



Guidance on how to complete the Request for Full Proposal Application Form – SCALE GRANTS

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 scale-up grant (2023-2025) to prevent violence against women and girls. What Works 2 **invites full proposals** from organizations including women's rights organisations, INGOs/NGOs, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), either as single organizations or in consortia. Applicants in consortia should include at least one WRO from the Global South. Proposals must be received by **23.59 pm GMT on 23rd September 2022**.

About this guidance

This document is designed to assist applicants working on prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG), to assess their eligibility to apply for Scale up grants funding made by the What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (What Works 2 Programme) and to submit proposals in accordance with the required procedures.



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Glossary

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EU	European Union
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
IAB	Independent Advisory Board
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
WRO	Women's Right Organisations
WW2	What Works 2
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

1. Background information about the What Works programme and its objectives

Building on the success of its predecessor (<https://www.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 scale up initiatives to prevent VAWG. The What Works 2 Programme 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 diversities.

2. What Works Scale grants window specific focus

i. Scale-up grant information and criteria

What Works 2 defines scale as: ***expanding and/or deepening evidence based VAWG prevention programming and policy efforts in partnership with organizations, institutions and communities who share a commitment to sustainable change.***

We are interested in designing, implementing, and rigorously evaluating a range of approaches to scale up violence prevention efforts, translating proof-of-concept evidence into robust, large scale interventions and strategies. In Funding Window 1, What Works 2 will award a 3-year GBP4 million scale-up grant through an open competition call to organisations or consortia designed to achieve a measurable reduction in VAWG in development and humanitarian contexts, including for the most marginalised women and girls.

We are looking to fund a range of pathways to scaling up VAWG prevention:

- Take effective VAWG prevention interventions (or elements of interventions) and **expand** them in the original setting (e.g. taking an existing project to a larger scale such as from district to province); or **adapt and replicate** them in new contexts/countries.
- **Deepen** impact by implementing a comprehensive **multi-sectoral package** of effective interventions in a particular context such as district or sub-district (e.g. combining schools, livelihoods and workplace-based interventions) including integrating violence reduction and gender equality into local systems.
- **Mainstream** VAWG/VAC prevention and gender equality into large scale sector programmes (e.g. education, social protection, livelihoods, health delivery) to optimize their impact on reducing VAWG.

These pathways to scaling interventions are not mutually exclusive and may be applied simultaneously or sequentially in some contexts.

Within the four pathways to scale, we are interested in the following four types of scale:

- **Quantitative scale** -increasing geographic spread or beneficiaries in same location
- **Functional scale** - expanding the scope of an activity
- **Organisational scale** -involving other organisations or creating new ones, or being taken on by governments / multilaterals / other donors investing)
- **Political scale** - expansion by influencing political interests to affect institutional gains that allow interventions to be scaled up and sustained

ii. Types of violence

The primary focus for the funding is VAWG, with a secondary focus on VAC (Violence Against Children). Given the high prevalence and the robust evidence base on what works, prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner sexual violence are priorities for What Works 2. In addition, the funding seeks to address multiple forms of VAWG and the interrelationship between different forms, including **conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) and violence in and around schools, workplaces, and public spaces**. We particularly encourage proposals that seek to impact on more than one type of violence, recognizing that these often co-occur.

iii. Aligning with our Feminist Principles

What Works 2 is committed to the use of aspirational feminist grant making principles in the design, planning, implementation, and evaluation work of our programme. The grant making approach is underpinned by the following key commitments:

- Centre the voices and priorities of women and girls affected by violence in all our work through prioritising women-led feminist organisations in the grant-making process and ensuring accountability to them;
- Efforts will be made to fund projects that use an “intersectional analysis” in the co-design of projects to ensure What Works 2 programme is responding to women and girls in all their diversities;
- Developing aspirational feminist grant-making systems and other ways of working that promote collaboration between WROs;
- Engage in active listening and ongoing solidarity to build equitable and inclusive partnerships to develop trust;

3) i) Who can apply

- Applicants are willing to participate in the co-design of research in collaboration with the What Works 2 Research Consortium
- Applicants are willing to participate in an evaluation process
- Applicants are located within the three priority regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Middle East and North Africa; Please see link to [OECD list of WW2 priority regions and countries](#)

The scale grant is open to applicants either as a single organisation or in consortia. Where an application is submitted by a consortium, the following requirements apply:

- Applicants could include a mix of WROs who are programme implementers, as well as INGOs, NGOs and SMEs
- Applicants in consortia members include at least one WRO from the Global South, which will lead/co-lead the project's design, implementation, learning, and policy influencing and benefit from technical and organizational capacity strengthening opportunities related to the grant
- Applicants are willing to work flexibly with What Works II on project design, adaptation, and assessments
- Applicants are located within the three priority regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and MENA

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

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

ii) Ineligible applicants

- Funding organizations are not eligible, for example a women's fund
- Organisations are only eligible to apply for **one What Works 2 grant in a funding window**

iii) Priority regions and/or countries

The What Works 2 Programme will work across the three priority regions: Sub-Saharan Africa; MENA and Asia (Central, South and Southeast Asia). See section 3.i above for full list of regions and countries. The need for regional balance will be weighed against the presence of VAWG prevention interventions that can be scaled up or mainstreamed in keeping with the

What Works 2 programme priorities.

iv) Priority areas of intervention for Scale Grants

The What Works 2 Scale Window will seek to fund projects demonstrating interventions which address the following criteria:

Effectiveness

Clear intervention model for prevention of VAWG that has demonstrated:

- A meaningful and statistically significant reduction in a VAWG outcome through rigorous testing carried out in lower-and middle-income countries. This could include randomized controlled trials or quasi-experimental evaluations demonstrating: effectiveness of the intervention including any evidence-based reductions in VAWG outcomes; differential impacts or changes in plausible pathways; data or information on quality and challenges from implementation participants; Cost effectiveness of the intervention
- A change in pathways such as gender attitudes, household decision-making, or other mechanisms that support gender transformation through a previous trial
- Analysis of trial data for any potential difference of impact by age, disability, or other identity
- Information on implementation quality, such as fidelity to the intervention, reach/attendance/engagement data from participants, etc.
- Key questions and challenges that the VAWG prevention field is facing that the intervention aims to answer through evidence generation

Cost- Efficiency

- Provides cost effectiveness or cost efficiency data
- Demonstrates a plausible means to achieve economies at scale using cost data or cost modelling approaches

Scale and Sustainability

- Demonstrates ability for project to scale either by reach or proportion of population covered
- Describes how the proposed intervention could be sustained beyond the life of the funding
- Intervention includes gender transformative components that could lead to greater sustainability outcomes outside of the VAWG sector

Enabling environment

- Evidence of a conducive political environment for scale, or windows of opportunity where FCDO support could be catalytic

- Intervention demonstrates how it will leverage other sources of funding
- Learning from the evaluation of the intervention will fill a major evidence gap for what works to prevent violence
- Technological and digital solutions may be part of the approach.

Equality and Inclusion Principles

- Project includes gender transformative components
- Project includes mechanisms for remaining accountable to communities and stakeholders
- Project includes support or building of equitable relationships with WROs and the communities where the work will occur
- Project establishes a positive work culture where there is zero tolerance of any type of VAW including sexual exploitation or harassment among all staff and project partners as evidence by existing policies
- Project strives to be inclusive and include and empower the most vulnerable groups as well as acknowledge and address the unique needs and challenges faced by these groups

The What Works II consortium has developed a set of guiding principles our projects will follow for VAWG prevention programming at scale:

Principles for VAWG Prevention Programming	
Principles for VAWG Prevention Programming	Principles for VAWG Prevention Programming at Scale
A feminist analysis of the drivers of VAWG	Programming that transforms gender inequality through promoting critical thinking and inspiring activism for social change
Deep knowledge and connection to the local context	Ample time for preparation, implementation and exit
A clear theory of change	Meaningful sustainable involvement of and accountability to communities at all stages, with special care for inclusion of marginalized groups
Centering women and their leadership while doing no harm	Iterative, timely, non-burdensome learning that monitors direct and indirect consequences of programming
Special Considerations for Prevention Programming at Scale	

Realistic, achievable outcomes aligned with organizational capacities, evidence, and resources	Realistic alignment between reach, depth, geographies, and resources
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Collaboration and co-design

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 organisation/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 intervention and potential for scale. Grantees will be responsible for collecting information for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan, in partnership with the Research Consortium. However, budget for the evaluation will be covered by the Research Consortium and will be separate from the project grant budget.

4. Eligibility criteria - Pre-screening eligibility checks

The What Works 2 Concept Note application form, has a number of pre-screening eligibility checks to ensure that only those organizations with sufficient experience, financial stability, demonstrable technical knowledge for delivering what is envisioned in this call for proposals will qualify for further consideration for the Full Proposal. The pre-screening section will comprise two sections / phases as follows:

- **Eligibility Checklist:** A checklist designed to ensure that WROs intending to apply for an Innovation Grant meet all the relevant criteria and have the required experience to deliver the programme’s aims and objectives.

Checks include confirmation that the proposed activity will be located in WW2 priority regions; that lead WRO is women led and based in the Global South; that all project partners are based in three priority regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and MENA; of organisational audit reports for the past three years; and of previous organisational experience of implementing VAWG projects over the last three years.

- **Mandatory requirements/pre-qualification criteria:** A checklist of more specific programme related questions and criteria to confirm details about the applicants organisation and proposed activity.

These include confirmation that the proposed service / activity are part of the key services / activities undertaken by the applicant that the applicant organization is registered as required by national or local laws where the organization is based; that has managed VAWG projects for at least three years; willingness to participate in research and impact evaluation studies related to the proposed activity. The criteria will also require that applicants inform us if they are currently under investigation for any fraud or any misconduct and if yes to provide further details, noting this will not exclude an organization from applying; applicants are expected to confirm whether the organization has been subject to any investigations relating to sexual exploitation and abuse and provide further details. This is particular important for any FCDO funded project to adhere to the [IASC Six Core Principles](#). Additional compliance and vetting checks will be carried out by the What Works 2 team during the initial screening stage.

- 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.

5. Budget, Funding parameters and what can and cannot be funded

i) Completing Proposal Budget Template

- Please use the Budget Template provided with your full proposal application form. Detailed guidance on how to complete your budget is included in the budget template. Additional guidance on NPAC (Non Project Attributable costs) is also included for reference.
- The total budget costs for your application should not exceed GBP 4,000,000.

ii) Funding parameters and what can and cannot be funded

The following expenditure items are explicitly ineligible across all expenditure cost categories. This list is not exhaustive and does not override activities which are deemed eligible and explicitly agreed as part of the grant arrangement.

The following costs are explicitly ineligible across all budget categories:

- Activities which may lead to civil unrest
- Activities which discriminate against any group on the basis of age, gender reassignment, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, sex and sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief
- Gifts
- Statutory fines, criminal fines, penalties and associated legal costs
- Payments for works or activities that are fully funded by other sources whether in cash or in kind, for example if premises are provided free of charge, FCDO will not contribute to a notional rent
- Activities in breach of EU legislation on State Aid
- Bad debts to related parties
- Payments for unfair dismissal and associated legal costs
- Replacement or refund of any funds lost to fraud, corruption, bribery, theft, terrorist financing or other misuse of funds
- Inflation or foreign exchange contingency
- Contingency or risk premium
- Costs incurred prior to a formal agreement being executed including those associated with preparing bid or grant proposals

Additional exclusions relating to specific expenditure cost categories are [detailed in this guidance](#) and are mandated in addition to the above general ineligible costs.

6. One-stage application process

A full proposal application form requests basic FCDO eligibility information and a narrative including scale project description, technical expertise in the field of ending VAWG and organizational capacity in project and finance management.

Full applications will be assessed after the deadline for submissions has passed. Following approval from FCDO, the selected applications 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**.

7. Appraisal of Requests for Full Proposals

Proposals will be logged and an acknowledgement e-mail will be issued providing a unique reference number for proposal within 7 working days of the closing date. The reference number should be used in all communications about your proposal.

All submitted proposals will be checked for eligibility and validity. Only those that are considered to be eligible and valid will be assessed.

Eligible and valid proposals will be appraised in relation to the key What Works 2 Programme objectives as above and which answer the questions in the proposal application form.

Our assessment will be based on the information which is explicitly contained within your proposal. You must not assume that we have any prior knowledge of your organisation/consortium or its work. However, if your proposed intervention is later considered suitable for funding we may take account of the management and performance of previous projects funded by FCDO when making final decisions.

8. Notification of outcome and next steps

Please read the full application guidelines alongside this RFP. Complete the **online full proposal application form** [via this link](#) by **23.59 GMT on 23rd September 2022**.

Webinar sessions providing information on emerging evidence on VAWG prevention, FCDO priorities and grant agreement and compliance will take place during week commencing 15 August 2022. Further information will be announced on the What Works 2 website and [Twitter](#).

Questions regarding the full proposal application can be submitted via email to WW2.info@rescue.org

9. Annexes to be completed as part of your application

- i. Pre- screening eligibility checklist
- ii. Scale Grant Application Form
- iii. Theory of Change
- iv. Logframe
- v. Detailed Workplan
- vi. Detailed Budget
- vii. Delivery chain map
- viii. Detailed Risk Register

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