**Call for Proposals for NGOs**

**Strengthening the Livelihoods of population of Zuwara through Productive Assets Distribution “Blue Economy Project”**

1. **Background**

Since 2011, Libya has witnessed violent conflict and political instability. The people living in Libya suffer the collapse of public services, especially education and health, higher prices through cuts to food and fuel subsidies, conflict-related loss of shelter and livelihoods and major setbacks in ensuring the safety of citizens and the rule of law. The fragmentations and increased insecurity have led to the flourishing of an illicit economy comprised of trafficking and smuggling and adversely affected the economies and livelihoods of selected municipalities. As result of ongoing governance challenges, entire neighbourhoods and communities, including border towns or ports, in particular, have become incentivized to hinder law enforcement practices, and often converting the illicit economy as a source of livelihoods. Limited alternative economic opportunities are worsening the situations in the communities at risk, in particular for the vulnerable groups – unemployed or those participating in the informal economy.

**Blue Economy Potential**

UN defines “blue economy” as to the range of economic uses of coastal resources, which include fisheries, aquaculture[[1]](#footnote-1), and tourism.

Libya has a 2,000 km coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, however, despite its extensive marine resources, Libya does not have a strong tradition and trade balance of fishing. Based on data collected by the Department of Statistics and Economic and Social Studies of Marine Biology Research Centre of Tajura in 2017, there was an estimated 14,000 workers employed in the fisheries sector, of which 3,500 were employed in the post-harvest sector in processing, marketing, and administrative services. However, FAO reported in 2019 that 50,603 people were engaged in fishing, with 480 people engaged in aquaculture. The fisheries sector is comprised of four major activities: artisanal coastal fishing, lampara fishing, trawling, and tuna fishing. Most recent data estimates that capture fisheries were 32,000 metric tons from 2017, approximately a 50 per cent decline from pre-war levels. Aquiculture production also declined from almost 400 metric tons in the mid-2000s to just to 10 metric tons in 2017. Limited aquaculture (freshwater and marine) has been attempted at several sites on a pilot basis over the past two decades, although production remains minimal. Facilities for receiving, handling, and distributing fish have improved considerably in recent years following the privatization of the marketing chain, and some of the people explored fisheries’ value chain as their livelihoods, but still need considerable investment. Libya has promising prospects for further development of its fishing sector with stocks that could be better exploited and the presence of large quantities of bluefin tuna in its waters.

**Zuwara**

Zuwara is a coastal Berber-speaking city in Libya. The most recent and accurate population estimates issued in 2020 by Libyan Bureau of Statistics and OCHA indicate a total population of 360’800 in the entire Zuwara Governorate (Manteqa), and only 36’400 in Zuwara[[2]](#footnote-2) . It is famous for its beaches, national tourism, fisheries and seafood. It is situated 102 km west of Tripoli and 60 km from the Tunisian border. The activity of the population in the past was represented in agriculture, grazing and fishing, with the manufacture of lime, gypsum and salt. Currently, it has a fishing port and a commercial port. Farwa island is 40 kilometers west of Zuwara, and one of the must-see sites. The area outside of the town is a mix of semi-scrubland and farms, mainly composed of olive trees, palm trees, vines, and fig trees. One of the municipality’s neighborhoods is the village of Bukommash, which is also the name of a nearby chemical plant that closed down several years ago. After the Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex, the Bukommash chemical plant was the second largest industry in the municipality. However, the inhabitants of Zuwara were not fully benefiting from existence of the larger industries, while due to pollution, these inhibited the potential growth of tourism, fishing and trade[[3]](#footnote-3) instead. In parallel, Zuwara has beautiful beaches, and a beautiful sand peninsula called Farwa, which is home to turtles and flamingos. It is closeness to Tunisian border and the Jebel Nafusa Mountains represents tourism as a significant economic opportunity. Zuwara has been central to blue economy in Libya, including establishment of Higher Institute of Marine Services which provides the training and certifications in Marines studies.

According to Libyan Fishermen’s syndicate:

* 65% of fishers do not have market opportunities and have to search alternative livelihoods. Some of the domestic consumption is replaced with imports with lower cost of production due to ineffective fishing practices and lack of “know-how” tools.
* Many fishermen associations and cooperatives are non-operational or inactive due to declining market opportunities, and Libyan fishing practices lagging behind.
* Declining market for fishermen results in selling the boats to operate in the illicit economy.

New generations in Libya are showing growing interest entrepreneurship and self-employment professions. Younger populations in Zuwara are more likely to become business owners than older individuals, who remain largely employed in the public-sector.

Thus, blue economy creates an attractive alternative, if coupled with “know-how” trainings, new effective fishing practices and assets/tools, enhanced value chains, and enabling environment. UNDP aims to initiate a Blue Economy Project for Zuwara: an approach to help communities in Zuwara seeking to diversify livelihoods with productive assets and specialized training, which will boost their economic activity and establish their livelihoods through small business in the blue economy value chain. The Project will liaise closely with local authorities and stakeholders at municipality level, including Zuwara Marine High Institute as recipient of the Training of Trainers, and provide the space and support in outreach.

This Blue Economy Project is specifically related to the project **UNDP Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery Project (SLCRR) Top-Up,**funded by the EU, which aims at responding to the many conflict and human mobility induced challenges, that impact negatively citizens’ access to essential service, source of jobs and livelihoods, the social cohesion and security of communities.

1. **Objectives and expected outputs/deliverables**

The objective of the Call for Proposals is to engage a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) as a Responsible Party to execute:

1. Rapid sectoral assessment of blue economy in Zuwara;
2. Organize expert training and exchange to ensure “know-how” and knowledge transfers on effective fishing practices and techniques, aquaculture etc.;
3. Advertise and select business proposals in line with focus sub-sectors of blue economy;
4. Distribute productive assets on and monitor results.

The assets distribution initiative is a quick and efficient way to support population to diversify their livelihood assets as a mechanism to stimulate self-employment or small business development. The fishing assets methodology implies in-kind distribution of tools and equipment together with the tailored courses and support on initiative or re-starting the livelihoods activities.

Detailed objectives, related outputs, deliverables and key considerations are provided in the Terms of Reference – Annex I.

Beneficiaries: From at least 50 to 100 beneficiaries/trainees receiving fishing assets.

Assets: Examples of assets include: fishing gear, kits, installation materials, storage equipment.

Timeline: 8 months,including rapid assessment and monitoring.

1. **Eligibility and qualification criteria**

The applicants have to meet the following minimum criteria:

* Non-governmental, charitable, non-profit organization operating in Libya for at three years;
* Project in implementing distribution-in-kind or cash grants to households is an asset if proven with the reference;
* Geographical areas of operation of the NGO matches the selected municipality (Zuwara) or there is an ability to scale;
* Availability of the expertise in Blue Economy or a proven ability to engage the partnering institution is required. Information on the invited experts or partners needs to be provided in writing in the submitted proposal.
* Previous experience in conducting training in the context of livelihoods is a strong asset;
* Previous experience in project administration from the UN agencies is a strong asset.
* Minimum financial turnover (contributions) and projects portfolio management not less than USD 50,000.
* Availability of human resources that will ensure due quality and timely implementation of the contract. NGOs must have a team of at least four or more members satisfying the requirements that are provided in the **Terms of Reference (TOR) – Annex I. Submitted CVs need to have the same format indicating titles, employers and durations of assignment held. The project proposal must include references for CVs to the suggested titles of project team mentioned in the TOR.**

**The parameters that will determine whether an NGO is eligible to be considered by UNDP will be based on the Capacity Assessment and risk assessment that will be conducted by reviewing the information provided by the NGO trough the Capacity Assessment Checklist (CACHE) and the Request from information (RFI) for NGO that should be duly completed and submitted alongside supporting documents request.**

Capacity Assessment Checklist (CACHE) For NGO template – **Annex III.**

# IV. Technical and financial proposal

**Proposed Methodology, Approach, Quality assurance plan and Implementation Plan.** This section needs to include the proposed project structure, activities and milestones. This section should demonstrate the Organization’s response to the Terms of Reference by including the specific components of methodology, description of activities, and how the outputs will be addressed. The Organization should demonstrate the strategy for risk mitigation in targeting beneficiaries, and project delivery mechanisms and approaches in the selected municipality. Moreover, the proposal should demonstrate how the proposed methodology meets or exceeds the Terms of Reference, while ensuring appropriateness of the approach to the local conditions and the project operating environment.

**Management Structure and Resources (Key Personnel)** – This section should include the comprehensive description of the management structure and information regarding required resources including curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology. CVs should establish competence and demonstrate qualifications in areas relevant to the TOR.

**V. Evaluation criteria and methodology**

1. **Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms** | | **Score Weight** | **Points Obtainable** |
| 1. | **Experience of the organization that submits proposal** | 40% | 400 |
| 2. | **Proposed work plan, methodology and approach** | 30% | 300 |
| 3. | **Management Structure and Key Personnel** | 30% | 300 |
|  | Total | | 1000 |

The selection of the successful NGO and technically responsive candidate will be based on the ability of the bidder to demonstrate in the technical proposal the required area of expertise and experience as per the stated criteria in this ToR in addition to access to the beneficiaries, in addition to the above stated criteria. The total budget for this engagement is disclosed under the budget section. The bidders are expected to submit a detailed financial proposal aligned with the estimated budget along with a deliverable-based work plan

**Maximum accepted percentage of indirect, project management and administrative costs should not exceed 25%.**

Evaluation of all technical proposals shall be carried out in accordance with above outlined evaluation criteria, and the entity that obtains the highest technical score shall be selected. **NGOs exceeding the established disclosed budget in their financial proposals will be rejected.**

Any NGO that is engaged to act as Responsible Party is subject to and must comply with the HACT policy (i.e., micro-assessment and assurance activities) that must be validated through performance measures and quality certified by an independent assessor engaged by UNDP. The applicant will have to submit upon completion of the project activity audited financial statements, and certified forms on activity’s financial position and expenses.

1. **Budget size:**

The overall indicative grant pool amount made available under this Call for proposal is **US Dollars 300,000.00 targeting from 50 to 100 beneficiaries.** UNDP reserves the right not to award all available funds should the number and quality of applications not meet the criteria. Moreover, UNDP reserves the right not to fund any proposals arising from this Request for Proposals.

1. **Duration:**

The project will be taking place over a period of 8 months. The applying organizations are requested to submit a clear and detailed work plan for each output/deliverable and the budget within the foreseen timeframe.

1. **Selection Process**

UNDP will review proposals through a five-step process: (i) determination of eligibility through the capacity and risk assessments; (ii) technical review of eligible proposals; (iii) scoring and ranking of the eligible proposals based on the assessment criteria to identify highest ranking proposal; (iv) round of clarification (if necessary) with the highest scored proposals; and (v) Responsible Party Agreement (RPA) signature.

1. **Submission Process**

Applicants shall bear all costs related to proposal preparation and submission.

Selected applicants must submit their proposals through email mahezabeen.khan@undp.org by the deadline: **7th** September **2022 with subject field “UNDP Libya 2022 Productive Assets Zuwara – Blue Economy.”**

***PLEASE make all efforts to provide your proposal not exceeding 10 MB size.***

The following documents must be submitted in order for the submission to be considered:

1. Request for information (RFI) from the NGO filled out **(Annex II)**
2. Capacity Assessment Checklist for NGO **(Annex III)**, including the additional requested documents such as:
   * Proof of registration as a non‐governmental organization;
   * Information regarding operational capacity in the municipality in Libya: Zuwara;
   * Information on previous projects in Assets Distribution in-kind or Cash grants to households’ projects confirmed with the reference letter;
   * Information on previous projects in conducting training in the context of livelihoods confirmed if available with reference letter;
   * Information on the sectoral expertise or ability to engage an expert institution/ partner (provide evidence in writing);
   * Information on previous projects in project administration from the UN agencies confirmed if available with reference letter;
   * Audited financial statements for the past two years.
3. Application in the form of the template attached **(Annex IV)**, including but not limited to management methodology and implementation plan:
   * Strategy and methodology for rapid market assessment in Blue Economy sectors in Zuwara;
   * Strategy and methodology for asset classifications for Blue Economy;
   * Strategy and methodology for trainees/beneficiaries’ selection;
   * Methodology for expert training and exchange to ensure “know-how” and knowledge transfers on effective fisheries management using TOT model.;
   * Methodology for business training or coaching to be conducted;
   * Communication strategy and plan for dissemination of information about the project locally, including placement of information via online resources and social networks, or other methods for targeting
   * Methodology for monitoring and evaluation of the projects, including all procedures of data collection, inspection, quality control methods;
   * Risk log and mitigation plan;
   * A work plan with the proposed work schedule indicating the persons responsible for each area of activity, with the profiles recommended in the TOR.
4. Management Structure and Key personnel curriculum vitae (CVs) that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology (clear definition of roles and responsibilities) in the **Annex IV**.
5. The Financial Proposal with a detailed cost breakdown and in the **Annex IV.**

Only one submission per organization is allowed. Organizations may not participate in more than one proposal. Once the application is complete and submitted, revised versions of proposal documents will not be accepted. Partial application will not be accepted.

Interested NGOs may obtain further information or clarification by contacting the UNDP Libya office with subject field “UNDP Libya 2022 Application for Productive Assets Zuwara Blue Economy: Request for information” to the following address: karina.grosheva@undp.org.

1. **Estimated Competition Timeline**

For reference purposes only, please consider the following indicative timeline:

7 September 2022: Call for Proposal opens, and relevant documents are posted online

21 September 2022: Deadline for organizations to submit proposals, assessment and selection processes will take place.

1 October 2022: Selected applicants will be notified.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

UNDP implements a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical practices, and obstruction. UNDP is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all acts of fraud and corrupt practices against UNDP as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. (See <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Transparency/UNDP_Anti_Fraud_Policy_English_FINAL_june_2011.pdf> and <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/> for full description of the policies) In responding to this Request for Proposals, UNDP requires all Proposers to conduct themselves in a professional, objective and impartial manner, and they must at all times hold UNDP’s interests paramount. Proposers must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. All Proposers found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, Proposers, and any of their affiliates, shall be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this solicitation process, if they:

\* Are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged UNDP to provide services for the preparation of the design, Terms of Reference, cost analysis/estimation, and other documents to be used in this competitive selection process;

\* Were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this Call for Proposals; or

\* Are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of, UNDP.

In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of what is potentially a conflict of interest, proposers must disclose the condition to UNDP and seek UNDP’s confirmation on whether such conflict exists.

UNDP looks forward to receiving your proposal and thanks you in advance for your interest in UNDP activities.

1. Globally, aquaculture has been growing at a compounded rate of almost 9% since 1980, and now supplies nearly half of the world’s consumed fish protein. However, much of it remains unsustainable in terms of pollution and impacts on species diversity, making this a critical Blue Economy opportunity to introduce more sustainable practices, such as integrated multi-trophic aquaculture. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2020 Libya Common Operational Dataset, Libyan Bureau of Statistics and UN OCHA. Population projections based on the 2006 national census. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Potential area of economic development is a free trade zone at the border with Tunisia, which was a long ago plan before revolution, which is currently being brought back to a discussion in 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)