

UN-Women Expression of Interest – EOI 01/2015

UN-Women Zimbabwe Country Office invites civil society organizations/institutions/ firms/individuals for the following:

EOI Call objective:	Call for Proposals that outline strategic and innovative programmes in the areas of Women's Economic Empowerment and Working Conditions and National Accountability on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for the Joint Programme for Gender Equality (JPGE)
Duration	12 months (March 2015 –March 2016)
Organizational Unit	Joint Programme for Gender Equality
Geographic Area Implementation	National, local and community levels

I. Context:

UN Women Zimbabwe is issuing a **Call for Proposals** (see Annex One for detailed guidelines on preparing the Proposals) from national/regional/international civil society organizations/institutions/academic and research institutions/ firms that work on issues of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, to implement strategic and innovative programmes through the Joint Programme for Gender Equality (JPGE). Eligible regional/international organizations/institutions/academic research institutes/firms must have a registered country office in Zimbabwe that has been operational for at least three years.

II. Background:

The Joint Programme for Gender Equality (JPGE) seeks to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in Zimbabwe. This program was developed in close consultation and collaboration with the government of Zimbabwe, with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development being the main government counterpart in this program. The JPGE brings together UN development agencies, development partners and different gender equality advocates to support the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The JPGE has been developed within the framework of the current Zimbabwe United Nations Development Framework (ZUNDAF) 2012-2015, which is aligned to government priorities on women's empowerment and gender equality in ZUNDAF Outcome 7.11. The new development framework (2016-2020), which is being developed, also continues a strong commitment to advancing gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.

The JPGE Goal is Enhanced Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Zimbabwe, and it focuses on: (1) Combating all forms of Gender-based Violence; (2) Women's participation in Politics and Decision-making; (3) Women's Economic Empowerment and Working Conditions, and (4) National Accountability on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

¹ ZUNDAF Outcome 7.1: Laws, Policies and Frameworks Established and Implemented to Ensure Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls.

Throughout its interventions, the JPGE will engage in capacity-strengthening at macro, meso and micro levels and in advocacy at the highest levels to advocate for integration and ownership of gender equality and women's rights issues into policy and legislative development. The Government of Sweden has contributed US\$5.3 million to the programme to accelerate the country's advancement towards gender equality and women's empowerment over a three-year period (2014-2017).

Grants from the JPGE are highly competitive. The Fund will prioritize innovative, impact-oriented programmes that exhibit joint initiatives involving multi-stakeholder groups, implementing national policies and priorities and fostering collaborations and partnerships between government departments, network organizations, well established women's organizations and community based organizations from around Zimbabwe.

UN Women's Approach: UN Women's approach to programming, institutional strengthening and capacity development and the empowerment of women in all sectors is guided by the Key international normative instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action.

III. Expected Results:

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS

UN Women's model for women's economic empowerment is built on the three inter-linked components of knowledge, capital and markets. UN Women supports women's economic empowerment in line with these, and with the growing body of evidence that shows that gender equality significantly contributes to advancing economies and sustainable development.

The overall goal of the JPGE in this area of focus is to increase women's control and ownership in key economic sectors. Increasing women's incomes through their participation in the value chain of the agriculture, manufacturing and tourism sectors, for example, requires a greater focus of enhancing women's business skills and knowledge; and on strengthening the capacity of financial institutions to be more gender-responsive in their financing policies and programmes.

This Call is targeted at civil society organizations/institutions/academic and research institutions/firms that have demonstrable experience in the following areas of expertise:

- Work with microfinance institutions, and with parastatals that provide micro-financing to women and young women, to mainstream gender into their institutional policies and to develop gender-responsive interventions to increase women's uptake of loans, credit facilities and other financial opportunities.
- Provide comprehensive business planning and business management training to targeted women's groups in rural areas with the potential of moving from livelihoods to the development of small businesses
- Provide targeted women's groups with the technical knowledge and skills on how to add value to the products produced and on how to access markets
- Provide technical knowledge and skills to women on how to use appropriate, accessible and affordable ICTs to enhance their businesses and entrepreneurship

NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

UN Women works across aspects of governance that can most readily accelerate progress towards gender equality. We help bridge disconnects between national development strategies and gender equality plans. To reform public institutions, we support steps such as cultivating the capacities of public officials to integrate gender equality measures in plans and budgets, and select performance indicators for oversight.

We advocate transparent and adequate public financing for gender equality, including through the adoption of gender-responsive budgets that channel adequate resources to both women and men. Engagement with gender equality advocates helps strengthen their skills to influence public decision-making and hold governments accountable.

Zimbabwe has demonstrated a strong commitment to gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment through the country's normative framework. Strong mechanisms to monitor, evaluate, and track implementation of the legal and policy frameworks are needed, as well as mechanisms at all levels to increase political accountability to gender equality and women's rights issues. The overall goal of the JPGE in this focus area is to increase civil society organizations' watchdog role in holding government accountable on commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

This Call is targeted at civil society organizations/institutions/ academic and research institutions/firms with demonstrable experience in the following areas of expertise:-

- Build the capacity of civil society to develop and use innovative tools to monitor accountability to gender equality and women's empowerment at macro and micro levels;
- Work with local authorities to develop gender-responsive plans and budgets for effective service delivery to women, men, girls and boys in communities
- Conduct research to establish the trends in financing for gender equality in Zimbabwe
- Conduct gender audits of the budgets of key sector ministries to inform evidence-based advocacy
- Development of gender-responsive budget advocacy programmes

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed throughout the focus areas outlined above include:

- **Knowledge Generation** through the use of various **media and communication** strategies that raise awareness to various audiences.
- **Engaging young women, men, girls and boys** to advance gender equality and bridge the generational gap.
- **Disability** with the focus on empowering and involvement of all women living with disability in the different sectors.
- **Institutional Capacity Strengthening** of all sectors and institutions that require technical skills in gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, the use of sex disaggregated data for the formulation of policies, programmes and strategic interventions
- **Strategic Partnerships** - Working with Community Based Organizations and rural women is essential. Partnerships with relatively 'new' actors who have a critical, but largely untapped role in advancing gender equality, women's rights and women's

empowerment is strongly encouraged. These actors include religious and faith based groups, the private sector, security sector actors, workers associations, the media and academic and research institutions.

- **Programmatic or Operational Cross-cutting Issues** to be mainstreamed in the two focus areas include capacity building of stakeholders, lobbying and advocacy, information dissemination, research and documentation and, where appropriate or relevant, male involvement

IV. Eligibility criteria

- Civil society organizations/institutions/ academic and research institutions/firms that through their work, seek to advance gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in all spheres and at national, local and community levels
- Regional/international civil society organizations, networks or institutions/firms that have national presence in the country of implementation (Zimbabwe) and that are legally registered to work within the country.

The submitted Proposal must indicate how the proposed interventions will contribute to national capacity development and promote the ownership of national and local organizations in the implementation of the programme. Special attention will be paid to organizations with a demonstrated record of working with local women's organizations, especially grassroots women's organizations and networks. Proposals from more than one organization or entity as co-applicants must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

UN Women will not consider applications:

- Submitted by individuals without any organizational affiliation;
- Requesting grants to fund on-going programmes or services
- Requesting funds to cover costs of infrastructure such as purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, construction or repair of existing buildings or offices, including for example, the building and furnishing of service facilities, shelters or short-stay homes;
- Requesting funds for stand-alone general awareness raising and campaigns;
- Requesting funds for stand-alone research and data collection.

V. Appraisal and Selection Process

The short-listing and selection of Proposals will be made through an open and competitive process. Submitted documents will undergo an anonymous review process by a Committee comprised of UN Women and other agencies implementing the JPGE.

Successful proposal(s) will be expected to be further developed as a Programme Document meeting UN Women standards and formatting requirements, with support from UN Women staff as required, to include high-quality standards of programme design and monitoring and evaluation plans.

It is anticipated that grant approval and disbursements will be made immediately after selection of the successful grantee(s) and upon completion of necessary project approval and administrative processes.

VI. Submission details

Interested parties should write to Melania.shayanewako@unwomen.org for the full Expression of interest and the Call for Proposal Concept Note Form.

All submissions should be emailed to ZWEJPGE@unwomen.onmicrosoft.com with subject line indicating **REF: EOI/01/2015**, otherwise applications will not be accepted within this call.

Interested parties must provide the following:

- Applicants are expected to submit proposals in accordance with guidelines in Annex 1: Call for Proposals: Concept Note Form. **Please send a request for this form on the above email address.**
- The proposal must indicate how the proposed interventions will contribute to national capacity development and promote the ownership of national and local organizations in the implementation of the programme.
- Call for Proposals/Concept notes should be submitted in English

VII. Deadline:

The EOI will be open until January 31, 2015– 11:00 p.m. (Zimbabwe time). UN Women will acknowledge receipt of the applications through a confirmation e-mail. Only those short listed shall be considered and further contacted. **Concept notes/Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.**

Proposals will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the UN-Women Rules and Regulations.

This EOI does not entail any commitment on the part of UN-Women, either financial or otherwise. UN-Women reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the reasons.