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Swiss Agency for Development
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AGENCY: Action for Gender Equality, Non-Discrimination, Civil Society Strengthening and Youth Empowerment

**A community-based protection programme funded by the
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

Call for Proposals

Deadline: by **28 December 2020 midnight** (before 11.59 pm Palestine time UTC+2)

Terre des hommes Foundation
Avenue de Montchoisi 15
1006 Lausanne, Switzerland

December 2020

You are a professional working in Gaza.

You are a female or male leader. You are a staff or volunteer with an organisation involved in preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV), youth empowerment and/or disability.

You are a young leader, a member of a civil society group committed to gender equality, non-discrimination, civil society strengthening and youth empowerment. You already support or plan to support vulnerable women and men, girls and boys in Gaza through protection and multi-sectorial services in the following areas: economic empowerment (for example grants or small business enterprises supporting survivors of gender-based violence), medical support, psychosocial, cultural, security and shelter, case management, legal aid support.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has announced a new open call for awards aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence in Gaza.

This call for proposals is for you.

Problem statement

According to recent statistics obtained from a women health centre in North Gaza, the demand for services responding to gender-based violence has tripled in the last year. This is corroborated by a call centre reporting a similar spike in calls from victims and survivors. Professionals in Gaza have reported a large negative effect from the Covid-19 lockdown and a breakdown in hand-to-mouth casual work economy.

The same professionals have alerted about the deteriorating situation for a long time. Findings of the 2019 PCBS survey on violence in the Palestinian society showed that 29% (38% in Gaza, 24% WB) of the currently married or ever married women experienced at least one form of violence by their husbands, and 61% of those women chose to remain silent. Only 1% of women who experienced violence by their husbands filed a complaint at the police station or at a family protection unit, and only 1% of those women referred to a legal or psychological assistance center, despite the fact that 40% of women who experienced violence were aware of the existence of centers or institutions for protection against violence.¹

Civil society organisations (CSOs) are supporting the ongoing efforts to revise a number of laws relevant to combating and preventing violence against women, especially following Palestine's accession to numerous international conventions and treaties (including CEDAW) since 2014. Thanks to national and community-based CSOs, these discussions are now less of a taboo even in the most conservative environments. In the same time, CSOs are a key service provider to the victims of GBV, through shelter, legal aid and psycho-social support. These protection services are still scarce in the occupied Palestinian territory, and need to be boosted to match the needs in the community.

Children, women and youth have been very much influenced by a fragile environment with multi-layered crises mainly caused by the Israeli occupation, the internal Palestinian fragmentation (political and geographical) and the growing economic and social crisis. This context is negatively impacting their well-being, physical security and future perspectives and all duty bearers are falling short of fulfilling their obligations towards protecting them. In this context, small scale, innovative, grassroots', citizens' and youth-led initiatives are taking place all over the oPt with the objective to protect the members of their communities, especially children, women and youth. Many NGOs & community-based organisations (CBOs) provide protection-related services and counselling to women victims of GBV in Gaza and West Bank, while others provide health and educational services to children with disabilities, provide services to children and youth to protect them from violence and prevent radicalization. These initiatives, which are often started by private citizens and are voluntary based, are in need of a safe environment to take place, such as a

¹ PCBS, Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society 2019.

community center, and involve fixed costs even for grassroots CBOs. As CBOs' funding is often short-term and project-based, its impact and sustainability remain limited.

Why Gender-based Violence?

For both the Swiss Confederation and Tdh, GBV constitutes a severe violation of human rights. Protection from and prevention of GBV is a priority of Switzerland's foreign policy, both in its bilateral and multilateral cooperation. For the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Switzerland advocated strongly for the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality (SDG 5). This calls for gender-based violence to be addressed as an essential part of achieving gender equality.

Gender-based violence includes any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls; men and boys, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. GBV can include but is not limited to, intimate partner violence, sex trafficking, sexual harassment, harmful practices such as early and forced marriage, "honour killings".

Youth empowerment and disability are also included in the scope of this Call for Proposals.

Objectives of the Call for Proposals

Women, men, girls and boys in oPt are better protected against violence and their rights are upheld through empowered CSOs engaged in delivering effective, multi-sectoral community-based initiatives with a focus on GBV, People with Disabilities (PWD) and Youth.

Outcome 1: Vulnerable women and men, girls and boys improve their well-being through access to adequate and appropriate support and protection multi-sectorial services (economic, medical, psychosocial, cultural, security and shelter, case management, legal aid, etc.) provided by empowered CSOs/CBOs.

Outcome 2: Authorities in Gaza and the West Bank are accountable to the population for prevention, protection and response.

The support will be disbursed annually but can last for up to three years, until December 2023. Terre des hommes Foundation is in charge of administering the fund and providing capacity building and technical support to Palestinian NGOs and community-based organisations.

SDC will disburse more than 3 million Swiss Francs over this three-year period. Beyond December 2023, the support might be extended to a larger geographic area in the West Bank.

The objectives are two-fold: on the one hand, the intervention aims at responding to urgent protection concerns; on the other hand at strengthening the service delivery capacity of Gaza actors. The contribution should also allow organisations to move from a project-based planning to a longer term and more strategic one. A longer term programmatic approach will also allow the organisations to build up their institutional capacities and invest more resources in staff capacity and staff well-being.

Funding Information

Awards of up to CHF 300'000 are available for a potential duration of three years. All grants will initially be for 12 months. Funding for year 2 and 3 could be conditioned to the successful completion of deliverables in year 1 including recommendations and measures to be taken following risk assessments.

Categories of grants

- **Category A**, primarily for small scale community-based organisations range from **50,000 CHF up to 70,000 CHF per year**. They will benefit 7 (seven) recipients.
- **Category B**, primarily for community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations range **from 71,000 CHF up to 100,000 CHF per year**. They will benefit 4 (four) recipients.

The total number of intended recipients is a maximum of 11 (eleven).

Following the application and selection process, selected organisations will receive conditional three 3-year core-funding with annual checks and validations. SDC will be directly involved in the selection procedure and will approve the final list of selected CBOs as well as extensions.

Once the organisations are selected and contracted, Tdh will be in charge of channeling funds according to the contractual agreements, of the programme monitoring of the grants (with focus on quality control and risk management), reporting on the Fund's performance and facilitating information sharing, peer learning and dialogue among selected organisations.

SDC will be the final decision maker in relation to the selection of partners, based on appraisals by the implementing organization.

Networking among civil society organizations (CSOs), information sharing, complementarity and peer to peer learning will be facilitated by Tdh.

The Grants Scheme will cover 100% of the total project budget, within the required limits. No co-funding is required. weight will be given to the economically most favourable project.

Applicants can allocate a max of 20% of their budget to cover human resources. This category can include support and direct staff, as well as core staff contributing directly to the project. 80% of the budget will cover activities.

Applicants can include a maximum of 10% as an overhead cost.

Eligibility Criteria

There is a number of eligibility criteria to fulfill before any assessment on the merits of the proposals can be made by Tdh and SDC. They range from legal registration to organizational capability, existence and enforcement of policies including gender equality, written confirmation that statutory social insurance contributions, taxes, etc. provided by the national law have been paid in full for the last fiscal year, bank registration, due diligence, track record of experience, appropriate personnel, prevention of irregularities.

Track Record/Experience: Priority will be given to organisations with a track record in GBV, disability and/or youth empowerment.

Institutions Only: Awards will only be made to institutions and not to individuals. All local non-profit organisations are eligible to apply, including NGOs, community-based organisations, research organisations.

Number of Proposals: only one per organisation.

Eligible actions (non-exhaustive)

Actions for which an application may be submitted include the following:

- Provision of specialized services for women, men, boys and girls. While services will mainly address women and youth, they should be inclusive and serve people with disabilities, older women and men that are victims and/or survivors of gender-based violence.
- Provision of multi-sectoral response to GBV victims and/or survivors, including specialized case management services, legal aid, health services, shelter services, MHPSS, and income generating activities.
- Sector based training and capacity building to create expertise in supporting victims of sexual abuse, including social work, health, psychological treatment, judiciary, etc.).
- Monitoring the implementation of GBV projects in Gaza; GBV situation analysis at local and provincial level; Mobilize youth and facilitate empowerment of community-based groups and youth/ children groups.
- Accountability mechanism in case management Local forums and establishment of complaint mechanisms at local level to strengthen local accountability; Improvement of monitoring and inspection of case management of GBV cases).

- Advocacy at local and national levels for responding to GBV, Youth Empowerment and / or Disability awareness raising at the local level involving community and youth groups in partnership with the responsible state institutions; Promote evidence based advocacy led by youth and community based groups following an assessment of the situation in remote areas; Advocate for legislative improvement with specific focus on GBV, Youth Empowerment, Disability or wider protection; National and local advocacy on child rights issues identified/raised by children and communities).
- Capacity building of professionals on GBV, Youth Empowerment, Disability or wider protection issues (Sectorial: police, education, social, health, civil status offices, justice sector, media etc.; Cross-sectorial; Peer to peer mentoring, coaching, etc.). Staff development (staff of the applying organisations), with a particular focus on Gender Equality, Gender Diversity and Inclusion, Youth Empowerment and Disability. Preventative and protective community-based services (Service provision: drop-in centres, psychosocial activities, income generating activities, positive parenting counselling, access, and referral to public and non-public services; Develop standards of services
- Reforming the GBV legal framework. Applicants should keep in mind that any actions submitted in this category of activities should take into consideration developments in the West Bank.
- Other types of eligible projects are provided in an annex below, as examples.

It is expected that applicants will focus on their organisational core competencies.

Non-eligible actions

The AGENCY project will not fund the following actions:

- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships of beneficiaries, and for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and / or congresses.
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.
- One-time or one-off conferences: such events can only be funded if 1) they are duly justified and fall under objectives of the call for proposals and they form part of a wider range of activities to be implemented in the lifetime of the AGENCY project. For these purposes, preparatory activities for a conference and the publication of the proceedings of a conference do not in themselves constitute such “wider activities”.
- Projects which consist entirely, or in most part, of preparatory works or studies.
- Deficit funding (funding existing debts) and capital endowments (paying into an investment fund).
- Sub granting to a third party.
- Purchase of land, building and offices.
- Retroactive financing for projects that are already in implementation or completed.
- Purchase of equipment beyond the budget proportion agreed by the SDC.

How to Apply

Due to the exceptional situation of Covid-19, project proposals may be submitted by email only.

The proposals must be in PDF format with all annexes in a ZIP file sent to agency.proposal@menaprotectionhub.org by 28 December 2020 midnight i.e. before 11.59, Gaza time (UTC+02:00).

Proposals received after this time will not be taken into consideration. They will be returned to the Applicant. The email must mention “AGENCY” in the reference line followed by the name of the Applicant.

Language of proposals: English

Documents for downloading:

Call for Proposals (PDF)

Application Form (word)

Budget (Excel)

Logframe

Reference documents for Applicants:

- [Tdh MENA Partnership Framework](#)
- [Tdh Global Code of Conduct](#)
- [Tdh Anti Fraud Policy](#)
- [Tdh Whistleblowing Policy](#)
- [Tdh Conceptual Framework](#)
- [AIDA PNGO Principles of Partnership](#)
- [Tdh Good Business Practices](#)

Workshops for potential applicants will be organised in the Gaza Strip.

Any questions regarding this call can be addressed to: info@menaprotectionhub.org no later than 21 December 2020.

Annex: Types of Projects

The list of possible projects below, expressed in terms of possible results, is indicative.

Category A.

- Advocacy at local and national levels for responding to GBV or other protection problems. For example, awareness is raised amongst community leaders, youth and others. The voice of victims and survivors, all sorts of victims and survivors, is heard. Evidence-based advocacy reaches duty-bearers. It is led by youth and community based groups following an assessment of the situation in remote areas; Advocate for legislative improvement with specific focus on GBV or wider protection; National and local advocacy on child rights issues identified/raised by children and communities; Legislation and regulations for victims and survivors of violence are improved. Recognition and financial support for victims and survivors of GBV are improved.
- Projects on the creative uses of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), or multi-components social media campaigns to challenge social norms that promote and accept the use of violence against women and/or violence against children. Innovation Technical Innovations with the development of apps or games against GBV are developed and launched.
- A hackaton against GBV is launched and completed in Gaza;
- Community events with female coders are launched.
- Outreach work to reach targeted women, girls and boys, ensuring access and referral to public and non-public services, and meeting urgent immediate emotional, physical and social development needs. Youth are empowered to create and develop community-based groups; GBV situation and projects are monitored in real-time. A Gaza-wide situation analyses is updated, published and widely disseminated;
- Studies to measure ripple/spillover effects of women's economic empowerment or political participation programming on GBV are completed.
- Research on the role of the private sector in GBV prevention and response is completed.
- Impact assessments of what works in GBV prevention (policy and programs) by the private sector at the workplace and in the community are completed.

Category B.

- Sector-based training and capacity building to create expertise in supporting victims of sexual abuse: social work, health, psychological treatment, judiciary, etc.)
- Capacity building of professionals on GBV or wider protection issues (Sectorial: police, education, social, health, civil status offices, justice sector, media etc.; Cross-sectorial; Peer to peer mentoring, coaching, etc.).
- Establishment of complain mechanisms at local level to strengthen local accountability; Improvement of monitoring and inspection of case management of GBV cases
- Case management is initiated and/or harmonised across Palestine;
- Specialized services for victims and survivors are enhanced;
- Novel needs-based preventative and protective community-based services are initiated
- Drop-in-centres are more visibly open to victims and survivors;
- Multi-sectorial services are established or reinforced: economic (e.g. income generating activities), medical, psychosocial, cultural, security and shelter, legal aid, inclusion of and special activities for children with disabilities, formal and non-formal education, positive parenting counselling, access and referral to public and non-public services; Standards of services are developed and transformed into SOPs.
- provision of specialized services for women, men, boys and girls with disabilities
- outreach services for children in street situation, victims of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking (establish a pilot of specialized services for children victims of sexual abuse