

Questions and Answers from the information sessions

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1. Presentation of the information session:

1.1 Q: will the presentation of the information session be shared?

A: the recording of the sessions are not available but all of the questions and answers are below and you can access the PowerPoint presentations:

- Document 4.1 English version
- Document 4.2 French version
- Document 4.3 Spanish version

2. Beneficiaries/targeted population:

2.1 Q: Can the project be implemented in a community where there are no refugees or IDPs?

A: As per the CFP (targeted displacement affected person, p.6): "LiD supports displacement affected persons, including refugees, IDPs, host/resident communities, returnees, stateless, persons at risk of displacement, local and national authorities, taking into account the most vulnerable groups of each displacement situation". It includes persons currently affected by displacement or at risk of being displaced. If the community you intend to target can be considered as part of the above, then the project is eligible. Please provide sufficient justification to convince the evaluation committee.

2.2 Q: Can the project be about relocating persons in the same area but in a safer place?

A: Yes. There are no restrictions in the CFP about the level of displacement required. Please explain and provide justification.

3. Budget:

3.1 Q: Is there a template for the budget?

A: Yes, Annex B of the CFP (document 1.3)

3.2Q: As many locations are very insecure and situations are complex, would it be possible to budget an emergency envelope?

A: Yes, the complexities are acknowledged. However, please ensure that you provide sufficient justification and explain how you would use funds if the emergency envelope is not needed during the project implementation. Also a note that activities under any proposed emergency budget should still have a development focus.

3.3 Q: Can budgets include indirect costs?

A: Yes, indirect costs can be included for most applicants, depending on the status of the partner, as follow:

- International Organisations, International NGOs, International Foundations and International Academia: a maximum of 7% indirect costs may be included
- National NGOs, CSOs, National Foundations and National Academia, Private Sector (national and international): a maximum of 4% indirect costs may be included
- Authorities: national and local: 0% indirect costs

3.4 Q: What is the percentage of authorised admin fees?

A: refer to the question above on indirect cost.

3.5 Q: Are there any rules related to how the budget needs to be allocated between partners? Do they need to be 50%-50% or can it be 80-20%?

A: There are no specific rules. All we ask for is a partnership where both partners contribute to the project with the same level of responsibility (we are not looking for a lead and implementing partners). The allocation of the budget per partner may differ depending on the activities

implemented by each partner. Please explain the division so that the evaluation committee understands it. Keep in mind that we are looking for joint projects with equal partnership, therefore if the distribution is overly skewed and not justified, this may not be evaluated well in terms of the partnership element.

3.6 Q: Will UNOPS transfer the budget to one partner or to each partner individually?

A: UNOPS will transfer the budget to each contracting partner individually, in accordance with the individual grant support agreements signed separately with each partner.

3.7 Q: Will each partner have to do its own financial report?

A: Yes, because the budget is linked to the agreement signed between UNOPS and each partner individually. Each partner will submit its own quarterly/annual financial (and narrative) report. In addition, both partners, together, will submit an overarching 1 pager partnership statement where they will report on the state of the partnership. Please see the Grant Support Agreement attached in the CfP for the reporting and partnership statement templates.

4. Budget/Co-funding:

4.1 Q: Can co-funding be in-kind or come from another project?

A: Yes, both are accepted so long as it is authorized by your donor.

4.2 Q: Is co-funding of 15% mandatory for all partners?

A: No, as per the CFP (p.3 eligibility criteria), co-funding is only mandatory for UN, IGOs, INGOs, national authorities, academia, foundations and both international and local private sector actors. Local authorities and local non-state actors (e.g. CSO) are exempt from this requirement. Concretely this means that:

- If both partners are local authorities or local/national non-state actors: co-funding is not required
- If there is only one local partner and it is a national authority: co-funding is mandatory on the entire budget
- If the local partner is a local private sector entity: co-funding is mandatory on the entire budget
- If there is one local partner and it is a local authority or a local/national non-state actor (CSO/NGO): co-funding is only mandatory for the proportion of the budget that will be granted to the other partner (international partner, national authority, foundation....)

4.3 Q: Are there limitations regarding the origin of the funds (other EU funds or others?)

A: No, there are no limitations other than the funds must not come from an illegal source and you should review any limitations that may be set by your other donor.

5. Contractual modalities:

5.1 Q: Will the partners sign the agreement with the EU or UNOPS?

A: The partners will sign the agreement directly with UNOPS, as the LiD Grant Facility Manager. The agreement follows the UNOPS rules and regulations.

5.2 Q: You mentioned that funding is coming from the EU, can you speak about the contracting conditions? Will EU funding conditions apply?

A: You will sign your grant agreement with UNOPS, following UNOPS rules and regulations. The UNOPS template agreements for the LiD Grant Facility have been updated to take into account the EU requirements, especially regarding non allowable cost.

6. Cross cutting issues:

6.1 Q: Does the project have to cover all cross cutting issues?

A: Yes. However, if your project cannot reasonably cover one of the cross cutting issues, you should clearly specify this in the summary of your proposal.

7. Due Diligence:

7.1 Q: Do national and international entities go through the same process of due diligence in the partnership?

A: Yes. However, where a partner has recently gone through a due similar diligence process with the UN or the EU, UNOPS may review the results of the due diligence and determine a further due diligence process or a lighter touch process may suffice. UN entities will not be required to undergo the full assessment.

7.2 Q: Do both partners have to fill the Due Diligence questionnaire 1?

A: Yes, you must submit one questionnaire per partner, which means you must attach a least 2 questionnaires to your proposal if there are only 2 partners.

7.3 Q: Where do we find this questionnaire 1?

A: It is at the end of the application form (CFP Annex A, p.12 &13)

8. Geographic scope of projects/lots:

8.1 Q: Does the LiD Grant Facility have a preferred area of project implementation in the countries listed?

A: No, the only geographic limitation is the 16 countries listed in the CFP. Applicants can choose the exact locations for proposed interventions based on your assessment of the needs. Please provide a good justification in your proposal.

8.2 Q: Can projects be implemented in insecure locations?

A: The CFP has no geographic restrictions other than the 16 countries listed in the CFP. Just remember that LiD is about development and sustainability. If the implementation is in an insecure zone, provide an explanation on how you plan to implement the project and expect it to be sustainable.

8.3 Q: In lot 2, Sahel region, Nigeria is separated from other countries regrouped between brackets. Is it because Nigeria is considered separately from this lot?

A: No, Nigeria is part of lot 2 in the same way as the other countries. The reason Nigeria is separated in the list is to acknowledge the geography of the Sahel region, where the whole of Nigeria is not a part. For lot 2, all 6 countries are eligible. The entire country of Nigeria is eligible for the CFP.

8.4 Q: Can an organisation, based in both Mali and Burkina Faso, submit two proposals?

A: No. Organisations/entities may only apply once per lot and Burkina Faso and Mali fall under the same lot (Sahel). The organisation can however submit one proposal covering both countries, if a regional project is relevant. See also 8.5 and 8.6 below for more details..

8.5 Q: Are multi-country applications for one lot possible for one organisation?

A: Yes. One application can cover several countries of the same lot but see 8.6 for more details.

8.6 Q: Are regional projects authorised?

A: Yes, as per the CFP (Additional requirements, p.7): "Where relevant, proposals for projects to be implemented in two neighboring countries to address a refugee or returnees situation are encouraged. These could include, among others, area-based approaches close to borders and cross-border movements, supporting regional platforms etc." It is important to understand that the evaluation committee will be looking for coherence in the project proposal. A project proposal covering two countries with separate proposed interventions, will not meet the expectations for a regional project. The Evaluation Committee will consider that such a proposal is actually hiding two different projects in order to go around the 1 project proposal per lot rule.

8.7 Q: Is there a strong preference for multi-country projects; tackling different phases of the displacements?

A: The LiD Grant Facility is interested in multi-country projects, where relevant - see question and answer above. However, the multi-country projects will be evaluated along with national projects, not separately.

8.8 Q: Can an entity apply under the same lot, once as partner and once as sub-partner.

A: Technically yes, the only limitation is that an entity/organisation shall only apply once per lot as a partner, as a way to limit the number of applications. However, if your organization submits a similar project once as partner and once as sub-partner or member of a consortium, it is unlikely to be evaluated well. It should also be acknowledged that the funds under the call are limited and the LiD Grant Facility is looking for diversity of projects and actors.

8.9 Q: Is it possible that a sub-partner is involved in several projects?

A: Yes. We are aware that in some countries local implementing partners are few and a lot of organisations rely on the same entities to conduct projects.

9. Partnership:

9.1 Q: Who can be partners?

A: As per the CFP (p.2 Who can apply): UN, International Organisations, Non governmental organisations (international, national), Civil Society Organisations (including but not limited to, Refugee- / IDP- / other affected population- led organizations), National Authorities, Local authorities (including but not limited to regions, states, cities, villages), Academia and research institutes (national and international), Foundations, Private Sector

9.2 Q: How many partners in the partnership? Can there be more than two partners?

A: There must be a minimum of two partners and at least one MUST be a national/local entity. You may have more than two partners.

9.3 Q: What do you mean by “same level of responsibility”?

A: Very often with international funding, local entities have a status of sub grantee or member of a consortium but not as lead. Through the LiD projects, there is an effort to reinforce the role of the local/national partners by ensuring that they have a direct relationship with the LiD Facility Manager of equal relevance to their partners.

9.4 Q: If the project is implemented across several countries, is it necessary to have one local partner in each country?

A: The eligibility criteria is that the partnership must be made of minimum two partners, with a least of being a national/local entity. This rule applies regardless of the number of countries of implementation. Therefore, if you have a multi-country project, you can have a partnership with one local/national entity per country (maybe it would make sense) but you will not be ineligible if you have only one.

9.5 Q: Is it possible to have sub-partners?

A: Yes, sub-partners are allowed.

9.6 Q: Is it possible to have a consortium?

A: Yes, you can organise your project the way you want as long as there is at least two contracting partners, of which at least one is a national/local entity.

9.7 Q: Can an international organisation partner with a local organisation?

A: Yes, at least one partner MUST be a national/local entity

9.8 Q: How will partnerships legally function?

A: There will be 2 levels of agreements:

- Level 1: Overarching Partnership Agreement between both partners and UNOPS. The template is available as Annex C of the CFP. This partnership agreement will have an annex: the joint application partner form (appendix 1 of the project proposal) detailing how the two partners will work together.

- Level 2: UNOPS will sign with each partner individually a Grant Support Agreement; each partner will have a specific budget. The template agreement for NGOs and local authority is Annex B of the CFP (For UN and government entities, ask for the template at livesindignity@unops.org)

9.9 Q: How shall the implementation of the project be managed by the partners?

A: The partners need to provide information on the management of the partnership in the appendix 1 of their project proposal. UNOPS LiD does not impose anything specific, however the Evaluation Committee will consider the proposed partnership arrangement, including the roles and responsibilities and the complementarity of capacities, and will need to be convinced that it will function well.

9.10 Q: If the INGO that applies for the CfP is part of a confederation with several legal entities, and one applies as a Lead Applicant along with a Country Office of the same INGO as the intended local actor, is this sufficient to meet the partnership requirement?

A: Maybe, it depends on the legal status of the entities. If the local branch is an independent entity, with its own management, strategy and budget, and is independent from the international secretariat, this would be allowed. Otherwise, country offices of INGOs falling under the same management, strategy and/or budgets, will not be considered to meet the partnership eligibility requirement. See also 9.9 and 9.11 for more details.

9.11 Q: Would a partnership of two national red cross entities (from two neighbouring countries) be accepted?

A: If each entity has its own independent legal status, yes. See also 8.11 and 8.12 for more details.

9.12 Q: What is the difference between a country office and a local branch?

A: UNOPS LiD makes the following difference:

- A country office is a local representation of an international organisation. It is not independent from the headquarters. The management of the country office is hired by the Headquarters and implements a global strategy. The budget of the country office is controlled/verified by the Headquarters.
- A local branch of an organisation is a legally independent entity from the International Secretariat of the organisation. It adheres to the same ideas but has an independent management, strategy and budget. The management of the local branch is not hired directly by the international secretariat.

9.13 Q: If a Country Office of an INGO applies with a local partner, will the fund be channeled through the International Office of the INGO or through the Country Office of the INGO?

A: It depends on the legal status of your country office, it varies from organization to the other.

9.14 Q: Is it essential for both partners to be registered in the country of intervention?

A: Yes. UNOPS cannot provide grants/funds to an organization without being certain that they are allowed to work in the country of intervention. There could be two exception:

- The registration is pending (but already started) or being renewed
- One of the partners only intervenes remotely and does not require presence in the country of intervention.

In both cases, provide a clear explanation and available supporting documentation with your submission.

9.15 Q: If the project is implemented in several countries, is it necessary to have registration in each country?

A: It is necessary to have a registration in each country where your entity will work. If you are partnering for a multi-country project but your entity will only work in one of those country, you will be expected to provide the registration documents for the country where you will be working.

9.15 Q: Do the local entities (such as CSO) have to have registration documents as well?

A: In principle yes. Contracting partners to the project should have some level of legal recognition as it will receive funds. UNOPS will not be able to fund entities without being certain that they are authorised to work in the country and are not black listed by the authorities. In case there are relevant partners who are justifiably not able to register in the country, it is recommended to include them as sub-grantees.

10. Seed funding and Sustainability:

10.1 Q: As an explanation for the seed funding and sustainability considerations, is it sufficient to say that people supported by the intervention will then be able to maintain their living conditions through their own business?

A: Absolutely. What we don't want is that the project or progress stop when LiD funding stops. As such, projects are expected to either: i) achieve their goals during the life of the LiD funds, ii) continue the activities with other funds (identified) or iii) continue through a self or existing funding mechanism.

11. Selection Process:

11.1 Q: Can one organisation be successful with applications to two different lots in two different partnerships?

A: Yes it is possible, as the lots will be evaluated independently from each other and organisations are eligible to submit one application per lot.

11.2 Q: Will UNOPS be evaluating the projects?

A: Yes. The projects will be evaluated by an Evaluation comprised of UNOPS as well as external technical experts, of which at least one person with experience and expertise in the region. The Evaluation Committee will also draw on the support of thematic technical experts, as needed.

12. Themes:

12.1 Q: Is nutrition part of theme 1 Economic livelihood and development?

A: Yes.

12.2 Q: Do projects have to cover two thematic areas minimum?

A: Yes.

12.3 Q: Is the list under Integrated service (WASH, Education, energy and health) exhaustive?

A: Yes.

12.4 Q: If our project plans to have activities as WASH and Education, is it considered to be two themes?

A: No, both fall under the theme integrated services. As such, you will need to cover a second theme as well.

12.5 Q: I assume that for integrated service delivery it would be sufficient to cover one of the services, e.g. only health or only education, not all those that are listed?

A: Yes, you only need to cover one of those services.