

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ISSUED BY UNHCR

Note: The purpose of the **Call for Expression of Interest** is to solicit interest from existing and prospective partners that wish to participate in UNHCR Syria’s response operation in 2020 and contribute complementary resources (human resources, technical expertise, funds, in-kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment) to achieving common objectives as agreed in a **Project Partnership Agreement**.

Partners are required to submit their Concept Notes based on the background and activities provided below. For further details on the Concept Note, please turn to the information at the bottom of this document.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No. EOI/SYR/01/2020 Project for Selection of Partners (IDPs and Returnees) in Syria	
Project title and Identification¹: Syria Situation Response for IDPs and Returnees in 2020	Project Location: Syria
Brief Background of the Project:	

According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), a total of 11.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Some 5 million are in acute need.

Within the framework of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNHCR supports the Government of Syria’s efforts to reduce vulnerabilities, enhance protection and strengthen resilience through a wide range of community-based interventions, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups. UNHCR’s main planning assumptions for 2020 are based on a situation of higher stability in most parts of Syria accompanied by increasing trends of spontaneous IDP and refugee returns. A key aspect of UNHCR’s programs in 2020 is that return and reintegration support will be community-based, provided to all population groups based on needs, not on status.

As the lead agency for Protection, Core Relief Items and Shelter Sectors, UNHCR’s response strategy in 2020 will focus on the provision of integrated protection services through mobile teams, outreach activities and community-based facilities (community centres) to respond to protection needs of women, men, boys and girls, the elderly and persons with specific needs, promote community participation and providing safe spaces for community interaction. The types of services offered will include: 1) psychosocial support, including through individual case-management, 2) targeted in-kind assistance, 3) legal assistance on documentation and other related legal matters 4) community-led initiatives in support of community empowerment and resilience building, 5) programs related to prevention and protection response against sexual exploitation abuse 6) child protection and education, 7) small scale livelihoods activities, 8) one-off distribution of core relief items. All services are targeted in accordance with the agreed vulnerability criteria.

Limited health interventions through community based health points established in community centres will support basic health needs for the most vulnerable. Shelter interventions and communal infrastructure

¹ Projects related to Refugees were covered in 2018 Call for Expression of Interest

rehabilitation such as schools, basic water/sanitation (WASH) access in returnee neighbourhoods and villages, bakeries and other communal facilities will support both emergency as well as long-term community needs of both IDPs and returning populations.

Selection of beneficiaries (IDPs, returnees and affected host communities) for the programs funded by UNHCR will have to follow UNHCR's vulnerability criteria with recognition to the particular needs based on the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach. Partners will need to be able to report separately on the different categories of beneficiaries assisted through persons of concern UNHCR-funded programs.

UNHCR will continue to operate under the overall management of the Country Office in Damascus, while maintaining field presence through its six Offices in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Qamishli, Sweida, and Tartous, who are engaged in directly managing partnerships in their areas of operation. In view of UNHCR's decentralization of project management to offices in the field, partners implementing activities in multiple locations shall be required to engage with UNHCR's field offices on substantive operational issues, while Partnership agreement will be managed centrally at Damascus level.

UNHCR encourages partnerships with NGOs that can implement multi-sectoral programs taking into account IDPs, returnees, affected host communities and local specificities, as well as with area based NGOs. In 2020, UNHCR's interventions will cover all accessible governorates, such as Aleppo, Raqqa, Rural Damascus, Sweida, Dara'a, Quneitra, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zour and Hassakeh and their rural areas subject to approvals from authorities.

Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities:

Objective 1: Population has optimal access to education

Strategy: UNHCR's interventions in education will be guided by global education initiatives, in alignment to the Syrian Ministry of Education Strategy and priorities. UNHCR's programs in 2020 will focus on contributing to increased safe and equitable access to quality non- formal education for children and youth.

Output 1.1: Capacity development supported

Output 1.2: Educational infrastructure constructed, improved or maintained

Output 1.3: Primary education provided or supported

Activities:

- Rehabilitation of schools in areas with low enrolments and/or high numbers of persons of concern.
- Provision of alternative education services in UNHCR's Community Centers, Public Schools and Collective Shelters through remedial and catch-up classes; homework cafés (after school support); summer camps; and accelerated learning programs (for 9th and 12th grade students).
- Strengthening capacity of education system, and training of education personnel to attain safe and equitable access to education in line to the Education Transition Plan by Ministry of Education.

Objective 2: Population has sufficient basic and domestic items

Strategy: UNHCR Syria's core relief items' (CRI) program will consist of two main components: 1) Emergency CRI response; and 2) Distribution of seasonal and complementary items (winter/summer items). This two-pronged strategy will respond to the emergency needs of returnees, newly displaced people, as well as vulnerable IDPs and people-in-need. UNHCR directly procures all CRIs, which are distributed through partnership.

Output 2.1: Core relief items provided

Output 2.2: Seasonal and complementary items provided

Activities:

- Mechanisms for distribution of CRIs/winter items (warehouses, logistical arrangements, volunteers for distribution);
- Robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including for post-distribution monitoring.

Objective 3: Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained

Strategy: The 2020 shelter program will cover the urgent/emergency and longer-term needs of IDPs, host families, and returnees, with particular attention to vulnerable groups including children, youth, women, elderly and persons with disabilities. The implementation modalities of the shelter projects follow established shelter sector guidelines/ UNHCR SOPs and require particular coordination with MOLAE (in terms of approvals), local authorities, UNHCR Offices and other stakeholders. As such, the program will target:

Output 3.1: Emergency shelter provided

Output 3.2: Capacity development supported

Output 3.3: Long-term/permanent shelter provided and sustained

Output 3.4: General site operations constructed and sustained

Activities:

- Distribution and/or installation of shelter kits, materials and tools (procured by UNHCR), as a life-saving and life-sustaining intervention including for those returning or trying to remain in their original homes;
- Rehabilitation of public and private collective shelters;
- Maintenance of camp infrastructure and distribution of tents in tented IDP camps;
- Owner shelter support program to strengthen the living environments for those returning or trying to remain in their original homes, making damaged houses livable and safe, and allowing families to settle back in their homes through the physical rehabilitation of the damaged house;
- Rehabilitation and upgrade of public infrastructure networks to create conditions for sustainable returns.

Objective 4: Health status of the population improved

Strategy: UNHCR health strategy for IDPs/returnees includes three main components: (1) Supporting the revitalization of the public national health care system through contributing to rehabilitation of Primary Health Care facilities, as part of urban/village support approach to ensure the access of returnees to basic health needs, (2) Increasing support to community based health through health points established in the community centers in return areas, through which community mobilization

in health and basic health needs services will be supported,

Community based health through health points established in community centers will support basic health needs for the most vulnerable and support the protection mandate of UNHCR through community mobilization and building the capacities of health communities.

Output 4.1: Access to primary health care services provided or supported

Output 4.2: Preventative and community-based health care services provided

Activities:

- Limited Rehabilitation of public primary health care facilities
- Preventative and community based health through the establishment of health points in community centers. The health points are expected to conduct the following activities:
 - Assess health needs, gaps, strength and weaknesses in the community
 - Community mobilization in health: a) Working closely with the community to form and manage “community health team” that represents neighborhoods, including building their capacity in different health areas; b) Mapping of community resources and health actors and ensure to best use of available community resources through coordination and cooperation; c) Assist and Support community led health initiatives.
- Conduct range of activities aiming at promoting health and preventing diseases in the community including individual, family and group health counseling, health education, health screening, campaigns, trainings, and others.
- Align activities and initiatives with national and local health priorities.
- Provide health care through small clinics in the health points and through mobile clinics, when required, to respond to basic unmet health needs of the community including mental health services and medical response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors’ needs.
- Provide health support to other programs/services in the community center such as child protection, GBV and Psycho Social Support (PSS) to enhance the outcomes of the services.
- Ensure the response to other health needs through proper coordination and cooperation with health actors.

Objective 5: Services for persons with specific needs strengthened

Strategy: UNHCR’s strategy continues to focus on persons with specific needs as they are exposed to particular protection risks and harmful coping mechanisms. These services are provided through UNHCR’s Community/Satellite Centers and mobile units. The program targets persons of concern with psychological issues, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons, through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) case management, individual and group counseling, general and medical in-kind assistance, and other particular interventions for persons with disabilities and older persons.

Output 5.1: Specific services for persons of concern with disabilities provided

Output 5.2: Specific services for persons of concern with psychosocial needs provided

Output 5.3: Support to persons of concern with specific needs provided

Output 5.4: Specific services for older persons of concern provided

Activities:

- Integrated MHPSS case management.
- Individual and group counseling
- Non-specialized interventions including social/recreational activities, and awareness sessions.
- Provision of in-kind assistance to address basic needs.
- Home-based rehabilitation services for children with developmental delays and home-based training program for older persons.

Objective 6: Community mobilization strengthened and expanded

Strategy: UNHCR will continue to expand its “one stop shop” approach by providing a basket of integrated protection services through Community and Satellite Centers in order to meet persons of concern identified protection needs in line with community based protection strategy. In 2020, increasing focus will be given to newly accessible and under-served (rural) areas, and areas receiving fresh displacements or returns. Following Age Gender Diversity principles, outreach to communities will be ensured through mobile teams and Outreach Volunteers (ORVs). In addition, support will be provided to grass root initiatives and organizations in order to assist them to respond to identified needs.

Output 6.1: Community leadership and decision-making supported

Output 6.2: Community self-management supported

Activities:

- Maintain operations of Community Centers in order to provide an integrated set of protection services to vulnerable Persons of concern. Community centers are safe public places where women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds can meet for social and recreational activities and obtain integrated protection services ranging from legal aid, education and livelihoods training and start-up business grants to primary health care, psycho-social support, SGBV prevention and response activities, child protection interventions, to in-kind assistance to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities and the basic needs of vulnerable persons. In addition, the community centers reach out to populations of concern and carry out awareness-raising activities.
- Establish Satellite Centers with a reduced set of services. A Satellite Center is a smaller version of a community center in underserved and remote locations to further outreach in locations where permanent protection services are required and access is feasible. It could be either linked to- or supported by an existing Community Center or constitute a stand-alone intervention.
- Outreach through multi-sector mobile teams operating from Community/Satellite Centers to areas beyond the regular catchment areas in order to increase outreach to the most vulnerable populations including those who do not have easy access to the Community Centers due to a variety of reasons (including residence in hard-to-reach locations). Mobile teams also allow flexibility in responding to new displacement or return trends.
- Expand the network of Outreach Volunteers (ORVs), selected from communities of concern, who will disseminate information, identify needs, provide a first response and conduct referrals to specialized services.
- Mobilize and build the capacities of communities in identifying their own needs and resources in order to provide effective interventions.

- Support Community Led Initiatives (CLIs), designed to support and advocate for solutions coming from IDP and affected communities to respond to their needs. The program is implemented with the engagement of the Outreach Volunteers (ORVs).
- Support Group Community Led Initiatives (GCLIs), which intend to provide support to youth and voluntary groups, building on existing initiatives to fund innovative interventions that will improve outcomes for young people and affected communities.
- Support Community Based Organizations (CBOs). This programme aims to support and empower the local NGOs and charities in Syria to respond for the different needs of communities, achieved through quick impact projects. The selected projects will be funded and monitored by UNHCR through an umbrella partner.

Objective 7: Self-reliance and livelihoods improved

Strategy: UNHCR will pursue a focused program that will strengthen the livelihoods, self-reliance and economic inclusion of persons of concern (including returnees) through a range of interventions delivered within the relevant local communities, including a) support to rehabilitation of community-level infrastructure as part of area-based approach; b) support to start-up of micro- and small businesses; c) support to agricultural livelihoods and related activities. Where applicable, the identification and targeting of beneficiaries will take into account vulnerability and capacity considerations.

Whilst some of these interventions will be facilitated through UNHCR's Community Centers, other key interventions, including provision of critical goods and services (e.g. farming inputs, technical advice etc.), will be undertaken in direct collaboration with accredited bodies and other specialized agencies/institutions. Partners, including NGO/INGOs, are expected to possess solid socio-economic development experience, have access to the relevant technical expertise, have the confidence and trust of relevant line ministries and local authorities as well as being able to demonstrate evidence of improving the livelihoods of persons of concern including through improved employment and market opportunities.

Output 7.1: Access to self-employment / business facilitated

Output 7.2: Access to wage earning employment facilitated

Output 7.3: Strategy developed and implemented

Output 7.4: Assessment and analysis undertaken

Output 7.5: Access to agricultural/livestock/fisheries production enabled

Activities:

- Support micro- and small business start-ups;
- Provision of key goods and services essential to the restoration and revitalization of livelihoods. (e.g. farming inputs, technical advice etc.)
- Limited-scale rehabilitation/restoration of key productive, social and economic infrastructure critical to sustaining livelihoods (e.g. public bakeries, market stalls, communal irrigation networks etc.).
- Conduct relevant studies and assessments, including socio-economic surveys, livelihood analysis, market needs assessments and value chain analysis.

Objective 8: Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved

Strategy: UNHCR will further enhance its legal aid project and capacity-building in addition to advocacy efforts to ensure access of returnees (IDPs and refugees) and other affected populations to civil registration/documentation, House Land Property (HLP) restitution or compensation rights, and due process for issuing basic civil documentation - "individuals and family civil extract", registration of civil events, authentication of documents duly issued in countries of asylum, non-conviction statements upon arrival. Furthermore, legal aid will ensure the enjoyment of rights for the vulnerable groups whose protection and safety is jeopardized due to their vulnerabilities (women and children).

Output 8.1: Capacity development supported

Output 8.2: Legal assistance provided

Activities:

- Provision of legal aid services (access to civil registration/documentation and HLP documentation) by accredited lawyers.
- Establishing/maintaining networks of legal Outreach Volunteers (LORVs).
- Awareness raising among communities on the importance of civil/HLP documentation and the procedures to be followed.
- Restoring the capacities of damaged national infrastructure to resume their services to Syrian citizens through rehabilitation and technical support.

UNHCR will only consider Concept Notes submitted by non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations approved by the Syrian Government for cooperation with UN agencies on implementation of legal activities.

Objective 9: Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved

Strategy: UNHCR's 2020 strategy to address SGBV is through a combination of prevention, mitigation and response interventions targeting the most vulnerable returnees and IDPs in order to mitigate SGBV risks while responding to the needs of women, girls, men and boys survivors of SGBV through a multi-sectorial approach. In addition, UNHCR will adopt measures that fully mainstream prevention and risk mitigation of SGBV in all areas of its work. Specific mechanisms and accountability tools will be put in place to prevent, mitigate and respond appropriately and systematically to SGBV across UNHCR operations in an early, efficient, and effective manner.

Output 9.1: Capacity development supported

Output 9.2: Participation of community in SGBV prevention and response enabled and sustained

Output 9.3: Psychosocial counselling provided

Output 9.4: Safety and security for SGBV survivors provided

Activities:

- Awareness sessions in Community Centers and mobile units on SGBV-related issues.
- Provision of case management and multi-sectoral responses including through referrals to specialized services.
- Establishment of community-based committees to enhance SGBV prevention.

- Engagement of men and boys as agents of change to enhance SGBV prevention; through establishing and supporting groups of men in return areas who are committed to ending SGBV in their community.

Objective 10: Protection of children strengthened

Strategy: UNHCR's child protection program will focus on the identification of children at risk and on addressing their concerns through case management services and multi-sectoral interventions in Community Centres that are based on the best interests of the child. As part of an integrated approach, the response to child protection risks will also often involve other family members to ensure positive impact. In the same vein, community-based structures will be supported to enhance child protection, and identify and respond to child protection risks.

Output 10.1: Assessment and analysis undertaken

Output 10.2: Community-based child protection structures established and functioning

Output 10.3: Advocacy conducted

Output 10.4: Capacity development supported

Activities:

- Identification and case management of children at risk including multi-sectoral responses and referrals to specialized services.
- Expand the support to community-based child protection structures.
- Awareness sessions on child protection issues.
- Trainings on child protection provided to CP staff.

Objective 11: Supply of potable water increased or maintained

Strategy: UNHCR's interventions in 2020 will consider provision of limited essential WASH services in the locations that have showed spontaneous return. Coordination will be maintained with other actors through inter-agency sector coordination to perform integrated projects to support shelter objectives: basic WASH access in returnee neighborhoods and villages will be enhanced by the rehabilitation of wells and boreholes, as well as with the repair of the existing water networks, in coordination with the local authorities and the WASH Sector. In doing so, due consideration will be given to ensuring that WASH facilities are equally accessible to both returnees and host communities. Due to limited resources, UNHCR's interventions in 2020 will focus primarily on rehabilitation of WASH projects.

Output 11.1: Water system constructed, expanded or upgraded

Activities:

- Construction and rehabilitation of potable water wells in returnee areas.
- Digging of boreholes, rehabilitation of the existing potable water networks with provision of power supply to improve the water supply and sanitation system, in coordination with the local authorities and WASH Sector.

Objective 12: Population lives in satisfactory conditions of sanitation and hygiene

Strategy: UNHCR will work with other partners in the water and sanitation sector by implementing simple sanitation programs, primarily in returns areas, limited to solid waste management, and repair of sewage networks.

Output 12.1: Community solid waste management services provided

Activities:

- Distribution of solid waste management bins Repair of sewage piping networks

Intended Population of Concern: IDPs, returnees and affected host communities

Project Period [estimated start and end dates of project]: 1st January to 31st December 2020

Submission Deadline: 07 July 2019

Date Decision Results will be Communicated to Applicants: During week of 03 September 2019

Selection Criteria

Refer to Annex B

Other information:

Please note that UNHCR will only consider for evaluation Concept Notes submitted by non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) approved for cooperation with UN agencies by the Syrian Government in the technical areas covered by this CEOI. This includes national NGOs, as well as international NGOs, who are required to be legally registered in Syria, approved for work by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and have the authority to operate a bank account in Syria.

Concept Notes should clearly indicate in which geographical area the NGO is planning to intervene in (i.e. Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and so on).

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30 May 2019



