



## Call for Grant Proposals

### SEG 03-2020-Grant-UNDP-COVID - “Grant Proposals”

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Kyrgyz Republic to provide proposals for the implementation of activities related to the project titled «**Supporting an Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 and Addressing its Socio-Economic Impact in the Kyrgyz Republic**» and to take part in the Call for Grant Proposals. To mitigate the effects of the pandemic the UNDP Kyrgyzstan aims to support effective, multi-sectoral, equitable, inclusive, human rights-focused crisis response and recovery to COVID-19. This ambition is guided by the principle of 'leave no-one behind' and protecting the most vulnerable that stand higher risk of exclusion. It also is in line with the role of UNDP to act as technical lead in the socio-economic response, to support the UN system to elaborate its response and leverage the wider system to implement the socioeconomic work and contribute to the early recovery interventions. UNDP plans to work implementing the following Results Areas:

- Health sector
- Social Inclusion
- Socio-Economic.

UNDP's COVID-19 response strategy in Kyrgyzstan has been designed to support the government to deliver relief, social protection and early recovery support to effectively respond and mitigate negative impact of COVID-19 through multi-sectoral assistance. UNDP is also working closely with other donors in addressing the immediate needs while preparing for medium to long term interventions leveraging its main areas of operation. UNDP focuses on the social impact and the economic response and recovery. Unlike the 2008 financial crisis, injecting capital in the financial sector alone is not the answer. Most fundamentally, UNDP takes a human-centered approach, especially targeting low wage workers, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), the most vulnerable groups that stand risk of being left behind.

The project will support people through MSME by deploying its Business Advisory Support Facility (BASF) to help their quick recovery and revitalization in the COVID-19 context. The BASF's main focus will be to sustain existing jobs to ensure business continuity and employment generation in Kyrgyzstan. Specific attention will be placed on garnering post-COVID-19 proof jobs and skills in the Green Economy, sustainable agriculture or emerging growth sectors (e.g. creative and digital economy). Women and youth, as most vulnerable, will receive priority support. BASF plays an integral part of the ecosystem of interventions under this project. The other activities on registering recently unemployed and subsequent job matching followed with online training will complement the support delivered under the BASF.

A grant totaling USD 120,000 will be allocated to two selected grant-making NGOs to perform the grant-making function. This NGO/responsible party will select end recipients and provide business advisory and financial support by distributing the on-granting funds to grant recipients: micro-, small- or medium-sized enterprises (MSME), with the special focus on women-led MSMEs and individual women-entrepreneurs, in any regions of the Kyrgyz Republic through:

- 1) Refining a methodology for administering the BASF with target groups building on previous successful UNDP projects and approaches;

- 2) Provision of low-value grants to MSMEs with special focus on women led MSMEs and individual women-entrepreneurs, according to the criteria developed for the BASF. The aim should be to aid the quick restart of business operations, sustaining jobs and or creation and income generation for population;
- 3) Provision of business advisory support required for quick restart and or continuation of business operations of MSME, with the special focus on women-led MSMEs and individual women-entrepreneurs, to ensure effective use of financial support and sustainability of their business model;
- 4) Monitoring the results/impact of financial and advisory support with a special focus on decent jobs, livelihoods and sales.

#### **Selection process:**

1. Review of applications and preliminary selection of NGOs (specialized in providing financial and business advisory support); and
2. Assessment of institutional, operational and market capacities of NGOs in managing funds, in provision of financing, in developing capacity of target MSMEs.

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

- Legal status of civil society organization/NGO according to legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Proven institutional capacity for business advisory and financing management, comprising a framework/system for undertaking business proposal evaluation, due diligence and appropriate governance, and risk management;
- Capacity of key personnel in working with target MSMEs — including past experience in technical assistance and developing other organizations' capacity including providing financing and business advisory for MSMEs social service delivery, managing grants/investments, etc.;
- Capacity to assess and manage risk, including safeguarding people and the environment from harm – availability of relevant policies/methodologies;
- Comprehensive methodology of organization of evaluation of business project proposals for grants, including reaching potential recipients through solutions for remote access considering restrictions on meetings, mass gatherings and travel because of the COVID-19 emergency;
- Methodology of granting for operations recovery and business advisory for target MSMEs including templates for assessment eligibility of potential grants recipients and selection process. Methodology should be flexible in terms of timeframe and regional coverage of tasks implementation considering assumptions and risks of COVID-19;
- Programmatic capacity, including competency for monitoring and evaluation.

#### **Additional criteria:**

1. Previous experience in business support including financing and/or business advisory to MSMEs;
2. Previous experience of working with women entrepreneurs and women groups, micro, small and medium businesses.

#### **The following documents shall be submitted with a proposal:**

1. Application form (available on our website at <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/procurement.html>);
2. Project Proposal;
3. Copy of the Legal documents, licenses, etc.;
4. Report on balance, income and expenditures;
5. Information about past experience of organization;
6. References from past clients and partners;

7. CVs of Director and other key personal to be engaged in implementation of the project

Full version of the UNDP Request for Grant Proposals and other requirements and information is available on the UNDP Kyrgyzstan website

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

**Applicants must submit their proposals via e-mail to [procurement.osh@undp.org](mailto:procurement.osh@undp.org) with the subject “SEG 03-2020-Grant-UNDP-COVID - “Grant Proposals” by 12:00 pm on 21 December 2020 Bishkek time.**

All questions on the current call should be addressed to [procurement.osh@undp.org](mailto:procurement.osh@undp.org). Any other forms of request will not be considered.

Applications are valid from 2020 to 2021.

Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

UNDP reserves the right to ignore queries on rejecting the applicants.