



Whole of Syria Education Focal Point
وحدة تنسيق التعليم لكل سوريا

**CSO Call for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the WoS ECW-funded programme:
“Strengthening the education system inside Syria towards sustainable delivery
of equitable, quality and protective education services for all children”**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Deadline:

The deadline to submit the proposal on page-2 of the guideline is Aug 11, 2017 while on page-4, it is Aug 17, 2017. Which of them is the accurate deadline?

Deadline for submissions of CSO proposals 17 of August. We apologize for the confusion.

Eligibility, requirements and applying:

Who can apply to the ECW call?

The eligibility criteria can be found on page 5 under “3.2 eligibility & exclusion criteria”.

We have not done education activities for some months so we did not submit 4Ws. Can we apply?

An organization must have reported the 4W to the hub they are part of for each month that it was a member of the cluster/sector in 2017, even if the organization just reported that it did not implement any activities in a given month. For the 4Ws, your organization must have reported either directly or through your partner but your organizations name needs to appear in the 4Ws.

Is the eligibility criteria required for all of the consortium partners?

Yes. The eligibility criteria are required for all consortium members as outlines on page 5 of the CSO Call for Eoi

We are an INGO based in one hub. Our implementing partner is based in a different hub and reports the activities to that hub. Can we apply in the hub we are based in?

No. Your organization can apply to the hub where your activities are being reported in the 4Ws and where you are registered as member.

Our organization is a member of more than one hub. Can we apply to more than one hub?

No. Please see page-2. Please note that CSOs members of more than one hub, can only submit a proposal in one hub and NOT in multiple hubs. This applies also to consortia submissions.

Our organization is a member of more than one hub. As per the guidelines we can only apply to one hub. Can our project cover any area in Syria?

Yes. There are no specific geographical locations, however CSO needs to demonstrate that they can work in those areas. In addition, given the current response by the three hubs, Gaziantep Hub is focusing on the North of Syria in areas controlled by opposition groups, Amman Hub on the south in areas controlled by opposition groups and Damascus Hub on the

areas controlled by the Government. Further, please note that the Whole of Syria review process will look at the project proposals from all hubs and select the final project. Once selected projects will be discussed to ensure there are no overlaps between the different projects of the three hubs

Can a member apply through different consortiums?

No. A member can only be part of one project proposal whether as an individual agency or as part of a consortium, in one Hub only.

Can a member apply individually and through a consortium at the same time?

No. A member can only be part of one project proposal whether as an individual agency or as part of a consortium. Please note that consortia of NGOs are strongly encouraged to apply.

Shall we send express of interest or full proposal by August 17?

Expression of interests along with the proposal, budget and other supporting documents must be sent at the same time and no later than 17th of August.

What are organizations are supposed to work on now?

Organizations are supposed to be preparing their proposal submission. Organizations need to submit all the required documents by the deadline of 17 August 2017.

Our organization does not have capacity in all the program activities. Can we apply alone or make consortium with other organizations?

This is your decision. All project proposals must cover all activities as outlined in the CSO call for EoI on page 2, section 1.3 and submissions will be reviewed against the expertise and capacity of the submitting organization or organizations.

What is the ideal number of consortium?

There is no ideal number. It's up to the organizations to determine it.

One of the papers requested is "Copy of CSO registration in country of origin". Is the registration at the Interim government is sufficient? Any other body we need to be register at?

You need to be registered in Turkey with the Turkey authorities that are granting your organization the permission to operate in Turkey.

Regarding the eligibility & exclusion criteria in section-3.2 on page-5, do we have to meet all of the eligibility criteria?

Yes, you must meet all of the eligibility criteria. Please note that you also need to ensure your project does not fall into the exclusion criteria.

Is the eligibility criteria required for all of the consortium partners?

Yes. The eligibility criteria are required to be fulfilled by all consortium members on section 3.2, page 5 including footnotes

Budget, funding and projects per hubs:

What is the total funding that each hub is getting?

The funding is not based by hub. The funding is divided based on: access, number of population in need and severity for education needs.

How much funding can each project get?

The maximum funding for a project is 1-million USD over 18-months, as outlined in the CSO Call for EoI on page 1.

In the call there is a maximum budget for each phase. Is there a minimum budget for each phase?

No. There is no minimum. The work-plan needs to reflect the budget phases as outlined in the CSO call for Eol.

Does the ceiling 1,000,000 USD include the contribution of the CSO?

The 1,000,000 USD is the total amount of money that the CSO will receive from ECW funds. It does not include contribution from CSO.

How the budget and the proposal will be prepared in the case of applying as consortia?

You will need to prepare one proposal and one budget and explain in your proposal how the consortia will work, which activities each agency will undertake with clear responsibilities for consortium members.

Since the project will take place on two periods, October 2017- March 2018 and April 2018- March 2019, are we going to prepare one budget or two separate budgets, one for each period?

No, one full budget covering 18 months must be prepared.

What is the percentage of contribution for the CSO (NGO & INGO) interested to apply alone and how the percentage of contribution will be counted when this CSO is interested to apply as member in consortia?

For INGO, they must contribute at least 10% of total budget cost. NGO are not required to do so, as highlighted in the call for Eol: International CSOs must contribute at least 10% of the total budget cost. HQ support cost (7%) for international CSOs is part of the total budget ceiling (USD 1,000,000 as explained in page 1). If an INGO is a member of a consortia, then the 10% contribution is expected to be provided.

“CSO contributes at least 10% of the total budget cost”, does this mean that the total cost of the project should be 1,100.000 USD? \$1 M from the donor and \$100 K is covered by the CSO?

Correct. The total will be 1,100.000 USD with 1M received from ECW funds and 100,000 contribution from the International NGO. Please note that only International NGO are requested to contribute with 10%. This rule does not apply for national CSO.

The proposal and the budget should cover only the first phase (6 months) of the whole project (18 months)? Or there should be two proposals and the first one is pilot?

The proposal and the budget should cover the whole project, for 18 months.

Process:

If an organization sends the Eol, does that automatically qualify them to apply?

No. Interested organizations should provide the full application package by the deadline. The first review of submissions will look at the submissions against the “3.2 Eligibility & exclusion criteria” on page-5. The submissions from organizations that do not meet the eligibility or do meet the exclusion criteria will not be reviewed further.

What happens once I submit my application package?

Please see page-2 of the Call for Eol:

At the hub level:

The submissions will be reviewed against the eligibility and exclusion criteria. If they pass this phase the submissions will be reviewed and scored by a committee. The submissions and scores will then be forwarded to Whole of Syria.

At the Whole of Syria level:

The submissions and scores of all projects will be reviewed and final projects selected. Applying organizations will be informed of the outcome of their submissions by communication sent out to the email address that is indicated in their submission by end of September 2017. The process does not obligate UNICEF in any way to any CSO. Selected CSOs will be invited for further discussions with UNICEF to finalize the partnership agreement.

May I discuss my project proposal with either hub coordinators or UNICEF staff members?

No, to ensure that all applications have fair competition. However specific sessions will be organized to address questions at hub level.

Who do I contact if I have a question?

Please see page-2. Any requests for additional information should be addressed in writing by: 28 July 2017 to Dina Craissati, e-mail: dcraissati@unicef.org and Erum Burki e-mail: erum.burki@savethechildren.org. The WoS responses to any queries or clarification requests will be made available to all online at the WoS website (www.wos-education.org).

How many project you are aiming to accept for Turkey hub?

Given the limited funds available for the entire country, including Damascus, Amman and Gaziantep hubs and after an analysis of severity of needs weighted by children in need, the ECW fund will cover a maximum of 4 proposals for the Gaziantep hub.

Program Design:

The project is divided into two phases. Can I apply for only one phase?

No. The proposals must be for two phases totaling 18 months

In a case of consortia, the criteria should be met by all NGOs? or is it enough by the one that applies?

Please see section 3.2, on page 5 including the footnotes. For consortium applications, at least 50% of consortium members should be members of the cluster/sector working group for more than four months and all consortium members must be cluster members. All consortium members must have submitted 4Ws for each month that they were a member in in 2017, even if they report that they had no activities in a given month.

Can networks apply for the ECW fund either individually or in consortium?

Yes, networks can apply. Network applications will be considered as consortium applications. Please see section 3.2 on page 5 including footnotes.

Are networks exempted from eligibility criteria 'g' on page 5, regarding 4W submission?

Yes, networks are not required to submit 4W however members that are part of the application must have submitted 4W for each month that they were a member in 2017, even if they report that they had no activities in a given month. See section 3.2 on page 5, including the footnotes.

How do we prove we submitted the 4ws - do we send the last report or we request a letter from UNICEF?

The hub coordinators know this information as you are in our records – therefore there is no need to prove your 4W submission. When you send your application, you want to highlight in the accompanying email that you are a member of the hub and you have been regularly reporting in the 4W process.

How flexible are we on activities, do we have to implement the same and all of them. Can we implement new activities as well?

The 1 million USD is for the activities funded by the ECW grant. However if you want to add more activities, then it's up to you and needs to be clear that these activities are your financial contribution.

In the expression of interest for the ECW a MUST for the CSO is to be registered in country of origin, or Turkey or Jordan. What about partners based in Lebanon?

Please provide registration in Lebanon.

Are there any guidance notes for the CSO (NGO & INGO) interested to apply together in consortia?

No, unfortunately no specific guidance notes are available for consortia applications. Please follow the guidance notes shared with the Call for EoI.

In terms of access, are there any specific geographical locations that CSO (NGO&INGO) from Gaziantep Hub should cover or it is left up to access on the ground by each CSO?

There are no specific geographical locations, however CSO needs to demonstrate that they can work in those areas. In addition, given the current response by the three hubs, Gaziantep Hub is focusing on the North of Syria in areas controlled by opposition groups, Amman Hub on the south in areas controlled by opposition groups, and Damascus Hub on the areas controlled by the Government.

Is it a must to address all three outcomes?

No, only activities under outcome 2 and 3 of the ECW proposal must be addressed. A CSO does not need to address outcome 1 activities. Please follow the list of activities outlined in section 1.3.