



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Georgia

Project: “Human Rights for All – Phase 2”

Call for Proposals

STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN GEORGIA

INSTRUCTIONS

1. BACKGROUND

Protection of rights and civil, political, and social integration of national minorities as well as their inclusion remain as one of the most problematic aspects for Georgia. Access to education, information and services, teaching of the native language and participation in the decision-making process at the level of the national and local self-government can be named among the issues which negatively affect rights of national minorities.¹ The national minority issues, including their integration into society, are not also adequately addressed in municipalities which further aggravates realization of their rights. Although the legal framework for protection of rights of national minorities has been strengthened as a result of adoption of the Law of Georgia on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, the knowledge of the society, especially of ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis about the anti-discrimination legislation, is still low.²

Apart from that, intolerance and discriminatory attitude towards the national minorities persist among society in Georgia due to which the minority group continues to face stigma, discrimination and hate speech. The recent study showed that 36% of Georgian nationals consider ethnic diversity as negative noting that diversity “threatens culture and traditions”, “weakens national unity” and “exposes the country to security issues”. Further to that, the study revealed that the interviewed persons considered that persons belonging to national minorities had no right to protest in public, to be elected, to vote and/or to participate in decision-making on important state issues.³

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the vulnerability of national minorities and deepened already existing inequalities in Georgia. Anti-pandemic measures also endangered the enjoyment of some

¹ Public Defender’s Office, Report on the Situation of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, 2019, <https://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2020070407523954521.pdf>

² Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Third Opinion on Georgia, 7 March 2019, <https://rm.coe.int/3rd-op-georgia-en/1680969b56?fbclid=IwAR2SAJxrUXjd0ciLySFH0II5DNP-0N0Q5m-ql082t7AdAUZwAzLJ-xsswIA>

³ Caucasus Research Resource Center, Hate Crime, Hate Speech and Discrimination in Georgia: Attitudes and Awareness, 2018, <https://rm.coe.int/hate-crime-hate-speech-and-discrimination-in-attitudes-and-awareness-e/16808ef62a>

rights and freedoms of national minorities, including freedom of religion. In addition, although crisis-related information was widely available through various sources, national minorities had challenges while accessing it as the information was mainly provided in Georgian language.⁴ The statistics revealed by the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health show that vaccination rates are extremely low in the regions populated by national minorities, such as Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti⁵ which is conditioned by various reasons, including the fact that national minorities are not provided with information on the importance of vaccination in their languages.

In scope of the EU-UNDP joint project “Human Rights for All – Phase 2” UNDP, *inter alia*, continues to capacitate NGOs/community organizations to promote protection of rights of minorities, including national minorities and persons in vulnerable situations. To achieve expected outcome, UNDP intends to issue grant with the main focus on elimination of discrimination towards minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations at local level.

For this purpose, the UNDP is announcing a call for proposals for the NGOs/community organizations working on the issues of national minorities in the regions of Georgia. In particular, the grant aims to increase national minorities’ knowledge on their rights and available redress mechanisms and support them in raising their complaints, while at the same time to increase society’s awareness towards the national minorities.

2. OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the call is to promote culture of non-discrimination of national minorities in Georgia through contribution towards the strengthening their protection and raising awareness for combating stigma and discrimination.

3. SCOPE

To address challenges explained above and achieve the objective of this call, proposals submitted by the applicants shall focus on combination of the following priority areas for grant implementation:

- 1. Knowledge building on human rights issues for the representatives of national minorities;**
- 2. Provision of legal support to national minorities;**
- 3. Awareness campaigns for addressing stigma and discrimination of national minorities;**
- 4. Awareness raising activities for national minorities on health services.**

Priority area 1. Knowledge building on human rights issues for the representatives of national minorities

The applicants need to propose interventions focusing, *inter alia*, on provision of information to persons belonging to national minorities about the national legislation, including anti-discrimination law and the policy documents related to the rights of national minorities as well as available redress mechanisms in order to improve their knowledge about their rights and the ways of seeking justice.

Priority area 2. Provision of legal support to national minorities

⁴ PDO, Report on the Situation of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, 2020,

<https://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2021070814020446986.pdf>

⁵ NCDC, number of vaccinations by regions, https://vaccines.ncdc.ge/statistics/?fbclid=IwAR21Pe_S5Vsrkwr7lbC5eVhC4emw-LhSVAjZkONaawtnY9k5pgQPc1Jl40w

The applicants are invited to deliver legal aid, which might also include legal consultation and analysis, as well as to assist the representatives of the national minorities in raising their complaints before the relevant authorities.

Priority area 3. Awareness campaigns for addressing stigma and discrimination of national minorities

The applicants are invited to ensure awareness raising activities directed to reducing stigma and discrimination of national minorities. It is up to the applicants to decide which activities to focus on.

Priority area 4. Awareness raising activities for national minorities on health services

Within this priority area, it is expected the applicants, *inter alia*, to focus on the activities directed to provision of information to the national minorities in their languages about the situation relating to COVID-19, the threats posed by the spread of the virus, updated crisis-related information and the importance of vaccination.

4. FINANCING SCHEME AND INELIGIBLE COSTS

Applicants may submit the proposals for up to USD 10,000 (excluding cost-sharing, if any). The justified and realistic budgets shall be provided.

5. WHO CAN APPLY?

NGOs and CSOs operating in the regions of Georgia outside Tbilisi, are invited to apply for this Call for Proposals, except of religious and political organizations. **Entities should be registered in accordance with the requirements of Georgian legislation and must be able to provide organization's statute.** CSOs and NGOs must provide evidence that they have sufficient capacity to execute the proposed application and operating experience of minimum 2 years.

6. IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION(S) AND DURATION

The grant activities shall be implemented in regions inhabited with national minorities, including Kvemo Kartli and/or Samtskhe-Javakheti.

The implementation period for approved grant shall not exceed six (6) months, counted from the date of the agreement signature to the date when all relevant activities have been successfully completed.

7. PROCEDURES OF GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Those wishing to apply to the call must submit:

- Grant Application Form (See Annex A) in line with the goals and approaches determined in this Call of Proposals.
- CVs of the proposed staff to be engaged in grant implementation.
- Budget Form (See Annex B).
- Separate account requisites which will be used only for grant operations.
- Extract from the public register.

All documents need to be submitted in English.

IMPORTANT: Please send signed Grant Application Form electronically in one file (searchable pdf format) to the following email: irina.mikeladze@undp.org. The Budget Form (See Annex B) shall be submitted as separate document electronically in Excel format. **The subject line should read: “CoP Application – Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Georgia.”** If additional clarifications are required, questions can be sent to the same email address indicated above. Answers to questions will be provided within two working days.

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 11 October 2021, 10:00 a.m. (Tbilisi time)**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Note: A consultation meeting will be held remotely on Wednesday **22 September 2021, at 16:00 a.m.** Interested parties shall send a preliminary request for participation in the meeting to the following email address irina.mikeladze@undp.org

The maximum amount allocated for the grant is USD 10,000. Budget for forth priority area shall not exceed 10% of the total budget. Co-funding and in-house contributions are encouraged and should be properly noted in the grant budget.

The applicant can implement project together with other partner organization. Information on partner organization shall be included in the Grant Application Form. The maximum amount allocated for the grant remains the same even in case of submitting joint Grant Application.

Eligible costs include honorarium/salary, training venue costs, stationery, basic office equipment, printing, creation of educational resources, IT solutions, visibility items, and other costs directly related to this grant activities.

Expenditures such as debts and debt service charges (interest), provision for losses or potential future liabilities, purchases of land or buildings, infrastructure improvement, maintenance, utilities, office rent, overhead, currency exchange losses and similar costs are ineligible for this grant proposal.

8. SELECTION PROCESS

Decision on awarding grant is made by a Grant Selection Board (GSB). The Board will be comprised of the relevant UNDP representatives.

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

Selection Criteria and Scoring

Proposed grant proposals will be selected based on the criteria outlined in the table 1 below.

Table 1. Selection Criteria and Scoring

Selection Criteria		Selection Criteria Description	Score ⁶
1.	Team	The proposed grant team has relevant experience in similar interventions, with demonstrated experience of working with national minorities. Grant management arrangements and division of roles are sound.	Max. 20 points
2.	Methodology	The proposal is technically accurate and consistent. The applicant demonstrates good understanding of grant goals. The proposed interventions are reasonable, coherent, and responsive to the grant goals. The proposed grant implementation plan clearly demonstrates how it will support achievement of grant goals. The action plan for implementing the grant activities is clear, feasible and time realistic.	Max. 40 points
3.	Sustainability and transferability	The grant is sustainable, and its further development and transferability of the results is possible.	Max. 20 points
4.	Grant budget	The grant budget is relevant and in line with the proposed work plan and set indicators.	Max. 20 points
TOTAL			100 Points

An applicant is considered as a winner after receiving the notification if:

- an applicant received at least 50% of scores for each selection criteria and 75% or higher of the total scores (top proposal out of those passing 75% will be selected);
- and applicant's scores are competitive and higher towards other applicants.

The payment schedule will be agreed before signing the grant agreement.

UNDP will be signing low value agreement (LVG) with one winning applicant.

IMPORTANT: The applicants will be notified by email no later than three working days after UNDP has successfully received the applications. If the applicants do not hear from UNDP within this timeframe, they can contact UNDP during the next two days at the email address indicated above and request a confirmation of receipt of email.

Applications will be disqualified and will not be further considered if:

- Applicants do not comply with priorities or instructions provided in this announcement.
- Application is provided by the non-eligible entity.

⁶ The applicants may be scored within the range of indicated points, i.e. 0 to 20 or 0 to 40

9. VISIBILITY

Selected organization must take all necessary steps to publicize the fact that the European Union has financed or co-financed the grant proposal and must strictly comply with EU and UNDP Communication and Visibility Guidelines and Standards.

10. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UNDP implements a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical practices, and obstruction. UNDP is committed to preventing, identifying, and addressing all acts of fraud and corrupt practices against UNDP as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. (See

http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Transparency/UNDP_Anti_Fraud_Policy_English_FIN_AL_june_2011.pdf as well as <https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/protest-and-sanctions> for full description of the policies).

In responding to this Call for Proposals, UNDP requires all applicants to conduct themselves in a professional, objective and impartial manner, and they must at all time hold UNDP's interest paramount. Applicants must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. All applicants found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, applicants, and any of their affiliates, shall be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this solicitation process, if they:

- Are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged by UNDP to provide services for the preparation of the design, Terms of Reference, cost analysis/estimation, and other documents to be used in this competitive selection process;
- Were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this Call for Proposals; or
- Are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of, UNDP.

In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of what is potentially a conflict of interest, proposers must disclose the condition to UNDP and seek UNDP's confirmation on whether or not such a conflict exists.

Attached documents:

Annex A. Grant Application Form

Annex B. Grant Budget Form