

Call for expression of interest
Flexible and Responsive Funding
An innovative Approach to support Feminist Groups in Iraq

The Women's Voice and Leadership Project -Iraq

Women's Voice and Leadership in the Middle East is 3-year project implemented by Oxfam in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, and funded by Global Affairs Canada. The project aims to build the capacity of local women's rights organisations (WRO) to enable them to contribute to an increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and the advancement of gender equality in the Middle East. The project's ultimate outcome is to advance gender equality through increasing women and girls' enjoyment of human rights, through 3 interlinked intermediate outcomes:

- 1) improved management programming and sustainability of local Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), particularly those representing vulnerable and marginalized women and girls.
- 2) supporting enhanced delivery of quality services and advocacy by WROs to advance gender equality; and
- 3) contributing to increased effectiveness of women's rights platforms, networks, and alliances to affect gender-sensitive policy change and policy implementation.

Background:

Oxfam has gained valuable insights from previous projects, particularly in supporting WROs by providing small funds for ad hoc policy influencing actions, capacity strengthening, advocacy, and campaigning for social change. Such funds also enhanced collaboration, networking at the country and regional level and contributed to feminist movement building. Oxfam in Iraq is dedicated to supporting the base and nascent forms of the feminist movement(s) in Iraq - with a specific emphasis on including nascent and less heard of women's organizations and voices. WVL project will provide a valuable opportunity to work in this direction by providing responsive funds upon request to established national WROs to implement collective actions fostering policy changes.

Objectives:

The main objective is this Flexible, Rapid and Responsive Funding mechanism is to support the women's rights movement building in Iraq under the Women's Voice and Leadership Project (WVL). The fund aims to

- prioritize and strengthen collective efforts of Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) in an inclusive manner.
- empower and promote collaboration amongst WROs
- foster an inclusive, rights-based approach to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Iraq.

What is The Fund about?

Oxfam under WVL will provide responsive funds for two Feminist Networks in Iraq. The fund scheme has been designed to allocate a range of funds, starting from a minimum amount of 5000 CAD up to a maximum of 10,000 CAD per network. The proposed activities and interventions **MUST** relate to the requested call for proposals. Oxfam reserves the right to review the amounts before granting the funds. different levels. Each applicant will define which governorate(s) they plan to work in. The grant can be used to contribute to ongoing policy interventions by Feminist Networks.

Criteria for Fund Allocation:

The allocation of funds will be guided by principled criteria based on a preliminary mapping of WRO platforms and women's coalitions in Iraq and their policy change actions conducted under Women and Girls Rebuilding Iraq (WAG) and Women's Voice and Leadership project in January 2023 funded by GAC.

The following criteria will be taken into account:

1. Geography: When relevant and possible, the flexible funding will extend the project's reach to further geographic areas.
2. Timeliness and Urgency: The fund will seek to respond to immediate, unanticipated needs of alliances and networks of women's rights organizations, as well as to urgent external and internal challenges.
3. Opportunity for Immediate Impact: Consideration will be given to initiatives with the potential to have an immediate impact and the ability to positively affect women's conditions and/or the women's rights movement and power building.

When are the application deadline and the implementation period?

The call for proposals will remain open starting from 15th September 2023, and will continue to accept submissions for as long as resources are available, with a final deadline no later than 31st July 2024. Proposals will be evaluated on an ongoing basis as they are received. The selection committee will convene every six weeks to assess the proposals, ensuring a continuous evaluation process. Applicants will be notified of the evaluation outcomes within two weeks after each committee meeting. Contracting for approved proposals is scheduled to commence from 22nd September 2023 onwards, maintaining a flexible approach that aligns with the dynamic needs of the applicants.

Who is eligible?

Any Network or Alliance of Women's Rights Organizations legally constituted and registered by the Directorate of NGOs in Federal Iraq that can demonstrate experience in working on women's rights-related issues and influencing policies.

What is not eligible for funding?

- sponsor any activities by political parties or individual candidates.
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.
- Debts and debt service charges (interest).
- Purchases of land or buildings.
- Currency exchange losses.
- Credits to third parties.
- Operational costs for the WROs including staff salaries.

Key considerations for Alignment with the goals of the WVL Flexible and Responsive Fund

The WVL Flexible and Responsive Fund should ensure that the allocated funds are used to support initiatives that have the potential for meaningful and lasting impact on gender equality and women's empowerment.

- **Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** The project should contribute directly to advancing gender equality and promoting the empowerment of women and girls.
- **Inclusivity:** The project should actively involve and benefit diverse and marginalized groups of women, ensuring that their voices and perspectives are represented.
- **Rights-Based Approach:** The project should be founded on principles of human rights, promoting and protecting the rights of women and marginalized individuals.
- **Collaboration and Collective Efforts:** The project should encourage collaboration and cooperation among different women's rights and women-led organizations or coalitions, fostering joint advocacy and policy change initiatives.
- **Rapid and Responsive:** The project should demonstrate a need for quick and timely intervention, addressing emerging issues or opportunities related to women's rights.
 - **Immediate Impact:** Consideration will be given to initiatives with the potential to have an immediate impact and the ability to positively affect women's conditions and/or the feminist movement and power building.
- **Advocacy and Policy Change:** The project should aim to influence policies and practices that promote gender equality and women's rights.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** The project should focus on building the capacity of women-led organizations or coalitions, enabling them to effectively advocate for women's rights.

How to submit a proposal?

Interest applicants shall send their proposals to irqconsultancy@oxfam.org.uk. Cc Ssalih@Oxfam.org.uk , LBarhoum@oxfam.org.uk and EKhudier@oxfam.org.uk.The received proposals will be reviewed by a three-member committee constituted by Oxfam.

For additional information and inquiries, please reach out to Shelan Salih at Ssalih@oxfam.org.uk

Annexe 1

Application Form

the Flexible and Responsive Funding Approach for Feminist Groups in Iraq

Applicant Name:	
Contact Person	
Email	
Phone Number	
Address	
Organisational profile	
Briefly describe your organization's mission and objectives. Max 250 words	
Thematic areas of focus	
Proposed Initiative	
Title of the Initiative	
Brief description of the proposed initiative or \	
If part of an ongoing programme of work/campaign; provide information on activities to date and outcomes achieved	
Based on the responsive fund eligibility criteria, describe the objectives of your intervention and the expected results.	
Provide information as to how you will ensure	

<p>successful delivery in a short period</p>	
<p>Describe activities and indicators</p>	<p>Activity # 1:</p> <p>Outcome-Level Indicator</p> <p>Activity #1 Description</p> <p>Activity # 2:</p> <p>Outcome-Level Indicator</p> <p>Activity #2 Description:</p>
<p>State and elaborate on the locations of the intervention</p>	
<p>Include what partners, coalition and collaborators you are/will be working with as a feminist network?</p>	

Alignment with the goals of the WVL Flexible and Responsive Fund	
Target Audience	
Primary beneficiaries or target audience of the initiative	
Inclusivity and Collaboration	
How does your organization promote inclusivity in its work, particularly in reaching out to marginalized groups and fostering collaboration with other organizations?	
Capacity and Experience	
Brief overview of your organization's experience and capacity to implement this initiative effectively	
Previous experience in similar initiatives (if any)	
Expected Outcomes and Impact	
What do you hope to achieve with this initiative?	
How will you measure the success or impact of the project?	
Budget	
Provide a budget detailing the costs of your eligible activities covered by the grant. (You can submit as Annex	
Please describe any additional non-financial support you would like from Oxfam: Max 500 words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This could include sharing social media content, attending workshops as participants, co-branding, etc. - Leave blank if none is required 	



Declaration	
By submitting this application, we confirm that the information provided is accurate and true to the best of our knowledge. We understand that the grant awarded will be used solely for the purposes outlined in this application.	
Name and Signature	
Date	

Work Plan

Include the work plan for your activities as **(Annexe 2)**.