**REQUEST FOR APPLICATION(RFA)**

**RFA:** **TAF-WVL-May-2021-045**

**The Asia Foundation Afghanistan**

The Grant Application Form for Fast Responsive Funding

**WOMEN’S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP PROJECT- AFGHANISTAN**

**Submitted to:**

**The Asia Foundation, Afghanistan**

**Submitted by:**



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| **GRANT APPLICATION FORM FOR FAST RESPONSIVE FUNDING**  **Women's Voice and Leadership-Afghanistan** |

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| **SECTION I. Introduction to Women’s Voice and Leadership Project** |

The *Women’s Voice and Leadership* (WVL)project is a five-year (March 2019 - March 2024) initiative to strengthen women’s voice and leadership in Afghanistan. WVL seeks to support the capacity and activities of Afghan women’s organizations and movements seeking to empower women and girls, advance the protection of women’s and girls’ rights and achieve gender equality. Through increased funding to local and regional women’s rights organizations and movements, the WVL project assists local Afghan organizations and movements in their efforts to eliminate discrimination and rights violations in policy and legislation (including implementation) and the provision of services, as well as harmful social beliefs and practices.

The goal of the WVL project is to contribute to strengthening women’s empowerment and movement in Afghanistan. Furthermore, through WVL, the Foundation aims to achieve the following three outcomes:

1. Improved management and sustainability of local women’s rights organizations.
2. Enhanced performance of women’ rights organization’s programming and advocacy to advance gender equality and empower women and girls.
3. Increased effectiveness of national and sub-national women’s rights platforms, networks and alliances to affect policy, legal and social change in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the WVL project is characterized by the following four types of support to Afghan women’s rights organizations: (1) Multi-year funding; (2) Fast, responsive funding for discrete activities and short projects to allow for flexible, timely and strategic responses to identified needs, and to pilot innovative ideas; (3) Institutional capacity-building support; and (4) Network and alliance building for movement building to amplify the voices of local women’s rights organizations and to foster an enabling environment in which broader collective action can coalesce.

* The Foundation will provide multi-year funding to Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs) to ensure that they have the financial security to implement longer-term projects that will increase the opportunities for sustained women’s empowerment. This will allow the WROs to implement and focus on project outcomes instead of fundraising.
* The Foundation will further build the capacity of WROs in areas that they have identified as necessary to build capacity and increase their sustainability. Project interventions will be designed based on WROs’ own understanding and analysis of their needs, the needs of their constituents, and what needs to take place to lead to greater women’s empowerment and gender equality.

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| **SECTION II: Introduction to Fast Responsive Fund** |

The Foundation will provide Fast-Responsive funding to women rights organizations (WROs), networks, alliances, groups and individual(s) for short projects and events, to pilot innovative solutions promoting women’s empowerment at the community, district, provincial or national level or in response to immediate advocacy needs or action requiring timely and strategic responses to unforeseen events. WROs, women’s networks, groups, alliances and individuals are eligible for this fund throughout Afghanistan. Recipients of this fund do not necessarily need to be registered with the Government of Afghanistan nor do they need to provide financial audits of previous funding for programming.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Fast responsive funding will be awarded to WROs, women networks, alliances, groups and individuals which may not be presently registered with the Government of Afghanistan to pilot innovative solutions to gender equality, women’s empowerment or women’s rights or short-term advocacy campaigns in response to an immediate advocacy requirement. The following eligibility criteria will apply:

* Having a primary focus on advancing gender equality, women’s empowerment and human rights, reflected in past activities;
* Be governed, directed and led by women i-e women serving in senior leadership roles;
* Conducting programming/activities/advocacy representing the interests of vulnerable and marginalized women and girls, reflecting the country’s regional and ethnic diversity.

**Selection Criteria**

The fast responsive funding will support interventions of direct and immediate relevance to gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s rights and contribute towards addressing critical gender gaps or violation of women’s rights.

The Foundation will additionally seek to fund:

* Applications that include a gender equality component (e.g., including men and boys in programming); and proven ability to design unique projects to enhance women’s rights and empowerment in Afghanistan.
* Applications containing advancement of women’s cultural or social status in such areas as art, sport, technology as gender enablers for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
* Applications which support initiatives for women’s voice and leadership beyond Kabul, covering provinces with feasible environments for the implementation of this project.
* Applications addressing women’s empowerment issues and gender gaps in rural areas.
* Applications benefiting a wide-ranging reach of beneficiaries, including men, women, girls, boys, persons with disabilities.

**Preliminary Considerations**

* Requests for fast responsive funding are considered when applicants can show that an intervention by the Foundation will help in piloting innovative solutions to gender equality, women’s empowerment or women’s rights or short-term advocacy campaigns in response to an immediate advocacy requirement.
* The amount of funding requested may not exceed USD 14,000.
* The Foundation reserves the right to ask for any other explanation/documentation to the candidates if needed and to decide on whether it will provide full or partial support.

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| **SECTION III: Background Information about the Applicant** | |
| Name and Designation of the Applicant |  |
| Name of the organization/network/alliance |  |
| Contact details (E-mail add & Mobile #) |  |

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| **SECTION IV: Grant Application Form** |

1. Title of the project/initiative:
2. Time duration of the project/initiative:
3. State the goal of the project/initiative (in not more than 50 words):

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| *Tips: Project/initiative goal: Please briefly explain what the proposed project/initiative will do to achieve its stated outcomes.* |
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1. State the project/initiative context and rationale: (not more than 200 words):

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| *Tips: Describe in detail the women rights/gender equality/women’s empowerment related problem/issue/s that your project/initiative intends to address, including why it is important to address them and how these problems/issues were identified.* |
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1. State the expected results of this project/initiative:

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1. Explain how the proposed project/initiative aligns with the WVL-Afghanistan project: (not more than 200 words)

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1. Number and nature of the Project target group/s (Direct and Indirect):

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| Direct beneficiaries | Men | Boys | Women | Girls |
| Indirect beneficiaries | Male | Boys | Women | Girls |

1. Geographic Coverage of the intended project/initiative:

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| Province | District | Village |

1. List the key planned activities:

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1. Implementation Methodology (not more than 150 words):

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| *Tips: Describe how you plan to implement/execute your project/initiative.* |

1. Explain how your project/initiative will advance gender equality and empower women and girls (not more than 150 words):

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1. Explain how the intended project/initiative will build the capacity of your organization or any other women’s organization or women’s network/s? (not more than 150 words):

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1. Include a description of the potential risks and mitigation strategies in completing the project:

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| Risks | Mitigation Plan |

1. A description of how the you plan to cover project/initiative costs / secure the continuation of the project’s activities after the end of the requested grant:

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1. Have you submitted funding requests to other possible donors for this project/initiative, and if so, please provide a list of donors and amount requested:

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1. References: Please provide at least two references/partners to be contacted to support or endorse your application and request for funding:

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1. Please provide an estimated total budget, with breakdown of main activities, for the intended project/initiative:

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| **SECTION V: Selection Process** |

The following process will be conducted by the Foundation to review, evaluate, and shortlist applications for fast responsive funding:

* Call for fast responsive funding is open throughout the life of the WVL project.
* Applications in English, Dari and Pashto are accepted.
* Applications submitted by applicants for fast responsive fund will be assessed by the Foundation’s WVL project team against the published Fast Responsive selection criteria described above to evaluate the fast responsive funding proposals.
* Based on the application and proposed budget submitted by the applicant, the Foundation will determine the type of funding assistance, i.e. fixed price, deliverable-based, and/or cost reimbursement grants to be issued to selected applicants.
* Before releasing any funds to selected sub-recipients, the Foundation will enter into a comprehensive grant agreement, which will incorporate complete details of the scope of work, detailed activities plan and a comprehensive budget under the agreement. The arrangements will also include the details of funds flow, e.g., the number of instalments and the due date for payment of each instalment.
* The WVL project team will notify and thank all applicants whose applications are not selected for funding.

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| **Please submit your proposal to the following address or via email:** |

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit their applications for the above-mentioned Grant in soft copy (PDF) via Email to the below mentioned email Id.

**Email:** [AWEF.WVL@asiafoundation.org](mailto:AWEF.WVL@asiafoundation.org)

Afghan Women’s Empowerment Fund (AWEF)

In case you are not able to send via email you are welcome to submit your applications in printed hard copy to the address mentioned below.

**ADDRESS:**

**THE PROCUREMENT UNIT**

The Asia Foundation

House # 861, Street # 1

Shirpour, District-10, (Sub Street of Shirpour Project)

Kabul, Afghanistan.