

# FINANCING WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY

## A Review of WPS National Action Plans from 2005 to 2022

### SHOW ME THE MONEY

[UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#)<sup>1</sup> on Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325), passed in October 2000, is the first formal recognition by the international community of the critical roles women play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. [In a presidential statement](#)<sup>2</sup> in 2004, the United Nations Security Council called on member states to create Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Evidence<sup>3</sup> suggests that WPS NAPs are effective tools for achieving better peace and security outcomes—but without resources and accountability the Women, Peace and Security agenda will not achieve its potential. **Funding for Women, Peace and Security is unclear and inconsistent. Active, regular, and sustained conversations about funding is required.**

### WHAT IS A WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY NATIONAL ACTION PLAN?

- A WPS NAP is a strategic document that outlines the objectives and activities that countries take, both domestically and internationally to advance the WPS agenda.
- Developing a WPS NAP is a recognized process used by UN member states that brings together government actors, civil society, and international partners to identify priorities and goals to advance policy objectives.
- There are over 100 countries that have adopted WPS NAPs.
- These plans address the key WPS pillars of participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery, and are tailored to a specific country or local context.
- [There are 13 Regional Action Plans](#)<sup>4</sup> that the European Union, African Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have adopted to ensure regional coordination.
- NAPs are developed to meet the priorities of each country. Each NAP employs different funding approaches and processes that are specific to each country and region.

## THE METHODOLOGY

Of the more than 100 WPS NAPs in existence, this study reviewed 101 WPS NAPs and 13 Regional Action Plans for the inclusion and/or mention of budget estimates, funding, and financial resources for the implementation of the NAP. They were analyzed to determine responsible implementing/financing parties, funding priorities and mechanisms. Key interviews were also conducted with NAP implementers and WPS experts.

## RESEARCH CHALLENGES

Each WPS NAP accounts for funding in different formats, and presents information related to funding for WPS in different ways. Some WPS NAPs include the overall estimated budget required to implement their WPS agenda, cost of NAP activities, and financing plans, while others include just one or two of these items. These documents do not guarantee that money has been or will be allocated and used to implement WPS objectives.

## KEY POINTS

- As of early 2023, 31 countries out of 101 have estimated the amount of money required to implement WPS NAP activities. Available information does not illuminate whether these funds are secured.
- More than 50 WPS NAPs out of 101 mention that a budget is needed to implement WPS activities, but do not include specification of funding.
- The majority of WPS NAPs with budget estimates identify responsible parties for activity implementation, including ministries and/or government institutions, predominantly related to foreign affairs and gender equality.

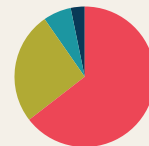


**100+**  
**COUNTRIES**  
have WPS NAPs



**31**  
**COUNTRIES**

have estimated funding  
amounts for WPS NAP  
implementation



of those 31 countries...

- 20** are from Africa
- 8** are from Europe
- 2** are from the Middle East and North Africa
- 1** is from Asia and Pacific Region

## WPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN BUDGETS BY REGION



### Africa

- There are 30 countries in Africa with WPS NAPs, 20 of which have estimated the funding amounts required for implementation.
- The majority of proposed funding is aimed towards prevention of violence against women and protection measures including social support services, law enforcement training, and prosecution of perpetrators of gender-based violence.
- The majority of WPS NAPs of African countries were developed with technical and financial support from UN agencies, and other regional/bilateral partners.



### Europe

- There are 40 countries in Europe with WPS NAPs, eight of which have estimated the funding amounts required for implementation.
- Women's participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution is predominant in three of the eight budgets.
- The majority of WPS NAPs in Europe were developed by government actors and local civil society organizations.



### Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

- There are eight countries in the MENA region with WPS NAPs, two of which have estimated the funding amounts required for implementation, Jordan and Lebanon.
- Both Jordan and Lebanon place a heavy emphasis on women's participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution and the creation of educational frameworks related to gender, peace and security.
- Three MENA countries had the support of external governments in the development of their NAPs.



### Asia & Pacific

- There are 16 countries in the Asia & Pacific region with WPS NAPs.
- Kazakhstan is the only country in the Asia & Pacific region that has estimated funding amounts required for implementation.



### Americas

- There are 11 countries in the Americas with WPS NAPs.
- There are no countries in the Americas that have estimated the funding amounts required for implementation.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE US

The U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace and Security<sup>5</sup> does not include an estimated budget, but mentions funding in the following ways:

“Within 120 days of the approval of this WPS Strategy, State, DOD, DHS, and USAID shall each develop, in coordination with the APNSA and Office of Management and Budget, and provide to the Congress a detailed, consolidated implementation plan.”

“All phases encourage the increased, meaningful participation of women in security-sector initiatives funded by the United States Government.”

According to the U.S. Women, Peace and Security Congressional Report 2022<sup>6</sup> in FY 2021:

- **The Department of State** invested approximately **\$110 million** in assistance programming to advance WPS.
- **USAID** invested more than **\$243 million** in programming designed to empower and protect women and girls in countries affected by crisis, conflict, violent extremism, and natural disasters.
- **The Department of Defense** spent **\$5.5 million** to establish policies and programs to advance implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017.

# Gender perspectives improve security outcomes

## CALL TO ACTION

It's time to make money conversations about Women, Peace and Security common practice. Evidence suggests Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans are effective tools for achieving better peace and security outcomes.



### Talk about money.

Integrate conversations on WPS NAP funding into convenings to raise awareness about the money flowing to Women, Peace and Security initiatives.



### Follow the money trail.

Support research on Women, Peace and Security funding in all countries that have WPS NAPS to provide clarity on the variance of funding mechanisms and processes.



### Allocate the money.

Create more opportunities for countries to share best practices on costing, budgeting, and financing WPS NAPs to enhance transparency and improve implementation.



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### Endnote Citations

1. UN, "Landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security", <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>
2. UN, "Statement by the president of the Security Council," October 28, 2004, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/ods/S-PRST-2004-40-E.pdf>
3. Confidential interviews with government senior officials conducted Dec 2022-Feb 2023
4. WPS Focal Points Network, "Regional Action Plans and Strategies," <https://wpsfocalpointnetwork.org/regional-action-plans/>
5. The White House, "United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security," June 2019, [https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS\\_Strategy\\_10\\_October2019.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf)
6. The White House, "U.S. Women, Peace, and Security Congressional Report 2022," July 2022, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/US-Women-Peace-Security-Report-2022.pdf>