

Call for Proposals – Year: 2023

For Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Women's and Youth Organizations to implement activities towards Strengthening Peace, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion in Western Bahr El Ghazal and Greater Pibor Administrative Area, South Sudan

A. BACKGROUND

UNDP has been working in South Sudan for over 30 years. The overarching goal of UNDP is to help create more resilient communities and reinvigorated local economies; strengthening peace and governance; and empowering women and girls. This Call for Proposals (CFP) is specifically related to UNDP's work on strengthening peace and governance implemented under the Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) project. UNDP's PaCC project aims to contribute to the reduction and mitigation of community-level conflict and insecurity by investing in initiatives that address key drivers of conflict and enhance community interdependency and social cohesion.

The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) signed in September 2018 brought renewed impetus towards stabilizing the fragile situation in the country. The formation of the Revitalized transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) in February 2020¹ brought hope of setting South Sudan on the path towards peace and development. Even so, South Sudan continues to face political, institutional, social and economic challenges including;

- a) weak infrastructure for peaceful resolution of conflict;
- b) illegal long-standing practices like cattle raiding, child/forced marriages and age set youth;
- c) exclusion of women, youth, minorities and other special interest groups in peacebuilding initiatives, development and governance;
- d) proliferation and misuse of firearms; and
- e) climate change induced and resource-based conflicts.

Left unattended, these factors have the potential to reverse peacebuilding gains, increase fragility, impede implementation of key R-ARCSS milestones.

Within this complex development setting, the UNDP PaCC project seeks to contribute to the reduction and mitigation of community-level conflict and insecurity by investing in initiatives that address key drivers of conflict and enhance community interdependency and social cohesion including:

- **Reintegration of youth former combatants and disarmed civilian youth:** More than 90 percent of South Sudanese youth lack employment opportunities - have limited skills and low literacy levels - making them easily swayed into armed groups and/or armed violence. They find themselves in the center of political struggle and their lives defined by violence, dependency, and exclusion from decision making. Further, although the communities expect the youth to protect them from attacks, the youth are hardly involved in decision-making structures even regarding when and how protection is to be guaranteed (using violence or

¹ UN chief welcomes South Sudan's Unity government, lauds parties for 'significant achievement', <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057941>

negotiated means), nor the ways in which grievances with other communities are resolved. The community-based security has resulted in concentration of illicit small arms and light weapons in the hands of civilian youths.

- **Economic and social vulnerabilities of women:** Women's visibility in decision making and peace building initiatives remains limited due to negative gender stereotypes, negative masculinity, patriarchy, gender-based violence and lack of economic and livelihood independence. Yet, research shows that when women are included in the peace processes, there is a 35% increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years². Article 1.4.6 of the R-ARCSS offers opportunities for promoting gender equity, regional representation and advancing the position of women in the society. It is therefore imperative to empower women to ensure they contribute to the social and economic reconstruction of their communities as part of implementation of the revitalized agreement.
- **Youth despondency:** The South Sudan population is among the youngest in the world with about 73.7% of the total population is below 30 years old. However, decades of civil wars have contributed to numerous challenges that South Sudanese youth face today: lack of job opportunities, high levels of illiteracy, poverty, inadequate life skills, drug and alcohol addiction and indulgence in criminal activities. These challenges have also led to an emergence of youth subculture in some parts of South Sudan. Young people with limited education and few employment opportunities are often targeted for recruitment by armed groups. Addressing the needs and aspirations of the youth is therefore an important aspect of a long-term prevention and development strategy.
- **Negative community practices:** Child marriage, child abduction and cattle raiding are some of the pervasive cultures in some communities in South Sudan that impact negatively on peaceful coexistence and development. Child marriage is prevalent in South Sudan with 4 out of 10 girls married before the age of 18. The Strategic National Action Plan for Ending Child Marriage in South Sudan (2017-2030) provides a platform for addressing child marriages. Further, child abductions for marriage continues at the community. Cattle raiding continues to be a threat to peace gains in the community. These practices lead to intercommunal violence which is often followed by never ending cycles of revenge attacks. There is an urgent need to enhance community social cohesion and action against child marriage, child abductions and cattle raiding so as to break the cycle of conflict.
- **Trauma resulting from conflict:** The people in South Sudan have experienced violence which have led to deaths and trauma with millions of them displaced and living in camps³ or in poor conditions. A study commissioned by UNDP and South Sudan Law Society (SSLS) indicated that 41% of survey respondents exhibited symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), 63% of respondents reported that a close family member was killed at some point in their lives and 41% reported that they have witnessed a friend or family member being killed.⁴ While the death and physical destruction caused by the conflict are immediately apparent, the psychological scars and trauma are less visible and often neglected, which if not addressed can fuel the cycle of conflict.

² Laurel Stone (2015). Women's Roles in Peace Processes

³ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan?id=251>

⁴ Search for a New Beginning: Perceptions of Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Healing in South Sudan, <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/southsudan/library/Rule%20of%20Law/Perception%20Survey%20Report%20Transitional%20Justice%20Reconciliation%20and%20Healing%20-.pdf>

B. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

The objective of this call for proposal is to facilitate local communities to address negative community practices towards social cohesion; strengthen community structures to facilitate trauma healing and reconciliation; support socio-economic reintegration of youth former combatants and disarmed youth and to strengthen social cohesion through social, cultural and economic initiatives for women and youth to deepen relationships and offer alternatives to violent practices.

UNDP seeks to identify credible and capable CSOs, women and youth groups currently having a physical presence and working in Western Bahr El Ghazal and Greater Pibor Administrative Area, South Sudan to undertake the proposed initiatives in the call for proposal.

Detailed objectives, related outputs and deliverables are provided in the Terms of Reference, see Annex I.

C. ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The organizations must meet the following criteria to be eligible for selection.

- a) Be legally registered as CSO/NGO with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and be in possession of a valid registration certificate;
- b) Mandate and founding document should be in line with the activities for which the fund is being sought;
- c) Have an established office with qualified staff in the area/location of proposed intervention (Western Bahr El Ghazal or Greater Pibor Administrative Area); and
- d) The CSO/NGO must have experience in similar/related areas of intervention.

Parameters for CSO/NGO, women or youth group eligibility is in the Request for Information (RFI) template, see Annex II.

D. PROPOSAL

Proposed Methodology, Approach, Quality Assurance Plan and Implementation Plan – This section should demonstrate the organization’s response to the TOR by identifying the specific components proposed, how the outputs/deliverables shall be addressed, as specified; providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed; identifying the works/portions of the work that will be subcontracted.

Moreover, the proposal should demonstrate how the proposed methodology meets or exceeds the TOR, while ensuring appropriateness of the approach to the local conditions and the rest of the project operating environment. This methodology must be laid out in an implementation timetable and a quality assurance plan. CSOs/NGOs, youth and women groups should align their interventions and proposed activities to the project activities indicated below in the slots.

Management Arrangement, Resources and Qualifications of Key Personnel – This section should include the comprehensive description of the management structure and information regarding required resources including curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to

support the implementation of the proposed methodology, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology. The proposed staff should already be based in the proposed area/location of intervention.

CVs should establish competence and demonstrate qualifications in areas relevant to the TOR.

E. EVALUATION CRITERIA

a) Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The proposals must be realistic, well-structured and addresses the problems stated in the background of the proposal;
- The proposals should include realistic monitoring and evaluation plans capturing the potential impact created as a result of the intervention;
- The proposal should clearly demonstrate sustainability of results after the grant period and in the absence of external funding;
- The proposal should demonstrate the ability of the organization to effectively manage grant funds as well as the institutional capacity (equipment, facilities, competence and experience of personnel, and past record of managing such projects) necessary for project implementation; and
- Competence of the organization's staff: The proposal should demonstrate previous experience of staff in related fields, availability of skills and training. The proposed staff should already be based in the proposed area/location of intervention. The lead staff of the project should be based in the field full time (100%). This should be indicated in the proposal.

b) Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms Score Weight Points Obtainable

	Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms	Score Weight	Points Obtainable
A.	CSO/NGO/CBO eligibility and qualifications (registration, etc)	10%	100
B.	Appropriateness of Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sound technical proposal that includes innovative and replicable inclusion mechanisms to maximize the value of the proposal to the beneficiaries. ii. High impact interventions directly targeting and responding to the needs established in the ToR. iii. Participatory monitoring and evaluation that will contribute to building a sense of ownership among the beneficiaries to promote the sustainability of the interventions. 	30%	300
C.	Management Arrangement, Resources and Qualifications of Key Personnel	20%	200
D.	Field Presence: The proposed staff including the leading staff should already be based in the proposed area of	40%	400

	intervention. The organisation applying for the grant should have an established office and presence in the location they are selecting as area of implementation.		
	Total	100%	1000

c) Evaluation methodology: Quality based under Fixed Budget Selection (QB-FBS)

- Quality-based Fixed Budget Selection methodology implies that all proposals have the same maximum overall price (which cannot exceed the given fixed budget amount), such that evaluation will be focused on the selection of the best quality proposal.
- NGOs/CSOs are expected to provide their best technical proposal and financial breakdown (within the budget) in one single envelope, clearly stating proposed overheads. Evaluation of all technical proposals shall be carried out, in accordance with evaluation criteria stated in this document, and the proposal which obtains the highest technical score shall be selected. CSOs/NGOs exceeding the established fixed budget in their financial proposals will be immediately rejected.

d) Budget size and duration

Proposal amounts⁵ should not exceed a maximum of:
Western Bahr El Ghazal State slot: US\$ 237,874

Greater Pibor Administrative Area:
Youth Slot: US\$ 90,000
Women Slot: US\$ 90,000

The amount requested in the proposal should be commensurate with the organization's administrative and financial management capabilities. The project duration will be for a period of 9 months. The administrative cost must not exceed 10% of the total project amount.

F. SELECTION PROCESS

UNDP will review proposals through a five-step process: (i) determination of eligibility; (ii) technical review of eligible proposals; (iii) scoring and ranking of the eligible proposals based on the assessment criteria outlined in the previous section to identify highest ranking proposals; (iv) round of clarification and consultations with the highest scored proposals before arriving at the final selection; and (v) final selection.

G. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Applicants shall bear all costs related to proposal preparation and submission.

The following documents must be submitted for the submission to be considered:

1. Completed Request for Information (RFI) document (see Annex II for template)

⁵ Refer to ToRs

2. Applications (project proposals) in the form of the template attached (Project Proposal Template (Annex III) with Performance Targets and with corresponding Budget (Annex IV)
3. Proof of registration as a non-governmental/non-commercial organization including copies of valid registration certificate;
4. Curriculum vitae of three key staff members (project management as well as finance) involved in the implementation of the Project;
5. Organizational profile with the following details:
 - A clearly defined management structure;
 - Experience and expertise in relevant areas;
 - Experience in working in Western Bahr El Ghazal State or Greater Pibor Administrative Area, South Sudan;
 - Operational or working for at least two years prior to the application;
 - Details of the local partners if application is made jointly by more than one organizations.
6. Only one submission per organisation is allowed.

Complete proposals, with supporting documents, should be emailed to irene.limo@undp.org or delivered by hand to the UNDP Offices in South Sudan in a sealed envelope marked: **“Peace and Community Cohesion project – Attention Irene Limo”**, on or before **31 March 2023 at 16:00hrs** South Sudan local time. **Late submissions will be rejected.**

Interested NGOs/CSOs, women and youth groups may obtain further information by contacting:

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H. SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION OF CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Below is an estimated timeline for this Call for Proposals:

16 March 2023	Call for Proposal opens and relevant documents are posted online
31 March 2023	Deadline for organizations to submit proposals under this Call
03 April 2023	Assessment and selection processes will take place
05 April 2023	Selected applicants will be notified (start of the agreement may vary)

I. OTHER 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 the following links for full description of the policies:

- http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Transparency/UNDP_Anti_Fraud_Policy_English_FINAL_june_2011.pdf; and
- <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/>

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 interests 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:

1. 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;
2. Were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this Call for Proposals; or
3. 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 conflict exists.