

UN Women, Afghanistan Country Office

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“Economic Empowerment of Women Survivors of Violence”

IMPORTANT: Proposals that do **NOT** follow the requirements stated herein will **NOT** be considered.

Subject	CALL FOR PROPOSALS – Economic Empowerment of Women Survivors of Violence
Location of implementation	Six Provinces: Bamyan, Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Parwan, Kabul
Budgetary expectations	To be proposed by the applicant, the budget should be allocated per each province
Duration of project	12 months
Language and content of proposals	<p>Proposals will only be accepted in English and must include details of the training methodology, a break-down of milestones and timelines, approach to addressing the activities, risk analysis and mitigation measures, ethical considerations, Curriculum Vitæ (CVs) of staff and trainers who will be working on the programme and detailed budget for the project in the given templates.</p> <p>Note: given that the budget is expected to be provided per province, it is also expected to provide specific information relating to context of each province/each province, as well as province specific strategy (if any). Though the applicant may submit a single proposal covering different provinces, and no separate proposals are expected per province.</p> <p>If you are submitting electronically, please submit it in PDF format.</p>
Deadline for submission	<u>June 22 2017 at 4:00 Pm Afghanistan time</u> (proposals received after this date WILL NOT be considered)

Handwritten signature and date: 29.5.17

Project overview

Terms of Reference

Background:

UN Women Afghanistan is supporting national counterparts, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Parliamentary bodies, and civil society organizations among other entities, in implementing the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and other National Action Plans and strategies in the areas of elimination of violence against women and girls (EVAW/G) and political and economic empowerment for women. Economic dependence is found to be one of the major factors for the women to endure and continue to tolerate the violent relationships. Inequalities in access and control not only reduce women's economic independence and reduce their capacity to act and take decisions, but also increase their vulnerability to violence, and also hinders the national progress.

UN Women firmly believes that addressing violence against women requires a multipronged approach of access to protection and justice, economic and social empowerment of women, creating enabling environment for women and girls through prevention of violence, and sound policy actions, and therefore, UN Women through its flagship programme Survivors' Empowerment Journey (SEJ) seeks to address these approaches through the survivor-centred approach in the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) under its Development Result Framework (DRF). The EVAW SEJ programme focusses on strengthening the quality of delivery of entry point services, including mechanisms for early mediation and reconciliation through Women Protection Centers (WPCs) and Family Guidance Centers (FGCs), access to improved protection, and economic empowerment support for successful and safe reintegration of survivors of Violence against Women (VAW) into communities, including families.

In addressing the gaps for safe re-integration with self-esteem, the programme will work to create a receptive social environment through community mobilization for Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) coupled with empowerment of the survivors in exploring and asserting their agency and economic empowerment. The programme will continue to engage with the duty bearers and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to support a legal environment that promotes women's access to justice.

One of the components of the EVAW SEJ programme focuses on building women's economic opportunities and resources that give particular attention to the needs of women survivors of violence. The logic behind women's economic empowerment is to reduce the power imbalance between a woman and a man and facilitate an environment through economic empowerment interventions that will result into enhanced role of women in living a life with dignity, free of violence and with power of decision making in their communities and families. Economic empowerment also provides women survivors of violence, with alternative livelihood sources and enable lead a safe, self-reliant and dignified life.

Objectives:

Under the direct supervision of Manager for SEJ programme and in consultation with the Economic Empowerment Specialist, the responsible party will work towards the following objective:

- To support women survivors of violence and women vulnerable to violence to enhance their capacities to earn income, provide them with capacities of leadership, finance management skills and help them access economic opportunities and livelihoods to make sure they are able to influence the gender dynamics in their families and communities in an efficient way towards elimination of violence against women. One of the options is to achieve this goal through the Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC).

Since many provinces have various existing structures/ training facilities that can be converted as LRC, before moving ahead with the establishment of LRC, the focus of the proposal shall be to first explore the possibilities of using/building upon the existing infrastructures for setting up the LRCs such as the employment/ training centers of Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled (MoLSAMD), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development; Provincial Governments; Ministry of Commerce and Industries, UN Women supported ICT Centers, Resource Centers and Family Guidance Centers, TVET related programmes, or any other existing structures with other relevant institutions and programmes within that locality. Only if the existing structures within that locality are not existing, the option of establishing a new structure will be explored by the Responsible Party of UN Women, but under close guidance and supervision of UN Women team, and based on the results of the Rapid Market Assessment.

Activities:

1. Livelihood Resource Centres in 6 provinces (Bamyan, Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Parwan, Kabul):

Based on the results of feasibility study to identify the most suitable hosting arrangement or existing structures for Livelihood Resource Centre in each province, the responsible party is expected to facilitate the linkages and partnership between UN Women and the existing structure hosting agency/ organization to establish partnership where the hosting agency provides with the infrastructure, while UN Women will run the trainings and training curriculum.

The LRCs aim to act as an information centre, referral place, and training centre for services and opportunities to women and girls at the provincial capital. Women and girls will be connected to opportunities for education and training, including various high-demand careers based on the market assessment of the priority enterprise development/ income generation activities relevant for the particular province. The LRC design must be based on the practical and strategic gender needs of women (for example, child care services, timings of the learning sessions etcetera). Wherever such services are offered, the Responsible Party has to make linkages with existing services and systems in each respective province.

Establish baseline for this component of the EVAW SEJ programme within the first two months of contract

implementation. The targets for each quarter will be established in close consultation with UN Women team in the beginning of the contract implementation.

- Based on the existing materials available, design an Entrepreneurship Development Training Manual to offer vocational and entrepreneurship skills development keeping in view the safety and security needs of the women. This will require to review rapid market assessment report and existing relevant training materials from different stakeholders (UN Women's rapid market assessment report will be provided upon signing of the contract) for adapting and/or developing the training manual and materials. Also, the selected partner will conduct consultation meetings with women protection centers staff, managers, relevant officials at the MoWA/Department of Women Affairs, MoLSAMD and other stakeholders if any to design/ tailor the training materials appropriate for the non-literate or semi-literate women.
- Based on the existing materials and manuals, finalize and adapt a comprehensive training package for a holistic training course for women at WPCs, LRCs on livelihoods and skills. The topics to be covered will be finalized on the basis of the initial analysis phase, but are likely to include:
 - Business ideas generation
 - Market research
 - Basic Accounts/book-keeping
 - Pricing
 - Customer care and business values/ethics
 - Value chain and market linkages
 - Marketing for products, goods and services
 - Basic life skills such as employability skills (including power relations, gender, VAW, relationships, health, and rights)
 - Essential skills for the business enterprise and
 - Including intensive training of economic empowerment training providers in EVAW and protection.

Develop all materials for the comprehensive training package, including materials for interactive training sessions based on images for illiterate and semi illiterate trainees at WPCs, FGCs, LRC and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

- Run Livelihood Training and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes that include Financial Literacy and Business Development training, combined with life skills (covering power, gender, rights, VAW, healthy relationships). The initial period of running the LRC is expected to be one year. This is open to extension, subject to satisfactory performance.
- For other trainings related to the employment (for e.g. midwifery/ nursing) the Responsible Party will identify suitable partner agencies to undertake such employment generation certification courses and

link the women trainees with these services.

- Facilitate market linkages, credit schemes, access to Vocational Training Institutions based on the market demand to clients at WPCs, FGCs, SHGs and LRCs.
- Provide handholding support to women at WPCs, FGCs and SHGs members to define ideas/business plan for income generation activities and get access to economic opportunities.
- Facilitate linkages of clients at WPCs and FGCs to access to seed capital to start micro/small scale productive economic activities.
- Prepare a province-wise Directory of the existing economic/ livelihood training activities, which at the minimum contain (i) contact information (ii) Eligibility criteria (iii) Background of the services offered (iv) relevant application forms to avail the services of the economic empowerment programme
- Develop an information booklet/ leaflet providing information on the services of LRC
- Design various monitoring tools and system to help track the quality of services offered by LRC, identify who were able to avail of the economic empowerment opportunities and their progress
- Provide a sustainability plan indicating how the LRCs will connect with existing LRCs, MoLSAMD's employment centers, with the TVET schemes, WPCs and FGCs.

The proposal must cover a strategy on how the following principles of the rights based approach, and community mobilization will be integrated in the LRC functioning:

- **Prioritize Respect, Safety and Confidentiality** for all survivors.
- **Do no harm.** All LRCs activities are carefully designed and will be implemented to pose no threat to women and their children, including but not limited to survivors.
- **Clients' right for choice is at the centre of all interventions.** The LRCs will follow a non-prescriptive approach in all programme interventions and will respect women's choices and decisions, providing as much information to them as possible to better inform decisions and request consent for actions taken on their behalf.
- **Improving coordination.** The LRCs aims to facilitate coordination with similar initiatives of other programmes, agencies, and institutions into an effective action. The programme will assume a coordinating function and act as a source of knowledge for other organizations.
- **Building partnerships.** The LRCs will try to not duplicate existing projects, but will partner with the private sector, other donor-funded initiatives and government projects, and the burgeoning financial sector, wherever possible.
- **Simple design.** The LRCs will set up minimal structures in a few suitable provinces and gradually scale- up as lessons learned are continuously incorporated into the project.
- **Sharing best practices.** The LRCs will leverage opportunities for identifying and disseminating emerging successful prevention, response and economic empowerment models for women in shelters in Afghanistan.
- **Draw from and contribute to the evidence.** The LRCs will deliver new evidence on the risk factors for VAW, and integrate stronger evaluation and monitoring practices to ensure evaluability.

- **Integration.** Working with a wide range of stakeholders' the LRCs will aim to improve linkages between women economic activities and markets.

UN Women welcomes innovative approaches in implementing this project towards meeting the set objectives.

Eligibility criteria

Interested applicants should meet the following criteria:

1. Registered and have legal status in Afghanistan (NGOs and private firms);
2. At least 7 years of relevant experience (of the organization or of its proposed staff if a new organization);
3. Track record of successful implementation of similar projects;
4. Field presence in the proposed province or affiliation with other strong and qualified organization is mandatory.

UN Women will not consider proposals from:

- A) Individuals without any organizational affiliation;
- B) UN agencies and affiliated UN agencies;
- C) Organizations that do not have an office in Afghanistan;
- D) Government entities;

Criteria for selection of proposals: Proposals will be selected in accordance with the following criteria:

1. **Reputation of Organization and Staff:**

- Documented successful track record (for newly formed organizations, the personnel to be assigned to the UN Women project should have a proven track record of 7 years in the subject field);
- A proven commitment to results (able to provide records of successful projects);
- Proven credibility in the country, especially credibility in terms of working towards gender equality, women's economic empowerment and mentioned topics.

2. **General Organizational Capability:**

- Strength of project management on conducting successful and standard trainings on women economic empowerment and establishing linkages with markets;
- Track record of working with survivors of VAW and handling livelihood works of survivors of VAW/G;
- Record and evidence of organizational culture of accountability, such as a written code of conduct, measures on anti-corruption and sexual harassment policy;
- A track record of delivering quality and timely project results.

3. **Organizational expertise in the area of specified programme:**

- Evidence that the organization can conduct quality trainings or previous similar experience and expertise in women economic empowerment.

4. **Accountability and Financial Control:**

- A functioning internal control framework and process to deliver quality and timely project results.

5. **Grassroots presence/Outreach:**

Evidence of the organization having grassroots presence and or affiliation with other similar strong qualified organizations in the country

Where to submit proposals?

The proposals should be sent under the subject of **"Economic Empowerment of Women Survivors of Violence"** in the subject of your letter or email.

The applicants should submit their proposal in either of below mentioned ways:

1. In a sealed envelope to the following address: PO Box: 949, UN Women Afghanistan, UNOCA

- Compound, Jalalabad Road, Kabul, Afghanistan
2. Via e-mail to: registry.unwomen.af@unwomen.org

Please note that receiving the application electronically **is preferred**.

ANNEXES

The following documents must be annexed to your proposal:

Annex 1: Project workplan

Annex 2: Project budget

Annex 3: Registration certificate

Annex 4: Copy of code of conduct and other internal policies and procedures

Annex 5: Contact details of three references

Technical Evaluation Criteria

S/N	Requirement	Points Obtainable	Points received
Section One: Expertise of the Organization/Technical Capacity			
2	Reputation of Organization and Staff: Documented successful track record (for newly formed organizations, the personnel to be assigned to the UN Women project should have a proven track record in similar projects); A proven commitment to results and accountability (able to provide records of successful projects); Proven credibility in the region, especially credibility in terms of working with survivors of VAW, handling cases of VAW/G, developing of Entrepreneurship Development Training Manual conducting trainings on women's economic empowerment, especially survivors of violence.	6	
3	General Organizational Capability: Strength of project management; Record and evidence of organizational culture of accountability, such as a written code of conduct and a track record of delivering quality and timely project results; annual reports, audit reports of previous projects if available	3	
4	Organizational expertise in the area of specified program: Indicated clear understanding of the requested tasks (understanding of women's economic empowerment dynamics in Afghanistan, the objective (s) of the assignment and a description of how the applying Agency proposes to undertake the assignment considering the ToRs above)	10	
5	Completeness of Proposal: the important aspects of the task have been addressed in sufficient detail.	4	
6	Grassroots presence/Outreach: Does the NGO have existing grassroots presence and networks in the country/region?	7	
TOTAL POINTS:		30	
Section Two: Goal, Objective of the Project, Proposed Workplan, Approach and Personnel			
1	The work plan presentation and the sequence of activities including milestones are clear and the planning is logical, realistic and can be implemented efficiently.	19	
2	Sufficient human resource is planned for implementing this assignment	8	
3	Clear approach is presented for conducting the subject and data quality assurance	8	
TOTAL POINTS:		35	
Section Three: Financial Strengths of the Proposal			
1	Realistic budget plan	5	
2	Financial format prepared (price Schedule) and budget narrative	5	
3	Cost breakdown with projection for every individual activity	6	
4	Reliability of cost for each activity	5	
5	Audit report (Of previous projects conducted)	2	
TOTAL POINTS		23	
TOTAL POINTS IN SECTIONS 1-3		88	
Presentation of Proposal: Timeliness, adherence to templates, and language		12	
TOTAL POINTS		100	

End of CFP