

Women's Voice and Leadership - South Sudan Project

Call for Proposals for the Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

CARE International in South Sudan is pleased to announce another round of Rapid Response Fund opportunity of the Women's Voice and Leadership – South Sudan (WVL-SS) project. We warmly welcome concept notes from women-led organizations and networks that work in Central Equatorial, Jonglei, and Eastern Equatorial States. This call will last from the 12th until the 31st of May 2022.

Please read these guidelines carefully before you submit your concept note.

CARE reserves the right to reject concept notes that are not fully completed or do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Please submit your applications to SSD.Partners@care.org. If you have any questions, please email SSD.Partners@care.org.

The Women's Voice and Leadership – South Sudan Project

CARE South Sudan, with funding from the Canadian Government, implements the Women's Voice and Leadership – South Sudan (WVL-SS) project in Eastern Equatorial, Central Equatorial and Jonglei states. WVL-SS supports the capacity and activities of local and national women-led organizations (WLOs) and networks seeking to empower women and girls, to advance the protection of women and girls' rights and to achieve gender equality. To achieve this, the project provides funding to local and national WLOs and networks in recognition of the funding gaps they face. The WVL-SS project supports WLOs through providing:

1. Multi-year funding grants and institutional capacity building support to 16 WLOs (grants were awarded through a separate call in 2019)
2. Flexible rapid response fund to WLOs and networks (ongoing on a rolling basis since 2020)
3. Networking and alliance building among WLOs

The Rapid Response Fund

The Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is part of the support to WLOs and networks. Under the RRF, the WVL-SS project provides WLOs, and networks based in Eastern Equatorial State, Central Equatorial State, and Jonglei state with funds to identify and react to time sensitive opportunities to advance women's and girl's rights in these three states. It funds urgent, emerging, and unanticipated opportunities that require

the prompt actions of WLOs or networks to help them or communities in which they operate to address women and girls' rights issues while staying safe, secure, and relevant.

South Sudanese WLOs and networks operate in a challenging environment where conflict, COVID-19, emergencies, and other pressing human rights situations pose a daily threat to their safety and security. WLOs also have limited resources to support emerging human rights agendas and events that threaten the rights of women, girls, and excluded groups.

With the RRF, approximately 22 grants of around \$22,000 CAD (approximately \$16,500 USD) have been made available so far. Approximately 9 grants will be funded in 2022. The proposed size of grants will be \$17,000 CAD (approximately \$ 12,750 USD). Therefore, organizations are to apply for this amount based on the activities they will propose. CARE reserves the right to adjust the specific grant amount of any applicant in discussion with them, depending on the financial capacity of the applicant, actual cost of activities, the relative need and merits of each proposal, and the overall amount of funding available. The RRF funds time sensitive and emerging initiatives for a minimum of 3 months and maximum of 6 months.

What the Rapid Response Fund will support

Under the RRF, WVLS-SS provides grants to WLOs and women's networks in South Sudan who identify time sensitive and emerging issues, and who have little to no access to funding from larger donors. The WLOs working on women's rights issues that are made up of and/or working with socially excluded and disadvantaged women and girls are particularly encouraged to apply – such groups include but are not limited to: refugees, displaced people, IDP camps, ethnic minorities, rural women, urban disadvantaged, women and girls with disability, women and girls with HIV and AIDS, gender non-conforming people, and female sex workers.

CARE International in South Sudan will provide grants on any theme or issue, if it addresses women's and girls' rights and advances equality. Implementation duration must be between 3 and 6 months.

Applications may include but are not limited to:

- Responding to time-bound opportunity for advocacy, for instance to affect gender sensitive policy change or policy implementation in South Sudan
- Urgently defending the safety and rights of women/ girl's human rights defenders
- Addressing an emerging issue that affects women's dignity, autonomy, or justice
- Taking advantage of an unexpected opportunity to increase gender equality
- Quickly responding to the gendered impact of urgent, unanticipated, or unforeseen emergencies which require prompt action

ALL applicants must meet the eligibility criteria as follows:

- Must be a South Sudanese organization or network
- Must be non-government, non-political and not-for-profit (non-commercial) entity
- Must be legally registered at national or state level

- Must be an organization or network whose head / director is female or gender non-conforming. Your organization's chair can either be female, male, or gender non-conforming
- Must have at least 2/3 staff, volunteers, or members who are women or girls
- Must be an organization or network that can demonstrate, through its activities and actions, a belief in the full realization of women's and girls' empowerment and transforming gender inequalities
- Must have presence or coordination office located in Eastern Equatorial, Central Equatorial and Jonglei state
- All interventions such as meetings and general project activities must be conducted within and, covering the counties that fall under these defined project locations.
- For organizations or networks that have already received a WVL-SS multi-year grant or a WVL-SS previous RRF grant, they can apply for a RRF grant if the circumstances require urgent intervention, if it cannot be covered by their existing WVL-SS funding, and if they have met all their reporting obligations. However, WLOs and networks who have NOT received other WVL-SS funding will be prioritized
- Applicants cannot submit more than one application at a time. Applicants who have had a previous application rejected may apply again

ALL grant proposals must meet criteria listed below:

- ✦ **Strategic** – the action will create structural change that will advance women's rights.
- ✦ **Unanticipated & Time Urgent** – the situation or opportunity is unanticipated, and action must happen quickly to be effective (for example, responding to, conflicts, food security, protection of human rights defenders, support to women protection initiatives, e.g. access to legal, health/PSS and safety, security services or new opportunities around the implementation of the 35% quota or the constitutional review process).
- ✦ **Application must address** women's and girls' rights issues.
- ✦ **Focus on women and girls:** Applicants must show a commitment to advancing women's, girls' or rights of excluded groups and the interventions must be centered around these rights and led by women/girls/excluded groups.
- ✦ The interventions must also show that the majority of beneficiaries will be women, girls, or gender non-conforming individuals.
- **Quick impact:** The action intends to quickly respond to the gender related impact of the emerging issue. For example, quick impact solutions to addressing rights issues and gender norms, e.g. the unpaid care work burden of women/girls.
- ✦ **Appropriate budget:** All project activities have been costed in the budget. The budget allocation is realistic, cost effective and achievable.

* **Ensuring diversity and inclusion:** It is not a mandatory criteria, but extra points will be allocated to WLOs working on women's rights issues focusing on socially excluded and disadvantaged women and girls who

include but are not limited to: refugees, displaced persons, those living in camps, those affected by conflict, ethnic minorities, rural women, urban disadvantaged, women and girls with disability, women and girls with HIV and AIDS, gender non-conforming people, and female sex workers.

The RRF will not fund:

- Initiatives that are not women-led or women/girls/excluded rights and equality centric
- Solely humanitarian interventions that do not address the gendered dimensions of the crisis (e.g. provision of soap, food, clothing, medical supplies, shelter)
- Individual participation at conferences
- Travel grants
- Education scholarships, trainings, or capacity building workshops
- Income generating activities that do not address structural gender equalities
- Furthering of a religious or political agenda
- Provision of social or healthcare services unrelated to women's rights and equality
- Long term program activities that can be planned and funded through other sources

Application & Review Process. How to Apply

The call for proposals is open from **12 May and will be closed on 31st May 2022** at the latest, depending on the number of applications received. Interested WLOs and women's networks in South Sudan that meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to fill the application form here attached. Your proposal should be no longer than 5 pages and a separate detailed budget should be attached in Word or Excel. CARE reserves the right to reject concept notes that are not fully completed or that do not meet the eligibility criteria. The application form should be sent to the email address below:

SSD.Partners@care.org (Subject must clearly read: **WVL Fast Responsive Concept Note 2022-Name of Your Organization**)

Applicants may also contact this email address should they have any questions about the fund.

Information about this call will be shared through email, social media groups such as Skype, WhatsApp and Facebook, with the women's network in Eastern Equatorial state, the Women's Pool / network in Central Equatorial state, and the women's network in Jonglei state. The opportunity will also be shared for circulation with other existing women's networks in the country, the Canadian High Commission, our list of current WVL multi-year grant partners, and other networks and contacts as relevant. However, eligibility will not be restricted to these networks and contact lists. Any WLO, excluded group or women's network in Eastern Equatorial, Central Equatorial, or Jonglei state that meet the criteria is welcome to apply.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed, and decisions will be made on the successful applicants. We will provide grants in 2022 according to the number of proposals received and evaluated. WLOs and women's networks can submit their application as soon as an urgent situation requires it. CARE South Sudan will provide consolidated feedback to applicants after the completion of the selection process. The Compliance Committee will carry out the review of incoming RRF proposals on an ongoing basis. The Compliance Committee goes through each individual request and carries out an eligibility check, a technical review, and a light due diligence check. We look at each application on a case-by-case basis. It is possible that despite meeting all the criteria, an applicant may be asked further clarifying questions on its intervention and budget. A number of factors can lead to an application being unsuccessful, for example:

- The application did not meet the eligibility criteria
- Discrepancies and misrepresentation in the application
- The intervention was on activities that could be planned or programmed for within an organization's normal work
- Due to the very limited amount of funding that we have, we may not be able to fund all strong proposals.

The Compliance Committee is accountable to the WVL Strategic Advisory Committee in its funding decisions. CARE's Compliance Committee will make recommendations for which RRF grants to approve based on the scores of the technical evaluation committee members and will share these with the WVLSS Strategic Advisory Committee to finalize selection and provide strategic guidance.

This Strategic Advisory Committee will periodically review CARE's RRF decisions and process to ensure that it has been done fairly, with no bias or conflict of interest, and in line with the aims of the fund.

Successful grantees will be notified and receive feedback on their applications, if relevant. Some applicants may be requested to review their application or budget as required before the grant is made. Once we have issued our maximum number of grants in a given project year, depending on the size of the grants, we will not be able to fund any further grants until the following year. Each project year runs from April 1 to March 31.

Successful Grantees

Following CARE's light due diligence check, CARE will sign Partnership Agreements with the successful applicants. This agreement will lay out compliance and reporting requirements, such as:

- A simple financial report one month after the end of project completion, with all the supporting documents accompanying the financial report.
- A simple 1-5-page end of project narrative report one month after the end of project completion, accompanied with success story and photos proof of the activities inserted into the report.



- The possibility of a monitoring visit conducted by a CARE staff or representative(s) at any given time during the project implementation period.