



FAQ – Call for Proposals 2023

1. When did the 2023 Call for Proposals open and close?

The 2023 Call for Proposals opened on 10 December 2023 and closed on 1 February 2024.

2. How many organizations applied, and how many were selected for funding?

The 2023 Call for Proposals received **2,889** applications from **130** countries and territories, with a total request amount of over **USD 1.5 billion**. The high volume of submissions reflects the significant need for funding among organizations working to end violence against women and girls globally.

Unfortunately, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) can support fewer worthy candidates than it identifies through its rigorous selection process each year. Due to the high demand, the UN Trust Fund made the strategic decision to source two cycles: Cycle 27 (2024) and Cycle 28 (2025) from this Call for Proposals.

For Cycle 27, 28 organizations have been selected across 24 countries and territories amounting in USD 13.6 million in grants.

The selected organizations closely align with the priorities outlined in the Call for Proposals with support to initiative that clearly seek to address violence against marginalized women and girls and/or women and girls affected by crisis. They represent a diverse geographic range, with a prioritization of small, women-led, constituent-led and women’s right organizations.

Alongside this 27th grant cycle, the UN Trust Fund also awarded USD 2.34 million to eight sub-regional, regional and cross-regional initiatives in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa under the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action to End Violence Against Women (ACT) programme—a partnership between UN Women and the European Commission, in collaboration with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. These initiatives will amplify networks and drive feminist movements dedicated to ending violence against women and girls in the two priority regions, creating lasting change where it matters most.

3. What was the geographical distribution of applications received under the 2023 Call for Proposals?

- Africa: **1,533** applications (53% of total applications); USD 800,836,320.58 requested
- Americas & the Caribbean: **434** applications (15%); USD 238,952,365.38 requested
- Arab States & North Africa: **185** applications (6%); USD 108,372,124.25 requested
- Asia & the Pacific: **536** applications (19%); USD 280,421,026.23 requested
- Europe & Central Asia: **170** applications (6%); USD 99,293,314.05 requested
- Cross-regional proposals: **31** (1%) applications; USD 21,262,459.73 requested



4. Can you provide a further breakdown of applications received under the 2023 Call for Proposals?

Organization Size

- Small: **1,564** applications (54%); USD 531,354,543.21 requested
- Large: **1,325** applications (46%); USD 1,017,783,067.01 requested

Grant Type

- Small grant: **1,153** applications (40%); USD 247,397,018.38 requested
- Large grant: **1,736** applications (60%); USD 1,301,740,591.84 requested

Funding Window

- General Window: **2,109** applications (73%); USD 1,123,145,523.32 requested
- Special Window: **780** applications (27%); USD 425,992,086.90 requested

Project Scope

- Single country project: **2,708** applications (94%); USD 1,413,536,766.59 requested
- Multi-country project: **181** applications (6%); USD 135,600,843.63 requested

5. How can I know if my proposal was selected or not selected?

All applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, were notified about the status of their proposal via email in August 2024. This notification was sent to the email address used to register to the Grants Management System. If you haven't received any communication about your proposal, please check your inbox, including your spam/junk folder, for a message from the UN Trust Fund.

6. Can I receive specific feedback on why our proposal wasn't selected?

Due to the high volume of applications received, we are unfortunately not able to provide individualized feedback on proposals. However, we have developed a tipsheet on grant-writing that we are sharing with all applicants to support capacity building for future applications.

This tipsheet has been developed based on best practices and successful proposals and serves as general feedback for all proposals. It highlights common areas for improvement and provides guidance on how to strengthen future applications. We encourage you to review this resource carefully, as it reflects the key elements we look for in strong proposals and addresses common weaknesses observed across applications.

- Tipsheet in English ([Word](#) / [PDF](#))



- Tipsheet in French ([Word](#) / [PDF](#))
- Tipsheet in Spanish ([Word](#) / [PDF](#))

For this Call for Proposals, these were the common weaknesses and areas of improvement:

- **Clearer Demonstration of EVAW/G Expertise and Organizational Capacity:** Highlight the organization's expertise in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW/G) and demonstrate its capacity to implement the project effectively.
- **Stronger Alignment with UN Trust Fund Priorities:** Ensure that the project aligns with the priorities of the UN Trust Fund. Clearly articulate how the project supports these priorities.
- **Robust Intersectional Approaches with Focus on Marginalized Groups:** Incorporate intersectional approaches to address the diverse needs of different groups, considering factors such as gender, race, and socioeconomic status. Clearly explain how the project will address the specific needs of marginalized groups and ensure their inclusion in the project activities.
- **Improved Project Design and Feasibility:** Enhance the overall project design and feasibility. Ensure that the project is well-planned, realistic, and achievable within the given timeframe and resources.
- **Strong Problem Analysis and Project Rationale:** Ensure that the problem analysis is backed by relevant data and evidence. Clearly articulate the needs of the beneficiaries and how the project will address these needs.
- **Clear Project Goals, Results, and Activities:** Clearly define the project goals, expected results, and activities. Ensure that they are coherent and aligned with the identified context, challenges, and needs.
- **Well-Defined Partnership Strategies:** Develop a clear and detailed partnership strategy. Specify the roles and contributions of each partner and how they will collaborate to achieve the project goals.
- **Comprehensive Ethical and Safety Measures:** Include detailed ethical and safety measures in the proposal. Ensure that there are clear protocols to protect the safety, dignity, and well-being of all project participants.
- **Realistic Budget with Clear Justification:** Ensure that the budget is realistic and aligned with the project activities. Provide clear justification for each budget category and ensure that costs are reasonable and necessary.



7. My application was not selected. Can I apply again in the next Call for Proposals, and can I use the same proposal?

Absolutely! As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, you are encouraged to apply in the next Call for Proposals.

Regarding reusing your proposal, while you can certainly build upon your previous application, it's important to note that each Call for Proposals may have different focus areas, priorities, or requirements. We recommend reviewing the next Call for Proposals carefully and adapting your proposal to ensure it aligns with any new or updated guidelines.

8. My application was not selected, where can I get access to information about other sources of funding?

The UN Trust Fund has prepared an Alternative Sources of Funding list, available in:

- English ([Excel](#) / [PDF](#))
- French ([Excel](#) / [PDF](#))
- Spanish ([Excel](#) / [PDF](#))

9. Were former grantees eligible?

In the last Call for Proposals, former grantees were eligible to apply. Current grantees and implementing partners under existing grants were not eligible to apply. Please note that this policy may change in future funding cycles, so we recommend checking the eligibility criteria for each new Call for Proposals.

10. What are the chances of getting a grant? Should I keep applying?

The UN Trust Fund receives many more high-quality applications than we can fund. For the 2023 Call for Proposals, we received 2,889 applications and were able to fund 28 projects in Cycle 27 (2024). While the process is highly competitive, we strongly encourage eligible organizations to continue applying. Each funding cycle brings new opportunities, and persistence often pays off. Many successful grantees applied multiple times before receiving funding.

11. What is the average grant size for the 2024 grantees (not including Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action to End Violence Against Women (ACT) grantee partners)?

Grant sizes vary between USD 195,100 to USD 1,000,000.



The average grant size is approximately USD 485,000 for four-year projects, with 10 small grants between USD 150,000 and USD 250,000. 50% of the organizations selected are small organizations (average budget under USD 200,000), 68% are women's rights organizations and 100% are women-led.

12. What were the key criteria used to evaluate the proposals?

The UN Trust Fund evaluated proposals based on several overarching criteria, considering the profile and capacity of the organizations (including expertise in ending violence against women and girls) as well as the quality of their proposed projects. The evaluation was based on responses to the questions in the project concept form and aligned with the priorities outlined in the Call for Proposals, including a clear focus on addressing violence against marginalized women and girls and/or women and girls affected by crisis. Throughout the evaluation process, there was a strong emphasis on prioritizing women's rights organizations, women-led, constituent-led, and small organizations, with the goal of ensuring that at least half of the selected proposals originated from these groups.

We recognize that small organizations often operate with limited resources and may not have the same technical proposal writing capabilities as larger counterparts. With this in mind, we have exercised leniency in scoring applications from small organizations, especially for those applying for small grants, to ensure that their unique challenges and limitations are fairly considered during the evaluation process. Our goal is to provide a fair and supportive process, acknowledging the specific circumstances faced by smaller organizations.

Key criteria included:

- Organizational profile, capacity and expertise
- Project relevance and design
- Safety and ethics
- Potential for impact
- Inclusivity and Intersectionality
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Budget appropriateness

13. What did the overall selection process look like?

The selection process involved rigorous external evaluation. Each successful application was scored across three rounds, each time by two external people (external experts, UN agency representatives, civil society representatives), using standard criteria, in order to ensure a fair review process.

The selection process under the 2023 Call for Proposals followed the below steps:



- **Eligibility**

An initial screening was conducted on the 2,889 applications received. Of these, 797 applications (28%) were disqualified for not meeting the basic eligibility criteria outlined in the 2023 Call for Proposals. This left a total of 2,092 eligible applications requesting USD 1.3 billion.

- **First Round of Scoring by Independent violence against women and girls (VAW/G) Experts**

The 2,092 eligible applications were reviewed by 118 external EAW experts. Each application was assessed by two independent experts using a standardized appraisal form. The screening process looked at top applications per region, ensured prioritization of small, women-led, constituent-led and women's right organizations. After this first round, the top-ranking 174 applications requesting USD 101 million moved onto the next round.

- **Second Round of Scoring by R-PACs**

The eight Regional Programme Advisory Committees (R-PACs), comprising UN agency representatives, CSO representatives, and independent experts, scored the 174 shortlisted applications using a standardized appraisal form. Each application was scored by two people. Eight Regional Programme Advisory Committees (R-PACs) meetings were organized, where each proposal was discussed. As a result of the eight R-PAC meetings, 107 applications, totaling USD 65.6 million, were shortlisted for the Global Inter-Agency PAC (G-PAC).

- **Third Round of Scoring by G-PACs**

The G-PAC, made up of 18 members from UN agencies, women's rights organizations, and external EAW experts, scored the 107 shortlisted applications using a standardized appraisal form, with each application reviewed by two individuals. This process resulted in the selection of 28 organizations for Cycle 27 (USD 13.6 million). Cycle 28 (2025) grantees will be announced publicly in 2025.

14. Are there any plans to simplify the application process for small organizations?

We continually review our application process to make our process more accessible, including for small organizations, in line with the priorities of our [2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#). While we currently use the same application process for all organizations, we do consider the different capacities of small and large organizations during our technical review.

15. How does the UN Trust Fund work to improve its application and selection processes?

The UN Trust Fund is committed to continuously improving our processes to better serve applicants and grantees. We actively seek feedback from applicants through surveys that provide valuable insights into the applicant experience, helping us identify areas for improvement. The results of these surveys directly inform our planning for future Call for Proposals cycles. For example, based on previous



feedback, we've made improvements such as offering live webinars and informational sessions and expanding our FAQ section to address common applicant questions.

We also analyze application trends and grantee feedback to refine our priorities and processes. Your participation in these surveys is crucial in helping us make the application process more accessible and user-friendly while maintaining the rigor necessary for responsible grantmaking.

We appreciate all feedback and suggestions from applicants, whether successful or not, as it helps us better serve the global community working to end violence against women and girls. Thank you for your participation in this important process.

16. Will there be future funding opportunities from the UN Trust Fund for civil society organizations in our field?

Our next Call for Proposals will be launched in the second part of 2025. We encourage you to subscribe to our [newsletter](#), follow us on social media (on [X/Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)) and check [our website](#) regularly for updates.

17. Can we receive funding for our project without responding to a Call for Proposals?

No, grants are allocated through a fair, competitive and rigorous review process, and only applications to the Call for Proposals can be considered.

18. Where can I find the list of current and past funded projects?

The list of current and past funded projects can be found on our [website](#). Infographics with world map filters are also available on the [Grants Management System website](#).

19. Is the UN Trust Fund prioritizing women experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination (such as transgender women, women with disabilities, sex workers, indigenous women, or afro-descendant women) in its strategic grant-making processes to end violence against women and girls?

Yes, the UN Trust Fund recognizes and provides support to women and girls in all their diversity as well as to gender diverse persons and their organizations. The UN Trust Fund prioritizes funding to applications seeking to address violence against most marginalized women and girls, in line with its [2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#). A majority of applications received propose to work with and for communities with marginalized populations and Cycle 27 partners all are working with diverse populations including women with disabilities, indigenous women, sex workers, and more.