

## Empowering Women-Led Solutions: PWWSD Champions Locally Driven Crisis Response at First Response Fund Meeting

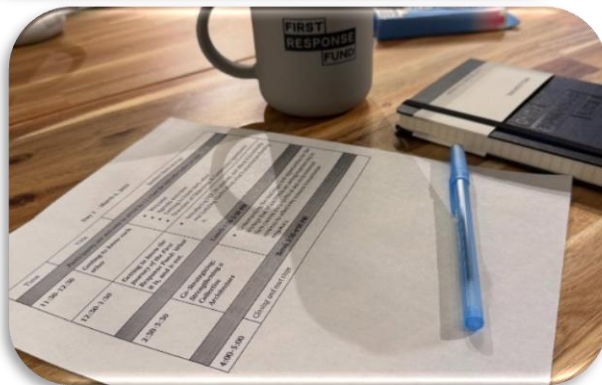


**New York - March 6th & 7th 2025]** The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD) was honored to participate in the **First Response Fund (FRF) Design Meeting**, bringing together feminist funds, women's rights organizations, and key humanitarian actors to strategize on more effective, locally driven crisis response.

At a time when **funding for gender and human rights is among the first to be cut**, the meeting underscored the urgency of **leveraging pooled funds to ensure resources reach women-led**

organizations (WLOs) directly and without excessive bureaucracy. Discussions highlighted the need to **shift power to local responders**, recognizing them as strategic decision-makers rather than sub-grantees of larger INGOs.

In the context of **Palestine**, where humanitarian crisis has become the norm rather than the exception, PWWSO representative- Shahd Sataria emphasized the necessity of **integrating emergency response with long-term development strategies**. The disconnect between short-term humanitarian aid and sustainable resilience-building must be addressed to ensure communities are not left behind between crises.



As global humanitarian funding undergoes a **massive shift**, with many governments scaling back, the FRF represents a crucial opportunity to bridge gaps and **prioritize feminist, community-led responses**. The meeting reinforced the need for **stronger collaborations between funders, WLOs, and humanitarian actors to build preparedness, sustainability, and dignity-driven responses on the ground**.

PWWSO remains committed to **ensuring that women-led organizations are not just included in conversations but are actively shaping funding structures and crisis response strategies**. We look forward to continued engagement in **transforming humanitarian aid into a more just, equitable, and locally rooted system**.