WhatWorks TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

FREQUENT ASKED QUESTIONS – FUNDING WINDOW 2 (2024 – 2028)

What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Impact at Scale (What Works 2)

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INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE · Raising Voices · Social Development Direct · Breakthrough · care

Frequently Asked Questions

During Funding Window 1, What Works 2 Programme developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that was continuously updated during the innovation and scale grants open calls for concept notes. This document has been updated with further information to reflect the current open call for concept notes for innovation grants and will continue to be updated during the Window 2 open call.

1. **What are the types of grants open under the What Works 2 funding window 2?**
   Under funding window 2, there is just one type of open call grant to apply for: Innovation Grants. Please read carefully the guidance note for this grant type before applying, as it details the type of innovation grants and the priority thematic areas we are looking to fund. The guidance note contains important information on eligibility criteria and key instructions on how to complete the concept notes for innovation grants and the documents that must be submitted. The guidance note can be found here.

2. **a) How does What Works 2 programme define Innovation? b) What are the Innovation areas which the What Works 2 programme is interested in? c) who will the What Works 2 programme fund?**

   a) What Works defines Innovation as:
   - ✓ The development and implementation of new or existing ideas with the transformative ability to contribute impact with potential for future scaling.
   - ✓ Testing of innovative approaches and developing promising collaborations to take VAWG prevention work in new directions.

   b) The Innovation areas we are interested in are:

   - ✓ Design and test ways to prevent forms of violence that have been under-researched such as CRSV, TFGBV, violence in climate-related or humanitarian emergencies.
   - ✓ Testing different delivery platforms or modalities such as media, technology etc.
   - ✓ Testing new partnerships e.g. between a digital rights organisation and WROs.
   - ✓ Develop approaches to address violence in populations or settings where little experience exists (e.g refugees, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, or LBT populations.)

     An applicant can choose one or more priority areas, but they also can focus on one area in the proposal, one that is more relevant to the work they do.

c) Who will the What Works 2 programme fund?

- ✓ Applicants are national or local level women-led WROs from the Global South, who may choose to partner in consortia with other organisations (e.g., NGOs and SMEs). The role of each organisation, including any SME or private sector, should be clearly explained.
- ✓ For the TFGBV interventions, applicants can be led by actors from the digital rights or technology sector working in partnership with women-led WROs.

What Works II defines women-led, WROs to be organisations that:

- o Have a deliberate mandate to protect and promote the rights of women and girls;
- o Have majority women at every level, including at the board level and across all decision-making levels; and
- o Centre women and girls in all their diversities

- ✓ Applicants demonstrate that their core work is in the field of VAWG prevention, women's rights, gender equality, conflict, and digital/technology sectors.
- ✓ Applicants are willing to participate in the co-design of implementation and research evaluation in collaboration with the What Works II Implementation and Research Consortia.
- ✓ Applicants are located within the three FCDO priority regions: Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✓ International NGOs (INGOs) are eligible as part of a consortia led by WROs.
- ✓ Funding organisations are not eligible, for example a women's fund.
- ✓ UN entities and other multilaterals are not eligible.
- ✓ Organisations are only eligible to apply for one What Works II grant in each funding window.
- ✓ Organisations already funded under the What Works program (either as a lead or in a consortia) are not eligible to apply.

3. **What is What Works 2 definition of violence against women?**
   Please see our definition in this guidance note saved on the What Works 2 website.

4. **What would you consider as conflict area/situation? how about refugee camps or processing centers?**

   We use the definition given by the World bank that can be found here: https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations;

5. **Do applying organizations need to show in their status that it's a feminist group**?

No. However, organisations need to demonstrate that they are led by a majority of women bot at the governance and senior leadership level. It is also important to demonstrate on how your organization and intervention aligns with the What Works 2 Feminist Principles (please see Innovation Grants Guidance Note (link is provided in Q1).

6. **What is the process for me as a new applicant?**
For innovation Grants, there is a **two-stage process**: 1 - concept note; and 2 - request for full proposal. All Concept Notes will be reviewed by more than one reviewer to ensure fairness and transparency and will be approved by a FCDO selection panel. Only successful applicants at Concept Note Stage will be invited to apply for the Full Proposal. For additional information, please refer to the Innovation Grants Guidelines on our website.

6.1. How to apply and complete a concept note?
To access the Concept Note template, please follow the link to register and to apply: **https://ww2preventvawg.org/apply-for-a-grant**

Link to register:
https://internationalrescuecommitte.my.site.com/secur/CommunitiesSelfRegUi?startURL=%2Fs%2F&locale=uk
Please note if you have registered before, do NOT try to register again. Instead, try to login here: https://internationalrescuecommitte.my.site.com/login

If you need to log off and then log back in, then use the link to login: **https://internationalrescuecommitte.my.site.com/login**

How to access the budget template and other resources: For the budget template, after you login, please go to More > Resources tab; then go to Concept Note Resources > click on the folder> You will access a folder with all the resources, including the budget template and guidance note.

7. **Are there specific regions that are prioritized for the What Works 2 programme?**
Yes, the three priority regions are: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and MENA. Please follow the link for a full list of eligible countries.

7.1 What should be the criteria of selecting districts within a country?
The organisation should determine how to select the districts, but ideally, they should have the ability to visit the project in the selected districts. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will enter in a co-design process with the What Works 2 team and key programme design issues such as detailed information on the selection of locations where the intervention will be implemented and research conducted will be part of this process.

8. **Can applications propose interventions in more than one country?**
   Yes. Applicants may propose interventions in more than one country or region, provided that all countries are within the Global South, and are based in the three priority regions. All shortlisted applications will be required to provide further details of all the locations and countries for the proposed intervention at full proposal. That said, budgetary considerations should be made in choosing to work in more than one country.

9. **Can all organizations apply (either alone or as part of a consortia) or only those that were part of What Works 1 can apply?**
   All organizations can apply if they meet the criteria, the open call is not exclusive to the organizations that were part of the What Works 1 programme.

10. **Are current / ongoing projects/interventions eligible to apply for Innovation grants?**
    Yes. However, during the concept note stage, applicants must indicate how the integration of a new, meaningful innovation component to a current or ongoing project will work to improve our understanding and add to the evidence base of how to prevent and/ or respond to VAWG in LMICs. Further information on the eligibility criteria can be found in the Innovation grants concept note guidance. This guidance is available on the What Works 2 website.

    10.1 Does an applicant need to already have implemented an approach / intervention in previous programming necessarily? Or can we try something new, under What Works 2?
    For an innovation grant, an organisation does not need to have already implemented an approach / intervention, it can try something new that they would want to test or an adaptation of a proven intervention. Please refer to the innovation RFP for details on selection criteria.

11. **Can a local NGO be allowed to empower women economically through cash transfer services?**
    If your idea is innovative and can prove that your intervention will lead to a reduction in VAWG you can apply. Please refer to the innovation RFP for details on selection criteria.

12. **Can applicant partner with local government units to apply for grant?**
    No, government partners are not eligible to receive a grant, however demonstration of relationships with governments and working alongside as key stakeholders as part of the intervention is encouraged.

13. **Can an organisation submit more than one application?**

No. Organizations are only eligible to apply for **one** What Works 2 project in each funding cycle. If you applied for a grant in the Window 1 and were not successful, you can apply in Window 2.

13.1 Can an organization be in more than one consortium?
No, one organization cannot be in more than one consortium. This is to ensure equity and fairness across applicants.

13.2 Does What Works 2 consider the offices of an international nonprofit organization separately or as one entity?
What Works 2 considers them separate entities, but we will look at their legal registration in the country of operation during the due diligence process.

14. What is the funding amount for the Innovation grants in Funding Window 2?
For the Innovation Grants, the budget amount is up to GBP 500,000 each, for a duration up to 3 years.

14.1 How many NGOs targeted to receive funding in each of the three regions?
We are looking at an equitable distribution across the 3 regions across the overall What Works Grants Portfolio. Within the Window 2 call for innovation grant concept notes, applications from the MENA region are particularly welcomed. FCDO will make the final funding decisions.

15. Who is eligible to apply for funding?
Please refer to the innovation RFP for eligibility criteria saved here
https://ww2preventvawg.org/apply-for-a-grant

15.1 Can a non- WRO organisation apply for the grant?
Refer to the innovation RFP for eligibility criteria.
An organisation not led by a majority of women can apply in a consortium but cannot lead the project.
For the TFGBV interventions, applicants can be led by actors from the digital rights or technology sector working in partnership with women-led WROs.

15.2 Can academic partners apply as part of a WRO-led consortium?
Academic partners cannot apply. The What Works 2 programme includes a research consortium who will work with the grantee-partners to determine the research questions that the grant intervention aims to answer. The evaluation of the project will be conducted and paid for by an external team of researchers with specific knowledge of the country context and intervention.

15.3 Is conducting action research an eligible activity?
Research is not an eligible activity for the grant funding, and as above it will be conducted by the research consortium in coordination with the implementation partners. The WW2 plans to award innovation grants that are designed intervention to be implemented to achieve a measurable reduction in VAWG in humanitarian or development contexts. Research will be done by WW2 Research Consortium, will design and carry out a rigorous evaluation to test the effectiveness of the intervention.

15.4 Are for-profit firms / organizations eligible to submit applications?
No, SMEs and other profit-making organizations can be part of a consortium but not the lead applicant organisation, except if they are leading on the TFGBV priority area (in this case they can lead the proposal). If you decide to partner with an SME / ME, then please demonstrate the role of the SME in the proposed intervention. Also, please note the % of funding to the SME/ME, so it does not become disproportionate in relation to the rest of the consortium, in particular to the WROs.

15.5 How does What Works 2 define SMEs?
There are no specific criteria for SME for innovation grants, but you will need to consider what would a SME role be in the grant. A partner or partners who apply for Innovation grants needs to determine if their proposed intervention is best achieved through partnerships with an SME. The lead applicant needs to provide a delivery chain mapping (to be submitted at full proposal stage not concept note) and if possible, also submit details on how the SME is working responsibly and follows the local labor laws.

15.4 Are multilateral agencies allowed to apply?

No, multilateral agencies are not eligible to apply for What Works 2 grant funding.

15.5 Are the non- registered WROs able to apply?
It is an FCDO compliance requirement for organizations to have legal registration in the country of operation. The basic eligibility screening section in the innovation grant concept note template includes the requirement for the applicant to confirm if they are 'duly registered or has the legal basis/mandate as an organization and **is compliant with national and local laws and regulations**; if applicant is not registered, please confirm on how funds would be received and accounted for; WROs can include their old registration documents (in case they are expired or cannot be renewed) and include any information on the current country situation that they are safe to share, e.g., information on why they have never been able to register etc. If an organisation has a fiscal host, please explain the arrangements in your concept note.

15.7 Are WROs regional networks eligible to submit application? Can registered CBOs apply?
Yes, WROs regional networks can submit applications as well as registered CBOs.

15.8 Can a newly start-up apply?
No, an applicant needs to have been in existence for at least 3 years.

15.9 Can an NGOs who is dedicated to peacebuilding / social cohesion/ trafficking and migration victim /legal support lead the application?
Yes, if the NGOs believes that their proposed intervention is innovative, in line with the priorities in the RFP and are open to the project being evaluated.

15.10 Is there any limitation on the number of local women led WROs partners in a consortium application?
There is no limitation on the number of WROs in one consortium but please ensure on how the equal partnership will be applied within the consortium.

15.11 Is it ok if each consortium partner works in different locations / regions in the country and prevents different types of crises led VAWG?
It is ok for each WRO to work in different areas/districts as long as the project can demonstrate how VAWG prevention is articulated and impactful.

15.12 In country in which they have a FCRA rule, that does not allow sub-granting or forming coalitions, how they may apply?
Organizations applying for innovation grants do not have to do so in a consortium. They can apply alone. If they decide to apply as a consortium, they should have an MoU between the organizations. Having FCRA rules would not prevent the organization from applying, but please note this in your concept note on how you will manage FCRA and receive funds in a foreign currency.

15.13 Are What Works 2 Programme Consortium partners and Consortium partner affiliates eligible to apply?
No, all What Works 2 Programme Consortium partners and Consortium partner affiliates are not eligible to apply or receive grant funding.

15.14 If we are applying as a consortium, should we calculate an average of three years combining both organizations?
FCDO expects lead organizations to apply the same methodology and eligibility criteria for calculating allowable NPAC for all consortium partners. Consortium partners must complete their NPAC on a separate template and provide the lead organisation to collate the information. The lead organisation should identify the NPAC for each consortium partner as separate budget lines.

15.15 Will you be providing an opportunity for organizations who are looking for application partners with specific skills to connect?
We are not able to offer this opportunity.

15.16 With regards to Multi country applications: do you mean multi country applicants (applicants from different countries) or multiple countries for the intervention?
It is not possible to capture all the different ways organizations may be structured across different offices, but the key principle is that no cost should be double counted (i.e. included in both NPAC and direct costs).
Organizations with multiple offices should complete the budget, including the NPAC tab for the office that will be leading the project considering costs incurred by other parts of the organization. The approach taken will depend on how the organization's accounts are structured.

16. How much should an organization have as annual budget to qualify?
What Works 2 doesn't have a budget threshold for organizations. We do expect that the organization has capacity and resources to manage the project budget that it applies for. We do expect however that the organization has financial records of the last 3 years of operation, or a justification for not having such records.

17. Should the proposed budgets include indirect costs?
Yes. Non-Project Attributable Costs (NPAC) also called indirect, core, central or support costs are permitted. You are required to calculate the total annual NPAC of your organisation in line with the following budget cost categories:

- Administration costs
- Support Staff Costs
- Governance Costs

Please refer to the NPAC guidance on how to calculate NPAC. You will find this guidance on the 'FILE' tab after you register on the Grants Portal.

17.1 What other admin cost refer to?

'Other admin costs' is intended to cover an appropriate and justifiable apportionment of the grantee's (and any implementing partner's) administrative costs expended in support of the grant, where these costs are not covered by the other budget classifications. Administrative costs should be 'actuals' and apportioned across the project portfolio.

17.2 What is the percentage of admin costs from the overall cost? What about NPAC? Is there any flat rate?

No, there is no flat rate for admin costs, but we expect the costs to be reasonable. ‘Other admin costs’ is intended to cover an appropriate and justifiable apportionment of the grantee’s (and any implementing partner’s) administrative costs expended in support of the grant, where these costs are not covered by the other budget classifications. Admin costs should be actuals and evidenced by supporting documentation.

17.3 Does Admin cost also include the organization overheads? What would be the overhead %?

There is no % threshold of admin costs. These costs are intended to cover an appropriate and justifiable apportionment of the grantee’s (and any implementing partner’s) administrative costs expended in support of the grant, where these costs are not covered by the other budget classifications.

17.4 Would the organization need to provide receipts for admin costs?

Admin costs should be actual costs as apportioned to the project and with supporting documents e.g receipts for rent

17.5 What should be the percentage of project direct costs, salaries and operations?

We do not prescribe what these costs should be, but we expect that they are appropriate and proportionate to the size of the grant as well as not include any of the ineligible costs.

17.6 When does the full budget need to be submitted?
For the innovation grant, the full budget is required on the full proposal stage and not on the concept note stage.

17.7 Is it possible for an NNGO to apply without matching cost?
What Works 2 doesn’t ask for match costs, regardless of the type of the organization

17.8 Is co-funding allowed (e.g. within an ongoing project)?
No. We are not interested in co funding for innovation grants. A project should be specific to the What Works 2 project for purposes of evaluation.

17.9 Are there any budget headings required?
The budget template has been provided as part of the proposal documents. The budget template has the budget headings discussed during the webinar. There is more financial guidance after your registration at the Grants portal.

17.10 What can I include as an overhead?

Overhead costs, or Non-Project Attributable Costs (NPAC), are the costs that must be incurred in order to deliver a project or programme but cannot be directly attributed to a specific programme. These costs include running costs of the organisation such as HR and Finance functions, Head Office costs and Governance costs. After you register on the Grants Portal, please refer to the NPAC guidance on how to calculate NPAC. This guidance can be found on 'FILE' tab.

17.11 What is the budget allocation for the overhead cost?
It is not allowed to use a flat rate to charge for overheads or for admin costs. Non-Project Attributable Costs (NPAC) are overhead costs that relate to the overall operations, management, and identity of the delivery partner rather than to programme services. These should be calculated using the template provided with the budget template. You will find the template and more guidance from our portal after registration.

17.12 Can we use an agreed flat NPAC rate?
No. However, if your organisation has already agreed an NPAC rate with FCDO this financial year, you can submit the same tab with the budget for your new grant. Once the NPAC rate has been agreed they can use this rate over the life of the programme unless there has been a material change to the organization's costs base that would materially impact the NPAC rate.

17.13 How should organizations with complex structures (i.e. multiple offices, devolved offices, not stand-alone entities) allocate costs?
It is not possible to capture all the different ways organizations may be structured across different offices, but the key principle is that no cost should be double counted (i.e. included in both NPAC and direct costs).

Organizations with multiple offices should complete the budget, including the NPAC tab for the office that will be leading the project considering costs incurred by other parts of the organization. The approach taken will depend on how the organization's accounts are structured.

17.14. Can the cost of preparing funding applications be included as an overhead cost?
No. This is an ineligible cost as per the FCDO eligible cost guidance.

17.15 As lead partner of a consortium, should I apply our NPAC rate to the total direct costs of the project?
No. The NPAC rate should be applied to an organization's proportion of the direct costs only, not including payments made to any consortium or downstream partners. Partner organizations should apply their own overheads to their direct costs.

17.16 Can we use our NICRA rate instead of using FCDO's new overheads approach?
No. NICRA and NPAC are not compatible because USAID and FCDO use different methodologies.

17.17. Why is there a % allocation for Advocacy and MEL activities?
These are two key areas that will demonstrate project impact; thus, applicants are asked to include 10% for Advocacy activities; and up to 10% for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. Please see full budget guidance for additional information. Grantees should – at minimum - budget for (a) baseline data collection; (b) ongoing data collection and monitoring during project implementation; (c) and end line data collection.

17.18 Asset Ownership
As per the FCDO Accountable Grant Arrangement, ultimate ownership of the inventory of assets will remain with FCDO and any ownership, transfer, or asset disposal is otherwise agreed in writing by FCDO, normally at the end of the grant. It should not be assumed that assets will remain with the lead grant holder or local implementing partners after project completion, so grant holders should plan for replacement of assets after the end of the grant if this will impact on the continuation of the critical project activities. There is a possibility of transferring the assets to the partner, but this is at the sole discretion of FCDO and is discussed near the end of the project.

17.19 Advocacy costs
Advocacy costs should include the costs of conducting a Gendered Political and Economic Analysis (GPEA), the development of a National Advocacy Strategy (and any associated engagement in national and regional advocacy), as well as any desired external engagement and influencing trips to key regional and global events and conferences. More information on how to conduct a GPEA and National Advocacy Strategy will be provided during the co design/inception phase of the grant, but both will require staff time.

17.20 Is it 80% program cost and 20% for administration cost?
No, there are no thresholds for program and admin costs, these costs are informed by your proposal budget. The only thresholds are 10% for M&E and 10% for Advocacy.

17.21 Who should I contact with finance related queries or feedback?
For any budget related questions or how to complete your NPAC tab, please send an email to WW2.info@rescue.org

18. What is the Contracting mechanism for the selected grantees?
The contracting mechanism for the selected project grants will be an FCDO Accountable Grant Arrangement (AGA). As a final stage in the application process prior to signing the grant agreement, IRC, acting on behalf of FCDO as the fund manager, will conduct a due diligence assessment to identify any development needs and assign actions to mitigate against

the risk to the FCDO funding. This is a collaborative review and analysis of the selected grantee's organizational, programmatic, financial, and operational capacity to implement the proposed project.

19. Where can I access templates for Concept Note (Innovation Grants)?

To access these documents, you must first create a profile on IRC What Works 2 Grant Management System (GMIS) and officially begin your application, please go to **File tab** and **click view all to access the templates**. All templates can be completed online. Furthermore, the application is interactive and guides you through help text in each of the required fields. If you have limited or no digital access, please contact us via email: WW2.info@rescue.org and we are happy to assist you.

20. What is the official language for the application?

English is the only accepted language for the application submission.

21. When is the due date for accepting the innovation grants concept note?

23.59 GMT on the 6th of December 2024. Please check the website and the Grants portal for any extension to this deadline.

22. Are there records/presentations for the innovation grant webinars?

There will be at least 2 webinars for anyone who is interested in applying for the concept note. Dates & times will be advertised on What Works 2 LinkedIn and X pages. Recordings will be shared after the webinars.

23. Is there any step-by-step manual /guidance on how to register and how to apply?

Yes, you can find a guidance note on how to register and apply on the What Works 2 website.

24. How can we address our questions? Is there any deadline?

You can use the 'chatter' function on the Grants Portal; or you can send us an email. There is no deadline to submit your questions. Outstanding questions may be addressed to WW2.info@rescue.org. We will aim to respond within 5 working days.

25. We had already submitted our application. We have just received information that we did not have at the beginning. How can we amend the application?

Please send us an email requesting to amend your application to WW2.info@rescue.org. We will aim to reply withing 5 working days.

26. Could the deadline be extended?

All updates to changes in submission dates will be updated on Website and Grants Portal accordingly.

27. What Strategies in place to ensure that English and French Speaking Countries are considered at the same levels? Because in the past, I realized that French Speaking Countries are left behind considering the English ones?

We are ensuring language fairness and equity; we ask applicants to submit their concept note in English as it is FCDO main language; we have a number of documents translated in French and do provide live translation during the webinars.

28. May applications be submitted through email?

No. Applications must be submitted through the IRC What Works 2 Grant Management Information System (GMIS) platform. Any applications received through another means will be rejected at point of receipt. Additional guidance on how to apply can be found on What Works 2 website. However, if you have any accessibility issues and/or are screen readers, please contact us at WW2.info@rescue.org and we will send you the application form templates.

Also, for **organizations based in South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine/Crimea**, please send us **an email** WW2.info@rescue.org requesting **the offline application forms and templates**, as due to licensing issues, you will not be able to complete the applications online.

This FAQs will be updated regularly, please check the What Works 2 website for updates. Before reaching out the What Works 2 team for assistance, kindly read the guidelines for the Innovation Concept Note to ensure you understand the grant application and review process. Grant Application Guidelines are also available in Arabic and French on our website.

To maintain the impartiality and fairness of the process, the What Works 2 is unable to provide one- on-one feedback on concept note and/or full proposal ideas.