

CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR GRANT COMPETITION

UNDP Georgia Project Improving Rural Development in Georgia/ENPARD3	DATE: April 6, 2022
	REFERENCE: 00101419

Dear Sir / Madam:

We kindly request you to submit **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANT COMPETITION
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT PROJECTS FOR RURAL YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Please be guided by the form attached hereto as Annex 2, in preparing your Proposal.

Please send filled application materials electronically to all of the following e-mails:
nodar.kereselidze@undp.org; giorgi.tsimintia@undp.org in PDF (signed and stamped) and word
formats. **The subject line should read: "CoP Application – DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT PROJECTS
FOR RURAL YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT."**

Deadline for submission of applications for grant proposals is April 27, 2022, 18:00 (Tbilisi time and date). In the course of preparing your Proposal, it shall remain your responsibility to ensure that it reaches the address above on or before the deadline. Proposals that are received by UNDP after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation.

A pre-proposal conference will be held via Zoom on April 13, 2022, at 12:00 a.m. (Tbilisi time and date) via Zoom, Meeting ID: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/82720438168>

The UNDP focal point for the arrangement:

Ms. Liliana Gureshidze; E-mail: liliana.gureshidze@undp.org;

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Nodar Kereselidze

National Project Manager

06/04/2022

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANT COMPETITION
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT PROJECTS FOR RURAL YOUTH
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Date of Issuance:

06.04.2022

Tbilisi, Georgia

INSTRUCTIONS

1/BACKGROUND

Georgia's economic activities are concentrated in a few geographic areas, contributing to very high levels of urban-rural inequality. Rural areas in Georgia host about 43% of the population lives in rural areas, where poverty is 25.5% as opposed to 16.9% in urban areas. The average monthly income of urban households is 22.2% higher than that of rural households. The capital Tbilisi generates 50% of total value added in the country. Low rate of economic growth, economic instability, low-productive agricultural sector, weak entrepreneurial skills, insufficient economic diversification, limited access to financial resources and modern technologies, insufficient development of infrastructure, present the potential risks for sustainable rural development. Unfavourable demographic structure in rural areas, high level of population aging, and migration represents a hindrance to the rural development. Besides, limited access to such basic healthcare and education and other services in villages especially for disadvantaged groups, has negative impact on well-being in rural areas.

The EU financed and UNDP implemented project "Improving Rural Development in Georgia" (IRDG) is addressing the challenges of rural areas in Georgia by taking actions to achieve: (1) Improved governance for effective implementation of the Rural Development Strategy (2017-2020), its Action Plan and related programmes; (2) Improved rural economic diversification, employment and services; (3) Improved environment, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action.

IRDG project is designed to have substantial impact on improved environmental protection in rural areas. One of the areas of development in this area, IRDG project of target municipalities (Keda, Khulo, Borjomi, Tetrtskaro, Akhalkalaki, Kazbegi, Lagodekhi and Dedoplistskaro) – is supporting rural youths' employment, incl. through their skills development. Young people in rural areas face barriers related to access to appropriate education opportunities, to a stagnant employment process, barriers to social inclusion, reduced participation opportunities and lack engagement in civic life, while struggling to get access to basic services and infrastructures. Also, the Covid-19 pandemic has generated more obstacles for rural youth access to the same opportunities that their urban peers have. In very few cases have the challenges become opportunities, as some young people living in rural areas have gained access to remote learning/working that was not available due to previous geographical or economic barriers. In this regard, IRDG project plans to support initiatives to develop rural youth's skills in target municipalities.

2/ PURPOSE

The **primary objective** of the call is **to support rural youth in skills development** to enable their increased employment and inclusion in the municipalities of Keda, Khulo, Borjomi, Tetrtskaro, Akhalkalaki, Kazbegi, Lagodekhi and Dedoplistskaro.

The priority will be given to the proposal ideas that:

- Are focused on the needs of vulnerable youth, esp. women.

- Are driven by preliminary analysis of youth skills development needs, with factual evidence.
- Are aimed to deliver solutions that are collaborative (with private and public actors) and sustainable.

3/FINANCING SCHEME AND INELIGIBLE COSTS

Any funds requested for the grant(s) under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

- minimum amount: USD 20,000.
- maximum amount: USD 40,000.

Applicant organizations should submit proposals with justified and realistic budgets.

Ineligible costs are:

1. debts and debt service charges (interest).
2. provisions for losses or potential future liabilities.
3. costs financed by another action or work programme receiving EU and UNDP funding.
4. purchases of land or buildings.
5. purchase of luxury goods and gambling equipment.
6. purchase of agriculture commodities, motor vehicles or pharmaceuticals.
7. purchase of used equipment.
8. currency exchange losses.
9. related to any type of maintenance.
10. daily allowances (per diem).
11. utilities and office rent.
12. overheads.
13. credit to third parties.
14. salary costs of the GoG personnel.
15. salary costs for personnel (including administrative costs), if such costs exceed 50% of total project costs.
16. related to participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses.
17. scholarships for studies or training courses.
18. related to the infrastructure improvement and equipment, which are directly related to this Call for Proposal, if they exceed 50% of the total budget.
19. any indirect costs,

Note: Successful applicant may be subject to receive guidance from the IRDG project team on implementation modalities of their projects that might affect the scope, timeline and budget of the applications – subject to further negotiations.

Note: Other restrictions may apply, specified before selection of successful projects

4/WHO CAN APPLY

Georgian Non-profit (non-commercial) legal entities are invited to apply for this Call for Proposals. These entities should be registered in accordance with the legal requirements of the Government of Georgia, must be able to provide organization's statute and the debt certificate.

All applicant organizations must demonstrate proven experience and capabilities in carrying out rural development interventions, including but not limited to: needs appraisal, business development, digital transformation, youth skills development, TVET, community mobilization, socio-economic development actions, measures related to social inclusion and support of disadvantaged groups.

Coalitions (based on co-application) with NGOs and private sector is encouraged. *Note: Co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the primary applicant.*

5/IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION(S) AND DURATION

Activities of Youth Skills Development support grants should be implemented within administrative boundaries of **municipalities of Keda, Khulo, Borjomi, Tetrtskaro, Akhalkalaki, Kazbegi, Lagodekhi and Dedoplistskaro.**

Duration of the grant activities within the grant application **shall not exceed 4 months**, counted from the date of the grant agreement signature to the date when all relevant activities have been successfully completed, reported and accepted by the UNDP/IRDG Project (Note: per grant agreement 1 month should be allocated for final reporting to the UNDP/IRDG Project, though grantee can request reporting in less than 1 month).

Only successful grant proposals will be awarded with the funding. It is anticipated that at least 2 grant proposals (regardless of the grant implementation location) will be financed under this Call of the Proposals. However, no or less than 2 grants may be awarded by UNDP/IRDG, depending on the evaluation results.

6/PROCEDURES OF GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Those willing to participate:

- Must submit filled Grant Application form (See Annex 1) in line with the goals and directions determined in this Call of Proposals and provide as an attachment of the application additional documents:
 - Partnership Memorandums with partner organization(s) (if applicable);
 - Note from Revenue Service on tax obligations;
 - Extract from the public register for primary and (if applicable) for co-applicants;
 - Separate account requisites which will be used only for grant project operations.

Please send filled application materials electronically to all of the following e-mails: nodar.kereselidze@undp.org; giorgi.tsimintia@undp.org in PDF (signed and stamped) and word formats. **The subject line should read: “CoP Application – Youth Skills Development”.**

Deadline for submission of applications for grant proposals is 27 April 2022, 18:00 (Tbilisi time and date). The grant proposals after the deadline will not be admitted and considered. **Applicant(s) are strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit** application, since heavy Internet traffic or a fault with the Internet connection (including electricity failure, etc.) could lead to difficulties in submission. **If additional clarifications required, questions can be sent to the same email addresses indicated above (all of them together) no later than 10 days before the deadline for the submission of applications. Answers to questions will be provided within 3 working days no later than 3 days before the deadline for the submission of applications. The subject line should read: “Question(s) for CoP – Youth Skills Development”. All questions and answers related to this CfP will be anonymized and published on 22 April 2022.**

Note: Consultation meeting with interested applicants on the preparation of the applications for grant proposal idea will be held on **13 April 2022, at 12:00** via **Zoom**. **Meeting link:** <https://undp.zoom.us/j/82720438168>

7/SELECTION PROCESS

All grant proposals will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee comprised of the representatives of relevant UNDP representatives. The Evaluation Committee will assess proposals according to the evaluation criteria:

	Selection Criteria	Selection Criteria Description	Score Percentage
1.	Applicant's Experience and management	The applicant organization(s) of experience in similar interventions and capacity of implementing. Project management arrangements are sound.	Max. 5%
2.	Relevance of the grant	The grant proposal is relevant to: (1) the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals; (2) particular needs and constraints of the target territories and groups; (3) proposal design reflects a robust analysis of the problems involved, and the capacities of the relevant stakeholders	Max. 20%
3.	Methodology	The grant proposal is technically accurate and consistent. The grant management has good understanding of grant proposal goals, the grant implementation plan clearly demonstrates how it will support the achievement of the grant goals. Design of the interventions are coherent. Action plan for implementing the action clear, feasible and time realistic. Beneficiaries are clearly defined and strategically chosen and include disadvantaged groups. Local communities are and will be engaged in the grant activities, including disadvantaged groups. The grant makes positive impact on local population in one or more of the following: local economy, social and environmental areas	Max. 30%
4.	Sustainability and transferability	The grant proposal is sustainable, and its further development and transferability of the results is possible	Max. 5%
5.	Partnership and cooperation	The grant proposal is designed to be implemented in partnership and close cooperation with stakeholders (public agencies, private companies, CSOs, etc.)	Max. 15%
6.	Risk Management, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Risk assessment and management tools, also the grant monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are well defined and demonstrate realistic capabilities of risk management. Logical Framework includes credible baseline, targets and sources of verification.	Max. 5%
7.	Grant budget	The grant budget is relevant and in line with the proposed work plan and set indicators	Max. 20%

	Selection Criteria	Selection Criteria Description	Score Percentage
TOTAL			Max. 100%

All decisions on the selection of grant proposals will be taken **approximately within 20 working days after closing date for applications**. An applicant is considered as a winner and will be invited to conclude the relevant agreement within 3 weeks 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 (if available, top 5 proposals out of those passing 75% will be selected);
- and applicant's scores are competitive and higher towards other applicants.

Each organization can be granted with only one grant. UNDP will be signing Low Value Grant (LVG) Agreement with the winning applicants.

Grant Application(s) will not be further considered and will be disqualified if:

- Applicant presents proposal (duplicate) already financed by any other project.
- It is provided by the non-eligible entity.
- It does not comply with primary and specific objectives, priorities, and instructions provided in this announcement.
- It is not consistent with the UNDP/IRDG project document.
- If the proposal includes the ineligible costs.

6/GENERAL METHODOLOGY/APPROACH CONSIDERATIONS

Opportunities for interventions

- **Enhance productivity and connectivity** - Rural youth are striving to become productive and connected individuals who are in charge of their own futures. That makes these elements an essential cornerstone of rural youth development. The ability of young people to become productive individuals depends on several factors. First, where they live is hugely important – many social and economic factors may aid or hinder their progress. Second, their productivity hinges on their cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Governments need to ensure social structures and attitudes help rural youth progress rather than hold them back. That is especially important for young rural women, who tend to lag behind. Governments also need to align all stakeholders in the educational system. This will help ensure youth get the knowledge and skills they need to become more productive. Improved connectivity to people, markets, services, ideas and information creates opportunities for rural youth to become more productive. When rural areas have better information and transport links to markets, everyone's opportunities widen, including for rural youth. Greater connectivity also offers them a way to build and strengthen their social and human capital, develop skills and boost their self-confidence. As a result, their sense of agency and productivity increase. Rural youth tend to be less in-charge of their lives compared to adults and urban youth. That's especially true for young women, who may be constrained by the expectations of their family and society. Likewise, rural youth facing multiple layers of exclusion may find it challenging to harness today's rapid pace of change to enhance their agency.
- **Improve the governance of the education system by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and training providers** - It is important to clarify the role and prerogatives of key governmental actors, including public and private providers of

education to improve co-ordination and monitoring of skills provision. An important objective of the lead institution should be to ensure the coherence and the standards across post-secondary education courses, TVET, private, informal and public providers. These providers must be coordinated, along with national and municipal-level representatives from the ministries and public/private TVET institutions. Also support and supervise their activities by providing specific guidelines, offering specific technical assistance and evaluating their performance.

- **Develop a comprehensive information system on education and the labor market in rural areas** - A sound governance and informed policy making requires collecting a variety of information on people's trajectory in the education system and the labor market. We need to know how many students engage in various fields of study at different levels, follow the quality of educational resources, and eventually track how students perform in the labor market. In parallel, information about the skills needed by the private sector should be collected. This can provide an accurate picture of the quantity and type of skills available and needed and inform on the types and sources of skills mismatch.
- **Strengthen mechanisms to improve industry engagement in curriculum development, training provision and financial contribution** - Reinforcing the relationship between the education system (and TVET in particular), students and the private sector can significantly improve the relevance of education and facilitate students' transition into the labor market. The private sector can be involved at various steps of education provision, starting with consultation on curriculum development. Indeed, the private sector can identify up-to-date skills and knowledge students should acquire to work in various occupations and make sure there are no training gaps in the curricula. It can also be involved in delivering training through internships and apprenticeships. Finally, facilitate increased partnerships with strategic sectors to develop specific skills in exchange of the financial contribution of enterprises.
- **Provide skills development and second-chance programs for rural youth** - Despite the potential for new jobs in agri-food value chains and non-farm activities in rural areas, the majority of rural youth are low-educated and low-skilled. Skills mismatch, mostly related to under-qualification hinders any attempt at moving up the value chain or getting better jobs. At the same time, private sector employers including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) struggle to find qualified candidates to fill posts, even in promising sectors where labor demand is high. Traditional TVET programs either fail to reach out-of-school and low educated youth or do not train in subjects relevant for the labor market. There exist various training modalities and a wealth of information on what works and does not in TVET. Collaboration with the private sector to train young workers should be further explored. For example, more financial incentive schemes for SMEs to invest in youth skills development could be offered.
- **Support the skills development of disadvantaged groups** - ensure that the youth population not in employment, education or training (NEET) receive second chance programs and targeted training opportunities. When social inclusion measures are designed, special attention should be paid to working with and for young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) living in rural communities. Several international studies indicate that the place of origin is one of the most critical factors that differentiate the trajectories of NEETs and that these challenges are more frequent in rural areas. Targeting the youth in transition to the labor market is of particular importance. Moreover, targeted training programs should be provided to young women together with specific support mechanisms such as children's day care and basic social protection to make sure family responsibilities do not become a hindrance. Rather than providing low-skilled job training, focus on teaching topics such as entrepreneurship, business management or diverse agricultural skills with higher effect on productivity. Training opportunities in rural areas should also be increased, with a specific attention to provide training relevant to the local labor market needs.

- **Recognize the importance of informal training and support traditional apprenticeships** - informal training, notably apprenticeships, constitutes a major source of training for school dropouts and low skilled youth. To improve the quality and relevance of informal training, engage with the informal providers and help them find opportunities to develop their capacity (including pedagogical skills), support them financially to acquire modern equipment and promote community involvement to reduce the administrative and organizational burden of training.
- **Guide student learning and career choices** - while it is important that young people do not give up on their dreams or curtail their ambitions, policy makers need to ensure that young people can access accurate information about labor market prospects and receive effective guidance on the best way to get closer to their goals. Better- and well-informed career guidance and counselling is thus necessary.
- **Promote youth entrepreneurship spirit through success stories and role models** - the talent of young entrepreneurs should be highlighted by organizing conferences and highly visible summits, and by supporting youth entrepreneurship competitions, awards and events to raise the profile of young entrepreneurs and create awareness about entrepreneurship. The development of networks of young entrepreneurs must be encouraged through peer networks grouping youth entrepreneurship organizations, business associations, youth-led organizations and other stakeholders. Entrepreneurship potential can also be promoted via knowledge exchange between established businesses and aspiring young entrepreneurs. Ultimately, young entrepreneurs must be given more visibility. To this end, media and other communication tools and platforms can be used, in particular to promote role models.
- **Link rural with urban development with a territorial approach** - focusing resources and investments in the development of secondary towns would offer new markets to small farmers and processors while creating job opportunities e.g., in the service and retail sector for rural youth. In Africa, the growth of towns and intermediary cities has strengthened the reciprocal linkages between rural and urban development. Investments should go into strengthening rural-urban linkages and prioritizing transport and marketing infrastructure to improve market access and value addition, reduce postharvest losses and expand input markets and support services in rural areas.
- **Green and diversify rural economies** - rural populations often depend directly on the environment and natural resources for their livelihoods, such as in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and tourism. However, the ecosystem on which they rely is increasingly threatened by excessive and unsustainable exploitation. Greening the rural economy will be key to boosting resource and labor productivity, reducing poverty, increasing income opportunities and improving youth well-being in rural areas. The modernization of agriculture, the expansion of ICTs and products and services around renewable energies (e.g. solar, biogas) therefore hold employment opportunities for youth, especially rural youth.

7/VISIBILITY

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

8/ 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

<https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Transparency/UNDPAntiFraudPolicyEngl>

[ishFINA%20Ljune2011.pdf](#)

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions> for full description of the policies).

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 time 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.