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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOV / UNODC
Call for Proposals
Guidelines for applicants

Name of the partner project: Full Support to Drug Treatment Centers (DTCs) in Afghanistan

Deadline for receipt of Concept Notes: 7 June 2023, 23:59 (Afghanistan Time, UTC+4:30)

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NOTE: This Call for Proposals forms the basis for applying for UNOV/UNODC funding. It must neither be construed as a partner agreement, nor be regarded as a confirmation of funds awarded by UNOV/UNODC to any entity. Consequently, UNOV/UNODC is not liable for any financial obligations, or otherwise, incurred by any entity in responding to this call for proposals. Such costs will not be considered as part of the budget in the event that funding is awarded to an applicant.

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1 PARTNER PROJECT

1.1 Background

Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium with poppy cultivation posing a significant threat both domestically and abroad. Afghanistan accounted for some 85 per cent of global opium production, supplying some 80% of all opiate users in the world.

The country is facing a significant drug use problem as one in three households have been affected by drug use. The 2015 Afghanistan National Drug Use Survey (ANDUS)[1] indicated that 11% of the country population (2.9 to 3.5 million people) were tested positive for narcotic drugs. Furthermore, around 690,000 - 850,000 females used drugs in Afghanistan, while 1 to 1.2 million children were tested positive for narcotic drugs, predominantly opium/opioid.

While the use of drugs such as cannabis and opiates are well established in Afghanistan, the past decade has seen an expansion of use of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine, especially in the youth population. The non-medical use of pharmaceutical opioids and tranquilizers is also commonly reported among the adult population. Approximately 10% of new HIV infections worldwide are attributed to injecting drug use, often of an opiate such as heroin.

After August 2021, most existing programmes experienced significant disruptions with international financial support halting, threatening their very existence. The availability of evidence-based drug prevention and treatment programmes is limited in the country. Services are poorly integrated into the health system including the alignment with mental health care activities. Community-based treatment, which is shown to be one of the most efficient and effective, is not developed enough. The recovery model and support, including tailored educational support, vocational training, and employment support, and temporary livelihood provision for people in recovery, is almost non-existent and most of the patients are discharged without any follow-up after these residential treatments.

To address drug use and its related disorders by increasing Afghans' access to integrated, qualitative, and comprehensive drug use disorder services, UNODC in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) implements an EU funded project on "*Increasing access of vulnerable populations in Afghanistan to qualitative and comprehensive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and drug use disorder services*". Within the framework of this project and under this Call for Proposals (CfP), the UNODC invites eligible not-for-profit civil society organizations to apply for a partnership with UNODC to implement the activities that promote evidence-based and voluntary drug treatment services with an approach focusing on health care integration, community-based intervention and comprehensive continuum of care.

UNODC seeks to partner with an organization that has the following experience:

- Demonstrated prior experience of at least three years implementing activities in the area of Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) particularly drug treatment and rehabilitation services;
- Demonstrated working experience with major multilateral/ or bilateral donors and programmes;
- Presence or past relevant working experience in any of the targeted provinces (Herat, Nangahar, Jawzjan, Badghis)
- Working experience with Key Population (people who use drugs);

[1] Afghanistan National Drug Use Survey (2015), https://colombo-plan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Afghanistan-National-Drug-Use-Survey-2015-compressed.pdf

1.2 Objectives and scope of work

This Call for Proposals takes into consideration the importance of harnessing all available resources towards the implementation of activities aimed at meeting the objectives of this partner programme.

The main objective of this project is to improve health, wellbeing and reduce morbidity and mortality among people who use drugs by increasing access to integrated, qualitative and comprehensive drug treatment and rehabilitation services in Afghanistan.

Specific objectives are:

- To provide evidence based and human rights-oriented drug treatment and rehabilitation services based on national drug treatment guideline/protocol, WHO/UNODC Standards[2], regional and global recommendations.
- To improve access to quality evidence-based treatment, rehabilitation, follow up recovery and integration services, including timely referral services.
- To provide a holistic community-based prevention and follow-up care system supporting individuals, families, and communities on drug abuses- education, drug abuse prevention and MHPSS issues, also reducing stigma and discrimination.

This project includes 2 levels of interventions:

A. Full operational support to pilot Drug Treatment Centre (DTC) (including outreach team)
B. Support to DTC

A detailed scope of work is attached in **Annex 1**.

1.3 Location

Activities will be implemented in 4 provinces across the country: Herat, Nangahar, Jawzjan, and Badghis).

Different types of activities will be implemented depending on the location as per the follow table:

Activities	Locations
Full operational support to pilot DTC	Herat (150 beds DTC)
Operational support to DTC	Badghis (20 beds women and child DTC) Jawzjan (20 beds women and child DTC)
Establishment of 6 mobile outreach teams	Herat (x3) Nangahar (x3)

1.4 Duration

All activities must be implemented within the period in the agreement (up to 12 months).

1.5 Fundamental principles

[2] https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/UNODC-WHO_International_Standards_Treatment_Drug_Use_Disorders_April_2020.pdf

Applicants are expected to consider the following fundamental principles in designing their project proposals:

- An approach that values diversity among men and women;
- Implementation of the project based on international standards and UNODC/WHO International Standards on treatment of drug use disorders[3]
- Partnership/collaboration/cooperation with other stakeholders
- Sustainability of project activities

1.6 Budget

The budget to implement the project is **USD 701,818** split as follows:

- *Output 1: Strengthened capacities of pilot Drug Addiction Treatment Centers (DATCs) for an improved and inclusive package of drug abuse rehabilitation services*
  > Fully operational support to one pilot DTC (150 beds DTC in Herat province) = USD 289,656.

- *Output 2: Strengthened capacities of priority Drug Addiction Treatment Centers (DATCs) for an improved and inclusive package of drug abuse rehabilitation services*
  > Support to two DTCs (Badghis 20 beds DTC and Jawzjan 20 beds women and child DTC) including human resource cost and running cost = USD 115,914.

- *Output 3: Enhanced follow-up and resilience amongst target communities to prevent and mitigate drug use disorder*
  > Establish six outreach mobile teams for two DTCs (Three outreach teams in Herat and three outreach teams in Nangarhar) = USD 296,248

In addition, partners can apply for indirect costs (Project Support Cost – PSC) which cannot exceed 6% of the total direct costs indicated above.

The following costs **will not be considered as eligible** under this project:

- credit or loan schemes;
- debts and provisions for losses or debts;
- interest owed;
- cash donations;
- items already financed in another framework, i.e. existing capacity should not be included in the budget;
- currency exchange losses;
- credit to third parties

2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1 Eligibility of applicants

In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- be non-profit making organization (CSOs including NGOs, CBOs) registered under the relevant Laws of Afghanistan and/or with a legal permit to operate in the country;
- have an annual income/budget from the most recent completed fiscal year (2021 or 2022) which is not exceeding the project budget;

[3] https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/UNODC-WHO_International_Standards_Treatment_Drug_Use_Disorders_April_2020.pdf

- have a bank account capable of receiving international deposit;
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project, i.e. not acting as an intermediary

Applicants must conduct a self-assessment using the checklist provided (Annex 3- Self-assessment of eligibility) and sign off that **all criteria are met,** and that the applicant is able to provide proof, if selected to continue to the next phase of the process.

3 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

This Call for Proposals will take a phased 2 step approach:

Interested applicants are to first submit a **concept note** which will be reviewed by an Evaluation Panel composed of representatives from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by UNOV/UNODC with an invitation to submit a **full project proposal** and to register at the UN Partner Portal.

Additional instructions including the necessary application forms and annexes will be provided only to shortlisted applicants.

The application forms and annexes for each phase must be submitted using the file format (i.e. Word, Excel) and respective given templates, without altering them. For documents requiring signatures from the organization's representative, a scanned copy of the document including the hand signature, or an electronically signed PDF must be submitted.

Concept note applications must be submitted by email to unodc-afghanistanproposal@un.org, marked *"CfP_DTC_organizationname_2023MMDD"*[4] in the subject line. Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by mail) or delivered to other addresses will not be considered under this Call for Proposals. All the documents including the annexes must be submitted in **English**.

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is **7 June 2023, 23:59 (Afghanistan Time, UTC+4:30)** as evidenced by the date of receipt of submission email. Any application submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected. The deadline for the submission of full project proposals will be communicated separately to short-listed applicants.

Only one application per applicant will be accepted. Multiple applications from the same applicant will result in automatic disqualification. The application must cover the entire scope of the project.

Due care must be taken to complete the application forms. Incomplete applications will be rejected, and any error or major discrepancy within the application forms and annexes may lead to rejection of the application. Please note that only the application forms and the completed annexes will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL relevant information concerning the project.

Documents will be checked for truthfulness and accuracy of representation through various means, including but not limited to internet searches, formally official confirmation from responsible offices, letters of recommendation, etc.

[4] Include the name of your organization and the submission date in the format YYYYMMDD (Y= Year, M = Month, D= Day)

3.1 Concept Note

A **concept note** must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the concept note application form (Annex 2). The concept note aims to give a compact overview of the proposed project and its rationale, including its context, aims, key activities.

The following documents must be submitted:

- Concept note application form (template provided, Annex 2)
- Self-assessment of eligibility (template provided, Annex 3)

4 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

4.1 Phase 1 - Technical assessment of concept notes

The quality of the concept notes will be assessed in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in the evaluation grid below.

Each subsection will be given a score in accordance with the following guidelines:
0 = information not provided/ does not meet any of the criteria, 1 = poorly meets the criteria; 2 = adequately meets the criteria; 3 = entirely meets the criteria.

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE	**20**
Geographical scope - presence in the province or past relevant working experience	5
Technical knowledge and experience in Drug treatment and rehabilitation services	5
Working experience with Key Population (drug users)	5
Working experience with major multilateral/ or bilateral donors and programmes	5
QUALITY OF THE CONCEPT NOTE	**30**
The concept note demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of evidence-based treatment, care and rehabilitation services for people who use drugs	10
The concept note demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of proposed activities and expected outcomes and the role of the organization in achieving the project goal	10
Risk assessment and mitigation measures are relevant and feasible	10
Maximum total score	**50**

Following the evaluation of eligible concept notes, the applications are ranked according to their scores and a shortlist is defined by the evaluation team.

Only shortlisted applications will then be contacted by UNODC with the invitation for the submission of a full project proposal including a detailed budget.

4.2 Phase 2: Technical assessment of full project proposals

If the applicant has successfully submitted a concept note and been selected to participate in the next round of the application process, they will receive an email from UNODC with additional templates and information that must be provided to be considered in the final round. This includes registration and completion of an up-to-date profile at the UN Partner Portal.

During initial project planning and when preparing the concept note, it may help to know that shortlisted applicants will be asked to provide detailed information in the following areas (if selected to participate in Phase 2):

- A clear understanding of and application of effective, evidence-based substance use treatment and care services in line with the UNODC/WHO International Standards on treatment of drug use disorders;
- A clear understanding of challenges faced in existing substance use treatment and care services and proposition of innovative strategies ensuring efficiency and improvement of services
- A clear understanding of the direct beneficiaries and the indirect beneficiaries;
- A clear and structured monitoring and evaluation plan;
- A detailed budget, including an explanation and justification of the budget items;

5 APPROVAL AND AWARD

The provisionally selected applicants will be subject to the full administrative capacity assessment and review by the UNODC Committee on Grants and External Engagements (COGEE), based on which the approval will be granted.

Only successful applicants will be informed in writing of UNODC's decision concerning their application.

6 INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

	Date
Deadline for submission of concept notes (1st stage)	7/06/2023
Information to applicants about the outcome of the evaluation of the concept notes	14/06/2023
Invitations to submit full project proposals (2nd stage)	14/06/2023
Estimated deadline for the submission of full project proposals	28/06/2023
Estimated start date /project implementation	01/09/2023

Please note that these are estimated dates and are subject to change.

7 SUPPORT FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

Potential applicants are invited to submit any **requests for clarification in writing,** by email to unodc-afghanistanproposal@un.org by **31 May 2023**. UNOV/UNODC will prepare written responses to clarification requests and will publish these for the information of all potential applicants at https://www.unodc.org/afghanistan by **4 June 2023.** The sources of requests will not be included.