

Building Networks Among Women to Share Best Practices and Experience Working in Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation Fellowship

Competition Opens:	April 15, 2026
Final Application Deadline:	June 15, 2026
Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female-identifying applicants must apply in pairs. • Must be a female-identifying citizen of a country in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the Middle East. • Applicants must have experience in nuclear security, nonproliferation, or related UNSCR 1540 implementation fields. • Please note that citizens from the following six countries are ineligible to apply: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, Russia, Belarus, Myanmar, and Syria.
How to Apply:	Email: GACgrants@crdfglobal.org Please submit required documents in one email (PDF). Email subject should be formatted as [LAST NAME, FIRST NAME - WNS 2026. e.g., Adam, John – WIN 2026]
General Area:	Nuclear Security, Nonproliferation, Professional Development
Award Amounts:	Up to \$8,000 per project
Award Duration:	July 2026 – February 2027
Required Documents:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed Application 2. Completed Budget and narrative 3. CV for both applicants.

Fellowship Program Overview

In partnership with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) under the Weapons Threat Reduction Program (WTRP), CRDF Global is launching an eight-month fellowship program to strengthen the role of women in nuclear security and nonproliferation communities globally, with a particular focus on advancing implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540. This project is implemented with generous support from GAC as part of the Feminist International Assistance Policy to foster rights-based, open, and inclusive societies where all individuals, regardless of gender, can fully participate in economic, political, social, and cultural life, contributing to a safer and more secure world.

Building on previous successful cohorts and CRDF Global’s prior initiatives advancing women in nuclear security, this fellowship expands a proven model that integrates mentorship, technical training, and sustained engagement to enhance long-term impact and leadership development.

CRDF Global invites six pairs of female-identifying scientists, government representatives, academics, nuclear security experts, and practitioners from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia to participate in a three-part project following the previous model: (1) mini-grant program, (2) webinar training series, and (3) capstone in-person workshop in Vienna, Austria.

Each grantee pair will be assigned to one mentor from their region. Mentors will share best practices with their mentees and connect them with a wider audience to facilitate project success and career development. CRDF Global will partner with non-proliferation experts to implement a five-session webinar series focused on knowledge-building and skills development. CRDF Global will implement a follow-on mini-grant program, enabling participants to lead projects that engage women within their home institutions. Mentors will provide guidance throughout the implementation process, helping grantees maximize their impact and extend the project's reach.

CRDF Global will implement a two-day capstone workshop in Vienna, Austria to mitigate gender imbalance in nuclear security. Participants will explore professional opportunities, engage in gender equality initiatives, and participate in skill-building exercises. CRDF Global will invite SMEs from organizations such as the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The workshop will feature roundtable discussions on enhancing non-proliferation policy and fostering diverse perspectives in the field, as well as a tabletop exercise on leveraging technology to address nuclear risk. Additionally, participants will visit the IAEA to connect with female professionals in nuclear security, gaining professional skills, nuclear risk reduction tools, and insights into advancing gender equality within the sector.

Through this program, participants will strengthen their professional and technical expertise through nuclear risk reduction tools, enhance leadership capabilities, and build cross-regional partnerships that advance inclusive approaches to nuclear security and nonproliferation. The fellowship will cultivate a sustainable global network of women professionals equipped to drive innovation and support international efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear threats.

Each pair of fellows will receive a grant of up to \$8,000 USD to implement a joint project aimed at developing and strengthening networks among women working in nuclear security and nonproliferation within their home institutions. Projects must demonstrate potential for broader institutional or national-level impact and include clear strategies for knowledge of dissemination and sustained engagement.

Program Outline and Schedule:

- 1) **July 2026, Five-Part Webinar Series:** Selected fellows will participate in a five-session webinar series designed to build the knowledge and technical skills necessary to implement their mini-grant projects. This virtual training phase will help refine project designs prior to implementation. The series will strengthen proposals and equip fellows with key

professional competencies, including project management, proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation, research and policy paper development, networking, and fundraising. Fellows will also expand their understanding of nuclear security and non-proliferation topics, such as UNSCR 1540 implementation, open-source tools, geospatial analysis, and nuclear risk reduction. Each pair of fellows will be assigned a regional mentor who will provide guidance on project design, support implementation planning, and facilitate connections across the global nuclear security community.

- 2) **July 2026 – February 2027, Mini Grant Implementation:** Selected six pairs of twelve fellows will implement joint projects, each receiving a grant of up to \$8,000 USD. These projects are expected to focus on strengthening networks among women in nuclear security and non-proliferation, promoting women’s leadership and participation in decision-making, addressing barriers to inclusion in the field, and disseminating knowledge to a broader audience beyond direct participants. Proposed activities may include mentorship programs, workshops, networking events, training sessions, institutional engagement initiatives, surveys, or other scalable interventions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to incorporate data collection tools, such as surveys and feedback mechanisms, to assess impact, identify institutional needs, and inform future programming. CRDF Global staff and mentors will provide ongoing support throughout implementation to maximize impact, ensure effective execution, and extend the reach of each project.
- 3) **February 2027: Capstone In-Person Workshop in Vienna, Austria:** All selected fellows will attend a two-day capstone workshop in Vienna, Austria. During the workshop, fellows will present their project outcomes and measurable impact, share lessons learned and best practices, identify opportunities for future collaboration and scaling, and engage in technical and policy discussions on nuclear security and gender equality. The workshop will feature a tabletop simulation on leveraging emerging technologies for nuclear risk reduction, exposure to open-source tools, and structured networking opportunities. Participants will also visit the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to engage with professionals in nuclear security and non-proliferation. CRDF Global will fully fund travel, lodging, and local transportation to ensure full participation and engagement.

Fellowship Budget

CRDF Global will cover all costs associated with the webinar series and in-person workshops, including airfare, visa fees, lodging, per diem, and transportation.

Eligibility and Application

CRDF Global is inviting applications from female-identifying professionals working in the nuclear and nonproliferation industry— such as operators, regulators, academics, and research institution

professionals who seek to build tools and skills for innovative project implementation and network-building.

Required Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants must apply in pairs under a single application. Priority will be given to pairs from the same country, and the fellows from previous iterations are not eligible to apply.

- Must be a female-identifying citizen of a country in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the Middle East, excluding DPRK, Iran, Russia, Belarus, Myanmar, and Syria.
- Must have prior experience in nuclear security or non-proliferation roles.
- Ability and willingness to commit to the full fellowship program.
- Ability and willingness to attend bi-weekly check-in calls and submit progress updates and a final report.
- Ability to travel to Vienna, Austria in March 2027.
- Professional proficiency in English is required.
- A completed application, including project budget and narrative.
- All materials must be original and properly cited.
- All application materials must be submitted in English.
- Selected applicants must provide references and passport copy.

Evaluation Criteria	
Category	Guidance for Applicants
Relevance and Impact to the RFA Objectives, Goals, and Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly describe your proposed project, including scope, target beneficiaries, objectives, and expected outcomes. • Explain how your project strengthens networks among women and promotes leadership and participation in decision-making roles. • Describe how your project addresses barriers (institutional, cultural, or structural) to women’s participation in nuclear security. • Demonstrate alignment with national, regional, and global priorities, including UNSCR 1540. • Provide a clear plan for knowledge dissemination beyond direct participants, including estimated reach. • Describe measurable impact and how success will be assessed. • Explain how you will collaborate with your partner and mentor. • Demonstrate how your project contributes to long-term network-building and professional development.

Clarity, Completeness, and Detail of the Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure your proposal is well-structured, feasible, and clearly written.• Fully address all required components with sufficient detail.
Past Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe your experience and expertise and how it prepares you to implement the project successfully.
Budget Relevance & Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a realistic, cost-effective, and well-justified budget that aligns with your proposed activities and expected results.
Sustainability Potential and Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe concrete sustainability mechanisms (e.g., mentorship continuation, institutional integration, follow-on activities, train-the-trainer approaches).• Explain how results will be sustained, scaled, and disseminated.• Describe how networks will be maintained beyond the fellowship period.

Additional Information

Please reach out to GACgrants@crdfglobal.org with any questions in relation to this fellowship or the application process.