

**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 ‘Strengthening Institutional Capacity of Duty-Bearers and Empowering Rights-Holders for Advancement of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) in Ethiopia’ Project implemented by UN Women**

**UN Women Ethiopia Country Office**

Advertisement No.	UNW-ECO-ASG-2021-001
Location	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Issue date	27 December 2021
Application deadline	18 January 2021
Starting date	January 2022
Duration of the implementation	8 months (up to 31 August 2022)
Purpose of the activity	Support the organizational development of civil society organizations working in the area of increasing women’s participation and leadership
Budget	Minimum budget: 2,500 USD Maximum budget: 30,000 USD

**1. Background**

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 thorough civil societies, and the women movement. In Ethiopia, the CSO Proclamation No. 621/2009 that was repealed in 2019 has severely curtailed the role of CSOs to work on the areas of human rights and governance issues including women’s human rights and gender equality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.<sup>1</sup> 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 law in Ethiopia was amended to allow local CSOs to freely mobilize resources and work on human rights, gender equality and governance 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.

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.

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, infrastructure including organizational capacity and human resource. They also remained fractured and without adequate platform for networking to amplify their effort.

In order to fill the identified gaps and enhance the capacity of CSOs and women rights organizations working to promote women's participation in public and political life, UN Women is planning to award a Small Grants to eligible civil Society Organization (CSOs) working to promote women's participation and leadership in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 30,000. The Small Grants are 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 public and political life and leadership. The Small Grants 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.

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.

## **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 illegible CSOs to advance the rights of women to

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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.

participate in public and political life<sup>2</sup> and enable them to become agents of transformative change towards an equitable 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> and the UN Women Ethiopia Strategic Note 2021-2025 and the priority area ‘Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Institutions’ of the Ethiopia 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”. It will also contribute towards SDG Goal no Goal no 16 ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’ Target 16.7 “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels” and SDG Target 16.A “Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.”

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

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Ethiopia County Office plans to award small grants to eligible Civil Society Organizations 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 Ethiopia Country Office (ECO) invites eligible applicants to submit Small Grants applications for the eligible activities, as elaborated in this advertisement. UN Women ECO will consider awarding several Small Grants based on available funds.

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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 another organizations concerned with public and political life.

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

#### **4. Eligible CSOs**

The applicants must be a civil society organizations and women led Civil Society organizations 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;
- has not been engaged as an IP/RP for UN Women at any time after 21 November 2019;
- 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 (if it has received small grants previously or been engaged as an IP/RP before 21 November 2019;).

For purpose of this advertisement, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate in their application their organizational approach to the principles of leaving no one behind and in addressing intersecting forms of vulnerabilities (young women, women with disabilities, rural women, migrant women, 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,;
- supporting with 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.

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

- The implementation of the Small Grant must be completed within 8 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. All applications must be in English.

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.

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** 18 January 2022 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 civil society organizations 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;
- 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 over 31 August 2022, 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;

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

- 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;
- 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. 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 doesn't agree to these terms and conditions.

#### **8. Reporting Requirements**

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 submit a mid-term and a final combined financial and progress report.

## Annex 1 Application form

Advertisement No.:

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 31 August 2022)</i>
<b>Background</b>	
<b>Main objectives/Results to achieve</b>	
<b>Thematic Focus and Priorities</b>	
<b>Geographical area</b>	
<b>Activities (list them 1.,2.,) and related 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 2**

### **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: