

Call for Applications for Small Grants for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Working on Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda under the ‘Strengthening Institutional Capacity of Duty-Bearers And Empowering Rights-Holders For Advancement Of Gender Equality And Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) In Ethiopia’ Project implemented by UN Women

UN Women Ethiopia Country Office

Advertisement No.	UNW-ECO-ASG-2021-002
Location	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Issue date	27 December 2021
Application deadline	18 January 2021
Starting date	January 2022
Duration of the implementation	8 months (up to 31 August 2022)
Purpose of the activity	Support the organizational development of civil society organizations working in the area of peacebuilding, conflict resolution and the Women, Peace and Security agenda
Budget	Minimum budget: 2,500 USD Maximum budget: 30,000 USD

1. Background

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women’s rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States’ priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and its subsequent resolutions form the global Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. It reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and in post-conflict reconstruction. The WPS agenda stresses the importance of women’s equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain peace and security, urges all actors to increase the participation of women in peacebuilding, and incorporates gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in conflict situations.

In Ethiopia and globally, UN Women works to promote the WPS agenda and supports women's full and equal representation and participation in all levels of peace processes and security efforts. It specifically advocates for developing and implementing a National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS.

Through decades, Ethiopian civil society organizations have made significant contributions in society's social, political, and economic spheres. The old CSO Proclamation (No. 621/2009) from the year 2009 severely restricted the space of CSOs to operate in the country. It limited their thematic areas of operation, funding sources and organizational structure and thus had a widespread, negative impact on CSOs' possibilities to work on matters related to human rights, gender equality, good governance and peace.

As part of its political reform in 2018, the Government of Ethiopia introduced a new proclamation (No. 1113/2019) and restored much of the space needed for a functional civil society. However, a decade of strong restrictions left a negative mark in the CSO landscape of the country. Several CSOs had discontinued their work. The still existing ones suffered from a lack of financial and organizational stability and capacity and had been forced to limit their scope and approach. A mapping conducted by UN Women¹ in 2020 reveals that the number of CSOs still remains low and their geographic distribution is uneven, with a high concentration of CSOs in Addis Ababa and the southern part of the country. Similarly, a mapping on WPS related actors and initiatives in Ethiopia, conducted by UN women, revealed that the capacity of different organizations, including CSOs, to work for the implementation of the WPS agenda is very low. The organizations lack knowledge on the WPS agenda, general operational capacity, and networks in which to share best practices and cooperate.

Against this background, UN Women Ethiopia plans to award Small Grants to eligible civil Society Organization (CSOs) in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 30,000. The Small Grants intend to exclusively finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening institutional capacity of CSOs' working to promote the women, peace and security agenda.

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.

2. Objective

By strengthening CSOs working in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, UN Women aims to support the promotion and implementation of the WPS agenda and the effective participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace building to create a cohesive, just, inclusive and democratic society. CSOs play a critical role in implementing the WPS agenda, and with strengthened capacity, they can more

¹ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/02/publication-civil-societies-mapping-report-ethiopia>

strategically develop evidence-based programs and advocate for and participate in the development of a WPS NAP that is responsive to the needs of women and girls around the country.

With its work on peace and security in Ethiopia, including its support to civil society organizations, UN Women aims to support the fulfillment of the outcome ‘All people in Ethiopia live in a cohesive, just, inclusive and democratic society’ of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2025² and the UN Women Ethiopia Strategic Note 2021-2025 and the priority area ‘Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Institutions’ of the Ethiopia Ten-Year Development Plan 2021-2030. It also aims to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable development goals Goal no 5 ‘Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls’ and Goal no 16 ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’. Particularly, it aims to contribute to SDG targets Target 5.5 “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life”. It will also contribute towards SDG Target 16.7 “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels” and SDG Target 16.A “Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.”

3. General Overview of the Advertisement

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Ethiopia County Office plans to award small grants to eligible Civil Society Organizations in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 30,000.

Small Grants intend exclusively to finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening of CSOs’ institutional capacities. UN Women invites eligible applicants to submit Small Grants applications for the eligible activities, as elaborated in this advertisement. UN Women will consider awarding several Small Grants based on available funds.

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4. Eligible CSOs

The applicants must be a civil society organization legally established and operating in Ethiopia. To be considered for the small grant, the CSO must demonstrate that it works on peace and security and conflict

² <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/90108-united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-2020-2025>

resolution in Ethiopia with a proven track record of working on one of the areas of the Women Peace and Security Agenda, i.e. Prevention, Protection, Participation and Post-Conflict Relief or Recovery.

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 List³;
- 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,
- UN Women has deemed performance satisfactory (if it has received small grants previously or been engaged as an IP/RP).

For the purpose of this advertisement, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate in their application their organizational approach to the principles of leaving no one behind and in addressing intersecting forms of vulnerabilities (women with disabilities, rural women, migrant women, internally displaced women etc.)

5. 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 the 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 USD 5,000, whichever is lower. The purpose of Small Grants is not to finance the delivery of a programmatic or project activity.
- There is no geographical limitation regarding the applicants' location and base of operation.
- The implementation of the Small Grant must be completed within 8 months after signing the Small Grant Agreement for the purposes of this call.

³ <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>

- The CSOs awarded with Small Grants will benefit from further capacity development support, experience sharing, networking, dialogue, solidarity and coalition-building activities organized by UN Women.

6. Application

An application must contain all relevant information showing that the applicant and the proposed activities are eligible. All applications must be in English.

Please use the attached application form when submitting your application. In addition, please attach

- Constitutive act (establishment statute of the CSO)
- 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.

UN-Women must receive the application via email at the address Ethiopia.public@unwomen.org

specified not later than 23:59 EAT on 18 January 2022. UN Women will not consider applications sent by any other means or to different addresses.

7. Review Criteria

The applicant must:

- propose eligible activities that develop or strengthen the institutional capacity of the applicant and are consistent with the purposes of this advertisement: to support the organizational development of civil society organizations working in the area of peacebuilding, conflict resolution and the Women, Peace and Security agenda;
- propose allowed activities that are consistent with and contribute to achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan⁴ approved by the Executive Board;
- 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 USD 5,000, whichever is lower, to purchase copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
- propose a timeline that does not extend over 31 August 2022, and eligible activities that are feasible to accomplish, including political, security and 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 expenses incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement;

⁴ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025>

- propose eligible activities sustainably supporting the applicant;
- propose eligible activities where the applicant has the capacity to reach the target audience; and,
- propose a cost-effective budget given the eligible activities, the number of targeted beneficiaries, and the proposed location.
- Demonstrate commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment when planning activities and targeting beneficiaries.

8. Award

UN Women will evaluate applications that meet all the criteria. UN Women will award small grants to the applicants that best contribute to the goals reflected in this advertisement. 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. The award is automatically rescinded if the applicant doesn't agree to these terms and conditions.

9. Reporting Requirements

Awarded Small Grantees shall submit combined financial and progress reports indicating the expenditure and progress on the performance of the Small Grant Agreement.

If the amount of the Small Grant is USD 10,000 or less, the Small Grantee shall submit a combined financial and progress report at the end of the Small Grant Agreement.

If the amount of the Small Grant is above USD 10,000USD, the Small Grantee shall submit a mid-term and a final combined financial and progress report.

Annex 1 Application form

Advertisement No.:

CSO/Applicant details	
Name and registration number <i>Please submit proof of registration</i>	
Mandate of the CSO	
CSO staff focal point and alternate	<i>(Please insert full name, title, e-mail address, telephone number)</i>
Application details	
Proposal title	
Small Grant Amount	<i>(Please provide the amount in Ethiopian Birr and attach a proposed budget)</i>
Duration and proposed start date	<i>(Please state the duration in months, noting that the maximum duration is until 31 August 2022)</i>
Background	
Main objectives/Results to achieve	
Thematic Focus and Priorities	
Geographical area	
Activities (<i>list them 1.,2.,</i>) and related expected timeframe	
How are the activities supporting the development or strengthening of the CSO's institutional capacity?	

Annex 2

Declaration by the Authorized Representative of the Applicant Organization:

Through submitting this application, I confirm that:

1. The Organization is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List;
2. The Organization is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
3. The Organization is not currently engaged as a Partner of UN Women;
4. The proposal for the small grant does not aim to cover the Support Costs of a project implemented by the Organization;
5. The Organization will not make a direct profit from the small grant;
6. The Organization is not proposing to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement.

Date:

Name:

Organization:

Stamp and signature: