



**Call for Grant Proposal
SDG 01-2020-Grant-UNDP-KESP- “Grants Proposals”**

United Nations Development Programme invites Non-governmental organizations (NGO) operating in Kyrgyz Republic to take part in **a competition of proposals to conduct a national campaign to increase women’s participation and engagement in the election processes.**

The Call for Grant proposal is announced **within the framework of the joint “Kyrgyzstan Electoral Support Programme” of the Government of Switzerland and UNDP (hereinafter the Programme).**

The grant fund of the Program is designed to increase women’s participation and engagement in the election processes. In response to a formal request from the Central Elections Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic (CEC) to strengthen the effectiveness, transparency and inclusiveness of the electoral processes the United Nations (UN) in Kyrgyzstan through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been supporting the efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic. The support is provided through 22-month Kyrgyzstan Electoral Support Programme (KESP) that started in February 2020 and runs through December 2021 and is composed of three components. One of the three components is empowering women as voters and eligible candidates, and enhancing the potential of key partners in conducting public and external communication, including interaction with civil society, the media and other key stakeholders in the elections to achieve the objective of this component. Given the importance of introducing of at least 30% of the mandates for women’s elections to local councils in addition to the guaranteed at least 30% of seats for women in the Parliament, which came into force in 2019, large-scale public events to be held to inform potential women candidates and voters about this amendment adopted, as well as to motivate them to run for and vote for women candidates.

Kyrgyzstan has made significant development progress over the last two decades; aspiring to consolidate and advance its progress as a lower-middle-income country and as the only parliamentary democracy in Central Asia. Following a period of turmoil and complex social, economic and political changes, the adoption of the 2010 constitution at the nationwide referenda ushered in a period of growing stability and popular trust in electoral institutions. Parliamentary elections in 2011 and 2015 – largely recognized as competitive and inclusive¹ – have created a more responsive parliamentary system, building the foundation for improved governance and application of the rule of law, gender equality, and human rights. The 2017 Presidential Elections further cultivated such stability, while reducing post-election tensions, and saw the first peaceful transfer of power between a president who served a full presidential term and a newly elected successor.

Over and above the need for sustaining progress, there are areas in the broader electoral environment where sustained reforms are needed in coming years. Despite special measures, women, youth, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities continue to be underrepresented in politics and elected office. The recent introduction of the 30% quota for women in local councils is a critically important affirmative action, and more support is needed to help the CEC and government to break the trend of diminishing representation of women in politics.

There is evidence to suggest that many women candidates will face adverse conditions in political competitors in all parts of the country, and it is important for the CEC and the government to protect and support women, who choose to stand for elections, to do so unimpeded and with public support. It will also be crucial to create a safe and stable environment to encourage potential candidates and for women to participate as voters on election day.

Wide advocacy campaign conducted by active women and civil society organizations working in the area of political transformations succeeded to promote the necessity of adoption of such legislation after the fact that national parliament counted zero women among its members in 2005.

¹ “Parliamentary elections in 2015 were competitive and provided voters with a range of choices”. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

However, the path towards legal regulations guaranteeing women the right to be elected was effective since 2007. The gender quota, regulated by the election legislation, reserving seats for village councils, started to work in 2019. For latest nearly four years, the women representation among deputies was never succeeded 11%, i.e among 8700 elected deputies at all levels, there are less than 1000 women.

In accordance with this, in the current phase of the Project, UNDP intends to award a grant in amount of **\$35,000 (thirty five thousand)** to a Non-governmental organization (NGO) on a competitive basis to implement these activities and, as a result, to inform female candidates and voters on 30% reserved seats in local and rural councils for women and to educate voters on importance of women's participation in the political process.

The selection process will be held in one stage:

1. In order to ensure transparency of consideration and approval of project proposals, a Grant Evaluation Commission for the evaluation of grant projects (GEC) formed from representatives of UNDP, the CEC, and, if necessary, specialized specialists/experts in various fields.
2. The GEC is the authorized body responsible for the consideration, selection and decision-making on the project proposals received.
3. The selection and approval of the project proposal as the winner of the grant will be carried out in one stage during the meeting of the GEC.
4. The final decision on the award of the grant is made by the UNDP management based on the results of GEC.

Applications can be submitted by applicants meeting the following criteria:

- The Grant Applicant must have at least 3 years of proven work experience on gender issues and gender equality.
- Considering that almost 30% of the population with the right to vote is now outside of the country, having contacts and previous experience working with representatives of the Kyrgyz diaspora abroad is an advantage;
- Maximum coverage in numeric and qualitative means of target groups in all seven or in the most of oblasts of the country. Project applications with greater and better target group coverage will have an advantage.
- The presence of activities or approaches in the applicant's project application affecting the increased of women's participation and engagement in the electoral processes.
- The presence of activities or approaches in the applicant's project application that affect the eradication of negative discriminatory stereotypes against women candidates;
- The project application is prepared in strict accordance with the format, and the information presented is complete, accurate and clear.

The followings have to be submitted to the Grant committee by the deadline:

1. A project application filled out in the format (Appendix 2);
2. A copy of a registration certificate of an applicant organization;
3. A copy of a charter of an applicant organization;
4. A document from a bank on KGS account indicating all the necessary data such as the name of the organization, account, BIC, currency, etc., signed and stamped by the bank;
5. Originals/copies of documents issued by the relevant competent authorities confirming that the organization has no current debts in the social fund and tax authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic (dated within 1 month before the tender closing date);
6. CVs of Director and other key personal to be engaged in implementation of the project;
7. 2 references from past partners or donors.

Full version of UNDP Request for Grant Proposals and other requirements and information on sub-project is available on UNDP Kyrgyzstan web-site

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/procurement.html>

The applicants must submit their proposals send via e-mail to grants_elections@sdg16.undp.kg with topic named "SDG 01-2020-Grant-UNDP-KESP" before 23:59 hrs on 31 July 2020.

All questions/enquiries on the current call should be addressed to grants_elections@sdg16.undp.kg

Any other forms of request will not be considered.

Applications are valid from the date of signing of the contract till October 30, 2020

Incomplete or late submitted grant documents will not be considered. UNDP reserves the right to not explain the reasons for not selecting the NGO