



**What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale Programme** is seeking concept note applications from women-led WROs in the Global South to apply for a **3-year grant to test innovations on how to prevent violence against women and girls**, including in conflict and crisis and for the most marginalized women and girls in all their diversity.

## **CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

Find out more here: <https://ww2preventvawg.org/apply>

Apply by 23.59 GMT on 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.





The What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale Programme (What Works 2) is pleased to announce an open call to apply for a **3-year innovation grant (2023-2025) to pilot innovative efforts to prevent violence against women and girls**. What Works 2 invites **concept notes** from southern-based women-led, women's right organizations, either as single organizations or in consortia with other organisations. **Concept notes must be received by 23.59 pm GMT on 2nd of September 2022.**

### Overview

Building on the success of its predecessor ([whatworks.co.za](http://whatworks.co.za)), which showed that violence against women and girls (VAWG) is preventable, What Works 2 is a seven-year UK aid funded programme to scale up evidence-based, practice-informed violence prevention approaches. Contributing progress towards the elimination of VAWG, What Works 2 seeks to achieve a measurable reduction in VAWG in development and

humanitarian contexts, including for the most marginalised women and girls in all their diversities. What Works 2 will allocate funding on behalf of Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to address innovation initiatives to prevent VAWG, including in conflict and crises. What Works 2 seeks to expand the global knowledge and evidence base on what works to prevent VAWG and how to achieve this at scale. It also aims to support women's rights organisations (WROs) to be recognised as essential actors in VAWG prevention and improve access to funding to uphold the rights, agency and voices of women and girls in all their diversity.



Successful applicants awarded with a grant will collaborate with the What Works 2 technical advisors in 'learning partnerships' to co-design, field-test, monitor, and refine scale-up and innovation projects. This will be an interactive process of adaptation to ensure the intervention is addressing a knowledge gap regarding what works to prevent VAWG. In addition, the organization/consortia will be paired with partners from the What Works 2 Research Consortium to co-design a fit-for-purpose research question and evaluation design to generate learning and evidence about their proposed innovations and potential for scale. Grantees will be responsible for collecting information for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), in partnership with the Research Consortium. However, budget for the evaluation will be covered by the Research Consortium and will be separate from the innovation grant budget.

## **What are innovation grants?**

### **Innovation Grant Information and Criteria**

#### **What Works 2 defines innovation as:**

*The development and implementation of new or existing ideas with the transformative ability to contribute impact with potential for future scaling.*

We are interested in testing innovative approaches and developing promising collaborations to take VAWG prevention work in new directions. Innovation grants are intended to support the development and/or implementation of projects designed to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- Design and test ways to address drivers of violence that have previously been under explored.
- Develop approaches to combat violence in populations or settings where little experience exists.

In funding Window 1, What Works 2 will award innovation grants of up to GBP 500,000 each, for up to 3 years, to organisations or consortia led by women-led WROs in the Global South that are designed to achieve a measurable reduction in VAWG in development or humanitarian contexts.

## We are looking to fund

- **New ideas/approaches** to prevent VAWG that have not previously been implemented.
- **Existing ideas/approaches** on preventing VAWG that are being **adapted** for new populations, geographies, particularly focused on women and girls with disabilities and LBT persons.
- Approaches that **test** different combinations, intensities, or duration of approaches to further reduce levels of VAWG and get us closer to 'zero' prevalence.
- **Adaptations of existing methodologies** (particularly for humanitarian contexts) from other sectors for VAWG prevention.
- **New or adapted prevention delivery modalities** and/or different combinations, (e.g. moving from community mobilization to implementing prevention through digital spaces/online platforms).

## Who do we intend to fund?

What Works 2 aims to award innovation grants to southern-based, women-led, women's rights organisations (WROs) working as programme implementors in the field of prevention of VAWG. This includes women-led peacebuilding organisations, women-led people with disabilities organizations, and LBT organisations.

## Selection criteria for What Works 2 innovation grants

**We are seeking concept notes for innovations in VAWG prevention that demonstrate:**

- Locally led solutions.
- Potential for a clear runway to scale either by reach or proportion of population covered.
- Proven experience of working adaptively and taking a continuous learning approach.
- Intervention design incorporates flexibility and adaptability to change.
- Intervention includes gender transformative components.
- Explanation of the innovation and why / how is it innovative, and the key questions the project seeks to address.
- Key questions and challenges that the VAWG prevention field is facing that the project aims to answer through evidence generation.
- Testing of technological and digital solutions may be included as part of the approach but is not a requirement.
- Proposals may also consider how they will test what different combinations, intensities or duration of approaches might further reduce levels of VAWG and advance the prevention field.

**We particularly encourage proposals that work in the following areas**

- Prevention of violence against the most marginalized groups, particularly women and girls with disabilities and LBT persons.
- Prevention of VAWG in conflict and crisis, including non-partner sexual violence (this could include adapting evidence-based approaches from non-conflict settings).
- Prevention of violence against children and its links to violence against women to stop the transmission of violence across generations.

## Geographical Scope

Projects/interventions should be located and implemented within sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Projects located in fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS) are strongly encouraged.

## Types of Violence

The primary focus for funding is **intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner sexual violence**. We also encourage proposals that seek to prevent **violence in and around schools, workplaces, and public spaces**, and which consider **violence against children (VAC)** an important secondary outcome. We particularly encourage proposals that seek to impact on more than one type of violence, recognizing that these often co-occur.

## Language

Concept notes must be submitted in English.

## Who is eligible to apply?

What Works 2 understands women-led, WROs to be organisations that:

- Have a deliberate mandate to protect and promote the rights of women and girls.
- Have majority women at every level, including at the board level and across all decision-making levels.
- Centre women and girls in all their diversity<sup>1</sup>.
- Acknowledge individual and structural gender inequality and gender norms as a core driver of VAWG.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes centering women and girls facing multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination, for example women and girls with disabilities and LBT people.

## Eligibility criteria for What Works 2 innovation grants

- 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).
- Applicants are project implementers in VAWG prevention including those working in conflict and crisis contexts and women-led peacebuilders organisations.
- Applicants are willing to participate in the co-design of research in collaboration with the What Works 2 Research Consortium.
- Applicants are located within the three priority regions: sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and MENA.
- International NGOs (INGOs) are eligible as part of a consortia led by WROs.
- Funding organizations are not eligible, for example a women's fund.
- Organisations are only eligible to submit one concept note in each funding cycle.

## Grant Funding

Grants are in the amount of GBP 500,000 for a term of 3 years and are for project design, pilot and implementation activities with a clear start and end date, with prevention projects designed as a stand-alone phase of work with feasible and concrete outcomes. Grant funds are not intended as core support, although What Works 2 understands the need and can cover some staffing and other core costs as part of the project implementation.

The contracting mechanism for the project grants will be an FCDO Accountable Grant Arrangement (AGA). The AGA template has been tailored to applicants receiving grants and includes reporting requirements and eligible costs for FCDO funding. 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.

## Application Process

A two-stage application process will be used to open the process to a diverse pool while lessening the burden on applicants by keeping the first submission to a concept note.

The first stage is an online concept note and application form that requests basic FCDO eligibility information including confirmation that the lead applicant is a WRO based in the Global South. The concept note should provide a brief narrative including a project summary of the prevention innovation, including geographic scope, type of violence, settings and activities to be undertaken; technical expertise in the field of ending VAWG; and organizational capacity in project and finance management.

The What Works 2 team will work in an interactive way with a small number of organisations selected from review of the concept note to submit a full proposal. Following approval from FCDO, the selected applicants will be offered a provisional award of funding, subject to satisfactory completion of a due diligence assessment. If approved, grant funds would be available for a project start from approximately April 2023.

## Next Steps

Please read the concept note application guidelines alongside this request for concept notes. Complete the **online concept note** and application form via [this link](#) by 23.59 GMT on 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.

Webinar sessions providing information on emerging evidence on VAWG prevention, FCDO priorities and grant agreement and compliance will take place during the week commencing 8 August 2022. Further information will be announced on the What Works 2 website (<https://ww2preventvawg.org>) and Twitter @WW2PreventVAWG.

Questions regarding the concept note application can be submitted via email to: [WW2.info@rescue.org](mailto:WW2.info@rescue.org).