EU4Dialogue Component 2 Grant Scheme – Round 1
Call for Proposals

UNDP is launching a call for grant proposals under the "EU4Dialogue: Support to Conflict Transformation in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova (Component 2)" project funded by the European Union. The project constitutes the second component of the wider EU4Dialogue Program and aims to improve the living conditions, promote socio-economic opportunities, and enhance human security of conflict-affected communities in the South Caucasus. In the Round 1 of the grant scheme, eligible organizations are invited to submit grant proposals with focus on Georgia under one of the two Lots of the grant scheme. Further calls with wider geographical focus will be forthcoming.

I.   Background and objectives

The protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus are an obstacle to human development. The conflict-affected communities often experience important shared living-standard challenges. Restrictions of access to conflict-affected regions, uprooting of ties for communities displaced by the conflicts, and socio-economic strife all hinder the development livelihoods and resilient communities. The conflict-affected communities often experience poor access to quality health and education services, unstable livelihood opportunities and impeded human security, with often debilitating impact on their living conditions. Better socio-economic conditions and improved human security for conflict-affected communities remain an imperative for building a durable foundation for conflict transformation and lasting peace.

The EU4Dialogue Component 2 offers a vehicle to address these deficits and, by reducing the gap in quality of life, help to reverse the divergence in living conditions and life opportunities that has till now been expanding across the conflict divides and among the conflict-affected populations more broadly. This approach offers opportunities to leverage improvements in socio-economic conditions for conflict transformation. It is fully in keeping with the EU's commitment to improve the lives of every individual within the European Neighbourhood, including in the conflict regions. It is also in line with the human rights-based approach that the EU and the UN share, which sees adherence to human rights norms as binding for everyone regardless of the status of the territory in which they live.

The broad aim of the EU4Dialogue Component 2 Grant Scheme is to improve the socio-economic conditions and human security of conflict-affected communities with an emphasis on driving progress towards gender equality and improving the prospects of children and youth and the most vulnerable groups of society.

The project takes a broad view of conflict-affected populations, including residents of conflict-affected regions, Internally Displace People (IDPs), and communities living along the dividing lines. Under the overarching promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to "leave no one behind", the

project will prioritize initiatives that, by design, improve the well-being of the most vulnerable through the imperative of equal opportunities for all those facing poverty, discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion.

Grants will be awarded through one of two Lots. The first Lot will finance grassroot-level community-based organizations to implement solutions to local-level priorities that have been identified in a participatory and gender-sensitive review of local challenges and opportunities. The second Lot will identify partner organizations among well-established organizations to implement larger scale grants with the same goal. The grant scheme will prioritize a balanced and coordinated approach in conflict-affected areas in order to benefit from synergies with activities underway across the dividing lines.

II.   Purpose and eligibility

Lot A – Grants for grassroot organizations

Grants under Lot A will support grassroot initiatives aiming to improve the living conditions of conflict-affected populations mainly, but not exclusively in the following priority areas:
- ➢ **Strengthening community infrastructure, including access to water and sanitation**;
- ➢ **Promoting digital inclusion**;
- ➢ **Meeting critical needs of vulnerable/displaced people**;
- ➢ **Increasing livelihood opportunities**.

The initiatives supported through this Lot will ensure to include both "soft" and "hard" elements that are prioritized by conflict-affected communities. Any works and supplies (renovation, furnishing, equipping etc.) must be accompanied with activities ensuring community involvement (knowledge exchange, awareness raising, training etc.).

The emphasis in selecting proposals for funding will thus be on the potential they offer to improve people's lives. The grant applicant will be requested to demonstrate that the grant proposal stems from extensive participatory community consultations, including a gender-sensitive review of local challenges and opportunities, and considers sustainability, and inclusiveness issues. During the application process, the Project Team will provide methodological guidance to interested applicants in conducting participatory community consultations and developing quality grant proposals.

Applicants are encouraged to build on already existing structures, which promote and prioritize community-led measures for local development, such as the Local Action Groups (LAGs) established under EU-funded programmes. Proposals demonstrating strong involvement of women and youth as agents of change within conflict-affected communities will be given preference. Proposals must be of a local character. **Ideas involving cooperation or interaction across conflict divides are encouraged.**

The maximum duration of the grant is 12 months.

Maximum amount allocated for each grant under Lot A is up to USD 25,000.
Administrative costs related to the implementation of proposed grants (salaries, travel, office, and other operational costs) must not exceed 25% of the total allocated amount.

Grants under Lot A will be awarded to community-based organizations that:
1. are locally registered as non-commercial, non-profit organisations
2. have a physical presence in the target area of the grant
3. have sufficient administrative, financial, and technical capacity to implement a grant
4. desirably, demonstrate good track record of working with donors in the past.

The grant application will be disqualified if it fails to meet the required eligibility criteria mentioned above. Unregistered grassroot organizations are encouraged to apply in partnership with more experienced registered organizations.

Lot B – Grants for experienced NGOs

Under Lot B, the Project Team is seeking to identify experienced partners to implement a grant targeting one of the following thematic areas:
- ➢ **Increasing livelihoods opportunities, especially for the most vulnerable among conflict-affected populations, including through digital solutions;**
- ➢ **Developing avenues to increase social cohesion and bridge communities through culture and heritage.**

Civil society or non-governmental organizations, including academic or educational institutions, with experience of working with conflict-affected populations are welcome to apply. The partners will be selected through a competitive process requiring local communities to consult widely on local needs and agree on priorities for action that improve lives while promoting equal rights and opportunities.

Proposals demonstrating strong involvement of women and youth as agents of change will be given preference. **Ideas involving cooperation or interaction between communities across conflict divides will be given priority.**

The maximum duration of the grant is 12 months.

Maximum amount allocated for the grant under Lot B is up to USD 70,000.
Administrative costs related to the implementation of proposed activities (salaries, travel, office, and other operational costs) must not exceed 25% of the total allocated amount.

Grants under Lot B will be awarded to community-based organizations that:
1. are locally registered as non-commercial, non-profit organisation, academic or educational institution
2. have extensive administrative, financial, and technical capacity to implement a grant
3. have at least 5 years of experience in implementing projects in conflict-sensitive setting.

III. Evaluation criteria

Applications under both Lots will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Proposal quality, technical accuracy, and consistency:
- ➢ Feasibility of the proposal
- ➢ Cost-effectiveness and sound alignment of resources with expected grant results
- ➢ Sound analysis of the potential risks
- ➢ Responding to the real needs of the local population
- ➢ "Hard" activities are complimented with "soft" ones
- ➢ Measurable, realistic, and sustainable results

Relevance to the aims and priorities of EU4Dialogue Component 2:
- ➢ Alignment with the aims and priorities of EU4Dialogue Component 2
- ➢ Demonstrated participatory approach to identify grant objectives
- ➢ Do no harm approach: mitigation of any potential negative social and environmental effects as a result of grant activities and its sensitivity

- ➢ Outreach to vulnerable conflict-affected communities
- ➢ Preference will be given to proposals engaging and empowering women and girls and/or youth and the most vulnerable groups in society
- ➢ Contribution to intra/inter society dialogue and creation of conducive environment for peace.

IV. Submission and selection process

The deadline for applications is 10 February 2022. Applications with requested supporting documents must be sent electronically to the email address eu4dialogue@undp.org . In the subject line, applicants must indicate the Lot for which the application is being submitted (e.g. "Lot A …").

Applicants for **Lot A** must submit filled Grant Application form (see Annex A) in line with the goals and directions determined in this Call of Proposals, and provide as an attachment of the application the following documents:

- Proof of registration of the organization
- Curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology
- Optional: Reference letter(s) from previous project partners reflecting the nature of projects implemented, their results and the role of the applicant

Applicants for **Lot B** must submit filled Grant Proposal form and Budget Form (see Annex B) in line with the goals and directions determined in this Call of Proposals, and provide as an attachment of the application the following documents:

- Proof of registration of the organization including copies of registration certificate
- Two reference letters from previous project partners reflecting the nature of projects implemented, their results and the role of the applicant
- Curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology

Only one submission per organization is allowed under this Call for Proposals. Once the application is complete and submitted, revised versions of proposal documents will not be accepted. Partial applications will not be considered.

All proposals will be reviewed by the EU-UNDP Evaluation Committee and approved/selected by the EU-UNDP Steering Committee. Any decision on the allocation of financial support will be conditional on the fulfilment of any local legal or procedural obligations. All applicants will be informed accordingly.

V. Visibility

All grants will ensure strict compliance with the "do no harm" principle and conflict sensitivity in implementation approaches and communication.

Grantees will follow visibility practices aligned to EU and UNDP visibility guidelines. A detailed manual will be provided to all grantees and the Project Team will support grantees in its implementation.

VI. Information meetings and workshops

An online information meeting will be held on 24 December 2021 at 11.00 (GMT+4) via Zoom. To register for the meeting, please follow this link.

Online workshops will be held for applicants under Lot A. To register interest for the meetings, please fill in this form until 31 December 2021. The Project Team will contact applicants with information about the sessions.

Interested candidates may obtain further information or clarification by contacting UNDP at eu4dialogue@undp.org .

VII.   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.[1]

In responding to this Call for Proposals, UNDP requires all Proposers to conduct themselves in a professional, objective and impartial manner, and they must at all times hold UNDP's interest paramount. Proposers must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. All Proposers found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, Proposers, 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 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.

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[1] For full description of the policies, see:
https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/documents/about/transparencydocs/UNDP_Anti-fraud_Policy_English_FINAL.pdf and https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/protest-and-sanctions