



UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2022 Call for Proposals

Call Opens: 23 November 2022

Deadline for Submissions: 11 January 2023

Online Application System: <https://grants.untf.unwomen.org>

The UN Trust Fund is seeking proposals for **civil society-led initiatives to end violence against women and girls** experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination in all contexts, including in and not limited to those working in protracted crises. We will prioritize **applications that employ an intersectional approach and operationalize the principle of leaving no one behind** in ending violence against women programming. We will also prioritize **applications from women's rights organizations and local civil society organizations** led by and for marginalized women and girls.

Given the global context of increasingly complex, longer and overlapping crises, we are taking a two-pronged approach under this Call for Proposals: on the one hand, through **inviting all organizations - as part of their overall application - to strengthen their preparedness capacity and organizational resilience** to effectively address violence against women and girls before and once a crisis hits. In parallel, we are also including a **special focus to end violence against women and girls in the context of protracted crises to support organizations working in these settings** through initiatives that meet the specific needs of women and girls at risk and survivors of violence, especially those at risk of exclusion and marginalization.



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1. About the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is a global multi-lateral mechanism supporting civil society efforts to end one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. Established in 1996 by UN General Assembly Resolution 50/166¹, the UN Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. For over 25 years, we have partnered with and supported critical actors in pursuing the ending violence against women and girls (VAW/G) agenda, such as women’s rights organizations, youth groups, indigenous communities, faith-based and traditional leaders, human rights organizations and the media. To date, we have supported 646 initiatives in 140 countries and territories for a total of US\$ 215 million. For more information on the UN Trust Fund, its history, partners and initiatives funded, visit our website.²

2. Guiding Framework

This Call for Proposals is guided by the UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2021-25 and its vision of *“a world of global solidarity in which all women and girls live free from all forms of violence and enjoy and exercise their human rights.”*³ This vision is aligned with international human rights standards, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and international humanitarian principles and standards, of which gender equality and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls are an integral part.

The aim of the UN Trust Fund is to “ensure that more women and girls, especially the most marginalized and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, can exercise their human right to live a life free of all forms of violence”⁴ through initiatives that:

- **Improve access** for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services
- **Improve prevention** of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes
- **Increase effectiveness of legislation**, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G

In pursuit of these outcomes, the UN Trust Fund’s mission is to **“enable Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), especially Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs) and those that represent the most marginalized groups**, to play a central role in delivering survivor-centered initiatives and to support their programmes to achieve sustainable impact on ending violence against women and girls (EVAW/G) in a manner that contributes to global solidarity, partnerships, and inclusive feminist movements”⁵.

This mission is aligned with Outcome 5 of UN Women’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025, towards which the UN Trust Fund contributes, that commits the Entity to support civil society and women’s organizations through the provision of dedicated, flexible funding⁶.

¹ General Assembly Resolution 50/166: The Role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in Eliminating Violence against Women, 22 December 1995.

² <https://unwomen.org/en>

³ UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Strategic Plan 2021-2025. <https://unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/06/strategic-plan-2021-2025>. pg. 38.

⁴ *Id* at pg.40.

⁵ *Id* at pg.9.

⁶ UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-25, p.17 <https://undocs.org/en/UNW/2021/6>

3. The Context

The UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025, developed in consultation with multiple partners and CSOs/WROs, provides the overarching context for this Call for Proposals, including problem and trends analysis on violence against women and girls (VAW/G). Globally, before the COVID-19 pandemic began, an estimated 736 million women—almost 1 in 3—had been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30 per cent of women aged 15 and older).⁷ This proportion raises sharply to 70 per cent in crisis settings.⁸ The COVID-19 pandemic not only exposed the lack of preparedness and political will of countries to prevent and respond to ongoing and persistent VAW/G, it has also led to a significant rise of this already prevalent human rights violation.

In addition, the global context of increasingly complex, longer and overlapping crises, including recurrent climate-related disasters compounded with violent conflicts and economic crises, is increasing the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.⁹ It is also having a disproportionate impact on women and girls, aggravating different forms of VAW/G. One quarter of the global population lives in conflict-affected countries, and almost all conflict displacements in 2020 occurred in countries vulnerable or highly vulnerable to climate change.¹⁰ In 2021, there were an estimated 306 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, of whom 74% were experiencing protracted crisis.¹¹ Protracted crises are characterized by recurrent natural disasters and/or conflict, long-lasting food crises, breakdown of the economy or livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to the crises themselves.¹²

Lessons learned by the UN Trust Fund reaffirm that local and community organizations at the frontline of response have been adaptable and resilient to rapidly changing and/or complex contexts, and able to maintain services for women and girls while keeping EAW/G high on the agenda.¹³ Investing in strengthening, equipping and resourcing women’s rights, women-led and feminist organisations - at community, local, national and multi-country levels - is crucial for them to be better prepared for, respond to and recover from the overlapping complexities of an increasingly changing world. In turn, resilient, well prepared, and empowered women’s rights organizations are key to protecting women and girls from all forms of violence - in times of calm and those of crises. This in turn contributes to self-reliance, recovery and resilience of communities and marginalized population groups that are most at risk.

By building resilience and self-reliance of CSOs and WROs with existing expertise on ending violence against women and girls, the UN Trust Fund will contribute to their longer-term needs that require sustained localized support in line with the Grand Bargain and the localization agenda.¹⁴

⁷ World Health Organization, on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data (2021). *Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018. Global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women.*

⁸ <https://2021.gho.unocha.org/global-trends/gender-and-gender-based-violence-humanitarian-action/>

⁹ OCHA, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2022*

¹⁰ UNHCR, *Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2020*

¹¹ Development Initiatives, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, 2022*

¹² <https://www.fao.org/in-action/kore/protracted-crisis-and-conflicts/zh/>

¹³ G. Wood and S. Majumdar, 2020, *COVID-19 and the impact on civil society organizations working to end violence against women and girls: through the lens of CSOs funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women – six months after the global pandemic was declared*, New York: UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, September 2020.

¹⁴ The ‘Grand Bargain’ includes a series of commitments from donors and aid providers. These include increasing and supporting multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination capacities, especially in fragile contexts and where communities are vulnerable to armed conflicts, disasters, recurrent outbreaks and the effects of climate change. For more information see *The Grand Bargain Official website*.

4. The Call for Proposals

The UN Trust Fund welcomes proposals:

- (1) **Submitted by Civil Society Organizations, especially Women’s Rights Organization with proven expertise in ending violence against women and girls (VAW/G);**
- (2) **Conceptualized, developed and fully implemented by CSOs/WROs, in line with their contextually relevant needs assessment of women and girls in the territory of their operations;**
- (3) **Focused on marginalized women and girls experiencing intersecting forms of harm and discrimination;¹⁵**
- (4) **Guided by the UN Trust Fund’s values and principles in embodying UN Women’s EVAW/G Programming Principles, and invested in strengthening preparedness and organizational resilience;**
- (5) **Aligned with the 3 UN Trust Fund Outcomes areas.**

In addition, given the global context of complex and overlapping crises, the UN Trust Fund is taking a two-pronged approach under this Call for Proposals: on the one hand, through **inviting all organizations - as part of their overall application – to strengthen their preparedness capacity and to build their organizational resilience** to effectively address violence against women and girls before and once a crisis hits. In parallel, the UN Trust Fund is including a **special focus to end violence against women and girls in the context of protracted crises¹⁶, to support organizations working in these settings** through initiatives that meet the specific needs of women and girls at risk and survivors of violence, especially those at risk of exclusion and marginalization.

If your application has a special focus on ending violence against women and girls in a protracted crisis, please mark the ‘special focus’ box in the online application.

4.1 Civil Society Organizations with proven EVAW/G expertise

The UN Trust Fund will **only** accept applications from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), especially Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs) with specialized **knowledge, expertise, and a track record¹⁷ of working on defending and advocating for women’s rights and elimination of violence against women and girls.**

For this Call, we will **prioritize applications** from the following types of organizations:

- a. **Women’s rights organizations (WROs)**, in full recognition of their being the driving force of the ending violence against women agenda and feminist movements, as well as being at the forefront of EVAW/G work, directly reaching women and girls survivors and those at highest risk of exclusion and marginalization.
- b. **CSOs/WROs led by and for marginalized women and girls (e.g., constituent-led)**, that have specialized knowledge, expertise and a proven track record of working with women and girls facing or at risk of violence, especially survivors-led organizations. Girl-led and girl-centered organizations are also particularly encouraged to apply.

¹⁵ Including, but not limited to, indigenous women and girls, minority ethnic women and girls, LGBTIQ+ people, women and girls with disabilities, older women, women and girls internally displaced (IDPs) and refugees, and women and girl survivors of violence

¹⁶ For the purpose of this Call for Proposals, crises to be considered protracted are those where a significant part of the population faces acute vulnerability, exacerbating the risk of women and girls to all forms of violence, and is dependent on humanitarian assistance over a prolonged period of time.

¹⁷ Organizations are expected to have at least five years of relevant programming experience in the field of ending violence against women (except in the case of recently established, younger organizations). The organization must provide information on its technical expertise and experience in the field of ending violence against women and girls as part of its application, including an explanation of its history and experience working on this issue and the number and CVs of staff with the requisite EVAW/G skillset.

- c. **CSOs/WROs with local or community-level reach** that are best-placed to meet the needs of women and girls in their contexts, including through collaboration and equitable partnerships. Applications from organizations that are not local (but meet other criteria) are still welcome *if the proposal includes an equitable partnership* with local women’s rights organizations or constituent-led groups for greater impact or community reach. The proposal must demonstrate how the partnership will ensure an equitable power balance that empowers community/locally based groups and CSOs/WROs.

Priority will be given to grassroots women’s organizations. International and larger National NGOs that have ERAW/G experience in working in partnership with local CSOs/ WROs and feminist movements, in particular in crisis contexts, may apply on the condition that they demonstrate a clear intention to engage with and strengthen the capacities of local WRO/CSO partners on programming and/or coordination in a mutually enabling manner. Beyond trainings, larger organizations applying to the UN Trust Fund special focus for protracted crises will only be considered if they adopt risk sharing strategies with women-led CSOs/WROs, as well as an advisory, backstopping and mentoring role for smaller grass-roots women-led CSOs/WROs. This may be achieved, for example, by supporting the establishment of consortia that would allow for increased decision making, control and ownership from women-led CSOs/WROs, contributing to their empowerment and ensuring programmes can be embedded more effectively and more sustainably in the local context.

We require supporting documents (constitutions, by-laws, organigrammes) as part of the application to help determine whether an organization is a women’s rights, a women-led and/or a constituent-led organization.

To be considered a **“women’s rights organization”**, the organization must demonstrate that its core work is in the field of women’s rights, gender equality, the elimination of violence against women, or sexual and gender-based violence. The organization’s official mission and vision statements must reflect its commitment to pursuing gender equality and empowering women and girls.

To be considered a **“women-led organization”**, the organization must demonstrate that it is governed and led by women. This requires evidence that a minimum of 61 per cent of leadership positions across various decision-making levels, including in management, senior management and board levels are held by women.

To be considered a **“constituent-led organization”** the organization must demonstrate that it is led by members of the group it represents and/or sets priorities driven by its constituents’ lived experiences and based on a strong understanding of their needs. For example, women and girls survivors of violence, organizations of people with disabilities¹⁸, organizations of indigenous women, associations for lesbian, bisexual and transwomen, etc. To be considered a **“constituent-led organization”**, the organization must be representative, meaning that the constituent group must be/represent a majority of the overall staff, board, and volunteers in all levels of the organization (61% as a guide).

4.2 Demand-driven projects conceptualized, developed, and fully implemented by CSOs/WROs

The UN Trust Fund is committed to “demand-driven grant-giving” which means we support projects that are conceptualized, developed, and implemented by CSOs/WROs in accordance with their own assessment of the

¹⁸ As an example, a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) can be defined as “an organization of persons with disabilities, that is a representative organization where persons with disabilities constitute a majority of the overall staff, board, and volunteers in all levels of the organization. It includes organizations of relatives of persons with disabilities (only those representing groups without legal capacity to form organizations, such as children with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities) where a primary aim of these organizations is empowerment and the growth of self-advocacy of persons with disabilities” (Disability Rights Fund, <https://disabilityrightsfund.org/faq/what-is-a-dpo/>)

needs of their countries and communities, taking into account national/local priorities.¹⁹ Proposals are therefore expected to include a thorough needs analysis of the women and girls the proposed project aims to serve, preferably informed and/or led by the constituents themselves. Applicants should also be guided by global research and available evidence as well as practice-based knowledge and ensure that applications are backed up with a justification based on these insights and evidence.

4.3 Focused on marginalized women and girls experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination and adopting intersectional approaches in EAW/G

Proposals should identify and be focused on women and girls experiencing violence and intersecting forms of discrimination, in the targeted context or community. For example, women and girl survivors of violence, women and girls with disabilities, women and girl internally displaced and refugees, women and girls living with HIV and/or AIDS, indigenous women and girls, ethnic minority women and girls, lesbians, bisexual and transgender women and girls, queer/questioning and intersex people, women and girls experiencing racial discrimination and/or injustice, women human rights defenders / gender advocates and/or women and girls in the lowest-income groups, women and girls with low literacy levels. This list is not exhaustive, and the focus of proposals should ideally be determined by context, community and needs analysis. We emphasize the critical importance of being *specific* in your Project Concept: with regard to which groups you are working with and why, the specific forms of violence you will focus on and why, and where you will be working and why. In addition, please lay out how you are equipped to work with and respond to these groups and their needs.

“An intersectional approach to violence against women and girls [VAW/G] includes a consideration of where gender intersects with other inequalities/oppressions (e.g. sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity, indigeneity, immigration status, disability, poverty) to produce compounded risks and experiences of violence.”²⁰ An intersectional approach which is feminist-informed seeks to draw attention to interlocking systems of oppression which put many women and girls at greater risk of violence. However, it shouldn’t mean trying to do everything with all groups. Rather, intersectional approaches to EAW programming allow for the EAW/G identification of specific group/s of women and/or girls at higher risk of violence in their context, historically invisibilized and ignored within existing VAW/G interventions. Furthermore, intersectional approaches should not only guide who is prioritized in EAW/G programming in order to ‘leave no one behind’, but also *how* programming is designed, fit for purpose and implemented. In other words, “by understanding the different ways in which violence is perpetrated and experienced, an intersectional approach can help organizations develop appropriate context-specific responses when addressing VAW/G.”²¹

4.4 Guided by the UN Trust Fund’s values and principles

The UN Trust Fund operates under the UN Programming Principles, centered on the principle to leave no one behind, as well as UN Women’s ten EAW/G programming principles²². The full set of core values and principles

¹⁹ A demand-driven approach is also in line with the UN principles of supporting national ownership and in the spirit of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action commitments on aid effectiveness.

²⁰ UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Strategic Plan 2021-2025. p. 17. <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/06/strategic-plan-2021-2025> and EU, Imkaan, and UN Women, *The value of intersectionality in understanding violence against women and girls*, July 2019, p.3 and <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/10/the-value-of-intersectionality-in-understanding-violence-against-women-and-girls>

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² UN Women EAW Programming Principles: <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/14-programming-essentials-monitoring-evaluation.html>

can be found in the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan, pages 35-37. Applicants are asked to pay specific attention to:

- **Embodying UN Women's EAW Programming Principles**
- **Strengthening preparedness and organizational resilience** in a rapidly changing and complex environment

4.4.1 Embodying UN Women's EAW/G Programming Principles

All proposals are expected to embody UN Women EAW/G programming principles²³ within project design *as contextually relevant and feasible*.

- I. **Adopting a human rights-based approach** that places paramount priority on promoting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all women and girls. A human rights-based approach requires developing the capacities of 'duty-bearers' and 'rights-holders'.
- II. **Ensuring a survivor-centered and women's empowerment approach** that integrates women's and girls' own experiences and inputs within all initiatives and strategies as an essential part of successful programming. A survivor-centered approach is fundamental to the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls affected, and to their empowerment.
- III. **Operating under ethical guidelines** that ensure interventions and services prioritize, and guarantee women's and girls' rights to safety and security, confidentiality and privacy, expression of opinion and autonomy to make decisions.
- IV. **Ensuring gender responsiveness and transformative approaches** that seek to create or strengthen equitable gender norms and dynamics for fundamental, lasting changes for women and girls.
- V. **Employing culturally and contextually relevant entry points** through interventions that involve cultural, community, faith-based, youth and other leaders. All project proposals should aim to include clear community feedback mechanisms with participation of women from the communities where the projects are to be implemented.
- VI. **Addressing specific forms and settings of VAW/G through a clear understanding of specific contexts** in which violence takes place for effective programme design and implementation, with knowledge about specific forms, settings, and population groups affected.
- VII. **Adopting an intersectional approach and focusing on groups most at risk of being left behind** especially excluded or disadvantaged women and girls (such as women and girls with disabilities, LBT, internally displaced and refugees, indigenous, older and members of ethnic minorities).
- VIII. **Operating within a socio-ecological model of understanding violence** which aims to ensure that interventions consider and address the conditions across different levels (e.g. individual, family, community and society), which affect women and girls' risks of experiencing violence.
- IX. **Working in partnership with different stakeholders** such as government, donors, UN agencies, civil society and community-based groups, inter-sectorial actors, academic and research institutions; and importantly, women and girl survivors and women-led organizations.

²³ The Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls. UN Women. Programming Essential, Monitoring & Evaluation: Guiding Principles. <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/14-programming-essentials-monitoring-evaluation.html>

- X. ***Drawing on existing evidence of “what works” (or does not)***, to respond to and prevent violence against women and girls, drawn from formal evaluations and assessments, research and studies, expert consensus and recommendations, shared practitioner experiences and – importantly - the feedback of survivors, and women and girls at risk.

4.4.2 Strengthening preparedness and organizational resilience

Applicants are encouraged to invest in building their preparedness to adapt and be able to pivot to potential disruptive events and crises. This approach to preparedness includes external considerations, such as fostering and building strategic partnerships, advocating for the recognition of women-led CSOs as responders, facilitating their access to sustained funding, or enabling their participation in decision making bodies to exercise their leadership. In parallel, it also involves strengthening organizational resilience, crucial to supporting internal capacities, structures and systems within the organisation to be more adaptative and resilient to adverse impacts. It may also include conducting capacity needs assessments, trainings and mentorships to mainstream preparedness measures both as part of the project and within the organisation.

Initiatives to build-in preparedness efforts may include, for example, monitoring and risk assessments, developing risk mitigation plans and contingency measures factored into project design, adaptative and flexible programming methodologies (i.e. moving online, alternative arrangements for access and inclusivity in crisis situations), integration of measures to prevent backlash and resistance, partnerships with other CSOs/WROs to maintain community reach even through crises, measures to ensure sustainability of project results, enhanced efforts to ensure organizational capacity, as well as dedicated and trauma-informed efforts to invest in staff and collective care practices to prevent exhaustion. Applicants are also encouraged to integrate measures for the well-being of staff, volunteers, and service providers, including front-line workers, notably protection, safety, security and human resources management that allows for sufficient leave take, time for rotation of shifts, rest and recuperation, psycho-social support and/or stress councilors, and protection from harassment, including sexual harassment and abuse of authority in the workplace.

Questions in the application form will guide organizations in how to address the above. You can also refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for additional information.

4.5 Aligned with the 3 UN Trust Fund Outcomes areas

Under this broad framework, the UN Trust Fund welcomes proposals for initiatives that contribute to one or more of its three strategic outcome areas:

- **Improved access** for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services
- **Improved prevention** of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes
- **Increased effectiveness of legislation**, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G

Specific intervention types have not been listed to allow proposals to be truly CSO/WRO driven. However, you may wish to refer to useful resources in Section 10 as well as additional guiding information in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

4.6 Special Focus on addressing violence against women and girls in the context of protracted crises

As global and regional compounded crises are having localized and complex impacts that disproportionately affect women and girls²⁴, it becomes vital to design and deliver local, community-driven solutions. In programming, this requires designing interventions based on national and local needs that complement existing national EAW/G mechanisms, with a special focus on building response capacity and partnership building for principled and localized actions. This may imply, on the one hand, connecting local organisations working on EAW/G with humanitarian systems and structures, including those led by Government or by humanitarian agencies, to be more gender-responsive and to avoid exclusion, duplication or working in silos. On the other, it may also imply thinking more broadly on how interventions can bridge existing divides to transition from short term EAW/G responses in crisis to longer term recovery by, for example, working with multiple stakeholders to meet the needs of women and girls survivors of violence, while investing in longer term interventions.²⁵

Under this special focus, the UN Trust Fund welcomes proposals in line with one or more of its three outcome areas, emphasizing our commitment to support women-led CSOs/WROs' capacities to provide EAW/G response in protracted crisis:

- 1. Improved access for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services to end VAW/G.** It is important that organizations working in protracted crisis contexts are supported to sustain services to survivors, to scale them up and integrate them as part of the referral pathways. In times of crisis, CSOs/WROs may need to ensure they have the capacity to adjust their service provision to survivors, based on context analysis of emerging needs, and in line with Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) in emergencies. CSOs/WROs may also need to plan actions to ensure compliance with key principles, including 'do no harm', a survivor centered approach, such as trauma-informed interventions, non-discrimination, and confidentiality, including data protection. CSOs/WROs in these contexts are also encouraged to showcase how they build organizational resilience, including staff and collective care mechanisms, to ensure adequate capacities to navigate in volatile environments and reach women and girls experiencing intersecting risks.
- 2. Improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behavior, practices, and attitudes:** The resilience and capacities of communities, civil society organizations and relevant actors to mitigate risks, prevent and address VAW/G against marginalized women and girls in times of crisis is particularly important as part of preparedness actions, reading and responding to early warning signs. Behavior change and addressing harmful practices during crises can be included as part of emergency preparedness plans as well as crisis prevention, response, and recovery plans, actions, and trainings.
- 3. Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems:** It is important to ensure the integration of EAW/G into crisis prevention, response, and recovery legislation, policies, and plans, while also ensuring good legal frameworks, plans, protocols and standards on EAW/G can also be applicable to crisis situations. Moreover, it is key to provide technical and financial support to CSOs/ WROs for their engagement and participation in humanitarian coordination to influence decision-making, including strategic planning, coordination, and programming.

Applicants are encouraged to explore opportunities to strengthen partnerships, coordination, synergies, and coherence. This may include efforts to promote the leadership of women to address VAW/G and their meaningful participation in humanitarian decision making. This may also entail new partnerships, for example with humanitarian sector partners, to strengthen linkages and synergies that advance EAW/G work across humanitarian, development, and peace actions.

²⁴ GBV AoR, Strategy 2021-2025

²⁵ For examples of proposed interventions, you may refer to the FAQs section on activities and initiatives that could be supported through the special focus on addressing violence against women and girls in the context of protracted crises.

For the purpose of this Call for Proposals, crises to be considered protracted are those where a significant part of the population faces acute vulnerability, exacerbating the risk of women and girls to all forms of violence, and is dependent on humanitarian assistance over a prolonged period of time. Specific intervention types have not been listed to allow proposals to be truly demand-driven. However, illustrative examples of proposals that could be supported can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

To apply under the Protracted Crisis Special Focus, candidates should select the option “*This proposal responds to the special focus on addressing violence against women and girls in the context of protracted crises.*” in the Project Concept Form.

5. Eligibility Criteria

Priority organizations (see Section 4.1) that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

5.1 Country coverage

The applicant must implement a project in a minimum of one and a maximum of three of the countries and/or territories listed in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Assistance Committee’s (OECD DAC) list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients.²⁶ (See last page for full list of eligible countries and territories).

5.2 Legal status and registration

The applicant must be a legally registered entity. Either the main applicant or at least one of its co-implementing partner(s) must be legally registered and/or operating in the country or territory of project implementation. We require that legal registration documents of the main applicant be submitted with the application.

Organizations proposing multi-country projects must also demonstrate they or their national co-implementing partners are legally registered in each of the countries (or territories) of implementation and how their projects are contributing to strengthening inclusive feminist networks, coalitions and movements.

5.3 Demonstrated capacity for operational, financial and human resource management

Operational and human resources: The applicant must have the necessary operational and human resources to manage the proposed project. A clear project control framework should be defined once implementation starts.

Certified Financial Statements and Organizational Audit Reports: The applicant must submit certified financial statements²⁷ and organizational audit reports²⁸ for three fiscal years (including 2019, 2020 and 2021).

Partnership and accountability arrangements: Organizations can only apply once under this Call for Proposals, either as the main applicant organization or as a co-implementing partner.

- An application should include no more than four co-implementing partners that will receive a portion of the requested funding.
- In all cases, the applicant organization will be accountable for managing the grant award in its entirety.

²⁶ The UN Trust Fund follows the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/DCD-DAC list of countries available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>

²⁷ A **certified financial statement** is one that has been reviewed, approved and signed by the person authorized to sign financial documents for the organization. This can be someone from within the organization or an outside firm.

²⁸ An **audit report** is one that has been issued by a certified, independent auditor. In addition to external auditors, organizations can also employ internal auditors.

- If applicable, the applicant organization will also be responsible for ensuring that its co-implementing partners fully understand and comply with all the requirements and obligations of the grant process.
- If awarded a grant, the applicant organization will also be responsible and liable for its co-implementing partner’s performance and results delivery.
- We highly encourage the use of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) among all partners to define roles, responsibilities, deliverables and lines of accountability.

5.4 Previous and existing UN Trust Fund grant recipients²⁹

Organizations that have received a grant are eligible only if their grant has been programmatically and operationally closed by March 2023.

5.5 Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment

UN Women has a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Applicants must take all appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment of anyone by it or any of its employees, personnel, sub-contractors and others engaged, as well as compliance with protocols, provisions and standards in the country/territory where the project will be implemented. The UN Trust Fund does not partner with entities that fail to address SEA through appropriate preventive measures, investigation and corrective action.

5.6 Ineligible Applicants

The following are **NOT eligible** to apply for a grant:

- Organizations proposing interventions in a country not listed in the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients
- Organizations whose work and mission/vision statement do not focus on nor explicitly mention gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and/or girls
- Organizations that do not have a legal status (and are not operating) in the country or territory of implementation, and neither do any of its co-implementing partners
- Government agencies or institutions
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams
- Private individuals
- Private sector entities
- Organizations currently implementing a UN Trust Fund grant (unless it ends before March 2023)

6. Funding Parameters

We will fund all selected organizations for a three-year period to ensure predictability of funding and technical assistance as well as continuity of services for the women and girls they reach.

All civil society organizations can apply for a grant amount between US \$150,001 and US \$1,000,000.

Small civil society organizations are eligible to apply for a ‘small grant’ of between US \$50,000 and US \$150,000 that includes additional core support for the organization. To be considered a “small organization”, the

²⁹ The UN Trust Fund strives for a balance between funding new partnerships and supporting former strong and successful partners. Previous organizations are welcome to apply with the understanding that the grant-giving process remains competitive and only a subset of former grantees may be successful for a grant award in any given year.

organization's annual operational budget must have been lower than US\$ 200,000 (on average) over the last three years.

Organizations should consider their own operational and absorptive capacity when submitting a funding request. In general, **an organization cannot request a grant amount more than 3 times its annual organization budget** (using last 3-years average organizational budget). We will assess absorptive capacity against financial and audit reports as well as annual organization budget information submitted as part of the application.

See "Annex 3: Budget Summary" for more information on general categories of expenditure.

Special budget considerations to support organizational resilience

We recognize the need for civil society organizations working on addressing violence against women and girls, to ensure sustainability of their organizational functions that enables them to accomplish their mission and vision strategically, connect with key allies, and drive meaningful change within their communities.

Maintaining and building upon practices put in place over the past years, we will continue to support civil society by extending the following support to all organizations, irrespective of the grant amount requested:

- (1) **Personnel costs** up to a maximum of 30% of the total amount of grant requested to ensure appropriate staffing and coverage for project implementation.
- (2) **General operating and other direct costs** up to a maximum of 3% of direct activity costs for running an office that are directly linked to project implementation
- (3) **Self and collective care budget line** of US\$ 5,000 to support organizations in taking care of its staff members' physical and mental health and well-being
- (4) **Contingency budget line** of 3% of direct project costs to enable organizations to address unforeseen challenges.

In addition, we will continue to provide **Core Funding to small organizations** requesting a small grant (less than US\$ 150,000). This funding - up to a maximum of 7% of direct activity costs - is separate from and in addition to the standard 8% that organizations can currently request under Indirect costs.

7. Application Process

Applicants are expected to submit proposals online in the form of a **Project Concept**. The online **Project Concept application will be available from 23 November 2022 – 11 January 2023** at: <https://grants.untf.unwomen.org/>.

The **deadline for submission of the Project Concept is 11 January 2023, 11:59 pm New York Time (EDT)**. We cannot consider Project Concepts received after the deadline.

Applications can be submitted in the following languages only: **English, French and Spanish**. **Only one application per organization will be accepted**. Multiple applications from the same organization (including national affiliates of the same INGO) or for the same proposal will be automatically disqualified.

Your online application must include all the following **required documents** to be considered complete.

- Legal Registration Documents
- Certified Financial Statements
- Supporting evidence that the organization is a women's rights and/or women-led organization

All required documents should be uploaded through **the online application system only** (we cannot accept email or paper documents). **Please note that incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified.**

You must **plan for and set aside enough time to upload documents in the online application system**. Please note that the system may experience significant delays close to the submission deadline.

We will acknowledge receipt of a submitted online application through a confirmation e-mail. Please contact us immediately if you do not receive the confirmation email. In the event of technical problems with the online application, please contact the UN Trust Fund Secretariat (New York, USA) by email at unifgms@unwomen.org.

You will be informed of updates on the application process by email.

In line with UN Trust Fund operating procedures, and in order to safeguard the transparency of the Call for Proposals processes, all queries must be addressed to unifgms@unwomen.org. The UN Trust Fund Secretariat cannot accept or respond to any inquiry addressed directly or indirectly to our staff.

Please note that due to the high volume of applications, we unfortunately cannot respond individually to those not selected for further consideration.

8. Selection Process

We award grants through an open and competitive process. All proposals are assessed based on the overall quality and results-oriented nature of the proposed project. The appraisal process involves independent experts and UN Trust Fund’s selection committees at the global and regional levels that will follow common criteria for review and selection. The first round involves the submission of a Project Concept and **only those successful in the first round are invited to submit a Project Proposal** (online support and guidance on how to complete the Project Proposal will be available for smaller organizations with less capacity but high potential that are selected in the first round). A subset of final applicants will be considered for grants. Our Global inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee will make the final funding decisions.

Grant approvals and signing of donor agreements will take place by mid-2023. All successful grantees are expected to work closely with our Team to **incorporate full technical feedback** and **ensure high-quality standards of programme design** and **rigorous monitoring, reporting and evaluation** plans in the project proposal.

9. Eligible Countries and Territories

Africa		Americas & the Caribbean		Arab States	Asia & the Pacific		Europe and Central Asia
Angola	Liberia	Argentina	Suriname	Algeria	Afghanistan	Samoa	Albania
Benin	Madagascar	Belize	Venezuela	Egypt	Bangladesh	Solomon Islands	Armenia
Botswana	Malawi	Bolivia		Iraq	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso	Mali	Brazil		Jordan	Cambodia	Thailand	Belarus
Burundi	Mauritania	Colombia		Lebanon	China	Timor-Leste	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cabo Verde	Mauritius	Costa Rica		Libya	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Tokelau	Georgia
Cameroon	Mozambique	Cuba		Morocco	Fiji	Tonga	Kazakhstan
Central African Republic	Namibia	Dominica		State of Palestine	India	Tuvalu	Kosovo (UN Administered Territory Under UNSCR 1244)

Chad	Niger	Dominican Republic		Syrian Arab Republic	Indonesia	Vanuatu	Kyrgyzstan
Comoros	Nigeria	Ecuador		Tunisia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Viet Nam	Republic of Moldova
Congo	Rwanda	El Salvador		Yemen	Kiribati	Wallis and Futuna	Montenegro
Cote d'Ivoire	Saint Helena	Grenada			Lao People's Democratic Republic		North Macedonia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sao Tome and Principe	Guatemala			Malaysia		Serbia
Djibouti	Senegal	Guyana			Maldives		Tajikistan
Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone	Haiti			Marshall Islands		Turkey
Eswatini	Somalia	Honduras			Micronesia (Federated States of)		Turkmenistan
Eritrea	South Africa	Jamaica			Mongolia		Ukraine
Ethiopia	South Sudan	Mexico			Myanmar		Uzbekistan
Gabon	Sudan	Montserrat			Nauru		
Gambia (Republic of The)	Togo	Nicaragua			Nepal		
Ghana	Uganda	Panama			Niue		
Guinea	United Republic of Tanzania	Paraguay			Pakistan		
Guinea-Bissau	Zambia	Peru			Palau		
Kenya	Zimbabwe	Saint Lucia			Papua New Guinea		
Lesotho		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			Philippines		

10. Useful Resources

The following resources may be especially useful to consult when developing your proposal:

- **RESPECT women: preventing violence against women.** UN Women, WHO. 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women>
- **Essential services package for women and girls subject to violence.** UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC. 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence>
- **Learning from Practice: Lessons on preventing violence from civil society organizations funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.** UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. 2021. <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/learning-hub/prevention-series>
- **The Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls.** UN Women. Step-by-step programming guidance. <http://endvawnow.org/> (searchable by language)

- **A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls** commissioned by the UK-funded, What Works to Prevent Violence Global Programme to End Violence against Women. 2020. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/374-evidence-reviewfweb/file>
- **Effective design and implementation elements in interventions to prevent violence against women and girls.** commissioned by the UK-funded, What Works to Prevent Violence Global Programme to End Violence against Women. 2020. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/373-intervention-report19-02-20/file>
- **Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women.** WHO. 2013. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85240/9789241548595_eng.pdf
- **M&E Standards and Guidelines.** The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluations, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian. http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22
- **Researcher Trauma and Safety.** Briefing papers, reports and articles on vicarious trauma. SVRI. 2017. <http://www.svri.org/research-methods/researcher-trauma-and-safety>
- **Washington Group on Disability Statistics.** Tools for the collection of internationally comparable disability statistics. <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>
- **Resource & Support Hub.** Publications, documents and guidance notes related to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) and safeguarding. <https://safeguardingsupporthub.org/> (searchable by language)
- **Making It Work How-To Guide: Intersectionality in practice. How to put an intersectional approach into practice.** Inclusive Friends Association Nigeria and Humanity&Inclusion. 2022. <https://www.makingitwork-crpd.org/news/miw-how-guide-intersectionality-practice-published>
- **Learning from Practice: Exploring Intersectional Approaches to Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls** Palm, S. and Le Roux, E. 2021. <https://untf.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/synthesis%20review%20-%20intersectional%20approaches.pdf>

The following additional resources may also be especially useful when developing your proposal with **attention to emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and crisis recovery in protracted settings:**

- **Integrating Gender Based Violence (GBV) interventions in humanitarian action.** IASC. Guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in humanitarian action: reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery. Inclusive of capacity building resources, additional resources and documents for roll out, community links, pocket guide, access to knowledge hub which includes a cash and voucher assistance and GBV compendium training module, and additional information. <https://gbvguidelines.org/en/>
- **Minimum standards Gender Based Violence (GBV) in emergencies.** GBV AoR. Sixteen interagency minimum standards for GBV in emergencies programming. <https://gbvaor.net/gbviems> (searchable by language)
- **Interagency Gender Based Violence (GBV) case management guidelines.** GBVIMS Steering Committee. Guidelines for the provision of care and case management services to GBV survivors in humanitarian settings. 2017 https://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Interagency-GBV-Case-Management-Guidelines_Final_2017_Low-Res.pdf
- **Gender equality across the humanitarian, development, peace nexus.** OECD. 2021 <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-equality-across-the-hdp-nexus-july2021.pdf>
- **Guidance note on how to promote gender-responsive localization in humanitarian action.** UN Women. Guidance Note. 2020. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-05/UN%20Women%20-%20How%20to%20promote%20gender-responsive%20localisation%20in%20humanitarian%20action%20-%20Guidance%20Note.pdf>
- **Adaptability learning document. Spotlight Initiative. 2021. Strengthening the humanitarian, development, peace nexus to end VAWG.** <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/publications/adaptability-spotlight-initiative>
- **Gender in Emergencies and the Rapid Gender Analysis.** CARE. Weblink facilitates access to various resources to integrate gender in emergency response across various sectors, access to tools for a rapid gender analysis, guidance's for programme design and implementation. <https://www.careemergencytoolkit.org/gender/gender-in-emergencies/>
- **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).** IASC. See webpage with relevant information on existing policies, tools and diverse resources. <https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/>

- **Gender in Emergencies.** IASC. The Gender Handbook provides relevant guidance across the humanitarian programme management cycle for integration of gender equality considerations.
https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2018-iasc_gender_handbook_for_humanitarian_action_eng_0.pdf

The following **COVID-19 specific** resources may also be especially useful when developing your proposal:

- **Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection during COVID-19.** UN Women. 2020.
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/issue-brief-violence-against-women-and-girls-data-collection-during-covid-19>
- **COVID-19 and Essential Services Provision for Survivors of Violence against Women and Girls.** UN Women. 2020.
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/brief-covid-19-and-essential-services-provision-for-survivors-of-violence-against-women-and-girls>
- **UNTF EVAW Briefing Note on the Impact of COVID-19 on violence against women through the lens of Civil Society and Women’s Rights Organizations.** UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. 2020. <http://bit.ly/UNTF-Brief-May2020>
- **Gender Based Violence and COVID-19.** UNDP. 2020.
<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-based-violence-and-covid-19.html>
- **Identifying & Mitigating Gender Based Violence Risks within the COVID-19 Response.** Inter-Agency Standing Committee IASC & Global Protection Cluster. 2020.
<https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Interagency-GBV-risk-mitigation-and-Covid-tipsheet.pdf>