

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST [TO BE ISSUED BY UNHCR]

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No.	
Project title and Identification:	Project Location:
Protection of Refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs hosted in reception centres and informal settlements.	Italy
Brief Background of the Project:	
<p>Between 1 January and 31 August 2020, 19,342 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea. This represents an increase compared to the same period last year, when 5,135 sea arrivals were recorded at landing points in southern Italy. However, sea arrivals numbers in 2020 so far remain lower than in comparable periods in recent years (e.g. 20,078 sea arrivals in January-August 2018; 99,127 sea arrivals in January-August 2017).</p> <p>Main countries of departure remained Libya and Tunisia. Profiles continued to be in majority young men adult men (77%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (14%), adult women (6%) and accompanied children (4%). As sea arrivals decreased significantly, more asylum-seekers arrived by land (Balkan route), by air or in-land (longs-stayers).</p> <p>By the end of August 2020, the total number of PoCs hosted in reception system is 84.557: 59.900 asylum seekers; 23.409 beneficiaries of international protection and unaccompanied minors in the SIPROIMI and around 1300 in hotspots; while a significant number of PoCs were continuing to live in informal settlements.</p> <p>Despite the reduction of flows via Libya and other transit countries, Central Mediterranean debate continues to dominate the discussion at European and national level. Furthermore, the sea arrival trends may change, depending on any development of the fragile situation in Libya.</p> <p>In this uncertain context, political solutions remain elusive and uncertain, while social and protection environment continue to be difficult not only for asylum seekers but for existing refugee communities too.</p> <p>The PoC population, both new arrivals and refugees living in the country on a stable basis, is characterized by a staggering number of Persons with specific needs (including SGBV and torture survivors, people with physical or mental disabilities, UASC, etc..). UNHCR estimates that majority of women arriving to Italy through Libya, and high numbers of men and boys, have been subjected to SGBV; women and children, especially if engaged in onward movements, are victims of trafficking; many are also those affected by serious psychiatric disorders and persons living outside the formal reception system continue to be exposed to a high risk of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>The provisions included in the new Security and Immigration Decrees (Decree Law October 2018/113 and Decree Law 2019/53) seriously affect several fundamental rights of people seeking or already holder of international protection, including those more vulnerable such as persons with specific needs. Some positive corrections have been introduced by the latest Decree on immigration (October 2020) recently signed, although conversion is still pending and impact of new rules remains uncertain.</p>	

In the current operational context, protection and assistance to PWSN continues to be a challenge. The overall protection response is heavily marked by the lack of SOPs at national level for identification, referral, limited access to information and services, and administrative, structural and cultural barriers worsened by the main service providers limited knowledge.

Recent legislative changes reduced services in first-line reception facilities, implying serious gaps in support for persons with specific needs, especially for those affected by psychological and mental health.

New provisions implied an increased risk of detention too, including for PWSN, as no specific procedure to identify vulnerabilities (including health conditions) have been established.

In addition to existing gaps, lacks in providing effective assistance and support to PWSN have been also exacerbated by the recent COVID19 health emergency, which led local authorities and management entities to be more engaged in contingency and prevention issues than in protection of vulnerable people.

In this uncertain environment, UNHCR intends to play a catalytic role in voicing the main protection concerns in the domestic context.

For this purpose, UNHCR seeks to work closely with the Authorities and Operational Partners, so to maintain and improve an effective access to protection and asylum procedure also for people with specific needs., including equal and unhindered access to public services and local welfare. In particular, UNHCR intends to promote an integrated approach to PWSN in the national response system by strengthening links with key institutional counterparts, and national and local service providers, ensuring its dialogue at central level with a range of interlocutors as well as further engaging in advocacy for the promotion of ad hoc SOPs through inter-ministerial mechanisms.

Finally, UNHCR aims to promote Partnerships able to ensure increased access to information and services for PWSN, in a tailored approach and Age, Gender and Diversity perspective.

Partnerships should be able to set up existing or new practices, to implement capacity building and outreach activities, to provide psychosocial and social support, and to perform every initiative able to guarantee protection to refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs, in Italy, living both in reception centres and informal settlements.

Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities:

Goals and expected outcome:

Main Objective

The overall aim of the project is to strengthen services for Persons with specific needs in Italy. This goal is pursued through the implementation of good practises and initiatives able to guarantee social, legal, psychological and health support to PoCs in urban areas living in reception facilities, in independent housing and/or in informal settlements.

Specific objectives:

- Ensuring systematic **access to social, legal and health services** for refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs;

- Promoting effective **access to reliable information** of PWSN (CwC strategy);
- Increasing **capacity of reception centers operators** to early identify, support and refer PWSN to appropriate services;
- Developing a **sustainable model of intervention for identification, referral and long-term support of PWSN**;
- Strengthening **protection monitoring and analysis of the situation of PWSN**, together with UNHCR;
- Conducting **advocacy and awareness campaign** on protection of PWSN;
- Promoting a **wide participatory approach** of PWSN in the implementation of activities.

Expected outcome

- ✓ PoCs with specific needs, living in reception facilities or informal settlements, have been **fast and properly identified and received effective protection**;
- ✓ PoCs with specific needs, living in reception facilities or informal settlements, have been **well informed** about their rights, related services and access to opportunities of integration.
- ✓ SGBV survivors **received specialized and tailored support**, counseling and accompanying initiatives.
- ✓ A **model of intervention** allowing to identify, refer and support PWSN **tested, shared and promoted** at national and local level.
- ✓ **Capacity of people** working with targeted PoCs to address need of vulnerable people **increased**.
- ✓ **Awareness** of public opinion, institutions and hosting communities on main concerns, difficulties and needs of PoCs, especially with specific needs, **promoted and improved**.
- ✓ **Participation of PoCs** in the decisions and activities involved them improved and **ensured**.

Main activities:

1) Outreach

- Organizing and undertaking outreach activities both in formal and informal centers hosting PoCs to promote appropriate access to social, legal and health services;
- Mapping, assessing and monitoring new and old informal settlements;
- Collecting data, stories and other useful information for monitoring and analysis of PoCs needs and situations.

2) Social, legal, psychosocial and health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing social and legal support to targeted PoCs; - Providing health care and guidance to public health services, including psychological support; - Organizing social activities addressed to PoCs, with special attention to participatory and AGD approaches; - Drafting and printing of informative materials. 			
3) Trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing and implementing training sessions for people working with PoCs with specific needs to better address their needs and related services. 			
4) Supporting advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing network between institutions and associations involved in supporting activities for PWSN; - Collect evidence-based information; - Identify gaps and challenges related to PWSN services; - Propose practical solutions and methodologies for a better protection of PWSN. 			
5) Dissemination activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting innovative and interactive tools to support public information and awareness on PoCs with specific needs issues, in line with UNHCR strategic communication and key messages. 			
Intended Population of Concern:			
PoCs with specific needs			
Project Period [estimated start and end dates of project]:			
1 st January 2021 – 31 st December 2021			
Submission Deadline:	Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:		
06/11/2020	30/11/2020		
Request for Enquiries Deadline:	Date Replies to Enquiries are published:		
25/10/2020	30/10/2020		
Selection Criteria			
Choose relevant criteria	Criteria Description	Assigned (optional)	Weighting
	Project Goal and Envisaged Outcomes: The concept note submitted is coherent and replies well in how the proposed project will achieve its expected outcome, fully taking into consideration the call for proposals, and showing an understanding of the operational environment and risks.	25%	

	Sector expertise and local experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources are available and committed to the project. The organization has a solid experience in the field and is knowledgeable of the operational context and risks, and of its own capacity and strengths.	20%
	Project management: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable.	25%
	Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	5%
	Cost effectiveness: level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.	15%
	Experience working with UNHCR: global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	10%

Issuing UNHCR Office
Contact Address
Signature, Head of Office
Full name and title, Head of Office
Name of UNHCR Office

Date

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Chiara Cardoletti-Carroll, Representative
UNHCR Representation for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino
9/10/2020

