



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Invitation for Expression of Interest by Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

The purpose of the Invitation for Expression of Interest (IEI) is to encourage Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs)¹, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)² and similar organizations led by people falling under UNHCR's global mandate, such as asylum-seekers, refugees, including Temporary Protection holders [odidenec], or stateless persons to seek support in strengthening their capacity to respond to the needs of refugees and vulnerable host communities in Slovakia by establishing a small-scale partnership with UNHCR and implementing a Grant Agreement (GA). The Office will prioritize organizations supporting:

- community mobilization and engagement of refugee and host communities aiming at social cohesion and inclusion/integration.**
- activities aiming at giving active voice to refugees.**
- activities aiming at information support to refugees.**
- activities aiming at cooperation with municipalities to the benefit of refugees.**
- non-formal education and activities supporting children**
- strengthening youth networks or engaging with the local youth, for example, through sports or cultural activities.**
- marginalized groups and persons with specific protection needs (such as women and girls, GBV survivors, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, members of the Roma community, other minority groups)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: activities related to cash assistance, procurement and distribution of food and/or medicine and cross-border activities, will not be covered under this programme.

There has been tremendous solidarity and hospitality from community-based organizations and the people of Slovakia for refugees from Ukraine, who continue to provide protection and assistance. The escalation of the conflict in Ukraine has resulted in civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, forcing people to flee to Slovakia in search of safety, protection, and assistance. As of 7 March 2023, over 1 million refugees have entered Slovakia, with some 100,000 remaining in Slovakia. Stronger community-based protection is required to reinforce social cohesion and cultural diversity, integration, access to essential services and support for the most vulnerable groups, including children, including those who are not enrolled

¹ A Refugee-led Organization (RLO) is an organization that is either entirely established and led by refugees/asylum seekers or have more than 50% of refugees/asylum seekers in positions of leadership and decision making.

² A Community-based Organization (CBO) is a group of people who come together to accomplish a common goal (or a set of goals) that provides services at the community level. It is a non-profit, grass-root organization whose activities are based primarily on volunteer efforts.

in the national school system in Slovakia, the youth, older people, women with children who do not have access to child care support, persons with functional diversity (disabilities), persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics (including LGBTIQ+ persons), or minorities, particularly the Roma.

With the vast majority of refugees in Slovakia being women and children, addressing the protection of women and girls is of utmost concern. A significant proportion are women-headed households, single women, adolescent girls, older women, who are at heightened risk of GBV, including sexual violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and physical violence. However, access of refugee women and girls to existing support services, including psychosocial support, safe spaces and comprehensive social assistance, and legal support is limited. Urgent action is needed to address the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and facilitate access for refugee women and girls to support.

This invitation is part of a programme promoting (local) civil society organizations participation in the Refugee Response in Slovakia, in particular those that are led by affected populations (refugees, including Temporary Protection holders, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and host communities) contributing to assessing community strengths and needs, inclusive and accessible planning and programme implementation, and capacity development. UNHCR is committed to mainstream community-based protection approaches and principles across the Refugee Response in Slovakia building on existing strengths of local organizations and refugee initiatives promoting participation, inclusion, diversity and localization.

The UNHCR Grant Agreement is an opportunity to grant funding to support Refugee-led Organizations, Community-Based Organizations and similar organizations led by people in need of international protection in the role they are taking in the refugee response and contribute to their capacity development.

The small grant represents **maximum USD 4,000** per grant/project (equivalent approx. EUR 4,108 at the time of issuing this call). The basis of partnership will be a simplified grant agreement that entails a description of the activities envisaged during the grant period, a commitment to use funds solely for the purpose of activities as agreed and strengthening the capacity of the selected organization, as well as simplified financial and performance reporting requirements.

A Project Proposal (within a total amount of max. USD 4,000) can be submitted for one or more activities.

UNHCR reserves the right to accept a proposal in whole or in part. Conclusion of a Grant Agreement with UNHCR is subject to a selection process and availability of funds. The selection of a partner through this Invitation does not constitute an obligation for UNHCR to conclude a Grant Agreement with the selected partner.

Project Proposals should be submitted to svkbrgrantagr@unhcr.org.

The following organizations are eligible:

Option 1: An organization which is legally **registered** in the Slovak Republic where it intends to perform activities or an organization registered in another country and authorized to operate in the Slovak Republic, where it intends to perform activities.

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Option 2: An organization which is **not registered but has a legal status** under the laws of the Slovak Republic where it intends to perform activities that allows the organization to conclude contracts in its own name.

Option 3: An individual representing the organization has a legal status in the Slovak Republic (such as temporary protection or other protection status or residence) where the organization intends to perform activities.

Eligibility will be determined based on the review of the submissions of applicant organizations, including their respective governing documents and any other pertinent documentation demonstrating that they meet the eligibility criteria.

Project title and Identification	Project Location(s)
Strengthening the capacity of RLOs, CBOs and similar organizations of people falling under the UNHCR mandate	Slovakia
Project Period: Estimated start and end dates of project	
<p>2023 Programme Cycle</p> <p>This invitation for expression of interest covers activities to be implemented during 2023 Programme Cycle:</p> <p>Anytime during the period 01 April – 31 December 2023 with possibility of retention in 2024 subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funding.</p>	
Timeframe & deadlines (date open, date closed)	Date Results to be Communicated to Applicants:
<p>Date Open: 20 March 2023 Date Closed: 03 April 2023 Queries will be accepted via e-mail to svkbrgrantagr@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR will contact the selected applicant to initiate the partnership, as per the operational priorities, following a review of the applications and decision by the Office.</p> <p>All applicant organizations will receive a reply to their applications.</p>
Main selection Criteria	
<p>Qualification as a PoC-led Organization: At least one of the following should be applicable:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The organization founded by >50% persons falling under UNHCR mandate, such as asylum seekers, refugees or stateless persons³</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The organization has >50% persons under UNHCR mandate in leadership and decision-making positions</p>	

³ Persons of Concern includes refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.



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The organization has documented evidence of previous humanitarian or development advocacy, protection or assistance services for communities.

Applicant Organizations are required to file an application that sets out the name of the grantee and the members of the organization and include of copies of the organization's documents and bank account details (in case of informal organizations, include the identification documents of the individual representing the organization, and bank account details). Eligibility check list includes the following and applicants are encouraged to submit any evidence vis-à-vis meeting the selection criteria.

References / Experience working with UNHCR or its partners, and/or evidence of previously implemented initiatives

Organizational Sustainability: The length of time (e.g. years, months etc.) the organization existed

Governance structure: documented evidence of an internal governing structure and diverse representation in planning and decision-making (if available)

Operational Effectiveness: documented evidence of beneficiaries from its operations/projects and feedback from previous beneficiaries

Inclusion and Diversity: equitable access by all members of a community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or social group to information, resources and decision-making opportunities in the organization

Legal Status: Determination of the legal status of the organization and the appropriate contracting party: If the organization is neither registered in Slovakia where it intends to perform activities nor in any other way legally authorized to operate in Slovakia and to conclude contracts in its own name, UNHCR cannot sign an agreement with the organization. If, however, a key member of the organization has a legal status in Slovakia where the organization intends to perform activities, UNHCR may consider signing an agreement with that individual as representative of the informal organization and its participants. Otherwise, UNHCR cannot provide a grant to this organization.

Financial Management: If the organization does not have a bank account in its legally registered name, a bank account for a key member of the organization in their name, or a key member of the organization with access to mobile money, then UNHCR cannot provide a grant to this organization.

Other Safeguards: The organization should confirm that they are accountable for that its individual members to commit to the Code of Conduct, undertake mandatory training on fraud and on prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/405ac6614/secretary-generals-bulletin-special-measures-protection-sexual-exploitation.html>) and report misconduct and that UNHCR may conduct periodic monitoring.



Issuing UNHCR Office	<u>UNHCR National Office in Slovakia</u>
Contact Address	<u>Palisády 29/A, 811 06 Bratislava</u>
Full name and title, Head of Office	<u>Danijela Popovic-Efendic, Head of National Office</u>
Name of UNHCR Office	<u>UNHCR National Office in Slovakia</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2023</u>