Call for Proposal: Women’s Empowerment for Stabilization in Libya – Call for Proposal for Women’s Economic Empowerment Projects from Civil Society Organizations

UN Women plans to award small grants to eligible Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 30,000. Small grants are intended exclusively to finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity. Organizations from across Libya may apply.

The impact of COVID 19 was found to have a negative impact on Women’s Economic Empowerment and Access to Livelihoods. According to a UN Women Study, it was found that the precautions on physical distancing, curfew and quarantine would have negative effects including preventing access to livelihoods, especially for self-employed women, and those working in the private sector. The issue is further exacerbated for displaced women. In the absence of income, they would face increased pressure as a result of the accumulation of rent and other challenges they would face in displacement including meeting basic needs. A large-scale decrease in economic activity will have negative effects on the level of individuals’ wealth. Already, 52% of surveyed women indicated that their work had indeed been affected, and 26% of respondents believed that their source of livelihood would be affected if the lockdown were extended further. Sixty per cent of the sampled women feared the outcome of the lockdown arrangements, including the financial difficulties that the families would face, especially in the absence of salaries and liquidity, and in light of the steady rise in prices of basic goods. Sixty percent of women stated that they would be forced by circumstances to reduce meals. Forty-two percent stated they would decrease their portion in family meals and opt for cheaper options for food items.

Small grants are intended for small contributions to Civil Society Organizations (CSO) awarded exclusively to finance a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO’s institutional capacity. The activities include introduction or improvement of organizational systems, tools and processes, training of workforce in technical and managerial skills and support with adequate equipment. Activities may also include the implementation of these lessons learnt through women’s economic empowerment projects. UN Women is targeting CSOs aiming to strengthen women economic empowerment and development of the peace nexus in Libya, ultimately promoting women’s empowerment, leadership and resilience for long term stabilization in Libya. This project will aim to strengthen economic recovery through strategic partnerships with local women’s organizations and CSOs. The programme will build the capacities and skills of local women CSOs in peacebuilding to ensure women in Libya have the skills to engage in recovery initiatives and participate in stabilization efforts. The programme will ensure that the programs are gender inclusive, and proactively anticipate and address the needs of women and girls. The programme will support and enhance the capacity of local CSO to provide vocational training and education training that would prepare participants and facilitate access to jobs/self-employment, with the aim

to scale up local business owners who participate. The Programme will include capacity training supporting women CSOs in consolidating their institutional and organizational skills in conceptualizing, designing and implementing gender responsive and results oriented humanitarian projects. Following the capacity building, a series of small grants will be allocated to enable the CSOs to implement the training and respond to the specific needs in their communities to promote women economic empowerment. This will be implemented through UN Women to improve the lives of women and youth.

Online projects and trainings are encouraged, and UN Women will support the tailoring of projects to the impact of Covid19. UN Women is also looking to include capacity training to women CSOs to enhance their institutional and organizational skills in conceptualizing, designing and implementing gender responsive and women’s economic empowerment projects in the context of COVID 19.

This advertisement forms the basis for applying for small grants. It must neither be construed as a small grant agreement nor as a confirmation of a small grant awarded by UN Women to any entity. Consequently, UN Women is not liable for any financial obligations, or otherwise, incurred by any entity in responding to this advertisement. UN Women will not approve such costs as part of any small grant budget, and an awardee must not use the small grant to cover such costs.

Any project must finish by January 2021.

1. Eligible CSOs
The applicant may apply if it:
• is a registered CSO in operation for at least three years;
• is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List;
• is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
• has not had funding received from UN Women entirely or partly written off by UN Women;
• is not currently engaged as an Implementing Partner (IP) or Responsible Party (RP) for UN Women;
• has not been engaged as an IP/RP for UN Women at any time after 21 November 2019;
• is not a government entity;
• is not a UN organization;
• is not an established CSO with the capacity to be engaged as an IP/RP;
• has sufficient capacity to collaborate with various stakeholders;
• has sufficient financial stewardship, including having adequate financial policies and procedures in place to manage the small grant; and,
• past performance has been deemed satisfactory by UN Women (if it has received small grants previously or been engaged as an IP/RP before 21 November 2019).

2. Eligible activities
The applicant may apply for a small grant to cover the following activities:
• introducing and improving organizational systems, tools, and processes;
• training of workforce in technical and managerial skills; and,
• supporting with equipment such as copiers, scanners, printers, laptops and computers as long as the cost of such equipment is limited to 30% of the proposed small grant budget or USD5,000, whichever is lower.
3. Limitations
UN Women’s small grants are limited to a maximum of USD 30,000 per CSO per 12-month period and a maximum USD 60,000 for the lifetime of the CSO. The calculation of the maximum grant amount includes all small grants awarded to the CSO from all UN Women Offices.

4. Application
An application must contain all relevant information showing that the applicant and the proposed activities are eligible. All applications must be in English, Hand-written applications will not be accepted. Please use the attached application form when submitting your application.

Please submit a registration certificate evidencing that the applicant is a registered CSO that has been in operation for three years.

UN Women will reject any application that doesn’t contain enough information to show that the application or the activities are eligible.

The application must be received by UN-Women via email at the address saskia.binet@unwomen.org and politique06@yahoo.fr specified not later than 6pm on (21 of June 2020). UN Women will not consider applications sent by any other means or to different addresses. Applications sent by any other means or to different addresses are not considered.

5. Review Criteria
The applicant must:
• propose eligible activities that develop or strengthen the institutional capacity of the applicant and are consistent with the relevant strategic plan;
• not propose to use the small grant to provide an activity/output on behalf of UN Women, civil construction work, engineering work, purchases of vehicles or other tangible or intangible property, except for copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
• not propose to use more than 30% of the small grant or USD5000, whichever is lower, to purchase copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
• propose a timeline that is no longer than a year and eligible activities that are feasible to accomplish within a year, including political, security, logistical considerations;
• not propose to cover its indirect costs/support costs with the small grant;
• not make a direct profit from the small grant;
• not propose to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement;
• propose eligible activities sustainably supporting the applicant;
• propose eligible activities where the applicant has the capacity to reach the target audience; and,
• propose a budget that is cost-effective given the eligible activities, the number of targeted beneficiaries, and the proposed location.

6. Award
UN Women will evaluate applications that meet all the criteria. UN Women will award the small grants to the applicants that best contributes to the goals reflected as strategic priorities in UN Women’ Strategic Plan. Successful applicants are informed in writing of UN Women’s decision to award the small grant. The award is conditional on the applicant agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth in UN Women’s Small Grant Agreement and the award is automatically rescinded if the applicant doesn’t agree to these terms and conditions.

**Annex I Application Form**

Advertisement No. [To be filled in by the Applicant]

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<tr>
<th>CSO/Applicant details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name and registration number Please submit proof of registration</td>
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<td>Mandate of the CSO</td>
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<td>CSO staff focal point and alternate (Please insert full name, title, e-mail address, telephone number)</td>
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<th>Application details</th>
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<td>Proposal title</td>
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<td>Small Grant Amount (Please provide the amount in local currency)</td>
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<td>Duration and proposed start date (Please state the duration in months, noting that the maximum duration is 12 months from the “Effective stating date”)</td>
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<td>Background</td>
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<td>Main objectives/Results to achieve</td>
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<td>Thematic Focus and Priorities</td>
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<td>Geographical area</td>
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<td>Activities (list them 1.,2.,) and related expected timeframe</td>
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<td>How are the activities supporting the development or strengthen</td>
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