

## **Strengthening governments' evidence-based responses to urban forced displacement issues (SUIDAC)**

**CFP Reference No. AFR/EU/11934-026/011**

**Submission Deadline: 10:00 Central European Time on 13 December 2024.**

**Questions received on 28 November 2024 posted on 29 November 2024.**

### **Question 1:**

We are a Canadian private firm interested in the call for proposals titled " Strengthening governments' evidence-based responses to urban forced displacement issues (SUIDAC)". We acknowledge that the applicant eligibility is strictly limited to non profit entities. However, we have opportunities to partner with non profit local entities from the target beneficiaries' countries to submit a proposal for this call. Is this collaboration in line with the eligibility criteria and the conditions of the call for proposals? If so, could we be the lead applicants in this call for proposals ?

### **Answer 1:**

The CfP is open for Applicants from the following categories (non profit entities): government, local, national, international and non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, refugee-based organizations, research institutions and knowledge centers, United Nations agencies, and/or international development organizations with a strong track record in urban development, migration, and/or integration to secondary cities in low-income countries. Thus, the lead applicant must fall under the above categories.

**Questions received on 01 December 2024 posted on 03 December 2024.**

### **Question 2:**

The CfP requests support for the M&E of the programme through the construction of an evidence and criteria-based index for the measurement of two performance indicators (OO3 and OO4) at baseline and endline. However, the logframe in the same document provides a baseline value for the year 2024 of 'between 1 to 2 on a 5 point scale', indicating that the programme already has a baseline. In addition, the criteria are already provided – the 1-5 point scale. We would be grateful if Cities Alliance could clarify the requirement?

### **Answer 2:**

These indicators both have a scale rating and have been rated at between 1 and 2, with a target of 4. However, this was not assessed by Cities Alliance, and we are seeking a verification of this baseline measurement, alongside a list of documented evidence for the criteria-based rating. As suggested, this should not entail primary data collection, but the use of information and data gathered during the feasibility phase, or other existing sources, to provide evidence for the assessed baseline and endline rating scores.

**Question 3:**

As currently worded, it is hard to distinguish between what will be measured under OO3 and OO4. Please could Cities Alliance provide greater explanation, as they both seem to refer to the measurement of improvements for populations living in areas targeted by the action, on the aforementioned scale?

**Answer 3:**

OO3 is focused primarily on the role of the promotion of integration in the situation.

OO4 focuses on the actual situation.

The data sources for each indicator would therefore be slightly different, with OO3 examining the existence of integration strategies, plans and their implementation, (alongside the actual situation); and OO4 utilising sources on the current situation - such as the reported well-being, livelihood opportunities, access to documentation and protection, access to finance etc.

**Question 4:**

We would like to highlight that, based on our current experience, the creation of a measurement framework that is comparable across countries would involve at least a year of intensive work to design, test and validate and would likely absorb the bulk of the available budget for the entire research component. Given the mobility of displaced people in general, and the dynamic nature of the political situation in a number of the SUIDAC countries, there is a significant risk that a comparable sample of the population would not be found at the endline. As such, if there is no current baseline, we would also like to ask if Cities Alliance would consider a simplified baseline exercise based on existing data sources, including data collected by TIPs during the feasibility phase of the project?

**Answer 4:**

A simplified baseline exercise is what we expect for these two indicators, using existing sources of information, either collected during the feasibility phase or already existing/available. The intention is to ensure some consistency in the application of the rating criteria, alongside documenting the sources of information for the rating.

**Question 5:**

The CfP suggests that the research partner will be held accountable against Specific Objective 2.3 'Number of new or revised national strategies favouring a regionally coordinated response to urban forced displacement adopted'. While we understand that the research partner will be involved in advocacy work at national and regional levels, most of the direct engagements through research will be at the city-level, and are therefore more closely aligned with Specific Objective 2.2 on the number of local strategies facilitating local integration. Would Cities Alliance consider some flexibility in this regard?

**Answer 5:**

We expect to have more results under SO 2.2. as the Action is locally based, however, we need to monitor updates and influence of SUIDAC Action at the national level as well. This can be considered when setting the target.

**Question 6:**

There is a discrepancy in the number of peer-learning events. The main text on page 9 states that there are five, but the footnote refers to six.

**Answer 6:**

Thank you very much for flagging this. The mention of six events was an oversight. There will be a total of six peer-learning events as part of SUIDAC. The first event is scheduled to take place in Jigjiga at the end of January 2025. Given the uncertainty surrounding the date of the agreement's signature, it is still unclear if the research partner will be able to complete the necessary administrative requirements in time to participate in the Jigjiga event. While their presence would be a valuable addition to the project, we decided to adjust the total number to five events in case this is not feasible.

**Question 7:**

Information on page 10 of the CfP states that the overall amount of funding available from Cities Alliance is US\$500,000, and that an additional 20% of co-financing is required from the applicant. This means that the overall budget will be a minimum of US\$600,000. However, on page 11, section 1.10, the CfP states that the proposed budget must not exceed US\$500,000. We would be grateful if Cities Alliance could clarify if the overall budget, including co-financing, can exceed US\$500,000?

**Answer 7:**

The amount of funding requested from the Cities Alliance side is a maximum of USD 500,000. However, this amount will increase and exceed USD 500,000 with the inclusion of co-financing.

**Questions received on 04 December 2024 posted on 05 December 2024.****Question 8:**

The CFP documents highlights close and essential collaboration with Cities Alliance, the municipal authorities in targeted towns, and technical implementing partners throughout the Action. Are these partnerships, especially with partners on the ground, already established? If so, can partners on the ground facilitate connections to other relevant local/national stakeholders as needed? Or is the applicant for this CFP expected to provide both research and advocacy, based on their expertise in urban forced displacement, as well as partnerships in the target cities (or building those)?

**Answer 8:**

Yes, these partners are well-established and actively present on the ground. They are equipped to assist in building connections with relevant stakeholders as needed.

**Question 9:**

Activities highlight a.o. the peer learning events in each of the target cities under this Action. Is the applicant expected to cover only for their own staff and travel costs involved in participating in these events? Or are they also expected to include event organization/logistics-related costs (venue, catering, translation, in-country transport, etc.)?

**Answer 9:**

Cities Alliance will manage all organizational and logistical costs for the events. Applicants are only required to cover the travel and accommodation expenses for their staff participating in these events.

**Questions received on 05 December 2024 posted on 07 December 2024.****Question 10:**

The revised guideline on eligible expenditures appears to disallow any overheads to be included in the budget. Does this include: Overheads on staff costs, VAT on consultant fees, overheads on partners' staff costs, and bank charges? It is not clear how we would be expected to cover these costs, especially given that the co-financing portion of the budget has a cap on overheads of 10%. Please let us know if we have understood this correctly.

**Answer 10:**

No indirect costs, notwithstanding the nature of such indirect costs, can be covered by the grant in accordance with the revised Guidelines on Eligible Expenditures for Grants funded by the European Union. Indirect costs can however be covered by the co-financing. This is not limited to 10% of the co-financing but 10% of the grants value as stated in the guideline (for example: If the co-financing is 20%

of the grants value, up to 50% of said co-financing can be indirect costs such as administration and supervision costs).

**Question 11:**

After reading the guidelines provided, we would like to ask the following clarification: is it possible for an entity to submit more than one project proposal under this call ?

**Answer 11:**

There are no restrictions on the number of submissions from a single applicant. Therefore, applicants are permitted to submit multiple proposals that meet the criteria and requirements outlined in the CFP.

**Questions received on 09 December 2024 posted on 11 December 2024.**

**Question 12:**

We are currently working on to apply for this call as we have rich experience in research and training in migration related issues. Therefore, our question is, after creating an account, how can we express interest?

**Answer 12:**

The "Express Interest" button is specifically intended for procurement-related opportunities. For proposal submissions related to the Call for Proposals titled "Strengthening Governments' Evidence-Based Responses to Urban Forced Displacement Issues," potential applicants will need to follow the designated submission process:

Potential applicants to submit your proposal **via email only to the Cities Alliance Secretariat at [ca-proposal@citiesalliance.org](mailto:ca-proposal@citiesalliance.org)**. Ensure that the subject line includes: "SUIDAC CfP – Research."

**Question 13:**

I have Logged into my account in The United Nations Global Market Place and have been directed to your contact for further guidance. I look forward to your guidance to support us make the application for this grant opportunity through the United Nations Global Market Place Platform.

**Answer 13:**

Potential applicants to submit proposals using the following method:

**Submit proposal via e-mail only to the Cities Alliance Secretariat at [ca-proposal@citiesalliance.org](mailto:ca-proposal@citiesalliance.org)** with the subject line including "SUIDAC CfP \_ Research".