

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No. EOI/LEB/3/SYR/2019

The Call for Expression of Interest (Eoi) is open to all existing and/or new prospective **National Partners** who wish to participate in UNHCR's operations in 2019 and participate in achieving common goals and objectives. Based on concept notes received, UNHCR will select the best-fit partner for the relevant sector(s) and area(s).

Objective

UNHCR policy on selection and retention is to ensure that UNHCR partners with the most suitable organization in a given operation for the implementation of projects, in order to provide quality protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern. As partners bring distinctive attributes and UNHCR operates in varying and challenging environments, it is necessary to identify the Best-Fit Partner.

Submission of Concept Note

Interested existing or prospective National Partners are requested to submit a Concept Note in response to the Call for Expression of Interest in line with the provided format.

The Concept Note is primarily for an agency to express its unique advantage and added value for the Project objectives. The Concept Note is intended to allow the agency to:

- Articulate its objectives in undertaking the Project;
- Briefly describe the implementation approach for realizing the desired outcome of the Project;
- Demonstrate the unique advantage it brings to the partnership for realizing the desired outcome of the Project; and
- Demonstrate its complementarity to UNHCR's capacities and resources for the Project.

Therefore, the Concept Note should not be a fully developed project proposal and should be concise, contain clear information and not exceed five pages. Once selected, the agency will participate in the design and detailed budgeting of the Project and concluding Project Partnership Agreement.

Operational Context:

Eight years into the Syria crisis, Lebanon remains the country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita, with a Government estimate of 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and some 18,200 refugees of Iraqi, Sudanese, Ethiopian and other origins. The presence of such a large refugee population is increasingly affecting inter-community relations at all levels, and the social stability in many areas. Pressure on infrastructure, services and the environment, competition over jobs, and other factors are trying the patience and hospitality of host communities.

The vulnerabilities of Syrian and non-Syrian refugees are likely to remain high due to cumulative factors in this protracted situation, where refugees are still largely dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs and to stay resilient against exploitation and other risks. Individual protection risks, including arrests or eviction due to lack of legal residency, SGBV and child abuse, as well as medical, shelter and other basic needs would likely increase while the multi-faceted challenges in the protection environment will make it harder for refugees to sustain their lives in dignity while in exile.

The 2018 Vulnerability Assessment (VASyR) shows that half of refugees live under the extreme poverty line with less than USD 3 per day. The 2018 participatory assessment (PA) exercise reconfirmed that refugees, due to the lack of legal stay, still face challenges to safely move around without fear of being arrested or detained, earn a decent living, register civil events and access essential services.

Over 30 per cent of refugees registered with UNHCR have reported having specific needs. The most frequently reported specific needs are serious medical condition, children at risk, specific legal and physical protection needs, disability, SGBV, survivor of torture, single parent and woman at risk. Despite the needs, most refugees are unable to access specialised services due to the limited availability of free or subsidised services and the inability to afford private services.

Beyond access to specialised care, in the 2018 Participatory Assessment, PwSN and their caregivers reported challenges to meet basic needs, such as food, medication and decent shelter. The need for mobile social and medical specialized assessment for persons with disabilities was highlighted by refugees with limited mobility and /or unable to afford transportation costs. Persons with serious medical conditions and older persons reported facing difficulties to access medical care, especially in cases of chronic diseases and when the costs of medication are high. Older persons, together with persons with disabilities, express facing challenges in accessing services due to not being available or difficult to reach. Many reported feeling like a burden to their families and being excluded from decision-making in the household, affecting their self-esteem and confidence.

PwSN requested support in building their capacity and skills and matching them with suitable job opportunities. Additionally, they expressed difficulty in accessing services provided at the Community Development Centers (CDC), such as social events, recreational and learning activities. Lack of education programs that foster inclusiveness of children with physical and intellectual disability in schools remains dominant.

Population trends

The Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimates that Lebanon hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees, as reflected in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, out of which 948,849 were registered with UNHCR as of 2018 year end. Furthermore, Lebanon also hosts 18,200 refugees of other nationalities, mainly from Iraq and Sudan. Refugees' numbers are expected to gradually decrease in 2019 and 2020 in view of spontaneous returns, resettlement and other departures.

The tables below provides an over view of the population demographic within the area of intervention:

Population Planning Group:		Syrian Refugees and Asylum Seekers				
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %
0-4	70,785	14.34%	74,507	16.52%	145,292	15.40%
5-11	115,888	23.48%	120,516	26.72%	236,404	25.00%
12-17	67,735	13.72%	70,886	15.72%	138,621	14.70%
18-59	225,308	45.64%	174,088	38.60%	399,396	42.30%
60 and >	13,925	2.82%	10,975	2.43%	24,900	2.60%
Total:	493,641	52.00%	450,972	48.00%	944,613	100%
Major Sites:		<i>Beirut and Mount Lebanon Governorate</i>				

Population Planning Group:		Refugees and Asylum Seekers				
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %
0-4	641	7.72%	587	5.93%	1,228	6.70%
5-11	1,206	14.52%	1,291	13.04%	2,497	13.70%
12-17	782	9.42%	829	8.38%	1,611	8.90%
18-59	5,074	61.11%	6,555	66.23%	11,629	63.90%
60 and >	600	7.23%	635	6.42%	1,235	6.80%
Total:	8,303	46%	9,897	54%	18,200	100%
Major Sites:		<i>Beirut and Mount Lebanon Governorate</i>				

Intended Population of Concern:

Refugees and Asylum Seekers of all nationalities (excluding Palestinian Refugees)

Project Period [estimated start and end dates of project]:

1st July 2019 to 31st December 2020

Submission Deadline:
28 May 2019
UN Partner Portal:
<p>Prospective partners must be registered on the new UN Partner portal: https://www.unpartnerportal.org. The UN Partner Portal has been developed jointly by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF as a platform for civil society organizations to engage with the UN on partnership opportunities for the benefit of those we serve. The Portal is designed to facilitate a harmonized, efficient and easy collaboration between the UN and partners. You may watch this video for additional information: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDQdDikrtMk&feature=youtu.be</p> <p>The UN Partner Portal has replaced UNHCR Partner Portal. Organizations that are already registered on the UNHCR Partner Portal may use the same credentials to log in to the new UN Partner Portal.</p> <p>All submissions and annexes should be submitted in English through the UN Partner Portal: https://www.unpartnerportal.org. Please note that the system allows you to upload only one file. For submissions with several documents, place all documents in a folder, zip the folder and upload the zipped file. If applicants are not able to complete the Portal registration process by the submission deadline, then submissions may be received on an exceptional basis via lebbeeoi@unhcr.org.</p> <p>If there are technical issues in submitting on the portal please address your questions to: lebbeeoi@unhcr.org.</p>
Selection Criteria:
<p>a) Sector expertise and experience (25%):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective partners are required to have the specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources. • Partners are encouraged - capacity allowing - to submit concept notes providing an integrated multi sectorial response. • Proven experience in coordination with government entities is required.
<p>b) Project management (25%):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management (proven external audit of partners' financial statement is an asset). • Coordination with agencies working under the same sector. • Capacity to deliver quality reporting and adhere to UNHCR reporting requirements.
<p>c) Local experience, presence and geographical focus (10%):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing programme in the area of operation. • Local presence and ability to access all municipalities. • Knowledge of the geographical location.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in working in specific regions in the country. • Proven experience and collaboration with other national organizations and local CBOs. • Proven working relations and engagement with relevant government authorities.
<p>d) Cost effectiveness and contribution of resources (15%):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of administrative costs should not exceed 20% on the Project in relation to project deliverables. • Proposed budget to be in line with the intended project target. • Evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources is encouraged.
<p>e) Partner's capacity to undertake procurement (10%):</p> <p>Applicants must adequately complete Annex 1 (<i>Partner Procurement Capacity Assessment</i>) of the Concept Note template demonstrating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence and experience to undertake large procurement >USD 100,000 in line with UNHCR/ UN procurement guidelines. • Knowledge of the local market. • Capacity to identify and establish service contracts with service providers, suppliers and contractors. • Functioning procurement unit in the country of operation. • Established effective internal-controls.
<p>f) Experience working with UNHCR (5%):</p> <p>Global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programme, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks is an asset. Commitment to UNHCR's core values and Age, Gender and Diversity approach is expected from all UNHCR's partners.</p>

g) Other

- Concept notes to reflect how environmental protection considerations and if relevant environmental protection activities are integrated in an inclusive and participatory approach.
- Legal registration with Ministry of Interior Lebanon is mandatory.
- Registered with the Ministry of Finance (VAT reimbursed or committed to submit net expenditures to UNHCR) is desirable.
- Authority to operate a bank account in Lebanon.
- Registered on UNHCR Partner portal <https://www.unpartnerportal.org>.
- Security considerations: ability to operate and adapt to security conditions of a Project site or locations.
- Ability to outreach to Iraqi refugees and other nationalities.

Additional Reference Material

For additional guidance and reference documents refer to the below links:

- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 1 - Selection and Retention of Partners for Project Partnership Agreements](#)
- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 3 - \(Rev. 1\) UNHCR's Contribution towards Project Headquarters Support Costs](#)
- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 4 - Procurement by Partners with UNHCR Funds](#)
- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 5 - Risk-based Audit of UNHCR-Funded Projects](#)
- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 7 - Partner Personnel](#)
- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 8 - Management of UNHCR-Funded Partnership Agreements](#)
- [Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 9 - Complementary Capacity Strengthening for UNHCR and its NGO Partners](#)