

**Call for Proposals 2015
3rd Round**



**Theme:
Women's Economic and Political Empowerment
in the post-2015 Development Agenda**

Call Opens: 9 March 2015

Deadline for Online Submissions: 5 April 2015 (23:59 New York time)

Online Application System: <https://grants.unwomen.org/>

I. Background

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality was launched in 2009 to accelerate implementation of gender equality commitments worldwide. It is the organization's leading global grant mechanism and multi-donor Fund dedicated to rights-based programming in the two overlapping thematic areas of Women's Economic and Political Empowerment. Since 2009 the Fund has disbursed over US\$ 56 million to fund 96 programmes in 72 countries. The Fund is highly competitive, with only 5% of applications being funded in past cycles.

UN Women is pleased to announce the 3rd Call for Proposals of the Fund for Gender Equality (FGE or the Fund). This year the Fund welcomes proposal submissions from women-led local, national and regional Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with innovative, high-impact, and multi-stakeholder women's rights and



gender equality programmes that help jumpstart progress on the Post-2015 Development Agenda¹.

As UN Member States, supported by UN Women and the wider UN system, move closer to final adoption of a new framework of **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) in September 2015, the Fund for Gender Equality is launching its 3rd global grant round to support women-led CSOs to frontload the implementation of gender equality commitments on the ground.

The SDGs are being established as a comprehensive framework that aims to be action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They will constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities with poverty eradication at its core. Sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection for all men and women have been recognized as interdependent dimensions for achieving sustainable development. Ensuring that no one is left behind will require targeted efforts for the most marginalized groups to address vulnerabilities beyond country averages.

The SDGs will aim to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ending all forms of discrimination; ending violence against women and girls; promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health; effective participation and leadership in economic, political and public life; and greater recognition for unpaid domestic work. **While recognizing the importance and inter-linkages of all these dimensions to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, the Fund sets itself to focus on women's economic and political empowerment as a means to complement existing UN-led efforts.**

- In terms of **economic empowerment** the SDG framework is looking at inclusive and sustainable access to economic resources; decent work for all based on equal pay for work of equal value; protecting labor rights and the promotion of safe and secure working environments; nationally appropriate social protection; and pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies.
- In terms of **political empowerment** the SDG agenda is aiming towards ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels leading to equal access to justice for all, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions applying non-discriminatory laws and policies.

The Fund calls upon women-led CSOs to support the implementation of this global agenda and to focus on promoting structural changes that look at power relations, social norms and legal and policy frameworks. Women-led CSOs are also encouraged to exercise their oversight role by contributing to measure progress against implementation and hold duty bearers accountable to gender equality commitments at local, national and regional levels.

¹ Background on the Post-2015 Development Agenda : <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015-overview.shtml>

Background on the Sustainable Development Goal process: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

II. Thematic priorities

The Fund will grant applications in the areas of:

Women's Economic Empowerment



- Efforts to expand women's equal opportunities to access and control economic resources (including land, property, technology, financial services, inheritance and natural resources) and promote women's sustainable entrepreneurship in accordance with national laws and international commitments, with an emphasis on environmentally sustainable development.
- Efforts to promote access to decent work and equal pay for all women including recognition of unpaid domestic and care work, through legislation, social protection policies, service delivery, and shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Women's Political Empowerment



- Efforts to promote women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and political participation at all levels of decision-making and in all spheres of life.
- Efforts to help design, enforce and implement new and existing gender equality laws and policies, review discriminatory content, and to shift social norms and practices toward greater respect for and enjoyment of women's equal rights.

The Fund will value proposals that recognize and act on the inter-linkages of women's economic and political empowerment and consider all dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental).

a. **Required quality elements: proposals should demonstrate all of the following to be considered for selection:**

- **Linking Local Implementation Efforts to National and Regional Commitments:** proposals that clearly identify how they will link local level interventions and/or service delivery to concrete law and policy commitments or advocacy agendas.
- **Rights-Based Approaches:** proposals that clearly articulate how they will use rights-based approaches to advance women’s economic and political empowerment and ensuring the voices and needs of women, as rights-holders, are reflected in relevant legal frameworks and/or instruments they will engage.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** proposals that demonstrate how CSOs will develop and maintain strong working partnerships that promote sustainability with government agencies and public institutions at all levels, academic institutions, private sector actors, religious leaders, and other non-traditional partners.
- **Engaging Traditionally Excluded Groups:** proposals that demonstrate a commitment to working with women and girls that are economically, politically, socially, culturally, or otherwise excluded, marginalized, and/or disempowered. **This may include but is not limited to** rural women and women living in extreme poverty; indigenous groups, ethnic and religious minorities; migrant, domestic and home-based workers; women living with disabilities and/or HIV/AIDS, and LGBTI individuals.

b. **Added value elements: priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate a commitment to one or more of the following:**

- **Monitoring SDG implementation:** proposals that promote accountability and exercise civil society oversight towards monitoring the implementation of SDGs, national, regional and global commitments towards gender equality and empowerment for women and girls.
- **Innovation and ICT for gender equality:** proposals that clearly identify new and innovative strategies and interventions such as using and empowering women to use ICTs and other new media technologies, opening new spaces, proposing creative practices and/or pioneering social and political alliances to foster real, transformative changes in the gendered balance of power at all levels.
- **Evidence-Based Interventions:** proposals that apply existing evidence in the area of women’s political and economic empowerment as a basis for their theory of change (e.g. data from research studies, lessons learned and evidence from past programme and policy evaluations, tested methodologies). This includes proposals that plan to adapt/replicate or up-scale promising interventions.
- **Sustainability:** proposals that demonstrate steps taken to ensure that programme results will be maintained beyond the life of the grant, for example by identifying long term objectives (5 – 10 years) and/or by demonstrating how project interventions could be easily up-scaled or will contribute to the overall programme goals and go beyond one-off meetings with beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- **Engaging Men and Boys:** proposals that demonstrate efforts to engage men and boys as key stakeholders and influential actors that can help transform discriminatory stereotypes and gender norms and expanding women’s empowerment in all spheres and at all levels.

III. Eligibility and Evaluation criteria

GRANT AMOUNT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Grant request size: US\$ 200,000 to US\$ 500,000** for 2 or 3 year programmes
All applicants will have to demonstrate absorptive capacity and a financial management record commensurate with the grant request amount.
- **Technical Assistance:** Successful applicants will also benefit from the following support from UN Women and the Fund:
 - Package of monitoring and technical support services
 - Impact tracking through Results Based Management support

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

- An overall thematic focus on (1) women’s economic rights and empowerment **and/or** (2) women’s political rights and empowerment.
- A **2 or 3 year implementation** schedule only (one year proposal will not be considered)
- An overall programmatic scope which is one of these three options (or a combination):
 - **National** (national level institutions, laws, policies, frameworks, commitments)
 - **Regional** (region-wide work with clear implementation strategies in **up to 4 countries**)
 - **Local activities** (at sub-national level or with particular communities that link to one or more gender equality laws and/or policies)
- Geographic implementation only in **eligible countries (OECD DAC list of ODA recipient countries²) in one of the following regions:**
 - **Africa**
 - **Americas and the Caribbean**
 - **Arab States**
 - **Asia and the Pacific**
 - **Europe and Central Asia**

(See Annex 1 for full list of eligible countries)

Please note: All applicants are advised to review UN Women’s website to familiarize themselves with the organizations’ strategic priorities and work in the different regions (www.unwomen.org).

² Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Development and Assistance Committee (DAC); Official Development Assistance (ODA)

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- **Type of organization:** Women-led CSOs including but not limited to: non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, trade unions or labor associations, agricultural collectives or associations, advocacy networks (national or regional), national or regional funds.
- **Legal status:** Must have legal status with the competent national authority. CSO Networks must be have legal status in at least one of the programme implementation countries. **(DOCUMENTS REQUIRED)**
- **Gender equality focus:** The applicant must demonstrate experience implementing programmes on gender equality and/or women's empowerment through an organizational resume or CV of past implementing experience and areas of expertise. **(DOCUMENTS REQUIRED)**
- **Country of legal status and operation:** Eligible **OECD DAC list of ODA recipient countries** only. *(See last page for full list of eligible countries)*
- **Women leadership:** Must have at least 50% women in its Board **and** its staff, with substantive representation of women in leadership positions. **(DOCUMENTS REQUIRED)**
- **Audit reports:** Must have certified financial audit reports for 2-3 previous fiscal years – including 2012, 2013 (and 2014 if available) **(DOCUMENTS REQUIRED)**
- **Endorsement:** All applicants must submit at least one **Letter of Endorsement** from a gender equality or women's empowerment mechanism, governmental authority on gender equality, or other multi-stakeholder institution (including UN offices other than UN Women) which is based in the same country as the applicant organization. **Please note: to ensure fairness, Letters of Endorsement by UN women offices will not be accepted. (DOCUMENTS REQUIRED)**

Important notes:

- Each application can only be submitted by a single organization. Each organization may only apply once.
- The applicant organization is encouraged to find relevant gender equality **implementing partners** to complement its expertise, outreach capacity and build the capacities of grassroots organizations. Implementing partners may be CSOs, but also governmental institutions, non-registered community based organizations, academic institutions, private sector entities, International Organizations or other. Implementing partners are not subject to the eligible country list and can be based anywhere.
- Transfer of funds by the Applicant Organization to UN Agencies, private sector entities, International NGOs and International Organizations will not be allowed.
- UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality will sign contracts with and disburse grant funds to the applicant organization only.
- Eligible organizations currently partnering with UN Women at country or regional level may apply for a grant under this call for proposals **(unless they are current grantees of the Fund)**.

NON-ELIGIBLE APPLICANT ORGANIZATIONS

The following are **NOT eligible** to apply for a grant from the Fund:

- Government agencies or institutions
- Bilateral or multilateral organizations, financial institutions, development agencies
- Private sector entities
- Private individuals
- CSOs not focused on gender equality and women's empowerment
- CSOs with lack of gender balance in their staff, board membership and leadership positions.
- Research institutions, think tanks, or academic institutions
- International organizations and International NGOs with global programming and/or with headquarters in the United States or Western Europe
- Current grantees of the Fund for Gender Equality (whose grants have not been formally closed)
- Applicants submitting proposals focused on Ending Violence Against Women (the UN has other funding dedicated mechanisms for this purpose)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals **passing the eligibility criteria** (see above) will be scored against the following:

- 1. Relevance of the proposal (see focus areas and priority areas) 30 points**
 - a. Vision for structural change in a relevant thematic area
 - b. Quality of the context analysis and gender assessment
- 2. Implementation strategies (see required quality elements) 40 points**
 - a. Linking local implementation to National and Regional Commitments
 - b. Rights based approach
 - c. Strategic partnerships
 - d. Engaging traditionally excluded groups
- 3. Added value elements 30 points**
 - a. Monitoring SDG implementation
 - b. Innovation and ICT
 - c. Evidence based intervention
 - d. Sustainability
 - e. Engaging men and boys

In addition to these criteria, the Fund will also take into consideration **regional and thematic balances** as well as **UN Women's strategic priorities at Regional level** before establishing the list of successful grantees. Note that less than 5% of applicants have been successful in past cycles.

IV. How to Apply

- Submission **deadline** (including all documents uploaded):

5 April 2015 (23:59 New York time).

- Online application open on 9 March 2015** at:

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

Important note: no email or paper applications will be accepted.

- Only one online application per organization and per proposal will be accepted.** Multiple applications from the same organization and/or for the same proposal will be automatically disqualified.
- Language of application and all documents submitted:**

Online applications and all required documents uploaded will be accepted in the following languages **only:**

عربي

ENGLISH

ESPAÑOL

FRANÇAIS

Русский

Important note: All documents in other languages should be translated before submission.

- Required documents:**

All required documents must be uploaded in one of the **following formats only:**

.doc

.docx

.pdf

.jpeg

.gif



Online applications must include all of the following document attachments to be considered complete. **Incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified.**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS for the Applicant Organization (for upload)

1. Proof of legal status by competent national authority
2. Certified financial audit reports for 2-3 previous fiscal years – including 2012, 2013 (and 2014 if available)
3. List of all staff, board members of the applicant organization, **with gender and position** (especially leadership positions)
4. An organizational resume or CV – showing mandate focus area, expertise and past experience (1-2 pages)
5. Letter of Endorsement from a Gender Equality institution (not including UN Women)

Important note: All required documents should be uploaded through the **online application system only** (no email or paper documents will be accepted). Please **allow sufficient time for document upload** in the online application system. Close to the submission deadline the online application system may experience delays due to overload.

V. About Our Selection Process

STEP BY STEP		Indicative timeline
Step 1	Publication of Call for Proposals: applicants <u>start preparing</u> their applications and documents	23 February 2015
Step 2	Opening of online application system	9 March 2015
Step 3	Deadline for online application submission	5 April 2015
Step 4	<p>Eligibility screening of all applications by independent Eligibility Review team (see note 1)</p> <p>Evaluation of <u>eligible applications only</u> by independent Technical Committee (see note 2)</p> <p>Inputs by UN Women staff provided (see note 3)</p> <p>The Fund will confirm the list of semi-finalists.</p>	April to June 2015
Step 5	Semi-finalists informed via email	late June 2015
Step 6	<p>Technical Assistance phase for all Semi-finalists</p> <p>All Semi-Finalists will develop a full-fledged Proposal Document; Programme Monitoring Framework; Budget; Evaluation Plan; and Communications Strategy with the support and technical assistance of FGE and UN Women staff.</p>	July to September 2015
Step 7	<p>Evaluation of full-fledged Proposal Documents from all semi-finalists by independent Technical Committee (see note 2)</p> <p>Inputs by UN Women staff provided (see note 3)</p>	October 2015
Step 8	Validation of final list of grantees by the Fund in consultation with UN Women’s Senior Management from Programme and Policy Divisions. The Fund’s Strategic Advisory Committee (see note 4) will be informed of final list of grantees for comments before its announcement.	Late October 2015

Step 9	Final grantees informed via email and announced via Fund website.	Early November 2015
Step 10	Contract signing and disbursement of first tranche of grant funds (Programme implementation is expected to start on 1 January 2016).	December 2015

Notes:

1. **Eligibility review team:** independent group of reviewers with expertise in relevant thematic areas that will review the applications against the established eligibility criteria only. These experts are not UN Women staff.
2. **Technical Committee members:** independent group of 40-50 experts with expertise in relevant thematic and regional areas that will evaluate the proposals against the established evaluation criteria only. These experts are not UN Women staff and are different from the Eligibility review team. The evaluation is done in an anonymous capacity to preserve their independence and integrity. Technical Committee members are obliged to disclose any conflict of interest they may have with any of the applicants they evaluate. Each application will be reviewed by several Technical Committee members to ensure fair balanced scores.
3. **UN Women staff:** UN Women programme and policy staff from field offices and headquarters will be consulted at different points in the process about the quality of the proposals and their relevance for UN Women strategic priorities. These recommendations will be shared with the Technical Committee Members for consideration. The final decision on grantee selection remains a prerogative of the Fund.
4. **Strategic Advisory Committee:** comprised of high profile personalities engaged with UN Women's mandate worldwide, in charge of providing high level strategic guidance, visibility and resource mobilization support to the Fund. The Committee will be informed of the final list of grantees for comments before its announcement.



VI. Have any questions? Contact us.

All applicants are advised to review the Fund's application instructions carefully. Please also check our **Applications Guidelines** and **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** before contacting us.

Online application and more information at

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

For question email us at fund.genderequality@unwomen.org

Our Secretariat is available to answer questions during the open submission period from
9 March to 5 April 2015 (only)

No calls please.

Annex 1: Eligible Countries:

OECD DAC list of ODA recipient countries (2014 – 2016)

Africa	Americas and the Caribbean	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Europe and Central Asia
Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Algeria	Afghanistan	Albania
Benin	Argentina	Egypt	Bangladesh	Armenia
Botswana	Belize	Iraq	Bhutan	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso	Bolivia	Libya	Cambodia	Belarus
Burundi	Brazil	Jordan	China	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cameroon	Chile	Lebanon	Cook Islands	Georgia
Cape Verde	Colombia	Morocco	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kazakhstan
Central African Republic	Costa Rica	State of Palestine	Fiji	Kosovo (UN Administered Territory Under UNSCR 1244)
Chad	Cuba	Syria	India	Kyrgyzstan
Comoros	Dominica	Tunisia	Indonesia	Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of
Congo, Republic of	Dominican Republic	Yemen	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Moldova, Republic of
Cote d'Ivoire	Ecuador		Kiribati	Montenegro
Democratic Republic of the Congo	El Salvador		Lao People's Democratic Republic	Serbia, Republic of
Djibouti	Grenada		Malaysia	Tajikistan
Equatorial Guinea	Guatemala		Maldives	Turkey
Eritrea	Guyana		Marshall Islands	Turkmenistan
Ethiopia	Haiti		Micronesia, Federated States of	Ukraine
Gabon	Honduras		Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Gambia	Jamaica		Myanmar	
Ghana	Mexico		Nauru	
Guinea	Montserrat		Nepal	
Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua		Niue	
Kenya	Panama		Pakistan	

Lesotho	Paraguay		Palau	
Liberia	Peru		Papua New Guinea	
Madagascar	Saint Lucia		Philippines	
Malawi	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		Samoa	
Mali	Suriname		Solomon Islands	
Mauritania	Uruguay		Sri Lanka	
Mauritius	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of		Thailand	
Mozambique			Timor-Leste	
Namibia			Tokelau	
Niger			Tonga	
Nigeria			Tuvalu	
Rwanda			Vanuatu	
Sao Tome and Principe			Viet Nam	
Senegal			Wallis and Futuna Islands	
Seychelles				
Sierra Leone				
Somalia				
South Africa				
South Sudan				
St. Helena				
Sudan				
Swaziland				
Togo				
Uganda				
United Republic of Tanzania				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				