**Call for Proposals (CfP) for a Responsible Party – Questions and Answers**

1. **Can an organization with an existing partnership agreement with UN Women apply for this CfP?**

Yes, organizations with an existing partner agreement with UN Women are eligible to apply to this CfP, provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the CfP.

The following organizations are notably **not** eligible to apply:

* the applicant does not have legal status in Afghanistan.
* the applicant is on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions list.
* the applicant is being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or other wrongdoing.
* the applicant has funding received from UN Women entirely or partly written off by UN Women.
* the applicant is a government agency or institution, UN agency, private individuals, or a private sector entity.

1. **Can an international organization (INGO) apply to this CfP as part of a consortium with a local organization, if the INGO does not have a legal registration or physical presence in Afghanistan?**

Yes, it is possible for an INGO with no physical presence in Afghanistan to apply to this CfP as part of a consortium with a local, legally registered organization. However, the following must be considered:

* The lead applicant – meaning the organization that would sign the Partner Agreement with UN Women if selected – must be legally registered in Afghanistan.
* The main partner (lead applicant) that signs the Partner Agreement with UN Women is solely responsible for managing the grant-making component under this initiative. The main partner does not have the right to engage a sub-partner to perform grant-making work.
* The main partner shall select any sub-partner in accordance with its own financial regulations, rules, and procedures, to the extent that these are determined to be appropriate by UN Women. The main partner’s regulations, rules and procedures would therefore need to allow partnering with an organization not legally registered in Afghanistan.
* The main partner remains entirely responsible and liable for the performance of its sub-partner(s).

Under the proposed scenario, the local CSO would therefore be the lead organization (main partner) signing the partner agreement with UN Women. As such, the local CSO would be entirely responsible for performing the grant-making work under this initiative and would be overall accountable to deliver the work outlined in the project proposal.

1. **Can an organization not registered in Afghanistan apply as a grantee?**

No, all grant recipients must be in good standing in the country. Grant recipients must be registered as a CSO/NGO. If this requirement changes, UN Women will discuss it with the selected Responsible Party and will include it in the criteria for the selection of grantees.

1. **How many Responsible Parties will be selected under this Call for Proposals?**

Only one organization will be selected to act as a Responsible Party, under this Call for Proposals.

1. **Is there a specific requirement for the geographic location in Afghanistan the applicant organization’s offices must be based at?**

No, the applicant organization’s (Responsible Party’s) offices can be located anywhere in Afghanistan. Within the framework of the grant-making work performed by the selected Responsible Party, grant recipients from all parts of Afghanistan may be eligible to receive grants.

1. **In which provinces can the selected Responsible Party perform grant-making work?**

Grant-recipients may implement interventions in any province of the country. The geographical focus of the grant-making work will be based on opportunities and needs. Only in-country organizations will be considered eligible as grantees.

1. **Can we apply to perform grant-making work in one province only, or does grant-making work need to be performed in more than one province?**

The Responsible Party can be based in any province of Afghanistan. However, the Responsible Party will act as a grant-making entity in all relevant provinces/national-wide, based on the location of grantees. In phase 2, CSO/grantees operating in any province/district of the country will be able to apply.

1. **How many grants will the selected responsible party be expected to disburse and manage?**

The Responsible Party, in collaboration with UN Women, will decide on how many grantees to select, based on the criteria for the selection of grantees and the budget available.

1. **Will the Responsible Party be expected to support prospective grant recipients with their grant applications?**

Yes, capacity development is a core area of work under this Call for Proposals. The Responsible Party will have to organize capacity-development sessions for (prospective) grantees, including on grant proposal writing.

1. **Can the selected Responsible Party budget for the payment of salaries, rent, and other organizational costs under this Call for Proposals? Can grant recipients budget for such organizational costs in their grant proposals?**

Yes. The applicant organization (Responsible Party) can budget for organizational costs as per the budget guidelines provided in the CfP Terms of Reference. For example, the Responsible Party can budget for staff salaries for personnel directly supporting the implementation of this project and for office rent (which would be indirect costs).

The Responsible Party must allocate 50 percent (50%) of the total project budget to grants. Grant recipients, based on their proposals and conditions outlined in the Call for Proposals, may thereby also budget for operational costs and for costs related to the implementation of their respective projects/activities.