

**Call for Applications for Small Grants for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Women’s Participation in Leadership and Decision making at all levels under the ‘Ensuring Gender-responsive Democratization Process in Ethiopia’ Project implemented by UN Women**

Advertisement No.	<b>UNW-ESA-ECO-ASG-2023-001</b>
Location	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Issue date	17 March 2023
Application deadline	5 April 2023
Starting date	12 April 2023
Duration of the implementation	5 months up to August 2023
Purpose of the activity	‘Support the organizational development of civil society organizations promoting and advocating for increased women’s participation in leadership and governance systems’
Budget	Minimum budget: 2,500 USD Maximum budget: 30,000 USD

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women’s rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States’ priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

UN Women both at global and national level believes that the only way to achieve transformational results for gender equality and women’s empowerment at all levels is with and through partners, most importantly through civil society organizations, and women rights organizations. Over the past decades, Ethiopian civil society organizations have made significant contributions in society's social, political, and economic spheres. The CSO Proclamation of the 2009<sup>1</sup> that was repealed in 2019 has severely curtailed the role of CSOs to work on the areas of human rights and governance issues including women’s human rights and gender equality by imposing restrictions on funding and intervention areas. Hence, several human rights CSOs were forced to shut down while remaining CSOs had to revise their bylaws and mission statements to limit their activities to service provision and charitable acts. Until the year 2019 where the CSO Proclamation in Ethiopia was amended to allow

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<sup>1</sup> According to Proclamation no. 621/2009, CSO ‘s that received more than 10 percent of their funds from international sources are referred as Ethiopian Charities or Societies and cannot work in the area of human rights

local CSOs to freely mobilize resources and work on human rights, gender equality and governance issues, UN Women had to limit itself to working through its CSO Advisory Group to pursue a human rights-based approach towards advocacy for increased representation of women in public and political life at all levels.

Many CSOs revised their mission after the revision of the law and re-registered while newly established ones joined the effort to promote gender equality on several fronts including women's participation in democratization and decision-making processes. However, the legacy of the restrictive law was far-reaching where CSOs were weakened in all aspects including in terms of financial viability, advocacy and lobbying effort and capacity including organizational capacity and human resource. They also remained with weak institutional capacity and without adequate platform for networking to amplify their effort.

Apart from the repealed CSO law, COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 further deteriorated the capacity and reach of CSOs due to the redirecting of resources to prevent the spread of the pandemic and respond to its negative consequences. Organizations working on advocacy and mobilization were most affected due to the nature of their work which requires frequent travel and gathering of their target groups either for advocacy events or capacity building interventions. In addition, volatile security situation in the country have impacted CSO interventions including their advocacy works on GEWE.

Against this background, UN Women Ethiopia plans to award Small Grants to eligible civil Society Organization (CSOs) in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 30,000. The small grant is aimed to fill identified gaps and enhance the capacity of CSOs and Women Rights Organizations (WROs) working to promote women's participation in public and political life. The Small Grants is therefore intended to exclusively finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening institutional capacity of CSOs' working to promote women's participation in leadership and decision making at all levels.

The Small Grant will allow for the increased engagement and empowerment of CSOs of varying sizes and capacities, based in different parts of the country and those that cannot access large-scale funding.

## **2. Objective**

The main objective of the call for small grant is to strengthen the capacity of CSOs that work to promote women's participation and leadership in governance and decision-making positions. The grant is therefore expected to increase the resource and capacity of eligible CSOs/WROs to advance the rights of women to participate in public and political life<sup>2</sup> and enable them to become agents of

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<sup>2</sup> Women's participation in political and public life has been defined as their right to exercise political power in particular the exercise of legislative, judicial, executive and administrative powers. The term also covers all aspect so public administration and formulation and implementation of policy at international, national, regional, and local levels. The concept also includes many aspects of civil society, including public boards and local councils and the activities of organizations such as political parties, trade unions, professional or industry associations women's organizations, community-based organizations or an-other organizations concerned with public and political life.

transformative change towards an equitable society. By strengthening CSOs working on promotion of women's participation and leadership, UN Women aims to support the interventions/initiatives in women's participation in public and political life to create a cohesive, just, inclusive, and democratic society.

With its concerted effort to promote the participation and effective representation of women in leadership and decision making and support to CSOs working on the area, UN Women aims to ensure the fulfillment of the Outcome 'All people in Ethiopia live in a cohesive, just, inclusive and democratic society' of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2025<sup>3</sup>, the UN Women Ethiopia Strategic Note 2021-2025 and Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan 2021-2030: a Pathway to Prosperity (2020/21-2029/30). It also aims to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable development goals Goal no 5 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls' and specifically Target 5.5 'Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life'.

### **3. General Overview of the Advertisement**

UN Women Ethiopia County Office (ECO) plans to award small grants to eligible CSOS/WROs in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 30,000. Small Grants are intended exclusively to finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening of CSOs' institutional capacities. UN Women ECO invites eligible applicants to submit Small Grants applications for the eligible activities, as elaborated in this advertisement. UN Women ECO will consider awarding multiple Small Grants based on available funds. This advertisement forms the basis for applying for Small Grants. It must neither be construed as a Small Grant agreement nor as a confirmation of a Small Grant awarded by UN Women to any entity. Consequently, UN Women is not liable for any financial obligations, or otherwise, incurred by any entity in responding to this advertisement. UN Women will not approve such costs as part of any Small Grant budget, and an awardee must not use the Small Grant to cover such costs.

### **4. Eligible CSOs**

The applicants must be a CSO legally established and operating in Ethiopia. To be considered for the small grant, the CSO must demonstrate that it works on women rights and gender equality in Ethiopia with a proven track record of working on the areas of women participation in public and political life including their participation in electoral processes.

The applicant may apply if it:

- is a registered CSO in operation for at least three years.
- is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List<sup>4</sup>;
- is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or other wrongdoing.
- has not had funding received from UN Women entirely or partly written off by UN Women.
- is not currently engaged as an Implementing Partner (IP) or Responsible Party (RP) for UN Women.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/90108-united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-2020-2025>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>

- has not been engaged as an IP/RP for UN Women at any time after 30 November 2020.
- is not a government entity
- is not a UN organization
- is not an established CSO with the capacity to be engaged as an IP/RP
- has sufficient capacity to collaborate with various stakeholders.
- has sufficient financial stewardship, including having adequate financial policies and procedures in place to manage the small grant; and,
- past performance has been deemed satisfactory by UN Women For purpose of this advertisement, applicant CSOs are encouraged to demonstrate in their application their organizational approach to the principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB) and in addressing intersecting forms of vulnerabilities (young women, women with disabilities, rural women, migrant women, women living with HIV, internally displaced women etc.)

## 5. Eligible Activities

The applicant may apply for a small grant to cover the following activities:

- Introducing and improving organizational systems, tools, and processes.
- Training of workforce in technical and managerial skills.
- Purchase of equipment such as copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers as long as the cost of such equipment is limited to 30% of the proposed small grant budget or **USD 5,000**, whichever is lower.
- The purpose of Small Grants is not to finance the delivery of a programmatic or project activity.
- There is no geographical limitation regarding the location and base of operation of the applicant CSOs.
- The implementation of the Small Grant must be completed within five months after signing the Small Grant Agreement for the purposes of this call.
- The CSOs awarded with Small Grants will benefit from further capacity development support, experience sharing, networking, dialogue, solidarity, and coalition building activities that are to be organized by UN Women.

## Application

- An application must contain all relevant information showing that the applicant CSO and the proposed activities are eligible under this advertisement.
- All applications must be in English and need to be well written.
- Please use the attached application form when submitting your application. In addition, please attach - Constitutive act (establishment statute of the CSO)
- Registration certificate evidencing that the applicant is a registered CSO that has been in operation for three years.
- Organogram and related documents showing the experience of the CSO in the area of gender equality and women's participation in public and political life.
- UN Women will reject any application that does not contain enough information to show that the application or the activities are eligible. The application must be received by UN-Women via email

at the address [ethiopia.public@unwomen.org](mailto:ethiopia.public@unwomen.org) specified not later than **23:59 EAT on 30 March 2023**.

- UN Women will not consider applications sent by any other means or to different addresses.

## 6. Review Criteria

The applicant must:

- propose eligible activities that develop or strengthen the institutional capacity of the applicant CSO and are consistent with the purposes of this advertisement: to support the organizational development of CSOs working in the area women's participation in public and political life and leadership.
- propose allowed activities that are consistent with and contribute to achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan<sup>5</sup> approved by the Executive Board;
- not propose to use the small grant to provide an activity/output on behalf of UN Women, civil construction work, engineering work, purchases of vehicles or other tangible or intangible property, except for copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers that are necessary for better office functioning;
- not propose to use more than 30% of the small grant or USD 5,000, whichever is lower, to purchase copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
- propose a timeline that does not extend beyond August 2023 and eligible activities that are feasible to accomplish, including political, security and logistical considerations;
- not propose to cover its indirect costs/support costs with the small grant;
- not make a direct profit from the small grant;
- not propose to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement.
- propose eligible activities sustainably supporting the applicant's institutional capacity;
- propose eligible activities where the applicant has the capacity to reach the target audience; and,
- propose a budget that is cost-effective given the eligible activities, the number of targeted beneficiaries, and the proposed location.

## 7. Award

UN Women will evaluate applications that meet all the criteria through a duly entrusted review committee. UN Women will award the small grants to the applicants that best contribute to the goals reflected in this advertisement. Successful applicants are informed in writing of UN Women's decision to award the small grant. The award is conditional on the applicant agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth in UN Women's Small Grant Agreement and the award is automatically rescinded if the applicant does not agree to these terms and conditions.

## 8. Reporting Requirement

Awarded Small Grantees shall submit combined financial and progress reports indicating the expenditure and progress on the performance of the Small Grant Agreement. If the amount of the Small Grant is USD 10,000 or less, the Small Grantee shall submit a combined financial and progress report at the end of the Small Grant Agreement. If the amount of the Small Grant is above USD 10,000USD, the Small Grantee shall

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025>

submit a mid-term and a final combined financial and progress report. UN Women will follow up on implementation of the small grant activities and review financial and progress reports.

## Annex I

CSO/Applicant details	
<b>Name and registration number</b> <i>Please submit proof of registration</i>	
<b>Mandate of the CSO</b>	
<b>CSO staff focal point and alternate</b>	<i>(Please insert full name, title, e-mail address, telephone number)</i>
Application details	
<b>Proposal title</b>	
<b>Small Grant Amount</b>	<i>(Please provide the amount in Ethiopian Birr and attach a proposed budget)</i>
<b>Duration and proposed start date</b>	<i>(Please state the duration in months, noting that the maximum duration is until August 2023)</i>
<b>Background</b>	
<b>Main objectives/Results to achieve</b>	
<b>Thematic Focus and Priorities</b>	
<b>Geographical area</b>	
<b>Activities <i>(list them 1.,2.,)</i> and the corresponding expected timeframe for each of the activities.</b>	
<b>How are the activities supporting the development or strengthening of the CSO's institutional capacity?</b>	

## **Annex II**

### **Declaration by the Authorized Representative of the Applicant Organization:**

Through submitting this application, I confirm that:

1. The Organization is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List.
2. The Organization is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or other wrongdoing.
3. The Organization is not currently engaged as a Partner of UN Women.
4. The proposal for the small grant does not aim to cover the Support Costs of a project implemented by the Organization.
5. The Organization will not make a direct profit from the small grant.
6. The Organization is not proposing to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement.

Date:

Name:

Organization:

Stamp and Signature: