

INCORPORATING LOCAL PERSPECTIVES INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION (IWPS)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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1. BACKGROUND

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is a global policy framework that recognizes the critical role of women in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. It emphasizes the importance of women's participation in all aspects of peace and security, the protection of women's rights during and after conflicts, and the prevention of gender-based violence. The WPS agenda is grounded in international human rights and humanitarian law and is supported by a series of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), starting with UNSCR 1325.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325¹

Adopted in October 2000, UNSCR 1325 was a landmark resolution that acknowledged the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls and called for their increased participation in peace processes. The resolution has four main pillars:

1. **Participation:** Ensuring women's active and meaningful participation in peace negotiations, peacebuilding, and decision-making processes at all levels.
2. **Protection:** Protecting women and girls from gender-based violence, including sexual violence, in conflict and post-conflict settings.
3. **Prevention:** Preventing violence against women through the promotion of women's rights, accountability, and law enforcement.
4. **Relief and Recovery:** Ensuring that women's specific needs are addressed in relief and recovery efforts, including access to justice and services.

In the Great Lakes Region of Africa, the implementation of the WPS agenda is particularly critical due to the region's history of prolonged conflicts, political instability, and humanitarian crises. Countries such as Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Uganda have experienced significant violence and displacement, with women and girls often bearing the brunt of these conflicts. These challenges have had profound impacts on the population, particularly women and girls. The region has seen efforts to integrate the WPS agenda into national and regional policies, with the aim of promoting peace, security, and gender equality.

In recent years, there have been concerted efforts to integrate the WPS agenda into national and regional policies, with varying degrees of success, which led to positive developments in the region. For example, Burundi has demonstrated its commitment to the WPS agenda. The country has developed a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, aiming to enhance women's participation in peace processes and protect them from gender-based violence.

The CAR had been implementing its second National Action Plan for the Resolution 1325 for the period 2019-2022. In 2023, 12.7% of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber were held by women. Though the current rate is lower than the average in low income countries, the proportion of seats held by women in the CAR has increased since 2010.

¹ [1325 Resolution adoption](#)

In the DRC, the government has adopted a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, although challenges remain in its effective implementation. These efforts reflect a commitment to advancing the WPS agenda and addressing the specific needs and rights of women and girls in the region.

On its side, Rwanda has made significant strides in promoting gender equality and women's participation in governance, with women holding 63.75% of seats in the national Parliament's Chamber of Deputies. The country has been implementing the second generation of its National Action Plan for the resolution 1325.

In Uganda, the government has shown commitment to the WPS agenda by adopting a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Uganda has also been active in regional initiatives to support the WPS agenda, working closely with other countries in the Great Lakes Region to promote peace and security. The country hosts the Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Sexual and gender-Based violence, the implementation arm of the ICGLR to operationalize Article 6(9) of the ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children of 2006.

The iWPS project

The GIZ in collaboration with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is implementing the *"Incorporating local perspectives into the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Great Lakes Region (iWPS)"*. The project objective is to have "Civil society and governmental stakeholders incorporate local perspectives into the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda" in ICGLR space. Through this project, GIZ is envisaging funding 20 projects, selected through a Call for proposals submitted by grassroots organisations, in the form of local contributions.

Role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the iWPS project

CSOs play a pivotal role in advancing the WPS agenda at the local and grassroots levels. CSOs advocate for the implementation of WPS policies and hold governments accountable for their commitments. They engage with policymakers, government officials, and other stakeholders to promote the WPS agenda and ensure that women's voices are heard in decision-making processes.

They work directly with communities, raising awareness about the importance of women's participation in peace and security. They mobilise community members to support gender equality and women's rights, fostering a culture of peace and inclusivity. Furthermore, CSOs play a critical role in monitoring the implementation of WPS policies and documenting human rights abuses and gender-based violence. They provide valuable data and evidence that inform policy decisions and advocacy efforts.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General Objective

The general objective of the call is to enhance the incorporation of local perspectives in the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, through new initiatives, projects and collaborative partnerships of CSOs in the targeted countries, thereby contributing to regional peacebuilding and gender equality efforts.



2.2 Cross-cutting priorities and specific objectives

Cross cutting priorities:

The WPS 2025 Call for Proposals will revolve around the below cross-cutting priorities: Each application must address at least one of the following cross-cutting priorities:

- A. **Youth Engagement:** Increasing youth participation in civic activities, leadership, decision-making processes, peacebuilding and gender equality initiatives to foster a sense of ownership and active involvement in the WPS agenda.
- B. **Inclusion of Marginalized Groups:** Ensuring the active participation and empowerment of marginalized groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), rural populations, and people with disabilities, in the implementation of the WPS agenda.
- C. **Climate Change and Environmental Resilience:** Addressing the impact of climate change on peace, security, and gender dynamics. Promoting sustainable resource management and resilience-building for communities affected by conflict and displacement.
- D. **Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods:** Enhancing access to economic opportunities, vocational training, and sustainable income-generating activities, particularly for women, marginalized groups, and conflict-affected populations. Supporting community-led initiatives that promote financial independence, resilience, and long-term development.

In addition, each proposal should address at least one of the following **specific objectives**:

1. **Community Engagement** – Projects should strengthen local engagement in the implementation of the WPS agenda by fostering collaboration between CSOs, women's groups, youth networks, and marginalized communities.
2. **Capacity Building** – Projects should enhance the ability of CSOs to advocate for gender-sensitive peacebuilding, implement WPS policies effectively, and support women's leadership in conflict resolution.
3. **Sustainability & Resilience** – Projects should promote long-term, locally driven solutions that enhance economic empowerment, environmental resilience, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in peace and security efforts

2.3 Activities and results

This Call intends to support a broad range of activities that align with the identified cross-cutting priorities and specific objectives. Projects submitted are encouraged to incorporate diverse approaches. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential activities for inspiration. Other types of activities are also eligible.

Specific results and corresponding activities

- **Strengthened Community Engagement**
 - **Awareness campaigns and community dialogues** to promote the WPS agenda at the grassroots level.

- **Storytelling and advocacy initiatives** featuring women peacebuilders, youth leaders, and marginalized groups.
- **Public events, performances, and exhibitions** to showcase the impact of women and youth in peace and security.
- **Enhanced Capacity Building for CSOs and Local Actors**
 - **Training of trainers** on gender-sensitive peacebuilding, advocacy, and community mobilization.
 - **Development of toolkits and training materials** to enhance CSO knowledge on WPS implementation.
 - **Workshops and peer-to-peer exchanges** for knowledge sharing on best practices in WPS advocacy and implementation.
- **Sustainable and Resilient Solutions for Peace and Security**
 - **Economic empowerment initiatives** such as vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and financial literacy programs for women and marginalized groups.
 - **Community-driven environmental resilience projects** to mitigate climate-related risks and conflicts.
 - **Integration programs for displaced populations** focusing on social inclusion, skills development, and access to essential services.

Cross cutting priorities and corresponding activities

1. Youth Engagement

- Youth Peace Ambassadors Program – Training and mentoring young leaders to advocate for the WPS agenda in their communities.
- Youth-Led Dialogues & Debates – Organizing intergenerational discussions on peacebuilding, gender equality, and leadership.
- Creative Storytelling & Arts for Peace – Youth-led theater, spoken word, or multimedia projects on conflict resolution and gender justice.
- Peacebuilding Competitions & Hackathons – Encouraging young people to propose innovative solutions to local peace and security challenges.

2. Inclusion of Marginalized Groups

- Community-Based Dialogues & Forums – Engaging displaced persons, rural populations, and people with disabilities in local decision-making.
- Accessibility Audits & Inclusion Training – Supporting CSOs to make peacebuilding spaces more inclusive (e.g., sign language interpreters, accessible venues).

3. Climate Change and Environmental Resilience

- Women-Led Climate Resilience Initiatives – Supporting projects where women and girls lead reforestation, water conservation, and climate adaptation efforts.
- Climate & Peace Forums – Facilitating discussions on how climate change fuels conflict and displacement, with a focus on gender-responsive solutions.
- Community-Based Natural Resource Management – Engaging local populations, including displaced communities, in sustainable resource governance.

4. Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Vocational & Entrepreneurship Training for Women – Providing practical skills development in fields such as agribusiness, crafts, and digital literacy.
- Financial Literacy & Cooperative Models – Training women and marginalized groups in savings, microfinance, and cooperative business models.
- Women-Led Business Incubators – Establishing mentorship and support programs for female entrepreneurs in post-conflict settings.
- Income-Generating Community Projects – Supporting CSOs to launch cooperative businesses that promote peace and stability.

Ineligible activities:

- **Commercial Activities:** Activities that are primarily commercial in nature, aimed at generating profit for the organization rather than achieving social or community goals.
- **Personal Benefit:** Activities that provide direct personal benefit to individuals, such as scholarships or personal loans, rather than benefiting the community or target population.
- **Non-Compliant Activities:** Activities that do not comply with local laws, regulations, or the specific guidelines set forth in the CfP.
- **Duplicate Funding:** Activities that are already funded by another source or that duplicate efforts funded by other grants or programs.
- **One-Time Events:** One-time events or activities that do not have a sustainable impact or long-term benefit for the community.
- **Non-Transparent Activities:** Activities that lack transparency, accountability, or clear reporting mechanisms.

Ineligible projects:

- Projects and activities concerned with profit making and having a direct or indirect commercial character
- Scholarships: The project does not fund degree programs
- Activities and projects already funded by another donor
- Projects that are an exact duplicate of another GIZ/EU or other donor funded project.

Throughout the project and at its end, Applicants will be asked to make available to GOPA PACE and GIZ communication materials of the implemented activities that can be shared across the network of other CSOs, to inspire others and encourage longer-term collaboration.

3. CALENDAR OF THE CALL AND OF THE PROJECTS

The indicative calendar of the call is set out as follows:

STEPS	DEADLINE
Launching of the call	April 28th, 2025
Questions & Answers	May 12th, 2025
Submission of the application by CSOs	May 19th, 2025 (18:00 CAT)
Award notification	June 2nd, 2025
Contract for Local Subsidies Signature	June 13th, 2025
Project start	After disbursement of advance fund

4. ADMISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

- **The application consists of 2 parts:**
 - Part 1 – Description of project.
 - Part 2 – Budget.
- Each CSO can submit 1 application.
- Applications must be submitted using the **templates provided in Annex 1** of this call.
- If several CSOs apply together, a leader should be designated. The Lead Applicant should sign the Local subsidies contract Agreement and be responsible for other partners. Proposals with multiple partners must include a partnership agreement outlining: Division of roles and responsibilities, internal reporting structure and fund disbursement mechanisms among partners.
- **Language:** the applications should be submitted **in French or English**. In case of submission in any other local language, and should no English or French transcript be enclosed, the Evaluation Committee would use the [European Commission's Machine Translation system "eTranslation"](#) to translate the application.
- Applications must be written entirely in a single language.
- **Submission:**
 - Via email to wps-pace@gopa-pace.com
 - Subject "Application - 2025 iWPS call for projects"
 - Deadline: **May 19th, 2025 (18:00 CAT)**
 - No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has expired. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or to correct clerical mistakes, the applicant may be contacted during the evaluation process.
- Applicants will be informed in writing (via e-mail sent from wps-pace@gopa-pace.com) about the results of the evaluation process;
- The administrative languages of the call for proposals are English and/or French.

5. ELIGIBILITY

The evaluation of applications will be conducted in two distinct layers:

1. **Eligibility Evaluation:** This initial layer assesses the eligibility of the application. The application must be in line with the following criteria to be considered eligible. If the application is deemed ineligible due to the absence of any of the required documents listed below, it will not proceed to the second layer of evaluation and will not be evaluated on the technical level.(see below section 6 “Award criteria”).

	DOCUMENT TO SUBMIT
<p>Legal Status: The organization must be legally registered according to national laws and rules. It should be recognized at any level by the government and have a clean record (no history of legal or ethical violations).</p>	<p>Registration Certificate: A copy of the official registration certificate issued by the relevant national or local authority.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Government Recognition: Any documentation or certification that shows recognition by the government (e.g., letters of endorsement, partnership agreements).</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Clean Record: A statement or certificate from the relevant authority indicating that the organization has no history of legal or ethical violations. If formal documentation from authorities is unavailable, the organization may exceptionally submit a signed self-declaration or a letter of good standing from a community authority or local partner. The Evaluation Committee may follow up for clarification if needed.</p>
<p>Public benefit nature of the project</p>	<p>CSOs must demonstrate in their proposal that their activities and initiatives provide positive and meaningful contributions to the well-being, development, and overall improvement of the community or society. Evidence should show a broad impact that extends beyond immediate stakeholders and addresses the needs and challenges faced by the wider population.</p>
<p>Financial Capacity: The organization must have a record of bookkeeping and be able to manage finances.</p>	<p>Financial Statements: Copies of recent financial statements (e.g., balance sheets,</p>

	<p>income statements) showing the organization's financial health and bookkeeping practices.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Bookkeeping Records: Examples of bookkeeping records, such as ledgers or accounting logs, demonstrating accurate and consistent financial tracking.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Bank Account Details (if applicable): In cases where an umbrella organization/network is used, provide details of the bank account, including statements and any agreements or contracts with the umbrella organization/network.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Audit Reports : Any recent audit reports conducted by external auditors that verify the organization's financial practices and capacity.</p>
<p>Women-Led Organization: The organization must be led by women, meaning that women hold key leadership positions and are actively involved in decision-making processes.</p>	<p>Organizational Chart: An organigram or organizational chart showing key leadership positions held by women.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Leadership Profiles: Profiles or resumes of the women in leadership positions, highlighting their roles and responsibilities within the organization.</p>
<p>Alignment with WPS Agenda: The organization's activities must align with at least one of the four pillars of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda: Participation, Prevention, Protection, Relief, and Recovery.</p>	<p>Project Reports: Detailed reports of past and current projects that align with one or more of the four pillars of the WPS Agenda (Participation, Prevention, Protection, Relief, and Recovery).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Strategic Plan: The organization's strategic plan or mission statement that outlines its commitment to the WPS Agenda.</p>

	OR Activity Documentation: Evidence of activities such as photographs, testimonials, media coverage, or publications that demonstrate alignment with the WPS pillars.
Geographical Considerations: The organization should be located in DRC, or Rwanda, or Uganda, or CAR , or Burundi.	Proof of the organization's physical address and operational areas, such as lease agreements, utility bills, or government-issued location certificates.

6. AWARD CRITERIA

Technical Evaluation: Only applications that pass the eligibility evaluation will proceed to the second layer of evaluation (See section 5 above “Eligibility”). This layer involves a detailed assessment of the technical aspects of the project proposal, including but not limited to:

- Relevance and impact of the proposed project.
- Feasibility and sustainability.
- Capacity and experience of the CSO.
- Cost-effectiveness and budget justification.

The score of each application will be based on the following two criteria described below.

Criteria	Definition	Maximum points
1. Relevance	<p>This criterion evaluates the degree to which: the project’ specific objective (see section 2.2) corresponds to the general objective of the call. The evaluation will be made based on the following sections mentioned in the “Application form”.</p> <p>5. Description of the project (20 pts) 6.1 or 6.2 or 6.3 or 6.4 (based on which category you have chosen) (20 pts)</p>	40
2. Operational capacity	This criterion evaluates the degree to which the project	60

implementation fulfils the project specific objective. The evaluation will be made based on the following sections mentioned in the "Application form".

- 7. Proposed activities (25 pts)**
- 8. Sustainability of the project**
- 9. Timeline of the project**
- 10. Budget**

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their score. The highest twenty (20) scoring applications will be selected. If a selected CSO is later found to be ineligible based on fraudulent or missing information, the award will be withdrawn and offered to the next highest-ranked eligible application.

For applications with the same score, priority order will be determined according to the following approach:

- The ex-aequo applications will be prioritized according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion "Relevance".
- When these scores are equal, priority will be given to the geographical scope of the applications. Preference will be given to applications with a geographical scope under-represented in the selected applications.

7. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

7.1. The Evaluation committee will be **chaired by GOPA PACE team** and will be **composed of three independent experts** with technical and financial knowledge of WPS concept and local subsidies management. GIZ and ICGLR may participate as needed.

7.2. Member States of the ICGLR and the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) will play an advisory and oversight role in the selection process and implementation monitoring. While the Evaluation Committee will conduct the technical assessment of applications, the JCC and relevant Member State representatives may be consulted to ensure alignment with national priorities and regional coordination. Their involvement will also support transparency and shared ownership in the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda across the Great Lakes Region.

8. BUDGET

The maximum budget available under this call is **800.000 Euros**.

The categories listed below represent different types of projects that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can submit their proposals to. Each category has a specific focus and a maximum contribution budget:

Local contribution Category	Maximum contribution budget for each action
Category A – Standard projects	20,000 EUR
Category B - Collaboration and Coalition Building projects	30,000 EUR
Category C – Scaling-up Projects	40,000 EUR
Category D – Great Lakes Level Partnerships	50,000 EUR
Category E – Local projects Support	15,000 EUR

CSOs should choose the category that best fits their project goals and scope, and ensure their proposal aligns with the specific focus and budget limitations of the chosen category.

Category A – Standard Projects

This category is designed for CSOs' for various public benefit actions in line with WPS pillars.

Category B - Collaboration and Coalition Building projects

This category is designed to support projects in line with WPS pillars via partnerships across mono/multi communities within the country. This category will support partnerships for specific thematic field and/or cross thematic fields for multi-stakeholder engagements including local bodies, 'municipalities', and CSOs, for collaborative activities, and multi learning possibilities, to share experiences and lessons learned, and for promoting reconciliation and trust building.

Category C – Scaling-up Projects

Scaling up projects category is designed to contribute to scaling up the capacities of CSOs with previous experience and capacity in any previously funded project. Therefore, this category is restricted only for CSOs with existing capacity (e.g., CSOs that have implemented at least one international funded projects)

Category D – Great Lakes level partnerships

This category is designed to fund projects linked to WPS pillars being implemented between CSOs from different countries in the GL region. This will mainstream and reinforce the WPS agenda and promote peace across the borders.

Category E – Local projects Support

Local projects category is designed to promote local and/or grassroots CSOs. iWPS is strongly supporting the localization of the WPS agenda on a grassroots local level. These are small-scale initiatives that bring internal momentum and promote women's rights in the community.

The amount requested should be organized as per the template in Annex 1 Part 2.

9. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Applications must include a detailed estimated budget presented in local currency which will then be converted to Euro using the rates of the European Union. As the disbursement of funds will be made in EUR, the conversion rates used are the conversion rates that are published by the European Commission's official monthly accounting rate for the euro. The information is available at the following link: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/procedures-guidelines-tenders/information-contractors-and-beneficiaries/exchange-rate-infoeuro_en

iWPS can only provide disbursement in Euro, and applicants should be aware that exchange rate risks are carried by the applicants.

Expenditure must include the estimated eligible costs corresponding exclusively to the implementation of the project.

All budget lines must be settled against evidence.

The categories of eligible costs are as follows:

Project Implementation Costs:

- Costs of materials and supplies needed for project activities.
- Travel and transportation expenses for project staff and participants.
- Venue rental for meetings, workshops, and events.
- Costs associated with organizing and conducting training sessions, workshops, and seminars

Community Engagement Costs:

- Costs for community outreach and engagement activities.
- Expenses for printing and distributing informational materials.
- Costs for conducting surveys and gathering feedback from beneficiaries.

Capacity Building Costs:

- Training and capacity-building expenses for staff and volunteers.
- Costs for attending conferences, seminars, and workshops relevant to the project.

The following costs are considered as not eligible:

- Costs not incurred during the duration of the project;
- Debts and debt service charges (interest);
- Provisions for losses, or potential future liabilities;
- Activities that are affiliated directly with/or supportive to political and/or religious agendas;
- Purchases of equipment, land or buildings;
- Currency exchange losses;

- Costs related to permanent staff, or core running costs of the applicant which are not directly related to the project;
- Bonuses included in costs of staff; customs and import duties, or any other charges;
- Fines, financial penalties and expenses of litigation;
- Taxes, including VAT (except when it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation might be eligible.)
- Transfer costs and banking fees

10. PAYMENT

Payments are made to the lead applicant of the project - who is responsible for allocating the budget to the different partners as per the budget template. The payment procedures are established in the contract between the awarded CSOs and the iWPS service provider (GOPA PACE). Payment of the local subsidies will be made in a first instalment and a tranches of instalments during implementation and a final instalment (the balance). The consecutive tranches following the first disbursement (pre-finance or advance payment) will be disbursed on the basis of an interim narrative report, explaining the technical progress of the project, accompanied with a financial report detailing the expenses incurred. Supporting documents and proofs of expenditures shall be attached to the financial report. Only when technical report and financial report are approved by GOPA PACE the disbursement of the funds will be released.

The disbursement of funds shall be made in tranches as follows:

- The amount of the first installment payment is 20%.
- An additional 40% of the funds will be disbursed in two separate tranches during the implementation phase, based on the progress of the project and the submission and approval of technical and financial interim reports.
- The remaining 40% balance shall be disbursed after the approval of the final technical and financial report.

11. IMPLEMENTING AND REPORTING

The implementation time of the project should range between a minimum of 6 months and **a maximum of 18 months** (this shall be indicated in more details upon signature of contract between CSO and GOPA PACE) **from the date of signature of the contract with the awarded CSOs**. In any case, project activities should not start before the iWPS service provider (GOPA PACE) has signed the contract with the awarded CSOs.

Beneficiaries are expected to deliver at least:

- Quaterly reports that highlights progress and challenges, among other aspects
- A final report, at the latest one month after the completion date.

12. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Topic	Modality
To submit a question	All applicants can submit their questions to GOPA PACE via wps-pace@gopa-pace.com , by the deadline May 12th, 2025
To receive the answer	GOPA PACE will reply individually to each question upon reception. A list of questions and answers will be circulated frequently to all applicants.

13.PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed by GOPA PACE and GIZ pursuant to the rules and regulations applicable to them.

By submitting an application, you are consenting to the processing of your personal data by GOPA PACE.

Unless indicated otherwise, any personal data requested that is required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposals will be processed solely for that purpose by GIZ and GOPA PACE. Please refer to our annex 3 Privacy Statement.

CONTACTS

For any further information, please contact GOPA PACE at wps-pace@gopa-pace.com

ANNEX

Annex 1 - Application form

Annex 2 – Exclusion Criteria

Annex 3 – Privacy statement