United Nations Development Programme

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Enhanced role of non-state actors in promoting the right to information in the Pacific

‘Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries’ project

(“Pacific Anti-Corruption Project”)

Background

The project ‘Strengthening anticorruption, transparency, accountability in Pacific Island Countries (“Pacific Anti-Corruption Project”) aims to support institutions, systems, and mechanisms to function more efficiently and effectively to ensure that Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are able to better prevent and tackle corruption and improve implementation of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs, with focus on SDG 16 targets. To achieve these goals, one of the key areas of focus (output 2 of the project) is improved citizens’ access to information and strengthened oversight by non-state actors. The activities focus on prototyping innovative digital solutions to facilitate proactive disclosure of government information complemented by engagement by non-state actors on advocacy and awareness about the values of open data and public information for development purposes. The project is funded by the Government of United Kingdom.

By launching this small grant scheme, UNDP aims at providing opportunities to expand its engagement with civil society in the region above to build their capacities and to raise the awareness of the values of improved access to information for achieving development outcomes, including in relation to the anti-corruption.

The Small Grant Scheme will take on the following process:

1. Submission of proposals using the attached template
2. Selection of CSOs with feasible ideas for implementation
3. Test-Refine: Over the roll out grant period, selected CSOs working with UNDP anti-corruption team will go through a co-design process to further build on the ideas articulated in their proposals
4. Implementation of project activities
5. Results documentation and learning

Areas of intervention

Under the output 2, activities 2.1-2.5 of ‘Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries’ project, civil society organizations are invited to submit proposals that would contribute to enhanced advocacy, awareness and development of practical tools for improved right to
information in the Pacific. The proposals should be containing creative and innovative ideas for implementation of at least one of the activities mentioned below:

- Design and implementation of an awareness and capacity-building workshops about the values of open data and public information for seeking public accountability.

- Development and prototyping of innovative digital solutions to facilitate the regular and proactive disclosure of government information.

- Development and prototyping of scenarios/models of a citizen-friendly platforms for access to information based on consultations with citizens and experts and the comparative analysis of good international practices. The access to information prototype/model will aim to demonstrate the ‘how’ with focus on at least one critical service delivery area (e.g. health, social sector etc).

- Design and implementation of an awareness and capacity-building campaign among small and medium-sized enterprises, specifically women and youth owned to realise the benefits and proactively seek access to information and open data for preventing corruption, unleashing the potentials of business, business innovation and income generation purposes.

- Undertake mapping of specific information needs of women-owned enterprises and proposing solutions for improved access to information for women-owned businesses.

Applying organizations are expected to devise proposals related to existing work and/or on-going interest and use the funds to develop additional advocacy and/or tools under the relevant topics and areas of focus.

Proposals should demonstrate the grant results, including the proposed digital tools, have potential to remain sustainable beyond the lifetime of the project.

Sub-regional and regional strategic partnerships and cooperation including with regional organizations and networks in the identification, design and delivery of projects is strongly encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate that the proposed activities will unleash inter-sectoral and cross-sectoral partnerships and coalitions around improved access to information and that diverse groups will benefit from the project results.

Who can apply:

- Registered Non-profit Organisations (NGOs) and registered Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), such as media organisations, youth organisations from the Pacific region that are either doing work in the Governance/Accountability/Transparency/Integrity space or are interested in integrating this into their existing development/community programmes

- Registered Non-profit Organisations (NGOs) and registered Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), such as Chambers of Commerce and organizations representing other interest groups who would like to promote the right to information among the business sector, especially among women-owned businesses and young entrepreneurs.

- Registered Non-profit Organisations (NGOs) and registered Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), such as Youth networks, community-based organisations are welcome to apply provided they partner with an existing registered non-profit organization. As part of the submission, a letter to confirm support/partnership should also be included.

- While the lead applicant should be clearly identified, establishment of cross-sectoral partnerships in implementation of the activities is strongly encouraged

Procedures of grant proposal submission

Those wishing to apply to this Small Grants Scheme, must submit:
1. Signed Small Grants Submission Form (See Annex A).
2. CVs of lead implementing staff.
3. Results and Resources Framework (See Annex B).

IMPORTANT: Please send concept note electronically in one file (pdf format) signed and scanned to the following email: maria.lee@undp.org. Answers to questions will be provided within two working days.

Deadline for applications is 24 September 2021, 17:00 hrs. Fiji Time (for implementation to start on 10 October 2021). All activities must be completed by 10 March 2022 latest.

Maximum amount allocated for the grant is US$20,000 for national proposals and US$40,000 for proposals covering at least 2 or more Pacific countries. Pacific-wide outreach and/or partnerships are strongly encouraged. Maximum available funds for this grants scheme is US$120,000.

Eligible countries to apply and/or be covered by the project through sub-regional and regional activities include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau.

Proposals with the project staff salary costs exceeding 20% of the total budget will be disqualified without further consideration. Organisations are strongly encouraged to use this funding to complement existing activities aligned to the objectives of this anti-corruption project.

Eligible costs include honorarium/salary, workshops and trainings, rental, stationery and office equipment, printing and translation, creation of digital tools and resources, and other costs directly related to this assignment.

Expenditures such as the infrastructure improvement, equipment, maintenance, utilities, overhead and similar costs are ineligible for this grant proposal.

**Project implementation timeframe**

Implementation period for approved projects shall not exceed 5 (5) months, counted from the date of the contract signature to the date when all relevant activities have been successfully completed and with no possibility to extend beyond 15 March 2022.

**Selection process**

UNDP will review the proposals through a five-step process: (i) determination of eligibility; (ii) technical review of eligible proposals (iii) scoring and ranking of the eligible proposals based on the assessment criteria outlined in table 1 below, proposals awarded more than 70 points will be selected for the next stage of the process; (iv) round of clarification and renegotiations with selected proposals (if necessary, to adjust funding and workplan); and (v) signature of grant agreement.

Decisions on awarding grants are made by a Grant Selection Board (GSB).

All GSB decisions on funding projects will be taken no later than three weeks after the closing date for applications. UNDP will inform successful applicants in writing no later than two weeks after the date of the GSB decision.

Note: Where possible, UNDP will try to allocate resources fairly between the applicants based on proposal ranking. If the total cost of awards for successful applications exceeds the overall budgeted amount, GSB will award grants according to the total score for each application, starting with the highest scored application, until the available budget has been fully committed. However, if there will still be a number of eligible applications for which grants cannot be awarded due to the insufficient funds available, these non-funded applications will, upon the consent of the GSB, be placed on a reserve list, in descending order of their scores. In the cases where applications...
awarded grants have subsequently been withdrawn or found non-compliant, applications will be replaced from the reserve list in order of their respective scores for funding.

Applications will be disqualified and will not be further considered, if they:

- Do not comply with priorities or instructions provided in this announcement.
- Are not consistent with the relevant policy documents of UNDP and the project.
- Contradict to principles of non-discrimination and gender equality.

Selection Criteria and Scoring

Proposed projects will be selected based on the criteria outlined in the table 1 below.

**Table 1. Selection Criteria and Scoring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The project clearly demonstrates how it will support the goals and activities</td>
<td>Max. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>specified in the Small Grant Scheme</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The project budget is relevant</td>
<td>Max. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The project is coherent and technically feasible</td>
<td>Max. 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The project is sustainable</td>
<td>Max. 10</td>
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<td>5. The project enhances gender equality and encourages inclusion of marginalized</td>
<td>Max. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and vulnerable groups</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The project has strong potential for success</td>
<td>Max. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100 Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grants will be awarded in accordance with the nature and relevance of the project. The payment schedule will be agreed before signing the contract.

**IMPORTANT:** You will be notified by email no later than three working days after we have successfully received your application. If you do not hear from us within this timeframe, please, contact us during the next two days and request a confirmation of receipt of email. Otherwise, UNDP will not be responsible for any potential problems in terms of considering the application.

**Relevant documents:** ([download link](#))

Annex A. Small Grants submission form ‘Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries’ project

Annex B. Results and Resources Framework