaningful conflict prevention as well as protection from conflicts and



SGBV. As a result, this weakened women's economic power, and in some situations led to the escalation of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Cases of GBV have been on the rise within the COVID-19 lockdown period. GBV shelters saw a 60.5% increase from January to June 2020, compared to July to December 2019. Less than 40% of women who experienced GBV sought help of any sort or reported the crime; and less than 10% went to the police⁹. Amidst the COVID-19 context, Uganda prepared to hold general elections in January 2021. Commissioning the election roadmap during the COVID-19 pandemic affected the peace and security environment, with opposition candidates engaged in running battles with security forces resulting in the use of force, tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrating crowds. The COVID-19 pandemic presented additional challenges to aspiring women candidates' effective participation in the upcoming elections. Uganda continued to host 1.4 million refugees (82% women and children)¹⁰ and recorded more emerging humanitarian emergencies, including devastating floods and landslides (affecting 55 districts, 470,825 people, displacing 66,8605)¹¹. New swarms of Desert Locusts also threatened the food security of 1.32 million people¹².

In **Afghanistan**, the COVID-19 situation presented additional challenges for women and girls. Early data indicates that women and girls faced distinct and increased risks due to COVID-19, from increased barriers to health and negative economic impacts to limited security and social protection, including increasing levels of violence. For instance, an Oxfam survey carried out in April 2020 found that 97% of female respondents had witnessed an increase in gender-based violence since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak.¹³ During the reporting period, several developments paved the way for intra-Afghan negotiations. Against this backdrop, the last months of 2020 saw a deteriorating security situation, with women's rights advocates and defenders of civil rights, journalists, activists, political and social leaders, and women's movement builders experiencing alarming levels of violence, including public harassment, threats of violence, and direct targeting and assassination for the work that they do, be it offline or online.¹⁴

In **Haiti**, despite the moderate spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the socioeconomic and humanitarian situation deteriorated. Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases increased from 5% to 40% when only 5.7% of women are aware of the service structures in their areas. The poverty rate for women in Haiti is expected to increase by 11.8% between 2019 and 2021 due to the pandemic and its fallout. In addition to these difficulties, access to information remained difficult for people with disabilities (PWD), especially deaf people, people with intellectual disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, children and elderly people with

⁹ MoGLSD and Action Aid GBV Shelter Reports January to June 2020

¹⁰ Government of Uganda Office Of the Prime Minister. Uganda Refugees & Asylum Seekers as of 31-July-2020. Population Summary by Settlement/Sex

¹¹ International Office of Migration of the United Nations, Uganda (June 2020), Uganda Info Sheet: Flood Response Coordination

¹² Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Uganda (31 July 2020), Desert Locust Situation Report.

¹³ Oxfam. 2020. *A New Scourge to Afghan Women: COVID-19*, Briefing Note, p. 5, available at: <https://asia.oxfam.org/latest/policy-paper/new-scourge-afghan-women-covid-19>.

¹⁴ UN Women. 2020. *Gender Alert on COVID-19 Afghanistan: Gender Alert on COVID-19 in Afghanistan. Issue VII: Women's participation and leadership in COVID-19 response*, 4 June 2020, available at: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-alert-on-covid-19-in-afghanistan-issue-vii>.



disabilities. The political environment remained severely unpredictable with the rise of protests and armed gang violence. This context has led to some delays in the partner selection process due to unavailability of actors to serve on the National Steering Committee.

In **PNG**, the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated State of Emergency in July 2020 posed significant challenges. The pandemic and lock down contributed to increased GBV and hindered accessibility of vital GBV services for survivors and victims of violence. The State of GBV in COVID-19 Emergency and the State of Emergency Report documented that calls to the Wantok Counselling Helpline increased over 300% following the onset of the State of Emergency, pointing to an increase in rates of violence and greater reliance on remote-based services. In June and July 2020, two cases of SGBV received high publicity and generated civic and political momentum in the country. The WPHF-SI CfP came at a very critical juncture, where civic and political consciousness had been awakened through public outcry and a number of high visibility events, which took place during the reporting period. Until October, travel restrictions between provinces limited face to face meetings. Remote locations and connectivity issues slowed down the capacity assessments and contracting of selected organizations.

COVID-19 response

During the reporting period, partners in the DRC, Liberia and Uganda were given the opportunity to adapt their project proposals, including budgets and results frameworks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges concerning implementation due to the pandemic consisted mainly of the restrictions of movement, sharp increase in costs for transport as well as the reduced number of participants allowed in meetings and gatherings. Therefore, active partners had to hold more meetings, workshops and trainings with reduced numbers of participants and had to adapt their budgets due to the increased prices of transport. Further, funding had to be shifted to ensure that COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) could be followed, such as through the provision of face masks and hand washing facilities at workshops and trainings. Approaches and methodologies were also adapted to ensure safe implementation and reach, for example through shifting from in-person awareness raising sessions to awareness raising through radio or online platforms.

During the implementation phase in Africa, the WPHF Secretariat shared specific COVID-19 adaptation guidance for partners with the SI Secretariat for clearance. These adaptations aim to ensure a Do No Harm approach with flexibility in revising the format of activities, budget lines (due to inflation and additional costs) and timeline (while keeping the end date to December 2022). Adaptation was also extended to new CfPs with the use of the WPHF Stream 1 for institutional funding and Stream 2 for programmatic funding. This was agreed and supported by SI Secretariat, as it contributes to sustaining women's movements and mobilization.

In response to the financial needs and findings of the WPHF survey on risks to sustaining women's organizations and movements, the WPHF Secretariat integrated an additional funding stream option in the 3 Calls for Proposals of 2020 to provide institutional funding (stream 1) and/or programmatic



funding (stream 2). This will contribute to strengthening local women's organizations' capacity, coalition-building and advocacy to advance gender equality, promote women's rights and end violence against women.

Programme Governance and Coordination

At the global level, during the proposal review phase in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan, the WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the SI Secretariat in recommending projects to be funded amongst the shortlisted proposals. The WPHF submitted the relevant documents to the SI Secretariat for their clearance. This allowed SI and WPHF Secretariats to put forward proposals that best fit the selection criteria, including those proposals that best responded to Spotlight's Outcome 6 and WPHF's Outcome 5, as well as identifying a balanced selection of grantees composed of larger national organizations and smaller local and grassroots civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations and those representing marginalized groups.

During the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the SI Secretariat and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) to ensure collaboration, complementarity and non-duplication, based on the comparative advantages of both Funds.

To ensure inter-agency and programme coordination and to avoid duplication of funding, the WPHF uses existing national decision-making mechanisms where they exist (eg. Spotlight Initiative NSC) and establishes WPHF National Steering Committees, if needed. The members of the WPHF NSCs include UN agencies, Government representatives, when possible, donors, and local civil society representatives. The NSCs are co-chaired by the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator, with a few exceptions according to the context. During the selection of proposals, special attention is given to organizations that have not received previous UN funding, as well as those that work in remote areas and with people facing additional forms of discrimination (PWD, indigenous groups, LGBTIQ, female sex workers, single mothers or child mothers etc).

Description of NSC mechanisms:

- In Liberia, Malawi and Nigeria, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSCs for final endorsement.
- In the DRC, WPHF is using its own NSC, which was already established prior to this partnership. In Uganda, it was decided to create and use the WPHF NSC. The EU Delegation was invited to participate in both WPHF's NSCs.
- In PNG, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSC, which proceeded with the final selection of the CSOs during the reporting period.
- In Haiti and Afghanistan, during the reporting period no NSCs were established or meetings took place. However, discussions aimed to use the Spotlight Initiative NSC, and in the case of Afghanistan, to establish a joint WPHF-SI NSC in 2021.

Civil Society Engagement



In all existing Spotlight NSC and newly established WPHF NSCs, the membership includes at least 2 civil society representatives.

In Afghanistan, in support of the establishment of the NSC for Spotlight and the WPHF, UN Women CO released, on 14 December 2020, a call for nominations for CSO representatives to become members of the NSC. By the closing date, 24 December 2020, a total of 20 applications from women's rights organizations and women-led organizations had been received.

Programme Partnerships

The WPHF Secretariat supported UN Women Country offices, as the Management Entities for civil society organization in processing the transfer of funds for selected organizations. As per the WPHF Operations Manual, the designated UN Management Entity (ME) for CSOs (UN Women in countries where UN Women has a field presence) assumes programmatic and financial accountability for funds received and ensures timely disbursements of funds to partner CSOs and other designated institutions or entities in accordance with the decisions of the country level steering committee and its rules and regulations. The UN Management Entity also ensures project monitoring, evaluation and audit of CSO projects and manages the reporting system of CSO projects on behalf of the country's National Steering Committee (NSC) and in line with its rules and regulations. The UN Management Entity for CSO organizations is also responsible for the management of Risk relating to cash advances to implementing partners.

Partnership with Governments

Through the NSCs (Spotlight Initiative or WPHF), government representation and ownership in the selection of projects and monitoring of implementation is secured. For example, in the DRC, the NSC meetings were attended at the highest levels with the Ministers of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, Minister of Gender, Children and Family, and the Minister of Planning. This space contributes to raising awareness and recognizing the important role that local women's organizations play in ending SGBV and promoting women's movements, but also the long road ahead and need for further support from the government and national stakeholders.

Partnership with Civil Society

As a Fund working in crisis settings, supporting local, grassroots and community-based civil society organizations, the leaving no one behind principle is at the heart of WPHF's mandate and strategy. This is demonstrated by the fact that 73%¹⁵ of the local women's organizations selected and supported by WPHF-SI are being funded by the UN for the first time, including small grassroots organizations. In addition, project proposals are reviewed and selected with a particular focus on

¹⁵ 40 out of 55 across all countries (Africa and PNG)



targeting and supporting women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women living in poverty, women and girl refugees, women and girls living with HIV, indigenous groups and women from ethnic minorities within the context of ethnic tensions, and women with disabilities.

In addition, civil society is not considered as only an implementing partner for WPHF, but also a decision maker in both its Global Funding Board and its NSCs (see previous section on NSCs).

Partnership with the Private Sector

The WPHF established a partnership with Dell Technologies to develop the WPHF Community (WPHF-C), which is an active digital community of practice platform and knowledge hub that connects all WPHF partners, including those supported through the partnership with Spotlight Initiative. Through this platform 3 WPHF-Spotlight Initiative grantees from Uganda and Liberia¹⁶ have shared their expertise in mobilizing to prevent and end SGBV with other WPHF grantees across the world (more information in the next section).

Leveraging Spotlight Initiative contributions and platforms for additional funding

WPHF has leveraged Spotlight Initiative funding to mobilize additional resources for women's organizations. In the DRC, the WPHF-SI CfP received additional funding from the Government of Germany. In Nigeria, the SI NSC is also serving as a decision-making platform for a CfP on forced displacement funded by Germany's BMZ. The WPHF-SI partnership in Africa has allowed WPHF to open its presence in Nigeria, Liberia and Malawi, which was consolidated with further investments in Nigeria and Liberia.

Results

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 6: Women's Movements

The WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the SI Secretariat and UN Women as the Management Entity for civil society organizations at country level towards the launch and selection process to support local civil society organizations around Outcome Area 5 of WPHF and Outcome Area 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change¹⁸ and its associated Output indicators:

- Spotlight Initiative Outcome 6: Women's Movement: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple

¹⁶ Extend a Life Initiative (Uganda), Platform for Dialogue and Peace (Liberia) and Community Sustainable Development Organization (Liberia).

and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and SGBV.

- WPHF Outcome 5: Ensuring that women and girls' safety, physical and mental health and security are assured and that their human rights are respected, requires measures that prevent acts of violence, facilitate access to services for survivors of violence, and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

Africa

During the reporting period, project implementation in Africa has already led to some initial results as shown below.

Indicator 6.1 Proportion of countries where women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP.

A total of 48 WPHF-SI partners in the DRC, Liberia and Uganda have contributed to the strengthening of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs having increased their efforts to jointly advocate and achieving the following results:

Liberia:

- 150 peace brigades from 145 communities have enhanced skills and knowledge to monitor and report political violence cases and any other form of violence against women and girls as well as to prevent violence and resolve conflicts. They have formed 15 community action and peace groups in 15 districts in three Counties (Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado), which have provided access to women to report incidences of violence and ensured that rape cases are not compromised at community level, as in the past.
- 58 beneficiaries (97% women) from Gbarpolu, Margibi and Grand Bassa County) have enhanced capacities to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate their own programmes on EVAWG, GEWE including SGBV/HP. These women form part of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing those groups who were facing intersecting forms of discrimination/ marginalization. They also now have increased knowledge in advocacy, lobbying, campaigning techniques and methodologies, community-monitoring and reporting using score cards, awareness creation, budget, policy tracking and data management.
- Through Peace Hut Meetings, various women's groups and SGBV committees and CBOs in the Bong and Bomi counties have improved coordination and formed the POWER coalition, jointly advocating and creating awareness on women's empowerment and rights. As a result, community members are now showing increased commitment to protecting the health and rights of women and more actively participating in women's protection topics.

Uganda:



- 20 psychosocial groups for female sex workers (FSW) were established in Rwenzori and Central Districts of Uganda, enhancing peer support among FSW and capacitating them to coordinate and lobby to end the gender-based violence they face.
- A GBV handbook targeting Community Based Organizations engaged in GEWE and EVAWG has been produced. The handbook will be used by the Community Based Organizations and women's groups in promotion and advocacy of GEWE and EVAWG.
- A total of 57 women's groups in Arua and Kampala slums, including 15 women's groups in Kampala (5 groups of women with disabilities; 3 of refugee women, 4 of lesbian women and 3 of female sex workers) and 10 groups in Arua (3 groups of female sex workers, 2 of lesbians, 1 group for refugee women and 4 groups of women with disabilities) have been profiled and a capacity assessment has been completed leading to the development of a concrete capacity building plan to strengthen their participation in local government planning and budgeting processes as well as in lobbying for increased SRHR services with the local government (LG).
- 4 Girl's Clubs (80 Girls) have been established in Soroto and received training in women's rights, SRHR and life skills trainings, capacitating them to make healthier life choices and increase their resilience to GBV. These clubs have also successfully saved a total of UGX 661,500 (USD \$182) to support new livelihood and entrepreneurship initiatives. 80 male traditional leaders were engaged, resulting in their support for the girls' clubs and support for EVAWG.

DRC:

- A total of 50 CSOs with 67 women and 48 men representatives, including human rights organizations, have jointly advocated for the end of violence against women in their communities, drawing on new skills in conflict resolution, SGBV and peacebuilding acquired through Training of Trainers (ToTs) and two training sessions.

Indicator 6.2: Proportion of countries where there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP.

In the DRC, Liberia and Uganda, WPHF-SI partners initiated first steps to increase use of social accountability in their respective countries to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG. Overall, 34 grassroots organizations and/or clubs have mobilized to monitor and support prevention and awareness efforts to end VAWG. Initial results in Uganda have also shown that local organizations have facilitated greater economic independence and resilience for women with 56 groups generating savings of \$4,000 (14,667,700 UXG). Partners reported a clear link between income and increased confidence to take advantage of accountability systems as well as the ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG.



Liberia:

- 15 functional Peace Desks were established in 15 communities in 3 counties (Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado) giving women the confidence to report any form of VAWG without fear of being discriminated against. According to the Peace Desk Officers reports, a decline in domestic violence cases has been reported because of the establishment of Peace Desks at the community level, which serve as a deterrent for violence.
- 100 women from 9 grassroots women's organizations; 6 Community clubs; five (5) community radio stations and seven (7) correspondent reporters from 20 communities in two counties (Bomi and Rivercess) have increased knowledge on advocacy and awareness raising on ending VAWG and promoting sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) as well as on the use of social accountability mechanisms to monitor SGBV related issues.

Uganda:

- 3 grassroots women's group (War Victims, South Sudanese Refugee Group and Lachan Pekon Persons with Disability Group) in Gulu city, Northern Uganda, have been successfully trained in bag and shoe making, generating increased income for these groups; one of them a local group of women with disabilities. Out of the 136 group members trained, 22 women and 3 men have started their own business and have increased individual incomes and enhanced their resilience to GBV showing the importance of economic independence as a SGBV prevention mechanism.
- A song that promotes positive masculinity has been produced by 3 Ugandan artists (two male one female) in conjunction with South African based artist Mthetho Tshemese from INDLOBONGELA. The song 'Wise up' challenges men to participate in domestic responsibilities, stop perpetrating violence on their female family members and participate in community welfare activities. The song will be used as a social mobilization tool in the coming period to raise awareness on VAWG.
- 4 local women's movements have established GBV structures composed of 40 trustworthy, trained and equipped volunteers (10 male and 30 female) who are now delivering GBV services in four parishes (Katutwo, Lulia, Kangole and Karenga Parishes). Through their work, increased advocacy and lobbying action in their respective districts to end VAWG has been recorded.

DRC:

- 60 psychosocial worker and paralegals were trained (45 women and 15 men) acquiring new knowledge on the administration of evidence in matters of rape and SGBV. As a result, they have supported the identification of 395 cases of SVBG through a psychosocial worker, and effectively contributed to the defense and promotion of women's rights, peace and social cohesion through awareness sessions organized in their villages, within women's groups and households as well as through radio broadcasts.
- 20 community and media facilitators were trained followed by the production of 40 participatory programs. After airing, an increase in reporting of cases or asking for advice

was recorded, with people reporting that their awareness of the possibility to report cases had improved and was further motivated through the recordings.

Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG, including SGBV and HP.

WPHF-SI partners in the DRC, Liberia and Uganda have engaged with approximately 118 women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, and over 40 young mothers and indigenous women to enhance their influence and agency in ending VAWG. During the reporting period, the following results were achieved:

Liberia:

- 18 SGBV Prevention Committees established in 18 communities in Bong and Bomi counties and 90 committee members (50 males and 40 females) have enhanced knowledge on the SGBV referral processes and the linkages to the communities. The traditional leaders who were engaged during the reporting period under the project have conducted Palava Hut meetings, reaching 499 persons (137 males and 362 female) in 20 communities leading to increased knowledge on SGBV prevention in these target communities.
- The Construction of a Women's Power Center is ongoing in Bomi County and is 95% complete. Upon completion, the Women's Power Center will be utilized as a permanent space for gender actors to provide services and resources for women and girls to access their health and rights as well as serve as support centers for the Women Groups/Coalitions and SGBV Prevention Committees to continue their work on advocacy, women's empowerment, and economic empowerment in the selected towns in Bong and Bomi Counties.

Uganda:

- 220 child mothers have enhanced knowledge on SRHR in Namayumba Subcounty, Wakiso district acquired through a training. From the 220 trained, 20 child mothers have been further trained and are actively volunteering as Peer Educators in Wakiso district and transferring new knowledge and information about the importance of healthy SRHR practices to other child mothers in their district, ensuring knowledge sharing beyond the project.

DRC:

- A series of "multi-actor dialogues" between 20 indigenous women and customary chiefs has resulted in the establishment of a new framework to advocate with customary chiefs to take action for land rights for indigenous and local women in Mai Ndombe. This space has also facilitated increased knowledge of the importance of women's empowerment, especially in relation to land management and property rights of women, or lack thereof, which increases the risk of SGBV.



- In Kasai-Oriental, a capacity building for the heads of 100 NGOs and human rights activist groups was conducted, leading to the NGOs committing to jointly working on data collection on SGBV and to sensitize victims and survivors in their respective communities on the need to break the silence and report.

In addition to partners having achieved first results on movement building within their project (see results) UN Women Country Offices in Africa aimed at bringing the partners together to ensure knowledge exchange and better coordination among them. Through COVID-19, however, in person national or regional meetings was only possible on a few occasions throughout the implementation period. As much as possible, country offices ensured exchange through Zoom, which, however, does not fully replace in person meetings. During the reporting period, mobilization and coalition building between WPHF-SI partners were encouraged through joint induction workshops, trainings or exchange sessions. In Nigeria, for example, a three-day in person training (7-9 December 2020) of the seven WPHF-SI partners enhanced their implementation capacity of gender-responsive programmes and proper management/accountability for donor funds. Through role playing and practical individual/group work the partners shared their experiences with each other and team building was strengthened. Also, in Liberia, the movement building and coordination between the partners was strengthened through a joint inception training for the 8 WPHF-SI partners and 3 WPHF COVID-19 ERW partners in July 2020. In the DRC and in Uganda, online inception meetings and trainings took place building the partners capacity and also provided the space to learn from each other.

Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG

During the reporting period, in the summer of 2020, 3 CfPs were launched for 8 weeks in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG, under Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Results Framework and WPHF's Outcome 5. Mobilization and coalition building between CSOs were encouraged and supported through the CfP, Open day meetings and the selection of projects.

- Calls for proposals encouraged partnerships between CSOs, including between national, local and community-based organizations in order to strengthen coalition building at the country level.
- CfPs offered the possibility to apply for either or both institutional funding (stream 1 : 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD) and/or Programmatic funding (stream 2 : 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD) to strengthen women's movements and local women's organizations' capacity.
- Despite COVID-19 restrictions, platforms such as the open days meetings (see below) that were organized for prospective applicants to share information on the Call for Proposals served as opportunities for coalition building and networking amongst CSOs. In total, 8 information sessions for prospective applicants were organized and attended by a total of 133 CSOs representatives across all 3 countries.
- Women's rights movements were strengthened through the selection process. The WPHF Secretariat recommended smaller organizations and consortium of organizations for selection, as a way to widen support to and space for women's organizations and women's groups



including in remote areas. Once selected, these organizations will be connected amongst each other and to larger national organizations under the country allocation, which will strengthen movement building.

This resulted in a total of 280 proposals received and reviewed against the criteria with 219 longlisted and 62 shortlisted across all 3 countries and both stream 1 (institutional funding) and stream 2 (programmatic funding). Recommendations amongst the shortlisted proposals were shared with the SI Secretariat for clearance before sending all documents to the UN Women Country Office for national-level selection through the NSC. During the reporting period, the final selection of projects was approved by the Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committee in PNG with a total of 10 projects selected for institutional and programmatic funding (implemented by 7 lead organizations and 1 co-implementing organizations passing all capacity assessment requirements - see Annex C). From the selected PNG projects, all grantees are women led and/or women's rights grassroots organizations.

To leave no one behind, proposal writing, and application processes were made more accessible in all 3 countries, including in several languages. A total of 8 information sessions for prospective applicants were organized, with a total of 133 CSO representatives. A pilot tutorial video¹⁷ was also developed by the WPHF Secretariat and streamed online for PNG, which CSOs could upload and watch numerous times on how to fill in the required forms. This was a successful tool that will be used in the future. It also contributed to better quality proposals, more mobilization for applications as well as networking amongst CSOs present at the meeting. Coalitions between CSOs were encouraged for project proposals. The Call for Proposals successfully reached women-led and women's rights local organizations, including small organizations and organizations which focus on working with marginalized groups. All of the PNG selected organizations are new to the UN, showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that so far have been left out.¹⁸

Global level

Local women's organizations' voices have been amplified at the international level and their expertise recognized and shared through various platforms. Two WPHF-SI Liberian grantees¹⁹ were amongst the 70 women peacebuilders and humanitarian responders who participated in the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action in Vienna on 19-20 February 2020. Organized by the WPHF, together with Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and the Austrian Development Agency, the forum culminated with the Vienna Declaration²⁰, which detailed the demands and priorities of women peacebuilders and local responders ahead of the 20th anniversary

¹⁷ <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/50928-call-proposals-womens-peace-and-humanitarian-fund-spotlight-initiative-partnership>

¹⁸ Afghanistan and Haiti selection took place in 2021.

¹⁹ Gbowee Peace Foundation and Women Empowerment Network (WEN)

²⁰ <https://wphfund.org/2020/02/20/vienna-declaration-2020/>



of UNSCR1325 and the 25th anniversary of Beijing DPPA. This outcome document fed into the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and contributed to the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review. The Liberian WPHF-SI grantees who participated in the Forum, shared the declaration with local women's organizations on their return to the country, as an advocacy tool to mobilize more funding and increase their leadership.

The WPHF Secretariat provided additional spaces for local women's organizations to share their expertise and demands globally and with different types of stakeholders through online events and its global Community of Practice (see below).

On May 14th 2020, a WPHF-SI grantee from Liberia²¹, shared her experience in promoting women's rights, movement building and ending violence against women in an online event targeting the private sector and high net worth individuals to raise awareness and support for local women's organizations, titled 'Building Resilience. Leading Response: Women, COVID-19 & Countries in Crisis'.

In addition, on November 17th 2020, a WPHF-SI grantee from Uganda²² shared her experience in accessing funding and the importance of flexible funding for women's grassroots organizations in a Cross-Regional Spotlight Initiative online event.

WPHF Global Community of Practice: Building Community, Capacity & Knowledge Exchange for our WPHF-SI Partners

In fulfillment of its mandate to serve as a global knowledge center for local women's civil society organizations (CSOs) working on the front lines of crises, the WPHF Secretariat led in 2020 the design and launch of a new Global Community of Practice (CoP), fostering a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative online space for its civil society grantee partners and UN country office focal points. Developed in pro-bono partnership with Dell Technologies, the WPHF Global CoP has enabled over 200 (including 48 WPHF-SI-supported) CSO partners across 4 continents to connect with each other, strengthen their networks, exchange information, share best practices, and deepen their institutional skills and capacities.

The WPHF Community (WPHF-C) Digital Platform was launched in April 2020. Key features and channels of the Platform include a community member directory, a library of knowledge products and resources, a calendar of events, a capacity building portal with training and capacity building resources, social media integration, email distribution group, and linkages to external resources and alternative funding opportunities. A wide range of resources and knowledge products in multiple languages were disseminated via the Platform in 2020, including 175 research publications on WPS-HA issues in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. A private WPHF Facebook group was set up to allow CSO partners to keep in touch, share challenges and achievements with their peers and

²¹ Helping Other People Excel organization (HOPE) (Liberia)

²² Slum Aid Project organization (Uganda)



increase the visibility of their projects. A total of 11 capacity building webinars with 190 CSOs' representatives²³ were conducted on a wide range of topics, including Results-Based Management (RBM), qualitative data collection, communications and advocacy, strategic planning, and resource mobilization.

In October 2020, the Secretariat launched the WPHF Peer Exchange Programme, which facilitates interactive peer exchange opportunities spotlighting the expertise, experiences and knowledge products of WPHF-supported civil society partners. Three Peer Exchange Sessions and one Knowledge Café have promoted learning and facilitated exchange of cross-regional knowledge of CSO partners, featuring 8 WPHF CSO grantees and engaging 53 civil society leaders on topics such as women's leadership in socio-economic recovery efforts, ending sexual and gender-based violence, support to women refugees and internally displaced persons, and gender and food security.

Amongst these, 3 WPHF-SI grantees from Uganda and Liberia²⁴ have shared their expertise in mobilizing to prevent and end SGBV with other WPHF CSO grantees around the world. They shared their impacts, good practices, lessons learned and strategies to eliminate SGBV during the session "Protecting Rights and Ending Violence Against women and Girls", held on 24 November 2020, with 38 participants from the WPHF Grantee community (including other WPHF-SI partners).

2020 Annual Survey Findings on WPHF CoP Activities

In December 2020, WPHF conducted an online survey with 113 CSO representatives from 15 countries to evaluate the effectiveness and utility of WPHF Community of Practice activities. Some of the key findings from this survey highlight that 65% of the respondents reported having specifically used new knowledge and skills from capacity building initiatives, and improved their competences in strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, communications and resource mobilization techniques. Several respondents declared enjoying new networking opportunities with likeminded CSOs and being inspired by their peers to adopt new ways of work and community mobilization approaches (see testimonies below). The respondents have recommended multiplying the training and exchange opportunities and building on efforts to increase accessibility of training events and resources. Priorities for future capacity building initiatives were identified from the survey and will focus on protection from sexual exploitation, fundraising, technologies and data management, advocacy techniques and leadership. The survey's overall findings will be incorporated in the design and implementation of future capacity building plans and knowledge exchange activities designed for WPHF partners (including WPHF-SI grantees) in close coordination with the Spotlight Community of Practice team.

Rights Holders ("Beneficiaries")

²³ Does not represent the unique number of CSO grantees, but participants that may have participated in multiple sessions.

²⁴ Extend a Life Initiative (Uganda), Platform for Dialogue and Peace (Liberia) and Community Sustainable Development Organization (Liberia).



AFRICA (DRC, Liberia, Uganda)

| Indicative numbers | Direct for 2020 | Indirect for 2020 | Comments/Justifications |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Women (18 yrs. and above) | 19,663 | | WPHF does not collect disaggregated data for indirect beneficiaries. |
| Girls (5-17) | 2,041 | | |
| Men (18 yrs. and above) | 8,069 | | |
| Boys (5-17 yrs.) | 1,161 | | |
| TOTAL | 30,934 | 1,067,184 | |

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

The main challenge for the programme in Africa during the reporting period was the COVID-19 pandemic. This slowed down on the one hand project implementation (DRC, Liberia, Uganda) as well as the finalization of onboarding of partners (DRC 2nd round, Malawi and Nigeria). Country Offices (CO) have guided implementing partners closely to discuss possible strategic changes in implementation and have provided the necessary flexibility to make adaptations in the project designs and budgets. Monitoring visits and capacity building efforts were shifted online to ensure the mandate of WPHF to build CSO capacity was executed.

The security situation in the DRC and in Nigeria rendered project activities as well as capacity building efforts challenging. The insecurity and prevalence of armed groups in project areas affecting access to beneficiaries, safety of partners and UN Women staff was mitigated as much as possible through a strategic selection of activity locations, times and access routes to reduce risk and ensuring extended time for travel was provided as safe routes might take longer. Continued monitoring of security situations was undertaken while strictly following UN security briefings and guidance for UN missions.

Demonstrations and violence in relation to elections in Uganda and Malawi led to a challenging implementation environment resulting in insecurity, reduction of freedom of movement and limitations in gatherings of people for workshops and trainings. This delayed receiving necessary approvals from government officials for activities as well as engagement with selected partners for



onboarding. In Uganda, violence before elections was to be expected and partners already included this in their planning; forward looking activity planning mitigated the negative consequences as well as flexibility provided by the UN Women Country Office in adapting activities.

Despite previous lessons learned aimed at reducing the selection time period at the national level, during the reporting period in Haiti, some delays were experienced in the selection process of proposals, mostly linked to challenges in setting a date for the final selection process at the national level due to the high-level nature of the NSCs and conflicting agendas of Co-Chairs. COVID-19 and security developments at the country level also shifted agenda availability for the meeting to take place. In Haiti, to address these delays, discussions and consultations on the Spotlight Initiative NSC took place until December 2020 and concluded with the organization of an ad-hoc committee in early 2021 to proceed with the final selection of projects.²⁵ National ownership by decision-makers is key to the sustainability and impact of the CfPs and projects.

In addition, in PNG, there were very few applications received for Stream 1. Many CSOs did not make the shortlist due to a lack of registration certification, failing to link projects to the outcomes of the proposal, or was applying for the funds over the available limit. Very few applications were received from Highlands region, Bougainville, Western, and West Sepik Provinces with the majority from National Capital District, and Morobe.

Following the outcome of the first call for proposals, the Spotlight Initiative PNG Steering Committee reached a decision to launch a second call and reach out to these specific provinces by providing a more intensive support and focus on those unsuccessful few to strengthen their applications. The second call is planned for 2021. Some funding will be allocated to support travel to remote provinces to support CSOs face to face, as support over internet or phone is extremely challenging due to limited network access. This additional support for the second round CfP will be provided by an INGO/NGO, which will help build local capacity of WPHF-SI women's grassroots organizations in PNG. A call for proposal to select this INGO/NGO will be launched in early 2021, in close consultation with the SI Secretariat.

After undertaking the capacity assessments of the 14 selected proposals' organizations, 2 organizations were disqualified due to one of the organizations being registered as a private sector company and the other organization having a record for mismanagement of funds. Subsequently only 7 organizations completed and fulfilled all partnership requirements, bringing the total approved to 10 projects implemented by 7 organizations and 1 co-implementing organization.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

On the project implementation level, a vital lesson learned was the skills gap in ICT knowledge and lack of availability of ICT equipment as well as challenging internet connection. In particular the

²⁵ An ad-hoc committee met in early 2021 and selected the final projects in Haiti.



COVID-19 pandemic showed the vital necessity for local grassroots organizations to have functioning ICT equipment as well as the requisite skills to operate them. Since grassroots organizations often implement in remote areas, internet connection poses a challenge. The distribution of ICT equipment should always be bound to trainings to ensure recipients of the equipment have the necessary skills to take full advantage of the equipment. Specific guidance must be given to partners to find a reliable location to connect to calls and trainings and budgeting of extra airtime should be considered in the future. Overall, during the implementation period under the pandemic, the partners showed an overall improvement of enhanced ICT knowledge, which will be further supported.

In the face of the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the lack of funding posing existential risks for local women's organizations, WPHF together with SI included a new funding stream for institutional support to the CfP. This provided the opportunity for local women's organizations to receive both institutional and programmatic funding to strengthen their capacity and cover the costs of adapting to COVID-19 (technology, safety, hygiene kits, internet costs, etc.) and simultaneously having time to focus on their advocacy and train their staff in proposal writing to ensure future funding and sustainability of their actions.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

Africa

In Liberia the WPHF and SI partnership is supporting the work of Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) on a project to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls in Montserrado, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties. In the framework of the project FCI developed the SAVApp for the collection of data on SGBV and the SGBV reporting. This app will be important for the use of school going girls who are constantly faced with multiple forms of abuses at home, in the communities and at school. Not only is the app expedient of its use at community level but it will be linked to the national data collection system and feed information to that database. A similar App is also being developed by the partner for the blind and visually impaired. The data for the SAVApp is managed by Girls for Change Institution, a women's rights Community Based Organisation, and ongoing engagement is underway for a wider extension to introduce the App to Gender Justice Clubs, Men Champions, and stakeholders to other counties. The App is currently on Apple Store (<https://sav-app.com/#>) and is opened for feedback and modification based on users' review. It is currently being tested by the Gender Justice Clubs in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Margibi Counties. The Reporting App for the visually impaired is almost finalized. Validation of the app will be complete before the end of March 2021.

The partner Platform for Sustainable Development and Peace (P4SDP) in Liberia works with audio-visual material to raise awareness on violence against women. Women in target countries often suffer from illiteracy and cannot access many IEC materials raising awareness on women's rights and gender bases violence (GBV) such as leaflets or posters. Illiteracy constitutes a barrier for

women's access to information, education and consequently the realization of their rights. The approach using audio-visual tools aims to expose negative cultural behavior patterns through screening of films, interviews or short documentaries ensuring nobody is left behind. Often narratives are emotional and moving, but data is also necessary to show the prevalence. Therefore, focus group discussions are being held where people speak about how they have been affected by GBV. The discussions are being video-taped and further used to produce the audio-visual tool. The audio-visual material is being screened in communities in the evenings. A projector and a white screen are being brought into the communities to show the videos. After the screening, a discussion on the content of the film was held. A moderator ensures a coordinated discussion after the screening. The participants could identify with the content they have seen, enabling a neutral discussion on the topics shown in the film to encourage viewers to reflect on harmful traditions. Audio-visual tools are a strong entry-point to ensure people engage in a discussion as the audience can speak about what they have seen and heard in the screening instead of directly having to speak about themselves. Especially in rural areas, women fear speaking openly about women's rights issues and harmful traditions, as it is culturally not accepted. However, the audio-visual material encourages a more neutral discussion about sensitive topics such as social norms that encourage GBV, FGM, or economic deprivation.

A WPHF WhatsApp group was set up by UN Women DRC in order to provide a space for exchange and networking among implementing partners, sharing pertinent information with partners related to legislative developments, opportunities for funding and reporting requirements, and for sharing partners' communication materials to educate and inspire other organizations.

In Uganda the partner Slum Aid Project (SAP) developed a song called *Wise Up* with Mthetho Tshemese from iNDLOBONGELA a South African based artist using music to raise awareness on the importance of ending violence against women and girls. Together they are mobilizing fellow Ugandan artists to use music to change individual social behaviors that fuel gender-based violence. *Wise Up* challenges men to participate in domestic responsibilities, stop perpetrating violence on their female family members and communities and participate in community welfare activities. The song features 4 languages- Lugbara, Luganda, Swahili and South African Xhosa - to make sure it has the widest possible reach. The song will be performed in slum areas in Kampala and Arua. Art remains an under-utilized tool to change ideas, norms and attitudes that validate and encourage violence against women and girls. Due to its success already at initial stages, UN Women CO committed to expand promotion of the song planned under the WPHF through additional financing.

In PNG, recognizing the challenges associated with limited capacity of CSOs to complete proposals with the inability to support them in person or online, a Youtube video was developed by the WPHF Secretariat and circulated by UN Women country office. The video talked through each section of the proposal providing detail explanation with examples on how to successfully complete it.. CSOs were able to upload the video and view it as many times as needed. The video on Youtube was viewed 186 times. This initiative will be replicated for future calls for proposals.

Communications and Visibility

Global Level

In 2020, the WPHF secretariat and the Spotlight Initiative worked to develop a range of complementary communications initiatives to enhance the visibility of their partnership and the activities of their project grantees, continuing to build a strong foundation for continued coordination and strategic collaboration at the global level.

The WPHF secretariat worked throughout the year to diligently instruct and reinforce among its grantees and managing UN CO focal points the [WPHF + Spotlight Communications Guidelines](#), which continue to provide detailed guidance on co-branding, logo usage, social media best practices and standard language on the WPHF-SI partnership for use in traditional and new media channels.

Throughout 2020, the WPHF secretariat leveraged its growing social media presence across its Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn channels (with a total following of over 14,000 constituents around the world) to enhance the visibility of the WPHF-SI partnership, new funding opportunities for local civil society organizations in crisis contexts, and the impact of its partners on the front lines. In close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative global communications team, WPHF highlighted key initiatives across its social media channels throughout the year, including the active promotion of joint WPHF-SI calls for proposals in Haiti, Afghanistan and PNG, furthering the visibility and awareness among a wide range of audiences. WPHF also leveraged the International Day to End Violence Against Women and the corresponding 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign to drive broader awareness of the impact of WPHF-SI CSO grantees and local women's organizations to end sexual and gender-based violence in crises settings across the globe.

WPHF produced a [conference video](#) highlighting the experiences of the 70 women peacebuilders and humanitarians who participated in the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF2020) in Vienna in February 2020, which included the voices of two WPHF-SI grantees from Liberia. This video was used as a public advocacy tool to help raise awareness of the impact of GWF2020 and to advance the priorities and demands that women civil society leaders articulated in the Vienna Declaration ahead of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

WPHF continues to make the Spotlight Initiative partnership clearly visible on its global web channels, highlighting WPHF-SI partnership grantees and project descriptions on country web pages while driving key web traffic to the SI global website.

Samples of relevant social media posts and Images:



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Jul 23, 2020
 Congratulations to our latest @wphfund grantees in the #DRC. Our innovative partnership w/@GlobalSpotlight is channeling financing to civil society orgs working to end #VAW & promote women's rights in crisis settings. wphfund.org/countries/drc/ #WomenBuildPeace #WithHer #wphfund



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Nov 25, 2020
 We're proud to support Extend a Life Initiative Uganda, as they work to equip child mothers & young women with information on Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) & combat child marriage & #SGBV in #Uganda. @GlobalSpotlight @EU_Commission #16Days | #oranjetheworld



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Jul 20, 2020
 In partnership with @GlobalSpotlight, @wphfund is thrilled to announce its 1st #Call4Proposals in #Haiti.
 We're financing civil-society orgs working to end #SGBV & protect the rights of women & girls in the context of #COVID19.
 Share & apply today bit.ly/3h8YGqv



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Nov 17, 2020
 Together with @GlobalSpotlight, we're providing flexible financing to support local women's orgs tackling #GBV in contexts of crises. We're working to:
 → engage CSOs in our global & local decision making
 → reach local & grassroots orgs
 → & support them to adapt to COVID-19



Country Level

Over the reporting period, the implementing partners developed and utilized several knowledge products and communication materials, from printed IEC material, booklets, websites, t-shirts, banners, facemasks, calendars, notepads, TV spots and radio talk shows, social media posts and tweets, videos and songs.

In the DRC a communications plan was drawn up during the year, which aims, among other things, to produce a website article for each project in order to raise their profile and disseminate information on the work of WPHF-SI CSO partners. The communications plan also aims to raise the profile of the WPHF in general and will be used as a tool for humanitarian funding. In the reporting year, one specific [article](#) was produced and received strong coverage.. Another general [article](#) mentioning the



7 Spotlight projects was produced using photography provided by a WPHF-SI grantee. The article effectively demonstrated the large number of projects now underway in the DRC and the continued expansion of funding for local CSOs in crisis contexts to end SGBV.

In order to synthesize the spotlight projects and render them easily accessible for the donor community, local and national authorities, civil society organizations with whom potential synergies can be developed and other interested stakeholders, two-page project resumes were developed for each project. These 2-pagers provide clear and succinct information on the zones of intervention, budget, objectives and context of each project, as well as detailed background, desired project results, targets and beneficiaries. The 2-pagers are attractively designed using photos submitted by organizations carrying out project-related activities, which were selected by UN Women DRC's communications team. A map is included as a visual aid in order to show the zone of intervention of each project. The organizations have also used these 2-pagers for their own advocacy efforts.

In Liberia the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia project developed knowledge products and communication materials, including a factsheet on GEWE and EVAWG, training facilitator manual, activity implementation reporting form, training evaluation tool, Media, and a Civil Society Coordinated Intervention Tracking Tool.

In Uganda the Country Office has developed an article about the WPHF activities in its WPHSA quarterly newspaper, which is shared with a wide range of Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action stakeholders. The partner UHOPI has published a paper on its market research in American journal.

Volume 74 No. 1 Article 6 pages 61-75:
https://asrietsjournal.org/index.php/American_Scientific_Journal/issue/archive). The market research enabled the organization to establish market linkages. UHOPI has supported the sale of the beneficiaries' products. A shop has been established at Posta Office, Gulu City, and market links were created through social media platforms, which has increased sales referrals.

Partners are utilizing their own websites as well as a variety of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to communicate their projects, ensuring that the WPHF and SI are tagged and linked, as outlined and reinforced in the WPHF-SI Communications Guidelines.

Human Interest Stories:

Raising the voices of Twa women

In a context of marginalization, extreme discrimination and vulnerability suffered by Twa women in the DRC, the partner UEFA was able to identify women focal points, women role models and other women leaders during their training sessions, who decided to act and to raise the voices of their communities as a result of the trainings they received. Among the indigenous women trained was Madame Chakupewa from Kabwela, in Moba territory. She spoke of a time when her community was severely affected by armed conflict, and where indigenous women were systematically raped

by the Bantu ethnic group. Twa women were believed to hold the power to prevent or cure back pain and ward off old age in men who raped them.

During a training session, Madame Chakupewa spoke, and in a commanding tone she condemned the acts of violence and rape of Pygmy women by Bantus. She spoke before local chiefs, Bantu women and men. The participants were perhaps uncomfortable, given that Madame Chakupewa was the first indigenous woman to publicly put this issue on the table in front of them, something which would have been severely culturally stigmatized before. Madame Chakupewa has now committed to take the lead in sensitizing Bantu and Pygmy communities on the issue of sexual violence against Pygmy women. She is the first Pygmy woman to speak out on the radio to present examples of SGBV and to condemn it. Together with other women, she organizes awareness-raising sessions in the villages to make community members aware of SGBV. Currently, other women and men, Bantu and Pygmy alike, listen to her and the discrimination that Pygmy women have long faced is abating.

Economic empowerment of PWD enables them to address vulnerability to GBV

Abalo Jennifer Oloya is the leader of Lacan Pe-Kun Persons with Disabilities group in For God Village, Bardege Parish Gulu District, Uganda. Jennifer is visually impaired and is the leader of the group that consist of 40 members with different disabilities. She recounts that being a group of PWDs, NGOs had not considered them for any economic empowerment interventions, which has left them vulnerable to SGBV. Jennifer highlighted the complexity of dealing with PWDs as a possible cause of keeping the partners away. Umbrella of Hope Initiative (UHOPI) identified the group members as vulnerable to SGBV in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Consequently, UHOPI has trained the group in bag making skills; soft and entrepreneur skills, gave start up kits to the group as a whole and continues to support and mentor the group.

Jennifer and members of her group are now making reusable bags and selling them to their community. The intervention has created an opportunity for Jennifer and her group to earn income and to better their welfare and protection against SGBV. Jennifer says that women within her community became interested in joining the group to learn how to make the reusable shopping bags and that the group came up with a joining procedure and allowed other women to be trained in the trade. People with disabilities face structural factors such as barriers in environment, in education and in employment, as well as widespread discriminatory attitudes that limit their chances of achieving success on equal basis with others, thus making PWDs economically disadvantaged and economically dependent. There is no greater disability in society than the inability to see a person as more. Jennifer's groups showed that PWD can manage and that NGO interventions should economically empower PWDs as resourceful actors and assets to their communities.

Next Steps

Africa



For DRC, Liberia and Uganda the year 2021 will be crucial in showing further results on the outcome and impact level.

In Malawi and the DRC, the outstanding PCAs will be signed and project implementation will start. Further field missions will be carried out by all COs, if possible.

Monthly monitoring calls will be held with all Africa Spotlight countries in order to monitor closely the budget absorption as well as discuss challenges and successes.

Afghanistan

UN Women Afghanistan will set up a WPHF-SI NSC and organize the first NSC meeting for the selection of proposals in early 2021, including representation from the EU and civil society.

Following the selection, the UN Women CO will proceed with the contracting of the selected grantees (revision of ProDocs, capacity assessment, signing of the agreement, transfer of funds) and provide ongoing support to grantees, through capacity building, technical support and monitoring visits (security situation permitting).

Haiti

If delays persist for the Spotlight NSC, UN Women Haiti will set up an ad hoc steering committee (including EU representation and civil society) and organize the first meeting for the selection of proposals in early 2021.

PNG

The first priority will be to finalize the revisions of selected projects and sign the contracts to start implementation. In addition, the CO, together with WPHF Secretariat, will launch a call for proposals to find a CSO to support grassroots CSOs in applying for the second round of call for proposals. The second round of proposals will be launched to reach CSOs from five conflict - affected provinces most impacted by COVID-19. The CSO will be supporting all successful CSOs from the first round and second round calls for proposals in regard to implementation, monitoring, reporting and grant management.

The WPHF Secretariat and UN Women Country Offices will continue to support WPHF-SI visibility through regular social media posts and development of stories and other communications products.

As part of its continuous advocacy in support of women's organizations in crisis settings, the WPHF will continue to hold visibility events, in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative, on the importance of quantity and quality funding to local women's organizations in crisis contexts.

ANNEXES

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report



Annex D: Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

INTERIM REPORT

