

# GUIDELINES

## I. FUND RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES

### ABOUT WOMEN'S FUND ASIA

Women's Fund Asia (WFA) is a regional women's fund committed to supporting women, girls<sup>1</sup>, trans<sup>2</sup>, and intersex people to enhance and strengthen their access to human rights. Established in 2004 as the South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF), the fund was created to address the lack of resources for smaller grassroots organisations in South Asia. In March 2018, SAWF transformed into Women's Fund Asia, with a bigger mandate to fund rights-based work across 18 countries in Asia.

Our core mandate is to support women, girls, trans, and intersex rights groups and activists in Asia; address the non-availability of resources for women's, girls, trans, and intersex rights work in the region; and support strategies and interventions designed, implemented, and led by women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and intersex people. We provide fiscal support to our partners working to advance women, girls, trans, and intersex rights in their contexts. We aim to implement a regional mandate, which is informed by national and subregional realities and is responsive to the rights and needs of individual women, girls, trans, and intersex persons.

1. WFA supports girls at two levels: through directly funding girl-led groups between the ages of 18 to 24 and through supporting work on rights of young women and girls aged 13 and above.

2. "Trans" is used by WFA as a placeholder to cover a diversity of gender identities and forms of gender expressions claimed by people across the region and the world. WFA supports trans rights, including that of transfeminine, transmasculine, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people, amongst other identities. WFA has removed the asterisk that we previously used to indicate that "trans" is a placeholder designation for the range in identities.

# OUR MISSION

Women's Fund Asia works to nurture and lead feminist philanthropy in the region; to effectively mobilise resources to support individuals, groups, and networks enabling their sustainability; and to strengthen partner capacities, leadership, advocacy, and networks in the field. Our vision is the realising of human rights of women, girls, trans, and intersex people in Asia.

## ABOUT THE LEADING FROM THE SOUTH FUND (LFS)

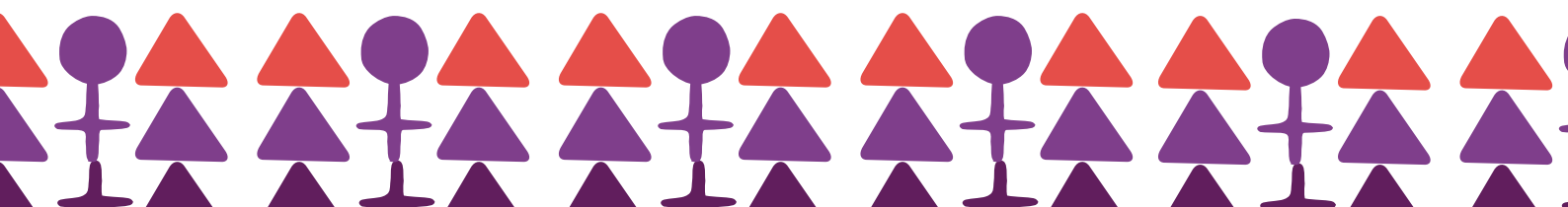
### LFS PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES

**Leading from the South (LFS)** is a special fund created to resource feminist activism in the Global South, initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MFA). It supports activism devised, implemented, and led by women, girls, and trans rights organisations in the Global South. Through grantmaking, capacity building, and other resourcing, LFS will strengthen movements, networks, and organisations—especially their advocacy capacity.

The fund is being implemented by four women's funds: three regional funds—the African Women's Development Fund (Africa and the Middle East), Fondo Mujeres del Sur (Latin America and the Caribbean), and Women's Fund Asia (Asia)—and one global fund, FIMI, the International Indigenous Women's Forum.

Alliance building and investing in strengthening capacities will be a key component of the programme. The facilitation of such spaces (at the national, subregional, and regional level) by WFA will aim to ensure collective reflections, learnings, and building cross-country and cross-region solidarities. The focus will be to link the voices and experience of those working at the local level with those at the national, regional and global levels.

Addressing Goal 5 of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** —working towards gender equality through empowering women and girls—is a key focus of the Leading from the South Programme. To effectively work towards achieving the goal in an expansive and sustainable manner, it is critical to have a framework, rooted in the voices, experiences, and leadership of women, girls, trans, and intersex people. The programme framework is also rooted within the three main principles of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**—substantive equality, non-discrimination, and state obligation.



## OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULT

Drawing from SDG5, the focus of the MFA's Women's Rights and Gender Equality group aims to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

To do so under the LFS programme, the grants supported aims to address one or all of the following three objectives:

- Addressing all forms of violence against women, girls, trans, and intersex people and advancing their bodily integrity and autonomy;
- Protecting and ensuring full economic rights and justice for women, girls, trans, and intersex people;
- Expanding democratic space, sustaining inclusive governance, and equal participation of women, girls, trans, and intersex people.

There are multiple paths envisioned by the MFA to achieve this goal of gender equality. The most relevant path for LFS has been the path which focuses on change achieved through the **Leadership, Participation, Voice, and Agency of Women, Girls, and Trans people.**

The four women's funds of this consortium have agreed to track outcomes related to the following indicators:

- Laws, policies, and strategies blocked, adopted, or improved to promote women's voice, agency, leadership, and representative participation in decision-making processes in the public, private, and civic spheres
- Success of civil society organisations (CSOs) in creating spaces for CSO demands and positions on women's voice, agency, leadership, and representative participation in decision-making processes in public, private, and civic spheres, through agenda setting, influencing the debate, and/or movement building
- Strengthened capacity of organisations to advance women's rights and gender equality


All applicants should align their programme design and results framework to these commitments of LFS.





# THEMATIC PRIORITIES





Within the above, priority will be given to groups and organisations that seek to:

 **Expand the Right to Movement and Labour.** We have supported interventions focused on women, girls, trans, and intersex people's right to safe migration, economic justice, and labour rights, with a particular focus on women working in vulnerable, informal, and stigmatized sectors such as sex work, garment factories, tea plantations, domestic work, and migrant labour.

 **Promote Autonomy, Decisions, and Sexual Rights.** We have supported initiatives that promote the right to sexuality, decision-making, and bodily autonomy of women, girls, trans, and intersex people. Beginning with supporting work on child and forced marriage and young women's leadership and choices, this priority area also grew to encompass groups working on LBT rights, abortion rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

 **Increase Access to Justice.** We support initiatives focused on increasing women, girls, trans, and intersex people's access to justice, including raising legal awareness among communities, creating pathways and mechanisms for survivors to access lawyers and the judicial system, training women paralegals, supporting women lawyers, and others.

 **Extend Environmental Justice.** Interventions aimed at securing women, girls, trans, and intersex people's right to access natural resources, and recognition of their leadership in resource management, disaster risk relief, climate change, and sustainable development. We have supported work by women with disabilities, women farmers, garment factory workers, indigenous and Adivasi women on issues like land rights, right to clean water and safe living and working environments, climate-related displacement, mining, and deforestation, among others.

 **Strengthen Feminist Voices.** Supporting and strengthening grassroots feminist leadership and movements has always been a priority for us. In the past, grants have supported institutional strengthening, capacity development for groups and their constituencies, grassroots mobilisation, campaigns, research, advocacy, and outreach.

Outside of the above, consideration will also be given to organisations and networks who work to advance the rights of women, girls, trans, and intersex people through feminist interventions, which include rights based, intersectional strategies; developing new discourses and building/strengthening linkages; continuing mobilization; and strengthening feminist leadership.

Special consideration will be given for outreach to women, girls, trans, and intersex people in/from marginalised communities facing multiple forms of discrimination—from minority and indigenous communities facing ethnic and caste-based violence; LGBTQI communities; women, girls, trans, and intersex people in stigmatised and informal labour; refugees; internally displaced; women, girls, trans, and intersex people with disabilities; from conflict-affected areas, etc.

## II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



The call for proposals extends to 17 countries in Asia:

- **South Asia:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
- **East and Southeast Asia:** Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

## III. GRANT CATEGORY, DURATION, AND SIZE

Grants will range from **USD 55,000 to USD 486,000** for a period ranging from **1 – 3 years**. The grants will be made available in the following categories:.

Grant Category	Description	Duration	Maximum Grant Amount
<b>Frontline Defenders (FD)</b>	The grant category is for women, girls, trans, and intersex-led organisations and networks working directly with communities on mobilisation and leadership building at the community and sub-national levels. Groups must be based in rural areas or small towns, or working with marginalised communities in urban areas. Ongoing programmes/ interventions would be given a preference.	3 years (ending by September 2024)	USD 55,000

Grant Category	Description	Duration	Maximum Grant Amount
<b>Amplifying Voices (AV)</b>	The grant category is meant for women, girls, trans, and intersex-led organisations and networks working on campaigns, knowledge, and capacity building, research, and evidence-based advocacy at the local, national and/or sub-regional levels.	2 years (ending by September 2023)	USD 162,500
		3 years (ending by September 2024)	USD 244,000
<b>Promoting Regional Feminist Agenda (PRFA)</b>	The grant category is for women, girls, trans, and intersex led organisations and networks working at the macro level on capacity building of other feminist groups and activists, as well as undertaking knowledge building, evidence-based advocacy initiatives at the sub-regional, regional, and international levels. Priority will be given to groups working with international treaty bodies and regional intergovernmental organisations/or cooperation entities.	2 years (ending by September 2023)	USD 325,500
		3 years (ending by September 2024)	USD 486,000



## IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

As mentioned above, under the Leading from the South Programme, applicant organisations may apply under one of three grant categories: Frontline Defenders (FD), Amplifying Voices (AV), and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas (PRFA).

*Please ensure that you select the correct grant category. Applicants can submit one application to support their own work and one application either as part of a consortium or made on behalf of a partner or collaborating organisation. Other submissions will not be considered.*

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ALL GRANT CATEGORIES

All applicants must fit the following criteria, in addition to grant category-specific criteria:

- **Registration:** Must be registered and based in one of these 17 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. If you are from an unregistered group, you may apply as part of a consortium.
- **Focus:** Must have advancement of women, girls, trans, and/or intersex rights as a focus of their vision, mission, and programme.
- **Approach:** Must be committed to feminist principles and rights-based approaches.
- **Consortium Grants:** In case the application is for a consortium, the board and staff lead and the board and staff composition of the lead organisation should comply with the criteria set out under the respective grant category. Additionally, the rest of the consortium members's board and staff should be led by women, girls (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex persons and be based in one of the 17 countries. Consortium members can pool their members' annual budgets to meet the criteria, and submit their audited statement of accounts or management financial reports. Unregistered groups may apply as part of a consortium.
- **Feminist/Women's/Trans/Intersex Funds:** Funds need to be registered and working in the region for a minimum of three years. They cannot provide sub-grants under the Leading from the South grantmaking programme. They can only apply for the grant categories Amplifying Voices and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas.

Please only apply for a particular grant category if the applicant fits all eligibility criteria:

Grant Category	Annual Budget	Board Leadership	Board Composition	Staff Leadership	Staff Leadership
<b>Frontline Defenders (FD)</b>	At least USD 20,000	Led by a woman, girl (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex person.	At least 60% of the governing board should comprise of women, girls, trans, and/or intersex persons.	Headed by a woman, girl (ages 18-24), trans, and/or intersex person.	At least 60% of the staff must comprise of women, girls, trans, and/or intersex persons. Volunteers are excluded from this calculation.
<b>Amplifying Voices (AV)</b>	At least USD 80,000		At least 70% of the governing board should comprise of women, girls, trans, and/or intersex persons.		At least 70% of the staff must comprise of women, girls, trans, and/or intersex persons. Volunteers are excluded from this calculation.
<b>Promoting Regional Feminist Agenda (PRFA)</b>	At least USD 150,000				





# WHO AND WHAT THE LFS PROGRAMME DOES NOT FUND



1. Individuals



2. Groups whose vision and mission does not include advancement of women, girls, trans, and intersex rights.



3. Groups working through strategies which are violative of women, girls, trans, and intersex rights (such as raid and rescue, anti-sex work, and anti-abortion among others).



4. Groups whose primary purpose is service provision, humanitarian assistance, charity, poverty alleviation programmes (such as micro finance and income generation), education, sponsorships, scholarships, literacy, and skills development programmes.



5. Groups directly/indirectly related or connected with elections and election campaigning.



6. Groups directly affiliated with political parties and government institutions. Note that the applicant's Board and staff leadership should also not be affiliated with political parties and/or hold government positions, even if in their individual capacity.



7. Groups directly affiliated with religious institutions or faith-based groups.



8. Businesses/For-profit groups.



9. Educational/academic institutions, or groups affiliated with them.



10. Groups registered in countries outside of the listed 17 countries, and not directly working in the countries their proposed work is based in, and



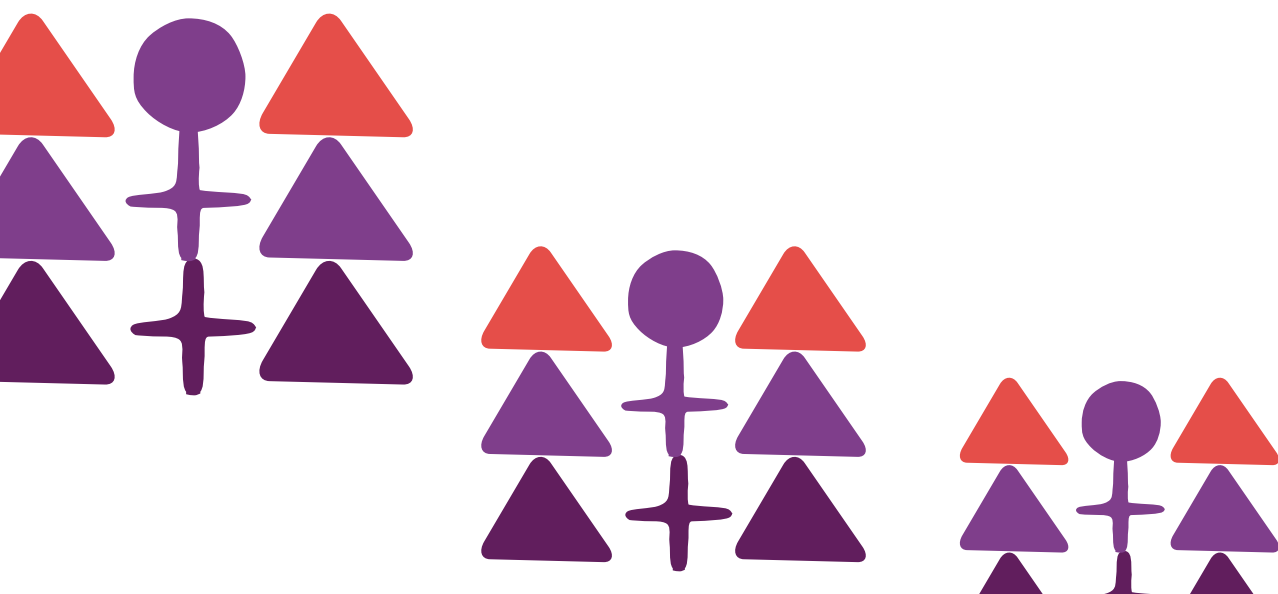
11. Local branches, chapters, subsidiaries, or country/regional offices of multilateral organisations, international organisations, international non-government organisations (INGOs), and international financial organisations.

12. Buying land or any construction activity.



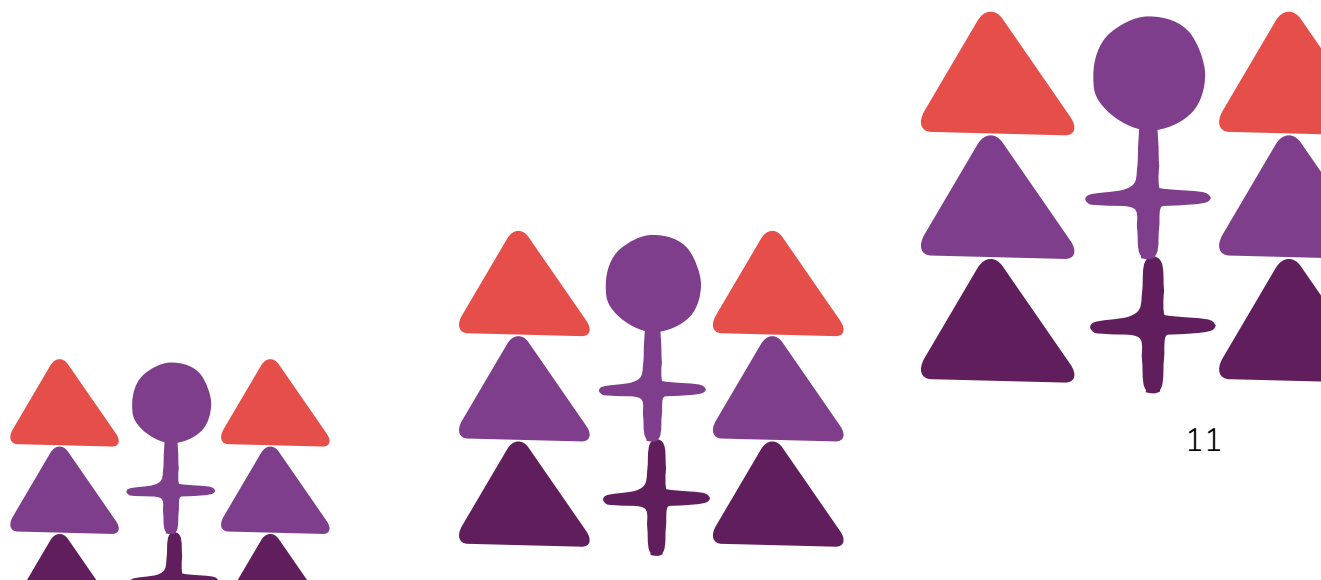
## V. SUBMISSION

1. All LFS applications will be accepted online. The application form and other documents can be accessed at <http://www.womensfundasia.org/LFSCall>
2. All applications are to be submitted in English.
3. Applicants to all three categories fill the same narrative and financial proposal formats.
4. Applications submitted without all supporting documents will be considered incomplete. Please ensure you look through the list of required documents in the checklist provided. The checklist can be found in the last section of the application form.
5. The final grant amounts are at the discretion of Women's Fund Asia, based on the number of applications selected under each category and the availability of funds.
6. Submit completed applications via the online portal by **12 midnight on 2 April 2021** (Sri Lanka Time/GMT+5:30). We request you to submit your applications at least 2-3 days ahead of the deadline, so you can approach us if you have any technology related difficulty in submitting the application.
7. Please write to [applications@wf-asia.org](mailto:applications@wf-asia.org) for any queries you might have regarding the application process, with the subject line "LFS 2021 - Inquiry".



## VI. REVIEW AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

1. All applications received by WFA will be acknowledged after the 2 April 2021 deadline.
2. By the end of May 2021, applicants will be informed about the status of their applications (rejected/shortlisted for further process) via email.
3. The submitted applications and final decisions for the grants will be led by an external Advisory Committee (comprising feminist experts, academics, and activists from South, Southeast, and East Asia) and coordinated by Women's Fund Asia.
4. The short-listing and selection process will take approximately five months from the submission deadline. In some cases, interviews may be conducted as part of the review process.
5. Please note that applicants who do not move further in the review process will be informed at various stages of the review process. Selected grantees will be contacted in early to mid-September 2021.
6. By the end of September 2021, all contracts will be finalised.



## VII. BUDGET GUIDELINES

Please find the budget template [here](#).

### 1. Women's Fund Asia will NOT fund the following:

- Buying land or any construction activity;
- The building of service facilities, shelters, or short-stay homes; and
- Purchase of any type of vehicles (i.e. cars, motorcycles, boats etc.).

### 2. COVID-19 considerations:

Please ensure that you have budgeted as needed for expenses that will enable you to continue your work and remain accessible during the pandemic, such as high-speed internet connection, having an account to make online calls, and purchase of a computer.

### 3. Multi-Country Applications:

For multi-country applications, country-level expenditures need to be added in the budget. Please ensure that your main applicant is legally allowed to receive foreign funds as well as transfer funds to country partners or other consortium members.

### 4. Staff Salaries, Administration, and Management:


No more than 40% of the total budget for the Frontline Defenders Grant; and 30% of the total budget for Amplifying Voices and Promoting Regional Feminist Agendas Grants. This budget line includes staff salaries, benefits, administrative support including financial management, audit, staff travel, rental of office space, board meetings (including board travel), office maintenance and utilities, telecommunications, and office supplies and equipment and software.

### 5. Equipment and Software:

Please specify types of equipment and software that will be purchased. Please add a separate line in the budget for fixed assets, such as office furniture, computers, printer/photocopier/scanner, camera, projector, etc. Please note that items such as Microsoft Office software, pen drives, and external hard disks should be categorised under Office Stationery. Please note that this sub-budget line is part of "Staff Salaries, Administration, and Management", and is included in the budget restriction for that main budget line.

### 6. Programme Costs:

This budget line includes programme-related costs such as (but not limited to) research, publications, training, workshops, meetings, conferences, consultancy fees, and material development.

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- 7. Travel:** Please show the travel cost of consultants, participation in workshops, travel for M&E, and outreach, etc. separately in the budget. Please note that the staff and board travel for administration and governance purposes is not included under this subheading (please see point 4).
  - 8. Contractual Services:** All applicants should specify what types of contractual services will be included in the budget and explain the details in the Budget Narrative.
  - 9. Monitoring and Evaluation:** As a feminist organisation, WFA undertakes Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) within a reflective/learning praxis. Given the scope and scale of LFS, all selected grantee partners will be required to participate in WFA-organised/facilitated MEL exercises, workshops, and surveys, amongst others. These may be in addition to the regular grant reporting. We understand that participation in such spaces and exercises has resource implications for all organisations. Hence, we strongly recommend that while developing your budget, you consider the time cost of your relevant staff in such activities. This can be added to your organisation's MEL budget.
  - 10. USD:** Please provide the budget for the full grant amount request in USD, as per the provided format.
  - 11. Cells to fill:** Please fill in only fields highlighted in yellow in the template provided.

