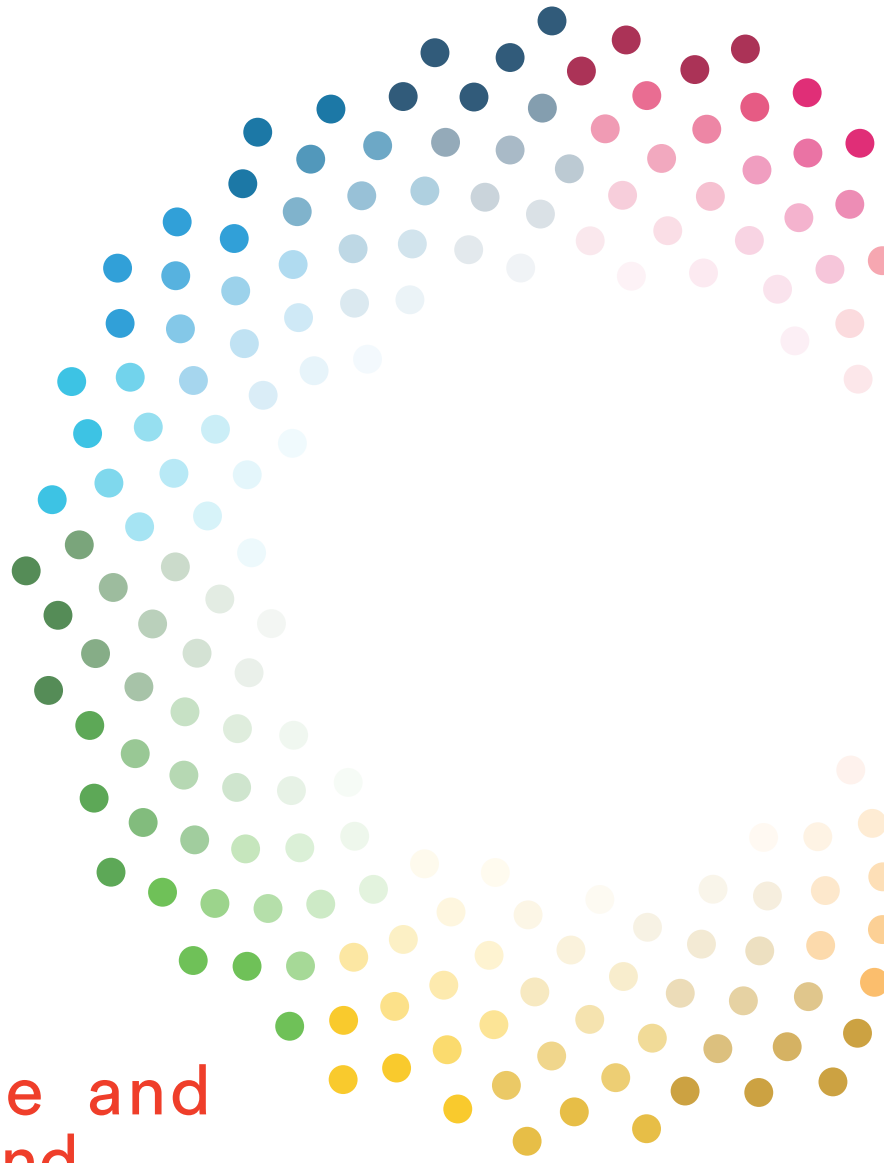


**Spotlight
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*



**Women's Peace and
Humanitarian Fund**

Annual Narrative Progress Report

01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title:

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative

Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s)

This programme covers 6 countries in Africa: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.

Recipient Organization(s)

1. UN Women (Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF))

Strategic Results¹(if applicable)

Country/Region: Niger**Priority area(s)/Strategic results:**

This programme will support projects from women led and women's rights civil society organizations in 6 countries in conflict or post-conflict situations in Africa to eliminate violence against women and girls, aligned with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Theory of Change and its associated Outcome and Output indicators, and aligned with WPHF's Outcome 5 (Protection).

Outcome 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organisations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) and Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document

<p>Programme Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per Spotlight Country/ Regional Programme Document:</p> <p>Spotlight funding²:</p> <p>TOTAL : USD 7,075,472</p>	<p>Partners</p> <p>- Civil society organizations</p> <p>Start Date³ July 17th, 2018</p> <p>End Date December 31st, 2022</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/ Mid-Term Evaluation</p> <p>Assessment/Review if applicable (please attach)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report The WPHF has undertaken a Midterm Review in 2019</p>	<p>Report submitted by: Head of WPHF Secretariat</p> <p>The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.</p>

² The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent; transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

Glossary

CFP	Call for Proposal
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
ME	Management Entity
NSC	National Steering Committee
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
UN	Sexual Gender Based Violence
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Executive Summary

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

The partnership targets specifically local, grassroots and community-based women's organizations, with grants ranging in size from USD 20,000 to USD 200,000.

In 2019, the partnership covered six countries in Africa: The D.R.C, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda, with a total amount of USD 7,075,472.00.

During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative and -WPHF partnership was formalized, and the funds transferred to the WPHF on 17 September 2019. Call for Proposals were launched in five countries, 526 proposals were received and reviewed, and 149 proposals were shortlisted after evaluations by the WPHF Secretariat. By December 2019, a final selection of eight projects was made by the Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committee in Liberia.

Overall, mobilization and coalition building between CSOs was encouraged and supported through the Call for Proposals, Open Day information meetings for potential applicants and through the selection of projects. All for proposals encouraged partnerships between CSOs, including between national, local and community-based organizations in order to favor coalition building at the country level. Platforms such as the Open Day meetings that were organized for prospective applicants to share information on the Call for Proposals served as opportunities for coalition building and networking amongst CSOs. In total, 159 CSOs participated in the meetings. Finally, women's rights movements were strengthened through the selection process, as the support of smaller organizations will allow, ultimately, to widen the space and the pool of civil society organizations working to end violence against women and girls in conflict affected and humanitarian settings.

The Spotlight Initiative's investments were leveraged to attract additional funding for local women's organizations in the DRC and Uganda. WPHF and the Spotlight Initiative have also jointly organized or participated in three events throughout the year, enhancing visibility of both funds and their mandates as well as highlighting

the added value of the partnership. Finally, with the support of Dell Technologies, WPHF has established the “WPHF Community”, a new online community of practice platform connecting all WPHF partners, including those supported through the partnership with Spotlight Initiative.

Summary and Context of the Action

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent, and devastating human rights violations in the world today and a serious public health issue. In Africa, the recurrence of conflicts and humanitarian crises has made women and girls even more exposed to high prevalence rates of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices. For example, a 2019 study found that conflict drives an overall rise in sexual violence against women in Africa, in part due to an “upward trend in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which consistently registers high levels of violence”¹.

2019 marks the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the mandate and Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Over the past decade, there has been a paradigm shift in the understanding of the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence and its impact on international peace and security, the response required to prevent such crimes and the multidimensional services needed by survivors².

As the 2018 annual report of the UN Secretary General on conflict related sexual violence notes, it remains difficult to ascertain the exact prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence owing to a range of challenges, including underreporting resulting from the intimidation and stigmatization of survivors³. Unfortunately, most survivors of conflict-related sexual violence face daunting social and structural reporting barriers that prevent their cases from being counted, much less addressed. Trends analysis of incidents in 2018 confirms that sexual violence continues as part of the broader strategy of conflict and that women and girls are significantly affected. It was used to displace communities, expel so-called “undesirable” groups and to seize contested land and other resources⁴. The report mentions specifically Mali, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, amongst other countries as well as a disturbing trend of sexual violence perpetuated against very young girls and boys⁵. Moving forward, preventing and addressing sexual violence requires the advancement of gender equality before, during and after conflict, including

⁵ Ibid.

by ensuring women's full and effective participation in political, economic and social life and ensuring accessible and responsive justice and security institutions⁶.

Several gender scholars observe that women mobilize during conflict as demographic imbalance opens space for women and as sexual violence and gender inequalities increase, women mobilize in response to this violence and around a broader range of women's issues with the goal of transforming sociopolitical conditions⁷. A case study of Colombia drawing on qualitative interviews illustrates the causal mechanism of collective threat framing in women's collective mobilization around conflict-related sexual violence⁸. At the same time, sexual and gender-based violence is widespread in emergency settings, yet protection from this form of violence remains severely underfunded, at less than **1 per cent of all funds** channeled to humanitarian assistance.

It is key to support community mobilization campaigns to help shift the stigma of sexual violence from the victims to the perpetrators, including by engaging with religious and traditional leaders, as well as empowering survivors of sexual violence through a comprehensive approach.

The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is a global pooled funding mechanism that aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership and empowerment in humanitarian response and peace and security settings. The WPHF supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women-led and women's rights organizations to prevent conflict and sexual and gender-based violence, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF aims to break silos between peace and security, humanitarian response, development and human rights to allow civil society organizations on the ground to put forward comprehensive and innovative solutions to the issues facing women in crises settings. As a mechanism supporting local, grassroots and community-based organizations in the most fragile countries around the world, WPHF places the leaving no one behind principle at the heart of its mandate and strategy.

Past experience of the WPHF in Africa has shown the added value of supporting civil society organizations in these contexts. Women-led and women's rights

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Kreft, *Responding to sexual violence: Women's mobilization in war*, Sage Journals, 2018.

⁸ Ibid.

organizations have demonstrated that they are strategically placed to break the silos between the peace and security, development, humanitarian and human rights continuum when the situation requires it, and to put forward and implement innovative and complex solutions to specific issues. Local, grassroots and community-based organizations are also strategically placed to reach out to the most vulnerable, and to build trust in contexts where other stakeholders cannot or will not do so. Past WPHF investments in Africa have also shown that when properly supported, women's organizations are able to reach significant impact, not only in their communities but at country level as a whole.

This partnership supports projects from women-led and women's rights civil society organizations in Africa aligned with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Theory of Change and WPHF's Outcome 5 and associated Outcome indicators.

During the reporting period, some delays were experienced in the selection process of proposals in several countries, partly linked to challenges in setting a date for the final selection process at the national level, due to the high-level nature of the Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committees and conflicting agendas of Co-Chairs. In other cases, political context at the national level (for example elections in Malawi) have slowed the process for the selection at the National Steering Committee level. Overall, the processes have seen progress in all countries with one exception, where the Call for proposals was not launched in 2019 due to challenges with country-level processes. The WPHF Secretariat and the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat worked closely during the reporting period to determine the most strategic approach to find an effective solution.

Programme Partnerships

Partnerships between UN-managed Funds

During the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) to ensure collaboration, complementarity and non-duplication, based on the comparative advantages of both Funds. More specifically, cooperation with the UN Trust Fund during the design phase of the calls as well as during the review phase of the proposals helped to prevent overlap and ensure complementarity between the Calls for proposals. During the design phase, it was decided that the WPHF would focus on grants between 20,000 USD and 200,000 USD, while the UN Trust Fund would prioritize grants over 200,000 USD in overlapping countries. During the selection phase, list of applicants was cross-checked against the UN Trust Fund's list. At the country level, Spotlight Initiative focal points have participated to the final selection of projects, providing information to ensure no duplications and complementarity of funds.

In addition, the WPHF continued to ensure complementarity and synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund through its Governance structure both at the Global and the Country levels⁹. The partnership between WPHF, the Spotlight Initiative and the Peacebuilding Fund was welcomed by the UN Secretary-General, who in his 2019 annual report on Women Peace and Security wrote:

“I welcome the dedicated funding [to the WPHF] from the Spotlight Initiative, the joint effort of the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate violence against women and girls, and I encourage the documenting of the synergies across the Fund, the Initiative and the Peacebuilding Fund and the recognition of the peace, humanitarian and development linkages”¹⁰.

During the proposal review phase, the WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat in recommending projects to be

⁹ The Peacebuilding Support Office is a member of the WPHF Global Funding Board. At Country level, synergies with PBF investments are ensured through National Steering Committees.

¹⁰ UN SG report on Women, peace and security, October 2019.

funded amongst the shortlisted proposals. The WPHF submitted the relevant documents for each of the five countries¹¹ to the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat for their clearance. This allowed Spotlight Initiative and WPHF Secretariat to put forward proposals that best fit the selection criteria, including those proposals that best responded to Spotlight's Outcome 6 and WPHF's Outcome 5, as well as identifying a balanced selection of grantees composed of larger national organizations and smaller local and grassroots civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations and those representing marginalized groups.

Finally, the WPHF Secretariat supported UN Women Country offices, as the Management Entities for civil society organizations, in preparing the National Steering Committees and processing the transfer of funds for selected organizations.

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

Partnerships through WPHF decision-making bodies

The general oversight of WPHF is provided by a Global Funding Board composed of UN entities, Member States and international Civil Society Organizations.

At country level, a NSC ensures oversight of the allocation and project selection, seeking to engage several actors in the decision-making process to ensure ownership at the national level on the final selection of grantees, as well as to leverage their expertise and knowledge of the context, ensure

¹¹ With the exception of Mali where the Call for proposals has not yet been launched.

greater coordination and avoid duplication with other funding streams (including other streams from Spotlight Initiative). While the technical review and the scoring of all proposals is conducted by the WPHF Secretariat, final endorsement is made by the NSC at country level. A representative of the European Union country delegation is included in the membership of the NSC and takes part in the decision making for the final selection.

The WPHF NSCs are made of representatives from the Government, civil society, the UN and the donor community. In most cases¹², the NSCs are co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and a representative of the Government. WPHF, being a new generation Fund that promotes and implements stronger UN coordination, uses existing structures at country level when possible and efficient, rather than establishing new ones.

In regard to the partnership between WPHF and Spotlight Initiative, WPHF has used Spotlight Initiative's National Steering Committees when possible and where WPHF does not already operate through a different structure. The final decision on which National Steering Committee to be used was made jointly by both Secretariats.

- In Liberia, Malawi and Nigeria, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSCs, which includes the EU delegation, for final endorsement.
- In the DRC, WPHF is using its own NSC, which was already established prior to this partnership. In Uganda, it was decided to create and use the WPHF's NSC. The EU Delegation was invited to participate in the WPHF's NSCs.

Partnership with Civil Society

As a Fund working in crisis settings, supporting local, grassroots and community-based civil society organizations, WPHF reaches groups of marginalized women and girls living in poverty, including rural women and girls. Discrimination and violence against women and girls are particularly pronounced in conflict and humanitarian settings.

The leaving no one behind principle is at the heart of the WPHF's mandate and strategy. Project proposals are reviewed and selected taking into account target groups to work with women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of

¹² On a case by case basis, the NSC is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator only, if the context does not permit another way forward or puts at risks civil society organizations.

discrimination, and support women living in poverty, women and girl refugees, women and girls living with HIV, indigenous groups and women from ethnic minorities within the context of ethnic tensions, and women with disabilities.



In addition, civil society is not considered as only an implementing partner for WPHF, but also a decision maker in both its Global Funding Board and its National Steering Committees. Similarly, women's funds and civil society organizations were extensively consulted during the design phase of the Call for Proposals through several meetings organized by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat.



Partnership with the Private Sector

The WPHF established a partnership with Dell Technologies to develop the WPHF Community (WPHF-C), which is a new digital community of practice platform and

knowledge hub that connects all WPHF partners, including those supported through the partnership with Spotlight Initiative.

Results

The Overarching Narrative: Capturing Broader Transformation

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

The WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and UN Women as the Management Entity for civil society organizations at country level towards the launch and selection process to support local civil society organizations around Outcome 5 of WPHF and Outcome Area 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change¹³ and its associated Output indicators:

Spotlight Initiative Outcome 6: Women's Movement

Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including

¹³ See Spotlight Initiative Terms of Reference 2017-2023, Annex 1 Description of Actions pp 21-39; <http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/21022>

those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalisation, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and SGBV.

This Outcome is based on the assumption that if (1) the knowledge, expertise and capacities of human/women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and civil society organisations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (further as 'CSOs and movements') is drawn upon and strengthened, and (2) the space for local and national CSOs and movements' expression and activity is free and conducive to their work, and (3) multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks are established at local and national levels based on shared understanding of 'leading change on EVAWG' with CSOs and movements, then (4) CSOs and movements will be able to influence, sustain, and advance progress on GEWE and ending SGBV policies and promote programmes that respond to the needs of all women and girls, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, because (5) the activism of CSOs and movements from local and national levels representing various generations is a crucial driver of progress on efforts to end SGBV in a joint as well as individual manner.

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

Prevention includes putting in place operational mechanisms and structures that strengthen the physical security and safety for women and girls. This covers both UN peacekeepers and national security forces. It also includes strengthening the capacity of the gender machineries and women's organizations to identify and report on sexual and gender-based violence, including in contexts of violent extremism. Access to services includes access to comprehensive redress, including justice, appropriate health and psycho-social support services. Protection of women and girls will also require that international, national and non-state actors are responsive and held to account for any violations of the rights of women and girls in line with international standards.

During the reporting period, mobilization and coalition building between CSOs were encouraged and supported through the Call for Proposals, Open day meetings and the selection of projects.

- Call for proposals encouraged partnerships between CSOs, including between national, local and community-based organizations in order to

favorize coalition building at the country level.

- Platforms such as the open days meetings (see below) that were organized for prospective applicants to share information on the Call for Proposals served as opportunities for coalition building and networking amongst CSOs. In total, 159 CSOs participated in the meetings.
- Women's rights movements were strengthened through the selection process. The WPHF Secretariat recommended smaller organizations and consortium of organizations for selection, as a way to widen support to and space for women's organizations and women's groups including in remote areas. Once selected, these organizations will be connected amongst each other and to larger national organizations under the country allocation, which will strengthen movement building.

During the reporting period, calls for proposals (CFPs) were launched for four weeks in five out of the six partnership countries¹⁴. All applicants were expected to submit proposals that contribute to Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Results Framework and WPHF's Outcome 5; and report to the WPHF against both outcomes.

Open Days meetings were organized at country level by UN Women Country Offices with the support of the WPHF Secretariat. A total of 159 representatives from civil society organizations attended the Open days sessions organized in four countries (Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria and Liberia) – where prospective applicants were able to ask questions about the application process and the template. During the in-person meetings (see photos below), potential CSO applicants strengthened their capacity in proposal writing. This contributed to better quality proposals, more mobilization for applications as well as networking amongst CSOs present at the meeting. Coalitions between CSOs were encouraged for project proposals.

From the five countries, 526 proposals were received and reviewed against the criteria for longlisting and the evaluation sheets for the shortlisting, which resulted in 149 shortlisted proposals by the WPHF Secretariat. The Call for Proposals successfully reached women-led and women's rights local organizations, including small organizations and organizations which focus on working with marginalized groups. Recommendations amongst the shortlisted proposals were shared with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat for

¹⁴ Mali is still pending – see the challenges section.

clearance before sending all documents to the UN Women Country office for national-level selection through the National Steering Committees. During the reporting period, the final selection of projects was approved by the National Steering Committee in Liberia with a total of eight projects for implementation (see Annex C and Box 1). From the selected projects, 6 of 8 grantees are women led and/or women's rights organizations and 7 of the 8 grantees are national organizations and 1 grantee is a local organization.

Box 1. WPHF/Spotlight Initiative projects in Liberia

- **CARE FOUND LIBERIA** on a project to prevent violence and abuse against women and girls across 40 communities in Bomi and Rivercess counties through sensitization, targeted advocacy and capacity training.
- **Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO)** on a project to enhance the capacity of a network of five women's rights groups working in 10 rural communities in the counties of Maryland, River Gee and Grand Kru to combat economic violence against women and strengthen their rights to inheritance and land.
- **PASD** on a project to end violence against women and girls and advance gender equality and women's empowerment across three counties – Gbarpolu, Grandbassa and Margibi through advocacy and capacity building.
- **FCI, Girls for Change, and Liberia and Youth Coalition for Education (YOCEL)** on a joint project to develop self-sustained safety nets, local community action plans and a mobile application for women and girls to report on three categories of violence against women.
- **Gbowee Peace Foundation** on a project to develop and train women peace brigades that will mentor 5,000 young women as peace advocates in the counties of Montserrado, Grand Gadeh and Lofa.
- **HOPE** on a project to engage local authorities and community leaders in Bomi and Bong counties as gender champions to help prevent sexual and gender-based violence and advance gender equality and women's empowerment.
- **Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)** on a project called "Mobile4Women" that engages women and girls in the counties of Montserrado and GrandBassa utilizing audio-visual tools to conduct research and design strategies to address the marginalization of women and combat sexual and gender-based violence.
- **Women Empowerment Network (WEN)** on a project to train women and girls in four counties on measures to address violence against women through the establishment of a series of awareness-raising initiatives, such as Palava Hut discussions and community radio dialogues.

The following table provides information on the progress for each country on the selection process. Quality control was provided by the WPHF Secretariat on all the proposals received that respond to the minimum criteria (appropriate use of the template and submission of all the required documents). Evaluations of each proposal was based on the quality of the overall proposal and a particular focus on the objectives/activities (responding to Spotlight Initiative's Outcome 6 and WPHF's Outcome 5 of the Call for Proposals), principle of leaving no one behind, nature of the organizations and size of grants/organization, capacity building, geographical diversity, and more. The National Steering Committee in the country is responsible for the final selection among the shortlisted proposals which (i) met the minimum requirements and (ii) passed the technical control operated by the WPHF Secretariat.

WPHF Spotlight Countries	No. of proposals received	Total amount requested	Total programmable amount available	No. of grants recommended
Liberia	50	6,848,854	1,102,098	Eight projects were selected and approved by the NSC in December 2019 (See Annex C).
Uganda	97	14,189,210	1,102,098	Nine projects were recommended by the WPHF Secretariat and cleared by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat. Similar to Liberia, a technical level NSC was organized to examine the recommendations and shortlisting at the country level and advise the high-level NSC.
Nigeria	42	6,905,444	1,102,098	Seven projects were recommended by the WPHF Secretariat and cleared by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat. Process started at country level for the endorsement of the proposals through the NSC.

Malawi	55	7,849,804	1,102,098	Nine projects were recommended by WPHF and Spotlight Initiative Secretariat. Process started at country level for the endorsement of the proposals through the NSC.
The DRC	373	45,988,698 ¹⁵	1,102,098	42 proposals were shortlisted by WPHF Secretariat and 10 proposals have been recommended by the WPHF Secretariat and cleared by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat.
Mali	-	-	1,102,098	The CfP is still pending to be launched and includes lessons learned from the five first countries (see below).

Finally, throughout 2019, the WPHF Secretariat participated in a series of consultations with the Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Management and Communications leads, as it laid the groundwork for the development of its own knowledge management and community of practice platform to serve and connect WPHF (including Spotlight Initiative-supported) grantees

¹⁵ Estimation due to high level of proposals received.

Challenges/Difficulties Encountered and Measures Taken

During the reporting period, some delays were experienced in the selection process of proposals in several countries, partly linked to challenges in setting a date for the final selection process at the national level, due to the high-level nature of the National Steering Committees and conflicting agendas of Co-Chairs. The following lessons-learned and mitigation measures were defined to shorten the period for final selection:

- Establish a Technical Level NSC for first review and recommended final selection for approval by the high-level NSC, and
- Pre-schedule at the country level the technical level NSC review before finalization of the shortlisting by the Secretariat and clearance by Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, to ensure a smoother and faster process.

The Technical Level National Steering Committee (NSC), is composed of the same members of the NSC except at a more technical working level. This allows in depth review of proposals, which high level members do not have the time to do. Based on the recommendations and knowledge of the technical members, the NSC can make an informed decision.

The selection and onboarding processes are moving forward in all countries with one exception. In Mali, the Call for Proposals was not launched in 2019 due to challenges at the country level decision-making processes. The WPHF Secretariat and Spotlight Initiative Secretariat are working closely to find a way forward.

In addition, during the review of project proposals, it was observed that many proposals would describe objectives and activities in the narrative section of the template, and then present different outputs and activities in the result framework due to a pre-completed section of the table with Spotlight Initiative Outcome 6 and its indicators. It revealed that Spotlight Initiative outcome and indicators tended to be too high-level impact for local projects and community-based interventions who struggled to align. Objectives, activities and indicators therefore would not be coherent throughout the project proposals. It was recommended and approved to remove the outputs and indicators from the results framework to allow partners to design their own, based on their capacities and identified needs, while still being aligned overall with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight initiative.

Finally, to better track the number of women-led and women's rights organizations that applied and were selected, WPHF amended the Call for Proposals template to collect this additional information.

New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

New opportunities

The WPHF has used Spotlight Initiative contributions as seed funding to attract additional resources for civil society organizations working on women peace and security and humanitarian issues in the target countries.

During the reporting period, WPHF mobilized an additional USD 2 million in Uganda from the Austrian Development Agency in support of women's participation in conflict prevention efforts. In the DRC, WPHF mobilized additional funding, amounting to USD 500,000 from the German Government, that will be used in support of additional proposals submitted through the WPHF-Spotlight call for proposals (beyond the envelope made available by the Spotlight Initiative).

Lessons learned

In 2019, several lessons learned were identified and taken into account:

- *Open days for civil society organizations:* 159 representatives from civil society organizations attended the "open days" sessions organized in four countries¹⁶. Overall, Open Days for prospective applicants have been very successful and engaged a significant number of stakeholders. CSO representatives who could not attend in person were able to ask questions through email or phone. The Open Days have also been used as networking platforms for civil society organizations on various issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, and women peace and security.

¹⁶ Open Days were not organized in the DRC due to the distances between Kinshasa and the targeted areas.

- *Update in the Call for proposals:* Based on the lessons learned from the first five countries, it has been suggested to make some changes to the Call for proposals, including:
 - Adding a box for organizations to be able to self-identify as women's rights or women-led organizations
 - Removing the suggested Spotlight Initiative outputs from the logframe, as this has prevented organizations to put forward their own outputs and has caused discrepancies between outputs and activities.
- *Plan the Technical Level NSC review before the end of the technical review.* Planning the country level committees at the beginning of the technical review will allow for a reduced duration of the process moving forward.

Innovation and Promising or Good Practices

During the reporting period, in the process of project selection at the national level, it was noted that the NSC members were often high-level, with representatives of government and others, who would not have the time to discuss in depth the shortlisted and recommended proposals. This sometimes resulted in delays with no final selection being made during the meeting. Therefore, the WPHF Secretariat suggested to establish and convene at the national level a technical level NSC meeting first, to review all the shortlisted project proposals and evaluations submitted by the WPHF Secretariat. The technical level NSC would agree on a selection, which would then be submitted to the NSC for final approval. This has proven to be a successful new practice, which has been and will continue to be shared with country offices as an option.

Several selection processes were delayed due to the National Steering Committee's calendar of meetings, which may not be aligned to the WPHF's selection processes timeline. For example, in Liberia, the National Steering Committee meeting was scheduled to take place a couple of months after the shortlisting was finalized. Therefore, in order to move forward with the process, the technical level NSC reviewed the proposals and made a

selection, which was approved by the NSC virtually. The WPHF Secretariat has facilitated the exchange of lessons learned between the target countries.

In a partnership with Dell Technologies, WPHF has worked to develop the WPHF Community (WPHF-C), a new digital platform and knowledge hub that aims to foster a dynamic global community of women peacebuilders and humanitarian responders to collaborate, strengthen their networks, share best practices, facilitate dialogue, exchange knowledge, develop their skills and capacity, and track progress and impact on global women's peacebuilding and humanitarian trends. The WPHF will continue to coordinate and share relevant knowledge products and resources with the Community of the Spotlight Initiative (COSI).

Next steps

The WPHF-Community, which has been developed in partnership with Dell Technologies, will be launched in spring 2020.

During the next reporting period, for Liberia selected projects, induction meetings will be organized by UN Women Country Offices as the Management Entities for selected civil society organizations, and with the support of the WPHF Secretariat, to build the capacity of partners in terms of monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Project implementation will then start in Liberia while the selection process is being finalized in the DRC, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda and a way forward decided for Mali.

At this time of writing, WPHF is working closely with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat in the context of COVID-19 to identify challenges and the way forward for project implementation and call for proposals based on emerging restrictions of activities and a rapidly changing context.

In February 2020, the WPHF organized a Global Women's Forum on Peace and Humanitarian Action in Vienna (Austria), where two Spotlight Initiative - WPHF Liberia partners (Women Empowerment Network and Gbowee Foundation) join other women activists from 17 countries around the world, to exchange experiences, define key priorities and drive support for their work to build peace and respond to humanitarian crises.

WPHF will extend its partnership with the Spotlight Initiative with new funding allocations in three countries in 2020, namely Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG

that will also address the nexus between development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian response. The revised Call for Proposal will allow to better capture data on CSOs partners (women's rights or women led organizations) and more flexibility for CSOs to define their outputs and indicators.

The partnership between WPHF and the Spotlight Initiative positions the European Union (EU) as one of the four main donors to the WPHF and therefore grants the EU a seat on the WPHF Funding Board for 2020.

Communications and Visibility

In 2019, the WPHF secretariat and the Spotlight Initiative worked to develop a range of complementary communication initiatives to enhance the visibility of their partnership and the activities of their project grantees, laying a strong foundation for their continued coordination and strategic collaboration.

In February 2019, the WPHF secretariat worked with the Spotlight Initiative to actively align their co-branding and comprehensive communications plans by producing the [WPHF + Spotlight Communications Appendix](#), which provides guidance to implementing partners on how to communicate effectively on activities funded by the partnership. The WPHF secretariat has worked to diligently instruct and reinforce these guidelines - which include detailed guidance on co-branding, logo usage, social media best practices and standard language on both entities - among its grantees and managing UN Women CO focal points throughout the year.

“Enhancing the capacities of women-led and women’s rights organizations as first-responders in line with the localization agenda: Empowering women on the frontlines”

In May 2019, WPHF partnered with the Spotlight Initiative and the Government of Norway to organize a side event at the International Conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises in Oslo, Norway. This visibility event, “Enhancing the capacities of women-led and women’s rights organizations as first-responders in line with the localization agenda: Empowering women on the frontlines,” highlighted the efforts of local women’s organizations to prevent and address SGBV and respond to humanitarian crises, calling on the international community to support this vital work through rapid and predictable financing. The event underlined key results and strategic plans of WPHF and the Spotlight Initiative, while providing a platform to amplify the voices of local women humanitarian responders. The program highlighted the need to establish and reinforce existing strategic, efficient, innovative, and sustainable partnerships between the UN, Member States and civil society to promote transformative change in the lives of women and girls who remain disproportionately affected by SGBV in conflict and humanitarian settings.

Throughout 2019, the WPHF secretariat leveraged its growing social media presence across its Twitter, Facebook and Instagram channels (with a combined following of over 11,000 constituents) to enhance the visibility of its partnership with the Spotlight Initiative and the local civil society organizations the partnership supports. Key initiatives highlighted on WPHF social media channels that contributed to enhanced visibility and awareness, all in coordination with the Spotlight Initiative social media team, include advertising joint calls for proposals in all five WPHF + Spotlight countries, publicizing and jointly contributing to high-level events – including:

- The International Conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises
- The OECD GenderNet Policy Dialogue on Women’s Economic Empowerment, where a joint WPHF/Spotlight representation was ensured and;
- A side event along the margins of the 2019 Open Debate on Women Peace and Security, co-organized with Spotlight Initiative, where the WPHF launched the one-year countdown to the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

Samples of relevant social posts and images:

WPHF **Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund** @wphfund · Nov 25, 2019
 Today is the Int'l Day 2 End Violence Against Women. As the world kicks off #16Days of Activism, we're proud to partner w/ @GlobalSpotlight to support local women-led projects fighting #GBV in settings of conflict & humanitarian crises. #orangetheworld #GenerationEquality

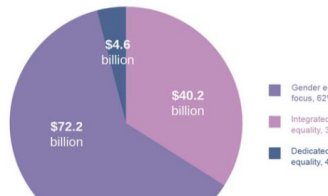


You and 7 others

WPHF **Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund** @wphfund · Oct 2, 2019
 Excited to be contributing to today's #GenderNet dialogue at @OECD with @GlobalSpotlight. We need more financing for #genderequality & #womens empowerment, especially for women responding to conflict & crisis. #wphfund #globalgoals

OECD on Development @OECDdev · Oct 2, 2019
 Without #GenderEquality, we cannot achieve any of the #GlobalGoals.
 How can financial resources from different types of development actors work better for gender equality and women's empowerment?
 #GenderNet discussing now at @OECD.

ODA to gender equality by DAC members
 average per year, 2016-17



WPHF **Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund** @wphfund · May 23, 2019
 Today at #EndSGBV Oslo, we're showcasing the important efforts of women's orgs leading the response to #SGBV in #humanitarian crises! @GlobalSpotlight @UN_Women @NorwayMFA #wphfund #40by20forWomen





All Annual Reports and Annexes can be found [here](#).

The WPHF also leveraged the International Day to End Violence Against Women, and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence global campaign, to raise broader awareness of the local civil society projects this partnership supports to end gender-based violence in crises settings around the world. In addition to social media efforts, the WPHF secretariat has made its Spotlight Initiative partnership clearly visible on its global web channels by highlighting Spotlight-funded grantees and project descriptions on country web pages and driving key web traffic to the Spotlight Initiative website.

Annex B

Risk Management Report

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
Contextual risks					
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Projects implementation have not started yet.	
Lack of political will at senior decision-making levels within the UN and governments	High	Likely	Major	In several countries, the process at the national level for final selection of proposals by the National Steering Committee was delayed due to a low level of political ownership by senior national decision-makers. In cases where Calls for proposals were not issued, funds will be reallocated to other suitable countries as decided by Spotlight Initiative, in coordination with WPHF.	WPHF Secretariat Spotlight Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of security, high levels of instability and complex political dynamics in focus countries	Medium	Likely	Major	In several countries, engagement with the NSC was difficult due to the political context. Close liaising between WPHF and UN Women country offices was essential to adapt and seek mitigation measures and alternatives.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Programmatic risks					
Insufficient funding available to Low reach WPHF's goal	Low	Unlikely	Minor	Spotlight provides a minimum of USD 1.17 million per country which will be used to leverage additional resources for the country	WPHF Secretariat

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant – 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
Civil society organizations do not deliver on the planned interventions	Medium	Unlikely	Major	Quality control of the proposals received, capacity assessment undertaken by UN Women, close monitoring in country and a quarterly cash advance system to assess progress will allow to mitigate the risks. The National Steering Committee will also be able to suspend or put an end to a project should it fail to deliver on planned results. Towards the end of 2019 and the rise of COVID 19, programmatic risks are likely to change in 2020 with important delays and challenges for implementation.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Project implementation is stalled due to restrictions on movement and gatherings in the context of a pandemic, while women organizations and women are at greater risk.	High	Likely	Extreme	Health pandemics and resulting restrictions and measures impact women by increasing domestic Gender-Based Violence and limitations on their movement and access to support. Close monitoring and communications by the WPHF and UN Women at the country level on how it can impact/will impact the programmes and women's needs. Guidelines and measures for addressing these impacts will be developed by WPHF in close coordination with Spotlight Initiative Secretariat.	WPHF Secretariat Spotlight Initiative Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Institutional risks					
Lack of absorption capacity of women's rights organizations in the 6 target countries	Low	Unlikely	Moderate	UN Women Country Offices will provide technical and capacity building support to women's organizations to finalize workplans and monitor implementation and results. Experience has shown significant needs and interest with high numbers of applications received. WPHF is also developing an online Community of Practice and learning platform for all of its partners, including under Spotlight initiative.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Weakened civil society	Low	Rare	Major	Ensure regional safe spaces to enhance capacities and support actions ; Strengthen support to local women and grassroots organizations and relevant regional and national women's organizations; Support a diverse group of CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination. All these aspects were taken into account when reviewing and evaluating proposals received at different levels, including with Spotlight Secretariat.	WPHF Secretariat Spotlight Secretariat UN Women Country Offices

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant – 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
Fiduciary risks					
Cash transferred to a Partner may not be used as intended or reported in accordance with agreements and approved work-plans	Medium	Possible	Moderate	The UN Management Entity for civil society organizations is also responsible for the management of Risk relating to cash advances to implementing partners. There is a risk that cash transferred to a Partner may not be used as intended or reported in accordance with agreements and approved work-plans and the Management Entity should therefore effectively manage this risk. The Project Manager shall monitor advances on a systematic basis and missing financial reports must be followed up in a timely manner. The cash advance modality requires a close monitoring from the Field Office in order to verify the correct use of the advanced funds for achieving of immediate results and expected outputs. The Field Office must also monitor the amounts to be advanced to the project, according to the planned activities in any period (at least quarterly). If the balance at the end of the period is too high, the Field Office must determine what the problem is and, together with the Partner, implement necessary corrective actions. Overall, the responsibility to manage the risk of advancing funds to partners is with Management Entity Office issuing the advance. In addition, Partners shall be audited in accordance with the Audit Policies and Procedures of the UN Entity acting as the ME for CSOs.	UN Women Country Office WPHF Secretariat

Annex C

CSO Engagement Report

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led? Is this CSO a women's rights organisation (WRO) or feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
OUTCOME 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and civil society organisations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.								
Output 6.1: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, more specifically, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.								
6	6,1	CARE FOUND-LIBERIA	National	\$ 80.000	UN Women	Grantee	Woman-led	Women and girls living in pov
6	6,1	Community Sustainable Development Organ	National	\$ 108.177	UN Women	Grantee	Woman-led	Rural women and girls
6	6,1	PaSD (CUPPADL)	National	\$ 189.725	UN Women	Grantee	No information available	Women and girls living in pov
6	6,1	Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI) in partnership with Girls For Change Liberia and Youth Coalition for Education (YOCEL)	National	\$ 118.770	UN Women	Grantee	Woman-led	Adolescent girls
6	6,1	HOPE	National	\$ 189.730	UN Women	Grantee	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Rural women and girls
6	6,1	Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)	National	\$ 178.380	UN Women	Grantee	No information available	Women and girls living in pov
6	6,1	Women Empowerment Network (WEN)	Local/Grassroots	\$ 60.000	UN Women	Grantee	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Rural women and girls
6	6,1	Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa	National	\$ 177.316	UN Women	Grantee	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Rural women and girls
Output 6.2: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG and GEWE more broadly.								
6	6,2							
6	6,2							

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led? Is this CSO a women's rights organisation (WRO) or feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
6	6,2							
6	6,2							
6	6,2							
Output 6.3: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalisation have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG.								
6	6,3							
6	6,3							
6	6,3							
6	6,3							
6	6,3							
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS								
N/A	N/A			\$55.105	UN Women			
N/A	N/A							
N/A	N/A							
N/A	N/A							
N/A	N/A							
TOTAL AWARDS TO CSOs				\$1.102.098	include a formula-based sum here			

Type of CSOs

-International CSOs operate in two or more countries across different regions.

-Regional CSOs operate in two or more countries within the same region (i.e. Africa, Latin America, Asia, Caribbean, Pacific). In this case, a regional CSO is not one that operates in a particular region within one country.

-National CSOs operate only in one particular country.

-Local and grassroots organisations focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD \$200,000); to be self-organised and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.

Award Amount

In this context, an "award" is any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement with a CSO.

Type of Engagement

-Implementing Partner (IP): Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement.

-Grantee: Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding.

-Vendor: Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activity.

Woman-Led and Women's Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs

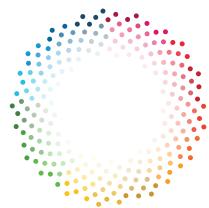
To be considered a "woman-led CSO," the organisation must be headed by a woman. To be considered a "women's rights or feminist organisation," the organisation's official mission/visions statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organisation should aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate EAWG and gender based violence and work to transform these.

Please select only "Woman-led" if the CSO is headed by a woman, but no information is available or it is not known if the CSO is a WRO/feminist CSO.

Please select only "WRO/feminist CSO" if the CSO is a WRO or feminist organisation, but no information is available or it is not known if the CSO is headed by a woman. Please select "No information available" if no information is available on or it's not known if the CSO is headed by a woman or is a WRO/feminist CSO.

Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award

Under the principle of Leave No One Behind, Spotlight UN Country Teams are expected to ensure the representation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including by engaging with CSOs that service or advocate for these groups. If the award covers several vulnerable or marginalised populations, select one population that is primarily served by the award.



**Spotlight
Initiative**

