



URGENT ACTION FUND FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ASIA & PACIFIC

RAPID RESPONSE GRANT-MAKING PROGRAMME

COVID-19 CRISIS FUND

Concept Note

The continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates the vulnerability of women and non-binary human rights defenders in Asia and the Pacific. The Rapid Response Grant-Making (RRG) programme of Urgent Action Fund, Asia and Pacific (UAF A&P) has received requests for assistance from grantees, advisors, and partners from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and other communities that are affected the pandemic, especially by the militaristic lockdown approach of governments to respond to this crisis.

These requests are in the form of need for economic support, humanitarian aid, and provision of basic needs. For example, LGBTIQ defenders in Indonesia who earn through transport networks are unable to ply their routes so have lost income; communities in post-conflict areas in Sri Lanka are unable to access government financial assistance; indigenous peoples' communities in Mindanao, Philippines are unable to harvest because of the lockdown, and also unable to receive any of the food subsidies from the government. This is in addition to human rights violations that have arisen from the enhanced police powers claimed by the Executive that has led to unwarranted arrests for violations of curfew; filing of criminal complaints for spreading 'fake news'; arrests of protesters demanding for food and income subsidies from government.

In line with UAF A&P's commitment to support women and non-binary defenders, we are opening a limited grant under the RRG programme specifically to support the economic and basic needs of women and non-binary activists that are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are setting aside USD \$50,000 from the programme's 2020 budget to seed this fund, and we are in the process of securing additional funds. Our team is currently in discussion with donors who are willing to provide flexible funding in response to the crisis.

Below is the detailed scope, application process, and other guidelines for the proposed grant.

I. Scope of COVID-19 Grants

This grant is available to women and non-binary [LGBTIQ](#) human rights defenders and organisations in Asia and the Pacific in order to respond to their basic needs (i.e. food, housing) or for other needs for economic support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is primarily intended to meet the needs of an organisation, community, or collective (whether formal or informal) to respond to the economic hardship of its members or constituents, such as providing for their basic needs during this crisis. The grant will be open from 6 April to 30 September 2020 (6 months), and depending on the progress of the pandemic, may be extended upon review.

For all other COVID-19 related needs it will be covered under UAF A&P's regular grants (i.e., Security and Well-Being and Resourcing Resilience grants). For example:

- Medical Support
- Wellness/healing/community care/trauma-related work
- Access for digital spaces and remote work/gatherings (ie. VPNs or other digital security tools)
- Relocation or use for quarantine house/space
- Travel expense due to lockdown
- Raising funds and resources to support Covid 19 related needs of activists

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COVID-19 Grant Limitation/Do Not Fund:

- Cisgender males^[2] or Cisgender male-led organisations or networks;
- Individual requests without endorsement by an organisation, established community or established network affiliation or an UAF A&P advisor;
- Activities or projects focused on development aid or charity assistance;
- Projects or activities that are part of the regular programmes of an organisation;
- Regular operating budgets and/or bridge funding (to fill a funding gap).

A. Criteria

- Women or non-binary^[2] led – women or non-binary human rights defenders must be the primary beneficiaries of the grant, preferably channelled via a women's rights organisation;
- Human Rights Focus – the defender or organisation promotes the advancement of women's and/or LBTQI's human rights using nonviolent tactics or strategies and upholding the universality of human rights;
- COVID-19 related needs – the grant requested must be intended to support the basic and economic needs of an organisation, community or collective (whether formal or informal) and its members or constituents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications from individual women and non-binary defenders will be considered for a smaller amount than the maximum grant.
- Timeline – grant request must be received from 6 April to 30 September 2020.

II. Application Guidelines

A. How to Apply

Apply online or download the Security and Well-Being grant Application from www.uafanp.org, then send it to grants@uafanp.org

B. Communication Channels

UAF A&P **ONLY** recognize [Protonmail](#) for email, and [Signal](#) for messaging. We encourage applicants and grantees to use these channels because of its encryption capabilities, and for other security and privacy reasons. Please send us your application and queries through the following email addresses:

- For **grant application and inquiries**, please send it to grants@uafanp.org
- For **technical problems in using the online application**, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or send a message to esther@uafanp.org

C. UAF A&P's Advisors

UAF A&P's grant-making is informed by our roster of regional and country advisors whom we rely upon to assess applications. Final decisions are communicated to each applicant after we have received endorsements from advisors, and the UAF A&P's rapid response working group has approved the application.

D. Requirement for Grantees

All grantees are **expected to submit final report** on how each grant has been spent within six months from receipt of the grant.

E. RRG Approval Process

The approval process will be the same as our regular grants.