

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS – GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT 2025

Strengthening of civil society organizations focused on environmental and/or climate action at the local level to enhance their capacity to mainstream the gender perspective into their work

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), through its Country Office in Bolivia as the Regional Hub for Gender, Environment, and Climate Justice for the Americas and the Caribbean, and with the support of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, launches the first call for grant applications aimed at civil society organizations (CSOs) in Latin America and the Caribbean that focus on environmental and/or climate action at the local level, to enhance their capacity to mainstream the gender perspective into their operation and interventions.

SCOPE OF THE CALL

Eligible countries: Latin American and Caribbean countries¹

An equitable allocation of grants will be sought among organizations in five subregions: Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, Northeast South America, the Andean Group, and the Southern Cone.

Fixed grant amount per organization: USD 15,000 (fifteen thousand U.S. dollars)

Number of organizations: 10

Proposal implementation period: 6 months

Clarification: This announcement does not imply confirmation of financial support, but rather informs about the period in which the call for proposals will be open and the criteria to be considered in order to apply. UN Women assumes no financial obligations to organizations submitting proposals and will not be responsible for expenses incurred in preparing applications for this call for proposals.

TIMELINE

- **Proposal submission start date:** February 28, 2025
- **Date of first informational webinar:** March 14, 2025 (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. La Paz, Bolivia time)
To register for this webinar, click [here](#).
- **Date of second informational webinar:** March 20, 2025 (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. La Paz, Bolivia time)
To register for this webinar, click [here](#). The content of both webinars will be the same.
- **Proposal submission deadline:** March 27, 2025 (11:59 p.m. La Paz, Bolivia time)
Applications must be submitted via an online form. To open the form, click [here](#). The application process is detailed on page 2. Before completing the form, please read this document in full.
- **Questions and Answers (Q&A) access period:** February 28 to March 20, 2025
To submit a question regarding the call, click [here](#).
- **Date of notification to short-listed CSOs:** April 21, 2025
Each pre-selected CSO will be required to provide documentation to demonstrate its legal operation and work on environmental issues for at least three years, including valid certificates of legal registration and bank account in the organization's name, as well as the complete versions of Annexes 1 and 2. Once notified, CSOs may submit the requested documents by April 28, 2025 (1:00 p.m. La Paz, Bolivia time).
- **Date of notification to selected CSOs:** April 30, 2025

¹ All countries in the region are eligible, except for Brazil, which has a specific grant fund managed by the UN Women office in that country under the same project. Therefore, all interested civil society organizations (CSOs) registered in Brazil may apply for that country's dedicated financial support call.

BACKGROUND

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region highly vulnerable to the consequences of the triple planetary crisis: climate change, pollution and waste, and biodiversity loss. This environmental multicrisis threatens the Earth, its ecosystems, and species; harms economies and compromises societal well-being. Furthermore, as home to some of the planet's most biodiverse ecosystems, resulting from its geological, altitudinal, and climatic characteristics, the region faces diverse and complex environmental impacts driven by the multicrisis, which are further exacerbated by historical social inequalities. In this regard, it is crucial to recognize that such inequalities intensify the adverse effects of the multicrisis on certain population groups, perpetuating their state of vulnerability.

Women and girls face additional challenges due to socially assigned gender roles that place them at the forefront of the consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification, among others. Historically, these roles have designated them as the primary caregivers within families and communities, and responsible for water provision and small-scale agricultural production. As a result, the negative effects of the multicrisis—such as increasing food, water, and energy insecurity—disproportionately impact women who depend directly on the environment for their daily subsistence and that of their families, especially those in rural settings, even increasing the risk of experiencing violence. Moreover, an intersectional approach highlights how factors like socioeconomic class, ethnicity, age, disability, and sexual orientation shape differentiated experiences of the multicrisis among women themselves. On the other hand, the transformative potential of women in all their diversity for environmental and climate action—particularly that of Indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, and women with disabilities—remains invisible and excluded from public policies, programme management, and decision-making spaces, hindering their autonomy, economic empowerment and participation in public life. Thus, the interaction between the environmental multicrisis and gender inequalities—such as the feminization of poverty and the gendered impacts of migration—represents a critical challenge to sustainable development in the region.

In this context, UN Women implements the project **"Scaling up climate change and environmental policies and programmes and their effectiveness by integrating gender perspectives"** in Latin America and the Caribbean, funded by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The financial support to civil society organizations working in environmental and/or climate action, through grants, is framed within this regional project, the [UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#), the [UN Women Strategic Note for Latin America and the Caribbean 2023-2025](#), and the [UN Women Bolivia Strategic Note 2023-2027](#), by generating funding opportunities and capacity-building efforts to increase women's participation in activities and decision-making processes related to the environment, climate change, livelihoods, and natural resource management.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete the Application Form (Annex 1) and the Utilization Plan (Annex 2) in the same language, which may be English or Spanish.
2. Once completed, click [here](#) to access the application link and transfer all the information from Annexes 1 and 2 to the online form.

This will be the only application method, so organizations are advised to complete the form only after finalizing both annexes. Applications submitted through other channels or after the deadline will not be considered. Therefore, Annexes 1 and 2 should not be sent as physical or digital documents to UN Women offices or staff in the region.

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Any organization can submit an application if:

- a) it is a legally registered civil society organization (CSO) that has worked on environmental and/or climate action for at least three years since its registration;
- b) it is not on the [Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List](#);
- c) it is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
- d) it has not had funding received from UN Women entirely or partly written off by UN Women;
- e) it is not currently engaged as a programme partner² of UN Women;
- f) it has not been engaged as a programme partner of UN Women any time after November 2019;
- g) it is not a government entity, a UN agency, fund, or programme, nor an established CSO with the capacity to be engaged as a programme partner of UN Women;
- h) it has sufficient capacity to collaborate with various stakeholders;
- i) it has sufficient financial stewardship³, including having adequate financial policies and procedures in place to manage the grant; and,
- j) its past performance has been deemed satisfactory (if it has received grants from UN Women previously or has been engaged as a programme partner of UN Women before November 2019); however, in an effort to expand opportunities and extend support to more civil society organizations, priority will be given to those that have not yet received funding from UN Women.

ELIGIBLE PROPOSALS

Any eligible organization may apply for the grant to cover activities within **proposals aimed at strengthening their organizational capacities to mainstream the gender perspective** into its work, with the vision of ensuring women's equitable participation, making their contributions as agents of transformation more visible, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the organization's environmental and/or climate action.

Organizations may request funding to cover direct costs related to the following **allowed activities**:

- introduction or improvement of organizational systems, tools, and processes;
- capacity-building for the organization's personnel, particularly in technical and managerial skills from the gender perspective; and
- purchase of equipment for the organization, such as copiers, scanners, printers, laptops or desktop computers, and telephones.

² Under the Implementing Partner or Responsible Party modalities.

³ Once notified by UN Women, civil society organizations whose proposals are short-listed must demonstrate that they have sufficient financial stewardship by providing at least the following documentation: a copy of an active bank account in the organization's name; a copy of the organization's current tax identification; and a copy of the organization's registration with the competent jurisdiction, evidencing at least three years of operation.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Any proposal from an eligible organization can be positively evaluated if:

- a) it proposes allowed activities that develop or strengthen the capacities of the organization to mainstream the gender perspective into its work;
- b) it proposes allowed activities that envision ensuring women's equitable participation, making their contributions as agents of transformation more visible, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the organization's environmental and/or climate action;
- c) it does not propose to use the grant to carry out programmatic activities inherent to UN Women's operations, civil construction work, infrastructure projects, purchases of vehicles or other tangible or intangible property, except for eligible equipment;
- d) it proposes a budget with a fixed amount of USD 15,000⁴ and does not allocate more than USD 4,500 of the budget for the purchase of eligible equipment;
- e) it proposes a timeline that is no longer than 6 months and allowed activities that are feasible to accomplish within that period—including political, security, and logistical considerations—even though the impact of those activities may manifest or be achieved beyond that period;
- f) it proposes to cover direct costs⁵ connected and traced to the allowed activities and does not plan to cover support costs⁶ of the organization with the grant;
- g) it does not propose to generate direct profit for the organization from the grant;
- h) it does not propose to cover costs previously incurred or committed by the organization;
- i) it proposes allowed activities that support the development of the organization in a sustainable manner;
- j) it proposes allowed activities for which the organization has the capacity to reach the target audience; and
- k) it proposes a budget that is cost-effective given the allowed activities, the estimated number of people who will be positively impacted by the proposal, and the location where it will be implemented.

Eligible proposals for organizational strengthening will be compared and ranked in descending order. Priority will be given to those that, if implemented with the grant, will meet the following criteria:

- l) generate a direct positive environmental impact⁷ during the implementation period of the proposal; and
- m) have the greatest potential for their organizations to effectively and sustainably contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in environmental and/or climate action, transcending the implementation period of the proposal.

⁴ Applications for amounts different from the fixed amount of USD 15,000 will not be considered. This amount will be transferred to the selected organizations in their respective local currencies, taking into account the official exchange rate of the United Nations on the date of the grant agreement signing.

⁵ "Direct costs" mean costs that can easily be connected and traced to the allowed activities to be performed with the grant. For example, if a professional is hired through a consultancy or professional fees to work on the allowed activities for an assigned number of hours, their labor with respect to the allowed activities is a direct cost. Salaries or remuneration for the staff or management of the civil society organization (CSO) cannot be covered by the grant.

⁶ "Support costs" mean those indirect costs that are incurred to operate the civil society organization (CSO) as a whole or a segment thereof and that cannot be easily connected or traced to the allowed activities to be performed with the grant, i.e., operating expenses, over-head costs and general costs connected to the normal functioning of an organization, such as cost for support staff, office space and equipment that are not direct costs.

⁷ A formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required—only a general estimate of the proposal's positive effects on the environment, if applicable.