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**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Libya**

**Project: Stability, Unity, and Social Cohesion (SUSC) Project**

***Strategic Engagement of Border Communities in Libya***

**Background:**

Since 2011, Libya has been embroiled in a series of crises that have created political, social, and economic challenges that have particularly affected vulnerable communities in Libya’s southern borderland, which has had higher rates of poverty, unemployment and underemployment. In conflict and post conflict settings like Libya, border areas are also impacted by forced movements of people (i.e., internally displaced persons, refugees, armed groups, and criminal gangs) which only adds more pressure on the local population that is already struggling with development issues.

Youth in borderland areas have been known to experience disillusionment given the limited opportunities to influence change and channel grievances through civic participation. A pervasive sense of marginalization and abandonment felt by border populations and gender inequalities are further exacerbated by weak local governments who do not have the financial resources to provide sufficient services to their constituents. For some young men and women, economic interests often present themselves as a way out of a challenging socio-economic predicament, which can lead to their involvement in cross border illicit crime (human trafficking, drug smuggling and arms proliferation)

The above points to the need for targeted and sustained outreach to young men and women in at-risk communities—while simultaneously meaningfully addressing the underlying causes of their socio-political and economic grievances. Developing comprehensive strategies to dissuade individuals from strategically engaging with violent extremist groups and organized criminal gangs (henceforth referred to as non-state actors) requires a thorough understanding of the push and pull factors of those who joined voluntarily or were coerced, the gender dimensions, economic impact, and cross-border dynamics of these non-state actors.

This activity forms part of UNDP Libya’s broader programming portfolio aimed at addressing the contributions that contribute to violent conflict. This includes the European Union (EU)-funded **SUSC** project which includes a focus on peace education and youth development, engagement of religious leaders through peace messaging, cross-border cooperation, and municipal PVE strategies and planning, as well as the complementary Dutch-funded project supporting national authorities to develop a comprehensive National Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) Framework. This overarching coordination mechanism will link the national-level framework with its corresponding and complementary components at the local level via Local Advisory Committees (LACs), who will develop and implement municipality PVE strategies. By adopting a cohesive, inclusive, and rights-based approach, this project seeks to empower Libyan authorities to build the population’s resilience and to more effectively address the root causes and structural drivers of violent conflict, ultimately increasing stability and security in the country.

**Purpose of Grant Contest**

Through this Call for Proposals, UNDP Libya hopes to identify and engage local civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as key partners in its work to enhance opportunities and set the ground for socio-economic development that is inclusive of vulnerable and marginalized populations—ultimately facilitating lasting partnerships and enhancing the role of civil society strategically engaging with borderland communities in Libya.

Through the EU-funded SUSC project, UNDP Libya seeks to support innovative, community-based pilot projects targeting youth, women, and marginalized populations focusing on discouraging communities from joining non-state groups in borderland areas. The Call for Proposals targets the five border municipalities of **Murzuq, Kufra, Ghat, Sebha, and Zuwara.** The expected beneficiaries include the entirety of borderland communities in the targeted municipalities, particularly youth, women, and marginalized/ disenfranchised members of Libyan society.

**Scope of Activities and Expected Outputs**

Applying organizations are expected to devise proposals for innovative initiatives to strategically engage border communities in Libya. Activities must be implemented exclusively in **one or several** of the targeted municipalities of this Call for Proposals: **Murzuq, Kufra, Ghat, Sebha, and Zuwara.**

Possible topics for grant projects include but are not limited to the following areas of intervention:

* **Youth and women engagement:** Project proposals may include activities focused on: Promoting/ reinforcing positive masculinities among young men in targeted communities, facilitating full youth and women engagement in community development and/or decision-making processes, etc.
* **Supporting socio-economic development:** livelihoods and job creation.
* **Dialogue and cross-border linkages:** Proposals can focus on, for example, promoting linkages between communities in Libya (or across the border) who are affected by non-state actors. Such as: fostering intra-communal dialogue between cross-border traders or youth groups, or with formal or informal authorities.

Given the community-based nature of this project, in their proposals successful organizations will demonstrate close ties to the targeted borderland community and/or in neighbouring countries negatively affected by non-state actors in their application. They will also clearly outline strategies to engage with key stakeholders and beneficiaries, as well as approaches to the inclusion of women, youth, and diverse groups within the project proposal.

The successful organisations will work closely with an expert who will support the strategic and technical implementation of this initiative. However, CSOs should take full responsibility in implementing and organizing the activities, including any travel, and to implement activities exclusively within the target municipalities.

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**Who Can Apply**

Libyan NGOs/ CSOs that are officially and duly registered organization (registered civil society and non-governmental organizations, including non-governmental academic or educational institutions) are eligible to apply. Successful applicants must also demonstrate the following skills and experience:

* Experience in grant management in proposed area of intervention
* At least two years of experience in socio-economic development (livelihoods and job creation), migration, support for women, youth, and vulnerable groups, and/or related fields.
* Members of the NGO/CSO have substantive capacity in designing, implementing, and monitoring community-based development programmes.
* Demonstrate close ties to and established networks in the proposed area of intervention—including with women in the community
* Be able to submit project documents (proposal, reports) preferably in English, in Arabic if not
* The organization’s political orientation must be neutral
* Respect for diversity

**Procedures of Grant Proposal Submission**

Those wishing to apply to the Strategic Border Engagement Low Value Grants Contest must submit:

1. Completed Organizational Profile (See Annex A) The application package should include the organizational profile with the following details:

- Proof of registration including copies of registration certificate

- A clearly defined management structure of the organization and CVs of key personnel

- Audited financial statements for the past two years (if available);

- Certified bank letter

1. Completed Project Proposal (See Annex B for Proposal Template)
2. Details about CSO/NGO Implementation of Related Projects (See Annex C)

**IMPORTANT:**

Applicants shall bear all costs related to proposal preparation and submission. The deadline for applications is **30th March 2022, 21:00 hrs. Libya time**. Applicants must submit their proposals through [Mohamed.Ben.Taleb@Undp.org](mailto:Mohamed.Ben.Taleb@Undp.org) with the subject field with subject field “UNDP Libya 2022 Application for Strategic Engagement of Border Communities Low Value Grant.” Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

You will be notified by email no later than three working days after we have successfully received your application. If you do not hear from us within this timeframe, please, contact us during the next two days and request a confirmation of receipt of email. Otherwise, UNDP will not be responsible for any potential problems in terms of considering the application.

Only one submission per organization is allowed. Organizations may not participate in more than one proposal for the Strategic Engagement of Border Communities Call for Proposals. Once the application is complete and submitted, revised versions of proposal documents will not be accepted. Partial applications will not be accepted.

Areas of Intervention

Applicants may apply for **one or several** of the following five locations are targeted under this project**: Murzuq, Kufra, Ghat, Sebha, and Zuwara**. ­Coalitions among CSOs/NGOs to cover several of the geographic areas targeted **are encouraged.**

Budget and eligible costs

Proposals eligible for this call are those whose requested budgets are between **USD 5,000** (minimum amount) and **USD 25,000** (maximum amount) **per municipality.**  Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with lower budgets. Proposals with the project staff salary costs exceeding 25% of the total budget will be disqualified without further consideration. Co-funding and in-house contributions are strongly encouraged.

Eligible costs include honorarium/salary, workshops and trainings, rental, stationery and office equipment, printing and translation, creation of online tools and resources, and other costs directly related to this assignment. Expenditures such as infrastructure improvement, equipment, maintenance, utilities, overhead and similar costs are ineligible for this grant proposal.

If additional clarifications required, questions can be sent to the same email address indicated above with subject field “UNDP Libya 2022 Application for Strategic Engagement of Border Communities Low Value Grant: request for information”. UNDP will aim to provide answers to questions within two working days.

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 Call for Proposals.

**Project Implementation Timeframe**

Implementation period for approved projects is envisioned to take place over a period of 3 months, counted from the date of the contract signature to the date when all relevant activities have been successfully completed.

**Selection Process**

Estimated Competition Timeline

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

3rd March 2022: Call for Proposal opens, and relevant documents are posted online

16th March 2022: Deadline for organizations to submit proposals

30th March 2022: Selected applicants will be notified.

Decisions on awarding grants are made by a Grant Selection Board (GSB) on the basis of the Evaluation Criteria outlined in the selection below. The Board will be comprised of the representatives of relevant UNDP representatives and other experts engaged for this process.

Applications will be disqualified and will not be further considered if they do not comply with priorities or instructions provided in this announcement. The details of the Selection Process are further outlined in the Terms of Reference—please refer to this document for further details.

All GSB decisions on funding projects will be taken no later than three weeks after the closing date for applications. UNDP will inform successful applicants in writing no later than two weeks after the date of the GSB decision.

**Selection Criteria and Scoring**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Maximum score** |
| **1. NGO Eligibility and Qualifications/ Management** | **450** |
| 1.1: Is the applicant **an officially and duly registered non-profit organization** (civil society and non-governmental organizations, including non-governmental academic or educational institution)? **(Proof of registration required)**  \**Automatically disqualified if not* | 150 |
| 1.2: Are the applicant organization and key personnel **sufficiently experienced in grant/ project management of community-based development programming?** | 50 |
| 1.3: Does the applicant organization/ partners and key personnel have **relevant experience and/or technical expertise** in socio-economic development (livelihoods and job creation), migration, support for women, youth, and vulnerable groups, and/or related fields? | 50 |
| 1.4: Does the applicant organization/ partners and/or key personnel **demonstrate close ties to the proposed area(s) of intervention?** | 50 |
| 1.5: Does the applicant organization/ partners and/or key personnel **demonstrate close ties to established networks, including with women in the community?** | 50 |
| 1.6: Do applicant and partners have sufficient **management capacities**?  (including staff, equipment and capacities for financial management)? / a clear management structure of the organization? | 50 |
| 1.7: Does the applicant have **a bank account?** | 50 |
| **2. Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan** | **400** |
| 2.1: Are the proposed activities implemented in **one or more of the targeted municipalities?**  *\*Automatically disqualified if not* | 60 |
| 2.2: Do the proposed activities include the **‘expected outputs’** outlined in the Terms of Reference/ Call for Proposals? | 60 |
| 2.3: Is the proposal **tailored to the needs of the local context** and project operating environment? | 40 |
| 2.4: Is the project **coherent and relevant** to the Terms of Reference/ Call for Proposals? | 60 |
| 2.5: Are the proposed activities **technically feasible** given the outlined timeframe? | 50 |
| 2.6: Does the proposal outline strategies to **engage with key stakeholders and beneficiaries**? | 60 |
| 2.7: Is the proposal’s approach to the **inclusion of women, youth, and diverse groups** adequate? | 35 |
| 2.8: The project indicators are **SMART** (smart, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) | 35 |
| **3. Budget** | **150** |
| 3.1 Is the budget **relevant**? (Is the financial proposal **line with the specified minimum and maximum grant amounts?**) | 100 |
| 3.2 Are the costs **necessary** and **eligible?** | 50 |

Grants will be awarded in accordance with the nature and relevance of the project. The payment schedule will be agreed before signing the contract.

**Attached documents:**

Annex A. Organizational Profile

Annex B. Proposal Template

Annex C. CSO/NGO Previous Experience: Implementation of Related Projects