

## UK SSP – Call for Project Ideas

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Taking COBERM further: UK in Support of Sustainable Peace (UK-SSP) is soliciting solid and impactful project ideas from representatives of a wide range of registered local civil society organisations, foundations and academia. International NGOs can also apply provided they meet relevant eligibility criteria<sup>1</sup>.

Proposed interventions are expected to be in line with the following aims:

- Improve the capacity of civil society actors in locally-led peacebuilding process;
- Facilitate inclusive processes to increase the engagement of youth, women and excluded groups in dialogue and confidence-building measures;
- Promote sustainable conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

### **Background:**

UK-SSP aims to contribute to sustaining and improving the enabling environment for lasting peace through inclusive and civil society driven peacebuilding initiatives. This will be achieved by:

- Supporting to CSO-driven confidence building initiatives within and across the conflict divide;
- Assisting in capacity building of civil society as enablers for change within and across the conflict divide.

UK-SSP will support initiatives created by experienced, but also young and possibly less experienced local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and civil society representatives who are keen to take the lead in locally-led peacebuilding. This can be accomplished through capitalizing on existing partnerships, expertise and networks of partners on both sides of the conflict. It can also be achieved by engaging new actors of diverse age groups, walks of life and ethnic communities. Proposed initiatives will address direct needs and find durable solutions through people-to-people contacts and constructive cooperation.

Selected initiatives will contribute to strengthening and sustaining ongoing partnerships and creating new ones with a deeper understanding of changing local contexts and needs identified on the grassroots level. The approach will be inclusive; mainstream gender-sensitivity and conflict-sensitivity; strive to empower youth; and try to engage the most hard-to-reach groups.

### **Purpose of the call:**

**The purpose of the call is to identify high impact confidence building initiatives between and within the conflict-affected communities through inclusive and locally-led peacebuilding process.**

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<sup>1</sup> See Special note under Eligibility criteria on Page 3

## **Priority will be given to:**

Project ideas that search for peace-oriented sustainable cooperation, with a demonstrable positive impact on the building of trust between societies affected by conflict, as well as on the attitudes and perceptions that would help move towards confidence building and positive peace. UK-SSP will support confidence building initiatives among the communities split by the conflicts well as awareness raising on conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the communities of different ethnicities. It will also fund measures that explore opportunities to prevent potential conflict and/or crisis.

Proposed ideas should suggest innovative, strategic, creative and targeted actions with clear vision of change and high potential of sustainability, multiplier effect and local ownership, including:

- Initiatives that focus on targeted and in-depth interventions which have proven to contribute to conflict transformation with tangible results – i.e. professional dialogues in specific areas such as but not limited to health, environment, education, culture, gender-based violence (GBV);
- Initiatives that give high consideration to interventions that demonstrate long-term cooperation prospects across the dividing lines and are well aligned with the UNSCR 1325<sup>2</sup>, the UNSCR 2250<sup>3</sup>
- Initiatives with strong analytical and/or academic research component; project ideas may come from CSOs as well as academia, expert community, think tanks, etc.
- Initiatives that envisage intra-society discussions on current peace process as well as rethinking on conflict triggers and drivers in the past [dealing with the past], which may positively shape the attitudes and perceptions, change stereotypes within societies, broaden the base for peacebuilding and strengthen local ownership of peace initiatives;
- Initiatives that explore new fields of peacebuilding such as digital and climate change/environmental peacebuilding as an important element to further contribute to people-to-people contacts and build trust between the conflict divided communities;
- Initiatives that increase resilience of locally-led peacebuilding and peace actors amid a turbulent geopolitical landscape.

**UK-SSP thematic priorities** will be particularly focused on women, youth and minority empowerment, improved quality of life among vulnerable groups, environment and climate change, as well as support to intra-societal dialogues on peace and confidence building.

**The project ideas submitted to UK-SSP should demonstrate strong confidence building potential.** UK-SSP will pay particular attention to mainstreaming youth, women, peace and security perspectives in grassroots and civil society driven initiatives.

**IMPORTANT: To ensure diversification of activities and implementers, the maximum requested funding per organization can be no more than 100,000 USD. A funding cap for organizations with less than 3 years of experience will be established on a case by case basis by the Steering Committee. Co-financing or in-kind contribution by the applicant is encouraged.**

**Maximum duration for the project idea: 11 months.**

## **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:**

**We are now accepting project ideas until 23 November 2023, 18:00. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.**

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<sup>2</sup>The United Nations Security Council resolution (S/RES/2000) on women, peace and security

<sup>3</sup>The United Nations Security Council resolution (S/RES/2015) on youth, peace and security

### **Submission of Project Ideas:**

If you have a project idea, which contributes to UK-SSP objectives, please complete a standard **Project Idea Submission Form** (see attachment 1) and submit it electronically to [ukspp@undp.org](mailto:ukspp@undp.org)

Women's and/or women-led organizations, as well as youth organizations are strongly encouraged to apply.

One organisation is allowed to submit more than one project idea.

Submission of parallel projects is also encouraged.

### **Criteria for project ideas' selection:**

- 1) Relevance to the above-described aims of UK-SSP;
- 2) Extent to which the action addresses the needs of people and local communities affected by conflict and provides tangible impact on improving their lives;
- 3) Do no harm approach - mitigating any potential negative effects as a result of project activities and its sensitivity;
- 4) Targeting interaction among conflict affected groups and communities, with a special focus on environment/climate change, as well as women and youth, and/or gender equality and equal opportunities, demonstrating alignment with the UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250 and ensures that it addresses the need to engage, empower, protect and support women, girls and youth in the pursuit of sustainable peace;
- 5) Feasibility of the project – problem identification, soundness of analysis of the potential risks and evidence of ability to contribute to addressing them, analysis of external stakeholders, etc.;
- 6) Measurable and realistic long-term results/outcomes (objectively verifiable indicators);
- 7) Demonstrated sustainability of proposed efforts;
- 8) Cost-efficiency and sound alignment of resources with expected project results.

### **Selection process:**

All project ideas will be reviewed by the UK/UNDP Evaluation Committee with sub-sequent decision on which applicants will be invited to submit full project proposals; selected applicants will be notified accordingly. Final applicants may be invited for an interview by UK/UNDP Steering Committee members.

The pre-selected CSOs will be provided with capacity building support to ensure the development of quality project proposals through tailor-made trainings and consultations offered by international expert.

Throughout the grant implementation cycle, the UK-SSP grantees will be offered workshops, knowledge-sharing exercises with particular focus on use of digital tools, as well as stakeholder networking events, to strengthen their capacities for building empowered and resilient communities.

### **Eligibility criteria for applicants:**

- Be officially registered as non-commercial, non-profit organisation;
- Have sufficient administrative, financial and technical capacity to implement a project;
- Desirably, demonstrate good track record of working with donors in the past.

Special note for INGOs:

While **strict priority** will be given to local CSOs, international NGOs are also welcome to apply; however, particular attention will be given to the cost-efficiency factor (INGOs are encouraged to search for co-funding) and added value of international standing. International CSOs can also apply in partnership with local NGOs. CSO consortiums, as well as newly established organizations or organizations with no experience of working with international donors are also encouraged to submit project ideas, as long as the other criteria mentioned above are met.

**DISCLAIMER:** UK-SSP will acknowledge the receipt of each application within 3 business days. Please contact us if you have not received a confirmation at [ukssp@undp.org](mailto:ukssp@undp.org);

UNDP is not responsible for any technical problems that might result in delays in the receipt and/or loss of your application(s).