



## Funding guidelines for proposals for WPF Grants

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### Introduction

Today more than 220 million women in developing countries want to avoid pregnancy but lack access to family planning and contraceptives. All women and girls have the right and must have the means to plan their own lives including when and whether to have children.

By enabling individuals to choose the number and spacing of their children, family planning dramatically improves the health prospects of women and their children, improves the opportunities of women and girls to seek education, empowerment and economic activity, reduces poverty and, by reducing population, improves the sustainability of life on Earth.

### WPF objectives

Women's Plans Foundation (WPF) is a charitable trust raising funds for family planning as an integral part of overseas aid programs. These funds are primarily used for grants to organisations that deliver family planning services. The overriding purpose of WPF's grants is to make contraceptives available to people who have limited or no access to family planning services and education.

### Types of organisation that can apply

Non-Government organisations that can apply must be AusAID accredited. It is an Australian Government requirement that WPF donate only to Deductible Gift Recipients registered in Australia. We have a preference for organisations that have provision of family planning and contraceptive services as a clear and important part of their mandate and with family planning outcomes reflected in their key performance indicators. The position of your organisation in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Sector and with respect to overseas aid is also important to WPF when establishing partnerships.

### Priorities

#### Geographical

Projects in the Asia Pacific area are our priority because:

- More than 50% of 10 year olds on Earth, the source of the next generation, live there. Countries with larger cohorts of 10 year olds tend to be poorer<sup>1</sup>.
- We have commitments to our immediate neighbours.
- We do not want to spread our resources too thinly.
- As the most disaster prone area in the world Asia Pacific presents particular risks. Amongst the humanitarian impacts of disasters and conflict are those

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<sup>1</sup> UNFPA State of World Population 2016 Report pp 14-16.

relating to reduced access to contraceptives. Sexual assault is common in disaster-struck areas, and the victims may end up dealing with unwanted pregnancies as a result of rape.

We prefer to fund projects in countries that are committed to expanding access to and take-up of high-quality, voluntary family planning and where there is a reasonable chance that the projects will be effective.

### Target groups

These include but are not limited to:

- People who want to plan their pregnancies or discontinue expansion of their families but have limited or no access to contraceptives (e.g. rural communities; language and cultural barriers).
- Those most at risk of unwanted pregnancies and for whom unwanted pregnancies can cause the most problems (e.g. young girls, those in disaster prone areas).
- Women who are not using any form of contraception because of perceived barriers (e.g. side-effects experienced with a particular type of contraception that deter them from using any type).

We would like to know about and will consider funding proposals for other marginalised and needy groups.

### Types of activities

Choice of activities will be made in the light of local needs, circumstances and likely effectiveness. Our preference is for projects that include some direct provision of contraceptive services. Most of our funding will go to such services. We will also consider projects that have the potential to lead to more effective delivery and take-up of contraceptive services (e.g. research into reasons that women in a particular community do not use particular types of contraceptive; education of young people about contraception; training for insertion of long-acting reversible contraceptives) provided that a convincing case can be made for how those projects and their outcomes will contribute to improved access to and take-up of contraceptives.

While we believe that every woman should choose the type of contraceptive that she considers appropriate to her circumstances we have a preference for projects that are endeavouring to expand access to and take-up of long-acting reversible contraceptives that are more effective with respect to reducing unwanted pregnancies.

Advocacy is vital, and we are ourselves actively engaged in advocacy and education with government, political and community leaders and the broader community. However as a relatively small organisation we are generally not in a position to fund solely educational advocacy projects. Our emphasis for effectiveness is on supply where demand already exists rather than on creating demand. We are, however, interested in projects where provision of services and education are coupled by, for example, using evidence of the success of services to build a case for contraception. Also we value the evidence and case examples that organisations can provide to us to strengthen our advocacy.

### Sustainability

WPF wishes to fund projects that are themselves sustainable or lay the foundation for further advances. When preparing proposals we ask that you include the rationale and some evidence concerning the sustainability prospects of the project and its outcomes. For example, projects that lead to enhanced awareness and understanding of types of contraceptives are important as long as there is potential for awareness and understanding to convert to action. So in this case it is important to be able to demonstrate that supply of contraceptives will address increased demand. Similarly,

capacity building of health care providers on the ground is a means of improving sustainability. When capacity has been developed there should be opportunity to apply, maintain and refresh capacity.

### **Budget, timeline and funding issues**

Typically our grants range between \$10,000 and \$40,000 over a one year period. However we will consider proposals outside that range and continuation of funding in the light of results achieved, and circumstances and opportunities to scale up or consolidate. Please advise if you have any critical dates for project implementation and funding.

When preparing a proposal, we would appreciate learning how WPF funding will make a difference and add value to what is already being done or would in any case be done without WPF funding. How would WPF funding integrate with other sources of funding? We would like to see estimates of expenditure and receive at least an annual statement of expenditure (timing and frequency of reports to be agreed). WPF's consideration of applications occurs in April and early May.

### **Expected results and accountability**

Increases in Couple Years Protection (CYP)<sup>2</sup> is a desired outcome for all projects either as an immediate outcome for those projects directly engaged in service delivery of contraceptives or as a later outcome for projects that are initially about improving understanding of and access to contraception.

Therefore, funded projects should be able to provide some evidence that they have contributed directly to increased CYPs (e.g. through additional take-up of contraception) or indirectly (e.g. by showing that they have affected the contraception intentions of target groups receiving advice or education; by building capacity to deliver better targeted, higher quality services that will increase CYPs).

Please describe the kinds of performance measures you will use to demonstrate that WPF funds are making a difference. We expect that these would be measures that you would already be collecting for your own purposes and require little extra work to generate new information.

### **Submission of proposal**

Proposals should address the issues raised in these guidelines: the benefits of WPF partnering with your organisation; why the project is needed and what gaps it will fill; target groups (nature and size) and expected outcomes for them; types of activities and the rationale for choice of them including considerations relating to effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability; your budget and timeline; your measures of results (especially the outcomes) and how you plan to keep us informed about project and its results.

Please submit your proposal to [WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com](mailto:WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com)

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<sup>2</sup> See MSI's definition and simple calculation of CYPs associated with each method of contraception. Increased CYPs could come through more people taking up contraception and from people switching from less effective to more effective types of contraception <https://mariestopes.org/media/2188/msi-cyp-infographic.pdf>.