Information note

for thematic NGO call for proposals

*in support of vulnerable groups among refugees, internally displaced people and affected local communities in eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa.*

JUNE 2021

1. Background

Humanitarian needs in eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa are rising and are expected to increase further in 2021 due to conflict, climatic shocks, disease and economic challenges.

There are now more than 8.3 million internally displaced people and more than 4.6 million refugees across East Africa, primarily due to conflict and violence in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. The Eastern Route for migration from the Horn of Africa to Yemen and beyond remains the busiest maritime route globally. However, due to COVID-19-related border restrictions and closures, migrants have been stranded in countries with limited access to services and at significant risk of trafficking and exploitation.

Over 31.5 million people were severely food insecure in East Africa at the end of 2020. The situation in Tigray, Ethiopia, is deeply alarming, and Jonglei State in South Sudan may be at risk of famine. Conflict remains the major driver of food insecurity in the region, but the Horn of Africa desert locust upsurge in 2020 was the worst in 25 years in Somalia and Ethiopia, and 70 years in Kenya. It destroyed agriculture and livelihoods and worsened an already alarming food security situation. The socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic have increased pre-existing vulnerabilities.

Climatic shocks are compounding the devastation wrought by violence. From June to October 2020, at least 3.6 million people were impacted by floods or landslides across East Africa, many of whom were already suffering due to insecurity and conflict. In Sudan, about 875,000 people were affected by the country’s worst floods in decades, while about 663,000 people were affected in Somalia. In South Sudan, 856,000 people were affected by flooding, including in Jonglei, where people had already been subjected to large-scale subnational violence in 2020. In Ethiopia, about 1.1 million people were affected by flooding in regions where more than 1.1 million had previously been displaced by violence. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trajectory of which remains uncertain in the region, East Africa is experiencing multiple disease outbreaks including malaria, cholera, polio, chikungunya and viral hemorrhagic fever. Several of these diseases have been exacerbated by above-average rains.

In 2021, East Africa is facing significant challenges, which could further increase humanitarian needs. Below-average rains are predicted for the current season and tentatively for the next, which could affect crop production and exacerbate food insecurity in 2021. Elections in Uganda, delicate transitions in Sudan and South Sudan, violence and political uncertainty in Somalia, and the potential for conflict to spread within and beyond Ethiopia could increase protection risks and force more people to flee their homes.

Protection risks, particularly gender-based violence (GBV), increased in 2020 due to the economic strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With schools closed for much of 2020, girls are especially vulnerable to their families adopting negative coping strategies, including child marriage, child trafficking and transactional sex. Women faced heightened rates of intimate partner violence and increased exposure to GBV, including when they had to queue for fuel and water. The rise of GBV in the region has also increased the risk of HIV transmission.

1. Purpose and core elements of the call for proposals

The **purpose** of this Call for Proposals (CfP) is to solicit project proposals from relevant civil society partners in support of vulnerable groups among refugees, internally displaced people and affected local communities in eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa. Project proposals should address the following core elements:

1. The project proposal shall aim to promote inclusive approaches to engaging vulnerable groups among refugees, internally displaced people and affected local communities in activities to help mitigate the social, economic and health impacts of Covid-19 and strengthen resilience to ongoing crises in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.
2. The project proposal shall address capacities and critical needs among particularly vulnerable people, including people in need of strengthened protection because of specific age-, gender- and/or disability-related issues. Efforts to address the rights, potentials, and specific vulnerabilities of youth, women, and girls in a sustainable manner, including with respect to prevention, mitigation, and protection from sexual and gender-based violence, will be prioritised.
3. While the focus must be on longer-term inclusive approaches, the project proposal shall retain the ability to respond to urgent humanitarian needs among vulnerable groups when relevant.
4. The project proposal shall be based on a rights-based context and stakeholder analysis and propose a strategy that to the extent relevant include measures to promote involvement of local communities, including youth along with accountability, involvement and capacity of local and/or national government agencies. As a part of this, the project proposal shall promote conflict prevention, peaceful co-existence, and social cohesion among different groups in society, including internally displaced people, refugees, and host communities.
5. The project proposal shall be aligned and coordinated with other relevant humanitarian and development activities, including Danish humanitarian and development engagements, in the country/ies of intervention.
6. Eligibility criteria

The proposal must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Proposals must address the core elements of the CfP, amount to at least 15 million DKK, and be submitted by a single Applicant or by a Lead Applicant representing a consortium (hereafter “the Applicant”). The Applicant must be a non-governmental organisation. All partners (national as well as international) must be non-governmental organisations or other types of not-for-profit organisations (such as think tanks, research institutions, or human rights institutions).
2. The Applicant must be a recipient of funds from the [Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs](https://um.dk/), **including** through Danish pooled funds such as [CISU](https://cisu.dk/) *(Civilsamfund i Udvikling)*, at the time of application. In line with this, the Applicant must have undergone a successful **capacity assessment** (appraisal, review or similar) within the **last five years** to demonstrate its capacity to manage such financial contributions.
3. The Applicant must partner with one or more local organisations for the implementation of the proposed activities. The local partner(s) shall be identified at the time of submission of the proposal, and a Partner Description must be annexed to the proposal.
4. The Applicant must have conducted communication and information activities in Denmark within the last five years, therebycontributing to strengthen Danish public commitment to development assistance.
5. The engagement must be implemented in one or more of the following countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.
6. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the proposal will be based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance and Coherence**
	* How well is the proposal aligned with **each** of the five core elements described in the CfP (section 2)?
2. **Project logic**
	* Does the proposal present a clear, articulated and logical Theory of Change with a strong link from the analysis of context, needs, and relevant stakeholders to the specification and outline of objectives, expected outcomes, and planned activities?
	* Does the proposal consider exit strategies and the sustainability of proposed activities?
3. **Selection of beneficiaries**
	* Does the proposal present clear criteria and methodologies for the selection of beneficiaries?
4. **Analysis of risks**
	* Does the proposal identify and analyse risks and access constraints along with relevant mitigation measures in a satisfactory manner?
5. **Cost efficiency**
	* Is there a reasonable balance between activities and expected results on the one hand and costs incurred on the other?
6. **Applicant and partners**
	* Do the Applicant and partners have sufficient and documented experience and capacity to carry out the proposed activity? If activities are foreseen in situations where the protection, well-being and dignity of vulnerable and marginalized groups is not ensured by duty-bearers, the applicant must document an ability to live up to established international standards for such interventions. Preferably, this may include an independent verification or certification against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).
	* If the proposal builds upon past or ongoing project activities, are links to these properly reflected, including with respect to lessons learned?
	* Are the roles and responsibilities of each partner clearly described?
	* Is the choice and involvement of local partner(s) aligned with the purpose and priority elements described in the CfP – and reflected in a reasonable proportion of the budget being transferred to such local partners?
	* Does the local partner(s) have the required capacity, expertise, and presence to fulfil intended roles and responsibilities, and does the proposal address relevant capacity development?
7. Duration, grant size and number of proposals to be selected

Subject to parliamentary approval, the overall amount available for this call for proposals is DKK 100 million.

The planned duration of the proposal must not be less than 24 months or exceed 48 months.

The minimum grant amount is DKK 15 million. The maximum grant amount is DKK 25 million.

A maximum of six proposals will be selected.

1. Application and selection process

The CfP application and selection process entails only one step in which the full proposal is submitted right away. Hence, the Applicant is invited to submit an elaborated proposal in the form of a full-fledged and final project document using the **Project Proposal template**, including the following annexes:

1. An output-based Budget.
2. A Results Framework, detailing outputs, outcomes, and impact and their corresponding targets (yearly and end-of-project), indicators, and means of verification (maximum three outcomes with maximum three outputs each). The Results Framework should be simple, yet comprehensive with few and simple but SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) indicators.
3. A Risk Management Matrix.
4. A Partner Description (one for each partner). For local partners, this must include an assessment of capacity and expertise, including with respect to financial management.
5. Documentation to the effect that the Applicant has successfully undergone a formal **capacity assessment** (appraisal, review or similar) within the **last five years** to demonstrate its capacity to manage financial contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the manager of a Danish pooled fund such as CISU.
6. Documentation demonstrating selected relevant examples of communication and information activities undertaken by the Applicant within the last five years.
7. If relevant, documentation of certification or verification against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

**Applications are solely selected on basis of the project document and annexes**. It is of utmost importance that the documents contain all the relevant information needed for the selection process. Applicants cannot submit additional annexes in support of the proposal.

The deadline for the submission of the proposal is **10 August** **2021 at 10:00 Danish Time.**

The proposal should be addressed to CfP Secretariat at **hcestud@um.dk****.**

**Applicants and partners, be they local or international, can only be involved in one proposal.**

Questions in relation to the CfP from potential applicants may be submitted in writing only to the CfP Secretariat at **hcestud@um.dk** no later than **14 June 2021** **at** **16:00** CET. For the sake of transparency, all answers to questions received in writing from potential applicants will be published on the CfP MFA website by **21 June 2021**.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will assess the proposals received as follows:

Firstly, it will ascertain whether the proposal meets the Eligibility Criteria listed above in Section 3. If the proposal does not fulfil these requirements, it will be considered ineligible and the application will be disqualified.

Secondly, the proposal will be scored based on the Evaluation Criteria listed in Section 4. The proposal will receive an overall score based on the weighted score of the Evaluation Criteria as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Criteria** | **Weight** |
| 1 | Relevance and coherence | 0-30 points |
| 2 | Project design | 0-20 points |
| 3 | Selection of beneficiaries | 0-10 points |
| 4 | Analysis of risks | 0-10 points |
| 5 | Cost efficiency | 0-5 points |
| 6 | Partnerships | 0-25 points |
| **Total** |  | **100 points** |

In the final selection of projects, specific emphasis will be placed on the overall alignment of project proposals with core elements as well as the diversity of the overall portfolio of the selected proposals.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs may adjust the final grant amount to reflect the score of the application and available funding.

The indicative timetable for when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will inform the result of the assessment to the Lead Applicant is **24 August 2021**. Lead Applicants with approved applications will also be informed about the level of funding.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expects to enter into agreements with the successful Lead Applicants before the end of September 2021. Expected project start will be October 2021.

All instructions regarding the project proposal and annexes **must** be adhered to. **Otherwise the applications will not be accepted for review and assessment and will hence be regarded as rejected on technical grounds.**

1. Administration and dialogue with MFA

The CfP and the subsequent project/grant will be managed by the Department for Humanitarian Action, Civil Society, and Engagement (HCE). The grant will be administered according to guidelines for single projects: [Administrative retningslinjer for tilskudsforvaltning gennem private danske organisationer.](https://um.dk/da/danida/samarbejspartnere/civ-org/adm-ret/tilskudsforvaltning/enkeltprojekter/)

The successful Lead Applicants will engage in annual consultations with HCE on project progress, learnings, results, synergies etc. The annual consultations may vary in format, and be linked to consultations already taking place between the organisation and HCE in case the organisation has an existing partnership with HCE. They may involve the Lead Applicant (and consortium) only or they may be held jointly with other successful Lead Applicants (and consortia) under this CfP. HCE will share information about scope and format each year.