

UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

2025 Call for Proposals: Resourcing Resilience - Investing in Civil Society Leadership to End Violence against Women

Call Opens:

18 September 2025

Deadline for Submissions:

19 November 2025

Online Application System:

<https://grants.untf.unwomen.org/>

WHY NOW: Civil society organizations on the frontlines of ending violence against women and girls are facing intense pressure: shrinking civil space, rising resistance and widening funding gaps. At the same time, demand for life-saving services and prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG) is greater than ever. This Call for Proposals responds to the urgent need for long-term, flexible funding and wraparound support that enables civil society and women's organisations to remain resilient and lead change.

WHAT: The purpose of this Call for Proposals is to provide four-year grants - including core and flexible funds - to civil society organizations working to address violence against women and girls, especially those servicing structurally marginalised groups¹. This Call seeks to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of frontline organizations so they can deliver critical, essential services, advance prevention and drive transformative change, even in the face of growing challenges.

The UN Trust Fund welcomes proposals that contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

1. Improving access for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe, adequate and quality multisectoral services
2. Improving prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes
3. Increasing effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G

WHERE: 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.

WHO: Civil society organizations with priority to:

- Women's and girls' rights organizations
- Women-led organizations
- Constituent-led organizations
- Small organizations²

GRANT LENGTH: All grants will be for four years.

HOW MUCH: Between **US \$150,000** and **US \$800,000**.

- Small organizations can allocate up to 18% of the grant to flexible funding, in addition to contingency and indirect costs
- Large organizations can allocate up to 12% of the grant to flexible funding, in addition to contingency and indirect costs

HOW TO APPLY: Complete and submit your Concept Note application in English, French, or Spanish through the UN Trust Fund's Online Grants Management System: <https://grants.untf.unwomen.org/>.

WHEN TO APPLY: 18 September through 19 November 2025.

For more details, please read the full Call for Proposals below.

¹ Structurally marginalized women and girls include but are not limited to adolescent girls, older women, women with disabilities, forcibly displaced women and girls, Indigenous women, LGBTIQ+ people, among others.

² To be considered a "small organization", the organization's annual organizational budget must have been lower than US\$ 200,000 (on average) in the last three years.

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

For nearly 30 years, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls (UN Trust Fund) has been the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated to ending all forms of violence against women and girls³. Administered by UN Women on behalf of the United Nations system, the UN Trust Fund has supported 725 initiatives across 140 countries and territories, providing a total of USD 253 million in grants to prevent and end violence against women and girls.⁴

The UN Trust Fund is more than just a donor. It also plays a key role in supporting and amplifying the work of civil society to end violence against women and girls around the world. Rooted in feminist values and guided by the knowledge and experience of civil society, the UN Trust Fund supports local, inclusive, and sustainable initiatives.

Through long-term, flexible, and core funding, technical support, advocacy, capacity development, and connections to a global movement, the UN Trust Fund enables organizations to drive meaningful and lasting change. Its support has reached millions of women and girls and contributed to stronger laws, improved services, and changes in social attitudes and behaviors.

2. The 2025 ‘Resourcing Resilience’ Call for Proposals: Investing in Civil Society Leadership to End Violence against Women and Girls

2.1 Context and rationale

Violence against women and girls⁵ remains the most widespread human rights violation worldwide, with 1 in 3 women experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.⁶ Deep-rooted gender inequality, harmful social norms, and intersecting forms of discrimination make progress on ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) extremely challenging. New and fast-evolving forms of technology-facilitated violence are also expanding, disproportionately affecting structurally marginalized women and girls, and deepening existing inequalities. Structurally marginalized women and girls, including but not limited to adolescent girls, older women, women with disabilities, refugees, Indigenous women, LGBTIQ+ people and those affected by conflict, displacement and climate crises, face higher risks of violence and greater barriers in accessing services, support, and justice.

At the same time, civil society organizations at the forefront of efforts to prevent and respond to this violence are facing chronic underfunding and growing resistance globally. As evidenced by the UN Trust Fund’s recent report, [Beyond Backlash](#)⁷, over 70% of its grantee partners experienced backlash in 2024. This backlash takes many forms: defunding for critical services, such as shelters; rollbacks on EVAWG laws and policies; symbolic policy gestures that fail to deliver real change; or outright denial that violence against women and girls exists. In some contexts, organizations are being deregistered, and in extreme cases, feminist activists and organizations report risks of intimidation, surveillance, and smear campaigns. The

³ 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.

⁴ <https://untf.unwomen.org/en>

⁵ UN Women traditionally uses the term ‘violence against women’ primarily in its policy and advocacy work, defined as ‘violence which is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately’. This includes violence faced by women who have actual or perceived sexual and/or romantic relations with other women, including lesbian and bisexual women, transgender women and women who are otherwise perceived as defying sexual or gender norms.

⁶ 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.](#)

⁷ Erikson, Abigail and Majumdar, Shruti (2025): “[Beyond Backlash: Advancing Movements to End Violence against Women; Insights from Grantee Partners of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#)”. UN Women, New York

current wave of resistance has serious consequences. It not only slows progress toward justice and limits support for survivors but also places organizations and movements - especially those working with and for structurally marginalized groups - to operate under growing pressure and restrictions. At the same time, these dynamics increase the risks of violence for women and girls, particularly those most often left behind.

Funding cuts are affecting civil society organizations across all contexts, with particularly severe consequences for those working in humanitarian settings, where reduced resources are undermining essential services and life-saving protection for women and girls.

Yet, civil society and women's organizations are actively adapting, resisting, and continuing to serve their communities, often at great personal and professional cost. They continue to build coalitions, adapt strategies, ensure safety, and develop alternative ways to provide services.

In this context, the UN Trust Fund 'Resourcing Resilience' Call for Proposals is launched at a critical moment. The UN Trust Fund recognizes the urgent need for solidarity, long-term and flexible support, and collective action to protect women's organizations and sustain progress towards ending violence against all women and girls.

2.2 What We Fund: Strategic Outcome Areas and Focus

In line with its Strategic Plan 2021–2025⁸ and the principle of leaving no one behind, the UN Trust Fund will support initiatives that address violence against structurally marginalized women and girls and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. All applicants must demonstrate how their work aligns with [UN Women's ten Programming Principles](#) on ending violence against women and girls.⁹

The UN Trust Fund welcomes proposals that contribute to one or more of these outcome areas:

1. **Improving access** for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services;
2. **Improving prevention** of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes; and
3. **Increasing effectiveness of legislation**, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G.

This Call for Proposals will prioritize interventions that address violence against structurally marginalized women and girls, particularly in contexts where progress on gender equality faces setbacks and growing restraint. Through this funding, the UN Trust Fund aims to enable civil society organizations to sustain and strengthen their work in challenging environments. It will support efforts to maintain essential services, prevent VAWG, adapt strategies in response to changing contexts, and build long-term resilience. In doing so, the UN Trust Fund seeks to ensure that organizations can advance efforts to address VAWG, reaching those most at risk, and promote inclusive responses to violence - even amid threats, pressure, or shrinking civic space.

⁸ UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Strategic Plan 2021-2025. <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/06/strategic-plan-2021-2025>

⁹ UN Women EAWP Programming Principles: <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/14-programming-essentials-monitoring-evaluation.html>. More information on the ten Programming Principles on ending VAW/G can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and tips for application writing.

2.3 Key Guiding Elements

Interventions should respond to the lived realities of structurally marginalized women and girls and those facing intersecting forms of discrimination. This means recognizing how factors like race, age, religion, disability, displacement, sexual orientation, or economic status combine with gender inequality to increase the risk of violence and limit access to protection and support in the context of backlash.

Applications must clearly demonstrate how the proposed intervention responds to the specific context in which the organization works, including any challenges or constraints that affect efforts to end violence against structurally marginalized women and girls.

Applicants are encouraged to reflect on how shifting social, political, or institutional dynamics - such as shrinking civic space, discriminatory narratives, or opposition to gender equality - are influencing their work and the communities they support. Interventions and strategies should be grounded in the organization's experience, approach, and knowledge of the context.

In your application, it is crucial to clearly describe:

- **The context and geographical areas** where your work will take place, including how backlash is affecting efforts to prevent and respond to violence against structurally marginalized women and girls
- **The forms of violence you aim to address and the specific needs of the structurally marginalized women and girls** you plan to work with and support
- **The intervention and strategies** you plan to use to bring about positive change in the lives of the structurally marginalized women and girls you aim to support, and how these are grounded in the specific context and needs of those you aim to support, and responsive to evolving challenges.
- **Why your organization is well-placed** to respond in support of efforts to end violence against structurally marginalized women and girls, based on your experience and expertise in EAWG, partnerships and relationships, and understanding of the local context.

More information can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and tips for application writing.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The UN Trust Fund continuously learns from its grantee partners and applicants, listening closely to feedback and adapting its processes to remain transparent, equitable, and responsive. The changes in this Call reflect lessons from past rounds, shifts in the global funding landscape, and the need to better support CSOs working in increasingly challenging contexts.

- **Streamlined grantmaking model:** One Global Call for two funding cohorts (2026 and 2027), designed to balance demand with available funding, and avoid burdening CSOs with repeated application processes.
- **Adjusted grant ceiling:** Maximum grant size is set at USD 800,000 to enable more organizations to be supported with long-term, flexible four-year funding.
- **Expanded flexible funding:** All organizations will now receive flexible, core funding through a simplified budget structure with a single flexible funding line — up to 18% for small organizations and 12% for large organizations. This funding can support staffing, self and collective care, capacity development, security, accessibility, operations, fundraising, and other organizational priorities. This is in addition to contingency and indirect costs.

- **Greater access for small organization:** The dedicated “small grants” ceiling has been lifted, allowing all small organizations to receive additional flexible funding, regardless of the grant amount requested (previously limited to “small grants” of up to USD 250,000).
- **Clearer eligibility and guidance:** Additional tools provided to help applicants navigate requirements and strengthen the quality of submissions.
- **Revised launch timeline:** Mid-September launch, based on applicant feedback, keeping the two-month application window but ensuring organizations no longer have to work over the end of year and global campaign period (including the 16 Days of Activism) to meet the deadline.

3. Funding Parameters: Amounts, Types of Organizations & Partnerships

3.1 Grant amounts and funding available

All selected organizations will receive funding for a duration of four years, for a grant amount between USD \$150,000 and USD \$800,000.¹⁰

The UN Trust Fund expects to allocate up to USD \$20 million through this Call for Proposals across two cohorts of grantee-partners, to be awarded in 2026 and 2027 respectively. This approach aims to reduce unnecessary re-application efforts for civil society organizations while ensuring continuity of annual grant-making. The UN Trust Fund remains firmly committed to mobilizing annual resources to sustain and expand support for critical efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, and will share information on future Calls for Proposals on an annual basis.

3.2 Absorption Capacity

Organizations should request a grant amount that aligns with their operation and absorptive capacity to manage and implement funds effectively. **An organization should not request a grant amount more than 3 times its average organizational budget** for the past 3 years. This does not include the organizational budget of co-implementing partners. For example, if your organizational budget is US \$100,000 on average over the last 3 years, you should not request more than US \$300,000 for the 4-year grant. The UN Trust Fund will assess absorptive capacity against the certified financial reports you are requested to submit as well as information pertaining to your annual organizational budget submitted as part of the application.

3.3 Types of Organizations

3.3.1 TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS PRIORITIZED

The UN Trust Fund will prioritize applications from the following organizations:

- **Women’s rights organizations (WRO).** To be considered a “women’s rights organization”, the applicant must demonstrate its core work is in the field of women’s rights, gender equality, the elimination of violence against women

¹⁰ The reduction of the grant ceiling to USD \$ 800,000 reflects the UN Trust Fund’s commitment to reaching more organizations, particularly in the context of global funding cuts. By setting a lower ceiling, the UN Trust Fund can spread available resources to a larger number of organizations, while continuing to provide long-term and flexible support over four years.

and/or girls, 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.

- **Girls' rights organizations.** To be considered a "**girls' rights organization**" the applicant must demonstrate that its core work focuses on advancing the rights of girls, including but not limited to gender equality, the elimination of violence against girls, and the promotion of their empowerment, protection, and participation. The organization's official mission and vision statements must explicitly reflect its commitment to defending and promoting the rights of girls as central to its mandate.
- **Women-led organizations.** To be considered a "**women-led organization**", the applicant must demonstrate it is governed and led by women. This requires evidence that a minimum of 51 per cent of **leadership positions** across various decision-making levels, including in management, senior management and board levels are held by women.
- **Organizations led by and for marginalized women and girls (constituent-led)**¹¹. To be considered a constituent-led organization, the applicant must be led by marginalized women and girls, with core work focused on addressing their specific needs and informed by their priorities.
- **Small organizations.** To be considered a "small organization", the organization's annual organizational budget must have been lower than US\$ 200,000 (on average) in the last three years.
- **Organizations that are first time recipients of a UN Trust Fund grant**¹². This reflects the UN Trust Fund's commitment to expanding access, supporting under-resourced and under-represented organizations.

We require supporting documents (constitutions, by-laws, official missions, vision statements, organigrammes, certified financial statements) as part of the application to help determine whether an organization is a women's rights, a women-led, a constituent-led organization and/or a small organization.

Note for **International non-government organizations (INGOs)**: INGOs are eligible to apply but must clearly demonstrate their added value and a strong commitment to equitable partnerships with local women's rights or civil society organizations. Applications must show how the INGO will support and strengthen local capacity, ensure shared decision-making, and direct most resources to country-level work in support of the communities served. INGOs should also explain why their involvement is necessary, especially in contexts where local organizations face legal or operational barriers to direct funding.

Note for **Previous UN Trust Fund Grantees**: Organizations that have previously received a UN Trust Fund grant are eligible to apply and are encouraged to highlight previous lessons learned, demonstrate how the proposed initiative builds on and strengthens the results of earlier work, and how the new intervention adds value or introduces innovation. Previous grantees are also encouraged to show how they will deepen impact, reach underserved groups, and address any past challenges, while responding to the specific context of this Call.

¹¹ Examples include organizations of women and girl survivors of violence, people with disabilities, Indigenous women, lesbian, bisexual and trans women (LBT), refugee-led or internally displaced people (IDP)-focused groups, and girl-led or girl-centered organizations. These organizations are particularly encouraged to apply.

¹² The UN Trust Fund strives for a balance between funding new partnerships and supporting former strong and successful partners. Previous grantees 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.

3.3.2 SMALL ORGANIZATIONS

To be considered a “small organization,” the applicant’s annual organizational budget¹³ must be less than US\$ 200,000 (on average) in the last three years (2022, 2023, 2024).

The UN Trust Fund acknowledges the vital role small civil society organizations play in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, particularly in reaching structurally marginalized groups through context-specific, community-led approaches. Despite their proven impact, small organizations remain underfunded and often lack the resources needed to strengthen their resilience, sustainability, and, if desired, growth.

To address these gaps, the UN Trust Fund is prioritizing applications from small organizations and offering additional core and flexible funding to all selected small organizations, regardless of the amount requested, up to 18% of the total grant amount under a dedicated ‘flexible funding’ budget line. Small organizations may apply for any grant amount within the eligible range, based on their absorption capacity.¹⁴

3.3.3 LARGE ORGANIZATIONS

To be considered a “large organization,” the applicant’s annual organizational budget must be equal to or greater than US\$ 200,000 (on average) in the past three years (2022, 2023, 2024).

The UN Trust Fund recognizes that organizations of all sizes benefit from flexible funding to strengthen their resilience, sustain their work, and adapt to challenges, and therefore encourages large organizations to thoughtfully include such needs in their proposals. They may request core and flexible funding up to 12% of the total grant amount under the dedicated ‘flexible funding’ budget line.

3.4 Single and Multi-Country Proposals

Both single-country and multi-country proposals are welcome under this Call for Proposals. Multi-country can cover up to ten eligible countries, with a maximum of four co-implementing partners receiving a portion of the funding. These proposals must go beyond implementing separate activities in different countries and instead aim to create shared impact on EVAWG through cross-country, sub-regional, regional, or cross-regional collaboration. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the added value of a multi-country approach by showing how the initiative creates meaningful linkages and synergies across countries. This may include:

- Strengthening feminist movements across countries or at the sub-regional, regional or cross-regional level
- Developing knowledge, tools, or resources that can be adapted and used in multiple countries for broader impact
- Building the capacities of women’s rights groups and civil society organizations across different countries
- Mobilizing allies and stakeholders with cross-border relevance
- Facilitating knowledge sharing and joint advocacy among partners working in different countries

¹³ The organizational budget refers to the applicant organization’s total annual budget, including all income and expenses related to running the organization, regardless of the funding source.

¹⁴ The shift from a small grant to a small organization modality ensures that all small organizations - regardless of the grant amount requested - receive additional core and flexible funding to strengthen their resilience. This reflects the UN Trust Fund’s commitment to meeting the unique needs of small organizations.

3.5 Partnerships

Partnerships with smaller, local and grassroots women's and girls' rights organizations - whether as supporting partners or co-implementing partners - are encouraged. The UN Trust Fund recognizes the vital role these organizations play in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, particularly in reaching underserved communities and sustaining feminist movements. Partnerships with these organizations should be **equitable and mutually beneficial**, with fair access to resources, shared decision-making, and meaningful participation throughout all phases of the initiative - including design, implementation, monitoring, and learning.

The organization applying as **the lead applicant** may collaborate with **co-implementing partners** to complement its expertise and outreach capacity, and to strengthen the capacities of local and grassroots women's and girls' rights organizations. Co-implementing partners are civil society organizations that directly carry out activities and receive a portion of the grant funding.

- A lead applicant may include up to **four co-implementing partners** in the application, that will receive a portion of the requested funding.
- In all cases, the lead applicant organization will be accountable for managing the grant award in its entirety.
- The lead applicant 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 lead applicant 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.

Please note that having co-implementing partners is not a requirement.

Supporting partners, in contrast, do not receive direct funding or implement activities. These partners may support the initiative through technical expertise, advocacy, coordination, or other forms of collaboration. There is no limit to the number of such partners, and they may come from any sector, not only civil society.

INVESTING IN ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE THROUGH CORE, FLEXIBLE AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING

In the context of civil society organizations and women's rights organizations working to end violence against women and girls, organizational resilience is the power (ability, capacity) of civil society organizations and women's rights organizations to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, adapt to, learn from, and thrive through crises, challenges and changing circumstances both internal and external and within a context of systemic discrimination against women, girls and groups facing structural inequality, and the organizations that represent them.

Organizational resilience is both a way of operating and a set of capacities, grounded in feminist values such as care, solidarity, and inclusivity. Resilient organizations stay focused on their purpose, even in the face of crises or change. More than just surviving crises, resilient organizations are able to evolve, sustain their work, and continue supporting the communities they serve. It is essential for maintaining essential services, advancing advocacy, and sustaining feminist movements over time.

Examples of activities that build organizational resilience include:

- Conducting **organizational assessments** to identify risks and areas for growth
- Developing **contingency or crisis response plans**
- Creating **mental health and self-care programmes** for staff and volunteers
- Strengthening **monitoring and learning systems** to adapt programming in real time
- Engaging in **peer exchange or regional solidarity networks** to share strategies and solutions

All applicants are encouraged to strengthen their organizational resilience and include these efforts in both their proposal design and budget. Small organizations can request up to 18% of the total grant amount under the flexible funding budget line, while large organizations can request up to 12% of the total grant amount.

The flexible funding budget line can be used to strengthen organizational resilience and may include costs related to personnel and coordination, partnership building, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, governance, systems, procedures and organizational development; general operating costs (rent, utilities); self and collective care (staff well-being and psychosocial support); capacity development, knowledge exchange and learning; innovation, adaptation, initiative development and fundraising; accessibility and inclusion; and safety and security measures, including data protection.

Important note: This flexible funding budget line is separate from, and in addition to, the standard 8% indirect costs (calculated on direct activity costs) all grantees can request. In addition, up to 1.5% of the total grant amount can be requested under the contingency budget line for unforeseen costs during project implementation.

4. Eligibility Requirements

Please refer to **Annex 1: Eligibility Checklist** to determine if your organization is eligible for a grant. Before applying, please check your eligibility using the online eligibility tool available [here](#). The lead applicant must meet all eligibility criteria in full; eligibility requirements cannot be met cumulatively or fulfilled through co-implementing partners.

4.1 Experience and expertise in implementing projects in the field of ending violence against women and girls

The UN Trust Fund will only accept applications from Civil Society Organizations with specialized knowledge, expertise, and a proven track record of working on eliminating violence against women and girls. Organizations are expected to have **at least five years of EVAWG programming experience**, in the last ten years, with a specific and primary focus on preventing and responding to violence against women and/or girls (except in the case of recently established, younger organizations). The organization must provide information on its technical expertise and experience in this field 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 EVAWG skillset. You are encouraged to submit organigrams, CVs, list of EVAWG projects implemented, information about EVAWG projects implemented (briefs, articles and/or evaluations) and reference letters to attest to your EVAWG experience.

4.2 Eligible Countries and Territories

The applicant must implement an initiative in 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.¹⁵ Multi-country proposals (covering up to ten eligible countries) are also eligible.

Africa							
Angola	Benin	Botswana	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cabo Verde	Cameroon	Central African Republic
Chad	Comoros	Congo	Cote d'Ivoire	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Djibouti	Equatorial Guinea	Eswatini
Eritrea	Ethiopia	Gabon	Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Kenya
Lesotho	Liberia	Madagascar	Malawi	Mali	Mauritania	Mauritius	Mozambique
Namibia	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda	Saint Helena	Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal	Sierra Leone
Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan	Sudan	Togo	Uganda	United Republic of Tanzania	Zambia
Zimbabwe							
Americas & the Caribbean							
Argentina	Belize	Bolivia	Brazil	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Dominica
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	El Salvador	Grenada	Guatemala	Guyana	Haiti	Honduras
Jamaica	Mexico	Montserrat	Nicaragua	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Venezuela					
Arab States & North Africa							
Algeria	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Occupied Palestinian Territory
Syrian Arab Republic	Tunisia	Yemen					

¹⁵ 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>

Asia & the Pacific

Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Cambodia	China	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Fiji	India
Indonesia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Kiribati	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Malaysia	Maldives	Republic of the Marshall Islands	Federated States of Micronesia
Mongolia	Myanmar	Nauru	Nepal	Niue	Pakistan	Palau	Papua New Guinea
Philippines	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Tokelau	Tonga
Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Viet Nam	Wallis and Futuna				

Europe & Central Asia

Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Georgia	Kazakhstan	Kosovo (UN Administered Territory Under UNSCR 1244)
Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Serbia	Tajikistan	Türkiye	Turkmenistan
Ukraine	Uzbekistan						

4.3 Legal status and registration (5 years)

The lead applicant must be **officially registered or have a legal basis/mandate** as an organization.*

Applications without clear proof of legal registration (or legal status) will be considered incomplete and removed from the review process.

The lead applicant needs to have been **legally registered for at least 5 years**. In exceptional circumstances, three years of registration history may be accepted with justification.

If the lead applicant is not legally registered in the country of implementation, it must submit a legal registration document of at least one of its co-implementing partner(s) that is registered in the country of implementation (in addition to its own legal status/registration document).

For multi-countries initiatives, you need to provide the legal registration documents of your co-implementing partners in the respective countries of implementation.

For proposals implemented in one country only, if the lead applicant is legally registered in the country of implementation, co-implementing partners are not required to be officially registered or have a legal basis/mandate as an organization. Organizations that are not officially registered or do not have a legal basis/mandate may still receive funding as co-implementing partners, provided they work with a lead applicant that meets all eligibility criteria.

*The UN Trust Fund recognizes that in certain humanitarian crises, emergency situations, or restrictive environments, organizations may face barriers to renewing or maintaining their legal registration. In such cases, the UN Trust Fund may apply flexibility around registration

requirements to ensure that essential voices are not excluded — for example, where an organization previously held valid registration but renewal has been delayed or denied. Such flexibility will be applied with care, ensuring both inclusion of critical voices and appropriate due diligence and accountability measures.

4.4 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 initiative. A clear internal control framework should be defined once implementation starts.

Certified Financial Statements of the Organization: The applicant must submit certified financial statements for three fiscal years (including 2022, 2023 and 2024).

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, as delegated to sign as the designated official of the organization. This may include an internally prepared document, such as an Excel sheet, as long as it is signed by the designated official authorized by the organization.

In line with UN Trust Fund operational and absorptive capacity guidelines and minimum grant amount of US\$ 150,000, organizations should have a minimum average organizational budget of US\$ 50,000 (using last 3-years average budget) to apply under this call for proposals.

4.5 Eligibility of Previous and existing UN Trust Fund grant recipients

UN Trust Fund grantees and their co-implementing partners (those who receive a portion of funds as part of a UN Trust Fund grant through a lead applicant) are only eligible if their previous grant has programmatically closed, meaning the initiative has ended by 19 November 2025, date of closure of the Call for Proposals.

4.6 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 initiative 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.

4.7 Ineligible Applicants

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

Only one application per organization will be accepted.¹⁶ Multiple applications from the same organization (including independent chapters and national offices and affiliates of the same INGO) or for the same proposal will be automatically disqualified.

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

¹⁶ An organization may not submit more than one application either in the capacity of the applicant organization or of a co-implementing partner, across all countries under this Call.

- 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 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
- UN Trust Fund grantees and co-implementing partners (those who are receiving a portion of funds as part of a UN Trust Fund grant) whose initiative has not been programmatically closed by the deadline for submission of 19 November 2025 (meaning the project has ended by 19 November 2025)

5. Application & Selection process

5.1 How to apply

Applicants are expected to submit proposals online in the form of a **Concept Note Application Form**. The online **application will be available between 18 September 2025 and 19 November 2025** at: <https://grants.untf.unwomen.org/>. Only applications submitted in the Online Grants Management platform using the Concept Note Application Form will be considered.

The **deadline for submission of the application is 19 November 2025, 2:00 pm (14h00) New York Time (EDT)**. We cannot consider applications received after the deadline.

Applications can be submitted in the following languages only: **English, French and Spanish**.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Applications that are predominantly written using AI without meaningful human input, contextual understanding, or alignment with the applicant organization's experience will be penalized. All content must accurately reflect the organization's own work, knowledge, and context. Misuse of AI and submission of unverified AI-generated content will result in disqualification.

You must **plan for and set aside enough time to upload documents in the online application system**. Applicants should not wait until the final days before the deadline to apply, as the online system may experience delays and technical issues. Submitting in the final days before the deadline may limit the UN Trust Fund's ability to provide support, due to the high volume of queries received during that time.

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.

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

In line with UN Trust Fund operating procedures, and to safeguard the transparency of the Call for Proposals processes, all queries must be addressed to untfqms@unwomen.org. Please note that due to the high volume of applications, we unfortunately cannot respond individually to those not selected for further consideration.

5.2 Support available

For any question and technical problems with the online application, please contact the UN Trust Fund Secretariat by email at untfgms@unwomen.org.

Live Information and Grant Writing sessions with Q&A for applicants will be organized in English, French and Spanish across different time zones. Sessions will be recorded, shared with registered applicants and uploaded on the UN Trust Fund website. The content of the sessions will be the same across language, date, and time. To attend a session, please register using the specific link.

- Spanish, Monday 6 October, 10.30 am to 12.00 pm (New York time):
https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BT5_DCsSRNqfp3WdZXPq5w
- English, Tuesday 7 October, 8 am to 9.30 am (New York time):
https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HLJcsd9HTyqUEKk_IPV04A
- English, Wednesday 8 October, 3 am to 4.30 am (New York time):
https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7ANVM1mmQHwBREF9FSyeWg
- French, Wednesday 8 October, 8 am to 9.30 am (New York time):
https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tmeElv-ZRyCpYXO-Hg89jw
- English, Thursday 9 October, 8 am to 9.30 am (New York time):
https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WTZ3bcqvTC-penTROmFC4w

Additional information and guidance are available in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that includes tips for application writing.

5.3 What to submit

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

1. Legal Registration Documents
2. Certified Financial Statements (2022, 2023 and 2024)
3. Supporting evidence the organization is women's rights or girls' rights and/or women-led and/or constituent-led
4. Supporting evidence the organization has specialized knowledge, expertise, and a track record¹⁷ of working on the elimination of violence against women and/or girls
5. At least two references demonstrating a track record of working on ending violence against women and/or girls (VAW/G)

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.**

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.

5.4 Selection process

The UN Trust Fund awards grants through an open, independent and competitive process. All proposals are assessed based on the overall quality and results-oriented nature of the proposed initiative. Scoring follows standardized criteria, reflecting the priorities outlined in Section 2. In addition, the UN Trust Fund may give special consideration to organizations from underrepresented countries where no grants have been awarded in the past 10 years (see FAQ for details). The appraisal process involves independent experts and regional and global committees, with the participation of CSOs, external reviewers, academics and UN agencies. Our Global inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee will make the final funding decisions.

The first round involves the submission of a Concept Note and **only those successful in the first round are invited to submit a full proposal**. A subset of final applicants will be considered for grants.

Applicants will be informed of the selection outcome in the second quarter of 2026 to the email used to register in the GMS platform. The final grant award is conditional upon the timely submission of a satisfactory full proposal and the results of an organizational capacity assessment. All successful partner 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 proposal.

6. Resources

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

- **Beyond Backlash: Advancing Movements to End Violence against Women; Insights from Grantee Partners of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.** Erikson, Abigail and Majumdar, Shruti. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. 2025. <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/03/beyond-backlash-advancing-movements-to-end-violence-against-women>
- **Organizational Resilience: What does it mean and why is it important to civil society organizations working to end violence against women? Part one of a study of practice-based knowledge commissioned by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.** Wood, G. 2023. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. https://untf.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/2024_organizational_resilience_study_paper1_v08_compressed.pdf
- **Organizational Resilience Series Practice-based Evidence from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, 2 pager.** UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. 2024. https://untf.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/UNTF_SVRI_Organizational%20Resilience-2Pager%20_v04.pdf
- **Powerpoint EVAWG Programming Principles.** UN Trust Fund. 2023. https://untf.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/C26%20EVAWG%20Programming%20Principles_EN%20%281%29.pdf
- **UN Women ERAW Programming Principles:** <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/14-programming-essentials-monitoring-evaluation.html>
- **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>
- **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>
- **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)
- **‘A window of hope’: A synthesis review of the UN Trust Fund’s special window on ending violence against women and girls who are refugees and/or forcibly displaced,** Stern E. 2022. <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/07/a-window-of-hope-a-synthesis-review-of-the-un-trust-funds-special-window-on-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-who-are-refugees-and-or-forcibly-displaced>
- **“They call me by my name”: A Synthesis Review of the UN Trust Fund’s special funding window on ending violence against women and girls with disabilities** Palm, S. and Le Roux, E. 2023. <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/03/a-synthesis-review-of-the-un-trust-funds-special-funding-window-on-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-with-disabilities>



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