



Call for Proposals (2011-2012) March 1, 2012

I. BACKGROUND

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality begun in 2009 as a global grantmaking fund and an aid effectiveness instrument dedicated to the advancement of women's economic and political empowerment. Grants are awarded directly to government agencies and women's civil society organizations so that they can turn their gender equality commitments into real gains in the lives of women and girls at local, national or regional levels.

The Fund launched with an initial contribution of from Spain (USD \$65 million), Norway (USD \$3 million), Mexico (USD \$800,000) and most recently, the Netherlands (USD \$1.18 million). The Fund is designed to help the world make progress towards attaining gender equality goals enshrined in crucial international agreements, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, and the Beijing Platform for Action, among others.

Since its inception, the Fund for Gender Equality recognized that humanity cannot advance if women – who make up more than half of the population— face discrimination on every front. Worldwide, 600 million women, representing 53 percent of employed women, are in vulnerable employment and, despite a growing emphasis on equal pay legislation globally, women are paid between 10 and 30 percent less than men. Furthermore, women still only own one percent of the world's titled land and continue to carry the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work. And while as of January 2011, nineteen women serve as Heads of Governments, only 28 countries have achieved or surpassed 30 percent representation of women in national parliaments.

The need for positive change is urgent, particularly in the current context of systemic global crises of multiple dimensions – economic, political, social, environmental, and otherwise. The Fund for Gender Equality works to address the root causes of inequality, injustice, war and poverty by placing significant emphasis on the advancement of women's rights and women's political and economic empowerment.

As the overwhelming demand for support has demonstrated, the need for grantmaking on a large scale is crucial. In the Fund's inaugural year alone, it received 1,239 proposals and US\$3 Billion in requests from 127 countries. The Fund was able to award 40 multi-year grants totaling \$37.5 million in 35 countries. This investment has already begun to produce significant results. See: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/grantees/>.

The first phase of the current grantmaking cycle (2011-2012) was launched on October 16th, 2011 in the Arab States region. As a result of this Call for Proposals, the Fund was pleased to be able to award \$4.85 million in grants to 15 programmes in 8 countries across the region.

II. 2011-2012 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Today, UN Women is pleased to announce Phase 2 of the **Fund for Gender Equality's Second Call for Proposals**, reiterating the Fund's founding vision to help women achieve political and economic empowerment, two key priority areas outlined in UN Women's recently approved Strategic Plan (2012-2013). See http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/UNW_Decision_2011_3_StrategicPlan_2011-2013_en.pdf



The Fund for Gender Equality’s Second Call for Proposals (2011-2012) is seeking innovative and impact-oriented proposals. The Fund will award grants in eligible countries in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. For an online application, please see: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/application-guidelines/>.

The Fund for Gender Equality has conducted this grantmaking cycle in a staggered manner in order to further increase access and language availability.

The **second phase**¹ of the current grantmaking cycle (2011-2012) will be launched on March 1st, 2012 and will be open for eligible countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The timeline for the second phase of the 2011-2012 Call for Proposals is as follows:

- **March 1st, 2012: Call for Proposals announced** for eligible countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Central Asia and Europe (applications accepted in English, French and Spanish). Online application process opens **March 12th, 2012**. Grants will be announced in **October 2012**. Please visit <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/> for additional information.

Thematically, the Fund will continue to award Women’s Economic and/or Political Empowerment Grants with a focus on women in situations of marginalization²:

Women’s Political Empowerment Grants:

To increase women’s political participation, leadership, and influence in the decisions that affect their lives, including through leadership trainings and education and with a focus on youth.

Women’s Economic Empowerment Grants:

To increase women’s access to and control over resources and assets – including land, water, technology, and viable employment – while also addressing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on women and girls, with particular emphasis on holistic and environmentally sustainable development approaches.

All grants range from a minimum of US\$200,000 to a maximum of US\$1 million distributed over a period of one to three years.

¹ The first phase of the current grantmaking cycle (2011-2012) was launched on October 16th, 2011 and focused on the Arab States region. Selected grantees in the Arab States region were announced in March 2012.

² The Fund has changed its formula for funding. We no longer divide our grants between Implementation and Catalytic Programs, instead, we are focusing on our two thematic areas (women’s political or economic empowerment), in alignment with UN Women’s recently approved Strategic Plan, with grants ranging between \$200,000 and \$1 Million USD for all eligible applicants.

The Fund for Gender Equality will prioritize the following:

- **A Focus on either Economic or Political Empowerment goals:** programmes that clearly articulate how they will attain economic or political empowerment results.
- **Gender Equality Commitments:** Programmes that focus on the implementation of gender equality commitments at local, national or regional levels and focused on economic and/or political empowerment.
- **Innovation & Creativity:** Programmes that work for collective change on the grassroots, national and/or regional levels and which have the potential to foster creative models of change. These can include innovative partnerships between governmental and non-governmental entities, as well as engagement of mainstream actors.
- **Fostering Dialogues:** Programmes that expand dialogue and where participatory and consultative processes with civil society take place.
- **A Rights-Based Approach:** Programmes that demonstrate how accountability towards women's rights will be exercised and how human rights principles are embedded in their overall vision, plans and implementation. Among these human rights principles are: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; non-discrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law.
- **Engagement of Women in Situations of Marginalization:** Programmes that promote leadership and engage the meaningful participation of women in decision making, promote greater voice and empowerment with an emphasis on marginalized women including young women, rural women, indigenous women, women from a diverse range of ethnic and racial backgrounds, refugees, migrant women, domestic workers, and HIV+ women, among others.
- **Matching Funds:** *For government applicants only*, programmes that demonstrate *matching funds* from government contributions to the programme will be prioritized. *Please note that this criterion only applies to governmental applicants.*
- **Sustainability:** Sustainable plans/strategies that can be achieved in a reasonably short period of time.

All programmes must articulate how they will achieve tangible results in the lives of specific groups of women and girls.

A **Secretariat** manages the Fund's activities at UN WOMEN's headquarters in New York, USA and relies on its Regional Monitoring and Reporting Specialists located in UN Women's country and regional offices for the monitoring of its grants. The Secretariat is guided by a **Steering Committee** comprised of a rotating group of representatives from donor and programme countries, civil society organizations, and multilateral agencies. Proposals are assessed by an **independent Technical Committee** comprised of experts in women's economic and political empowerment, who are based in the regions of the world, to ensure contextual analysis of the proposed programmes.

Before submitting an application, please read the following detailed information carefully.

It is highly recommended that groups apply as early as possible to avoid server traffic and to become familiar with the online technology (groups can begin to upload the required supplemental documents the first week of the online application for example). Required attachments take time to collect, including translation of originals. Please prepare those as soon as possible in appropriate formats.



No phone calls will be accepted during the time of the application, please check our website for updates and Frequently Asked Questions.

Please note that due to the high volume of applications that are anticipated, the Fund for Gender Equality will only be able to award grants to a small percentage of applicants.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

Timeline for Grantmaking ineligible countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean Regions

Fund for Gender Equality Second Call for Proposals (Phase II) announced, including sample Grant Application Form	March 1st 2012
Online Application period for submission of Grant Applications from eligible countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean	March 12 th – March 23 rd , 2012
Technical Committee reviews and recommends grants from eligible countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean	April 16 th – June 8 th , 2012
Semi-Finalists for eligible countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean announced	June 15 th , 2012
Mandatory Technical Assistance phase ³ for selected Semi-Finalists to develop a Full-Fledged Project Document; Results Chain and Budget	June 18 th – August 17 th , 2012
Steering Committee ratifies recommendations	September 3 rd – September 14 th , 2012
Grants from eligible countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean announced	October 1 st , 2012
Successful grantees will be required to participate in results-based-management training to revise and prepare detailed work plans ⁴	October 2012 (dates to be confirmed)

Eligibility Criteria

The following chart outlines the requirements for applying to the Fund for Gender Equality. All criteria must be met for an application to be considered for a grant.

Highlighted sections indicate required supplemental materials that must be uploaded with the online application. Please note that all supplemental materials must be submitted a) in their original language and b) in English (so please plan to allocate time for translations of these documents as needed). Accepted attachment formats include: .doc, .xml, .pdf and .jpeg. Applications without these documents will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process.

³ Note that grantees selected must allocate a % of their grants for travel and logistics for this technical training for at least two of their members.

⁴ Please note that once selected, Fund for Gender Equality grantees are expected to work in close collaboration with their respective UN Women country office and Fund for Gender Equality Regional Monitoring and Reporting Specialist.

Grant Request Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200,000 - \$1,000,000 distributed over 1 – 3 years • Applicants must have a track record of managing incomes commensurate with the grant request. (See required budget attachments for the lead/co-lead below.) Financial capacity will be assessed during the review process.
Lead/Co-Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme is led by one of the following:⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A single organization/agency - A partnership between 1 governmental agency and 1 women-led non-governmental organization (NGO) - A partnership between two women-led non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - A partnership between two government agencies • Lead/co-lead(s) must be either a women’s non-governmental organization or a local or national governmental agency. <p><u>Local or National Governments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can include, but are not limited to: ministries of gender equality, finance, labor, and justice; human rights and electoral commissions; local governments; and parliamentary caucuses; no regional inter-governmental agencies. - Required to provide a statement of commitment to or proof of matching funds to be applied toward programme implementation (applies to all government agencies as lead and co-lead). Government agencies without identified commitment will be automatically disqualified. - Required to provide a copy of financials for your agency (including budgets earmarking funds for gender equality programming) for the past two fiscal years <p><u>Women’s NGOs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can include, but are not limited to: women’s community-based organizations; women’s agricultural cooperatives and associations; women-led workers’ organizations; local, national or regional women’s funds; women’s human rights organizations; regional women’s networks. Only community-based, national, or regional women’s organizations; no global or international organizations⁶ - Women must comprise at 50% or more of leadership positions in the organization and its board. List of leadership positions on staff and board, disaggregated by gender, is required. - Must be legally registered. Articles of incorporation or other proof of legal registration is required.⁷

⁵ Leads and co-leads may list additional non-lead partners, but only lead(s) will manage and be accountable for the grant. Non-lead implementation partners are encouraged, but **partners cannot receive any direct disbursement of funds from the Fund for Gender Equality**. Transfer of money from to non-lead partners can be executed by the lead and/or co-lead directly. The Fund highly encourages the use of a Memorandum of Understanding to define roles, responsibilities, and lines of accountability among lead and co-lead partners and among non-lead partners.

⁶ The Fund for Gender Equality seeks to fund local efforts and partnerships. Organizations with global scope, even those with local offices in eligible countries, are not eligible (e.g. international charitable organizations with national boards, grantmaking organizations that fund in more than one region). In addition, international organizations with headquarters in the United States or Western Europe are not eligible.

⁷ **Lead and co-lead non-governmental women’s organizations** must be legally registered in their respective home countries. For **multi-country programmes**, lead and co-lead women’s NGOs who plan multi-country implementations may implement programmes in a maximum of 4 countries. For **regional women’s networks**: the

	- External audited financial statements for the last two fiscal periods are required.
Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme country(ies) is/are in an eligible region: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. *Please note that the Call for Proposals in the Arab States region has already closed for this grantmaking cycle. • Scope of programme is one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local (municipalities or communities within a single country) - National (country-level issue/policy/etc.) - Regional (regional issue/policy/etc. in a single region, with a <i>maximum</i> of 4 countries) • Grant Focus area is either economic empowerment OR political empowerment.⁸ • Identifies concrete and measurable results it aims to generate in the lives of women and girls during the programme. • The Fund for Gender Equality is particularly interested in the innovative use of technology and its role in advancing women’s economic and political empowerment. If your programme has a technology component (this can include anything from strategies to increase access to technology, to the use of social media (like Facebook or Twitter); cell phone technology to share and disseminate information; the creation of radio programmes, videos or podcasts; or the creation of databases or knowledge sharing platforms) please make sure to describe the specific activities in Question C: Programme Description in Section IV. of the Grant Application Narrative.
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one application submitted per organization for the entire duration of the 2011-2012 Grant Cycle. <i>Organizations submitting multiple applications will be automatically disqualified.</i> • Please note that any organization/governmental agency that is currently a grantee of the Fund for Gender Equality (i.e. that has not submitted all programme closing documents and received the final disbursement of grant funds) is NOT eligible to apply to the Fund for Gender Equality • Complete application form must be submitted via the online application during the relevant regional application period only, by the deadline, and online. • In eligible language: English, French and Spanish. • A letter of endorsement in English, French or Spanish from a country-level gender equality or women’s empowerment coordination mechanism (governmental, non-governmental or multi-stakeholder) or United Nations Office, including a UN Country Team or Gender Theme Group where applicable is required. To maintain an independent process, UN Women Sub-Regional, Regional or Country offices will not be offering letters of endorsements. The letter must come from another gender equality or women’s coordinating mechanism from the country where at least one of the lead organizations is based.

network must be legally registered as a non-governmental organization/association in at least one of the countries of programme implementation. The scope of programme implementation for networks (in terms of number of countries) depends on the network mission and proposed programme. If the network projects results of regional scope, it must specify how and in which countries the projected results will be achieved and it must focus its work in a maximum of 4 countries for the duration of the proposed programme.

⁸ Programmes with a focus on ending violence against women will not be funded, as these are supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. See: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund/>

The following **are not** eligible to apply to the Fund for Gender Equality:

- Multilateral organizations (UN organizations, international financial institutions, etc).
- Private sector entities.
- Individual public authorities or private citizens.
- Global or large international non-governmental organizations including international NGOs based in the United States and Western Europe.
- Non-governmental organizations that do not focus on women's issues or are not led by women
- Research institutions, think tanks or academic institutions.
- Organizations with global scope, even those with local offices in eligible countries (e.g. international charitable organizations with national boards, grantmaking organizations that fund in more than one region).

IV. A CALL FOR DONORS: SUPPORT OUR GLOBAL EFFORT TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY

When the Fund began in 2009, 1,239 applicants from 127 countries submitted proposals, representing more than US\$3 billion in requests. Of those, the Fund could support only 1.2%, yet over 50% of applicants had viable and strong proposals that could have been funded. This figure is a snap shot of the great need for support towards this cause, but it is also a testament of the potential to be unleashed.

The Fund anticipates a high volume of proposals for its 2011-2012 grantmaking cycle.

To continue to significantly advance gender equality and women's rights through grantmaking of this scale, UN Women is calling on UN Member States, the private sector, and individuals to contribute to this vital source of funding for women and gender equality advocates around the world.

The time is now. Join us by contributing to the Fund for Gender Equality. **To donate to the FGE please contact fund.genderequality@unwomen.org. Individual donors can also send their donations to the Fund via the internet by visiting: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/donation/>.**