



**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) (2)**

**I’m a member of the Gaziantep Hub and in the call it says the Gaziantep Hub will focus on North of Syria. But I’ve got a presence in Rural Damascus as well. Can I work in the South?**

Yes, you can propose to work anywhere provided that you have demonstrated access and capacity.

**If an NGO from Gaziantep wants to work in southern Syria (Rural Damascus, Dara, Quneitra) will it get a lower score than an NGO in Amman that targets the same areas?**

There are no specific geographical locations to be covered by each hub, 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. We reiterate that 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.

**Will the score card used for evaluating proposals be shared with members?**

Score cards will not be shared with CSOs that are applying to the ECW funds. Please note that the evaluation of the proposals will be done against the criteria that can be found on page 5 of the Call for Eoi.

**What happens if I can cover all the needs and reach the total number of beneficiaries targeted for WoS-in the proposal within the budget?**

This is to reiterate that the ECW targets are country-wide targets. If you are able to meet all of the targets and your project is within the budget and does not jeopardize the quality, it is fine. However allow us to say that this is very aspirational.

**Is there any flexibility between budget line? For instance can I allocate less than or more than 3% for BTL?**

Unfortunately this is not possible. You must keep your budget within the percentages per activity that is indicated in section “1.3 Specific results and activities” on page 3 of the Call for EoI.

**Under the activity “social protection” and under “establishment and rehabilitation of classrooms” there are specific activities in (brackets). Do I need to implement all suggested activities such as meals, transport etc. or are these just suggestions?**

These are only suggested activities. You can choose the ones that are most relevant for your context and the needs of the children you are serving. These specific needs should be explained in your proposal.

**In the activity “establishment and rehabilitation of classrooms” normal school buildings are not mentioned. Can I rehabilitate normal school buildings?**

Yes, you can rehabilitate classrooms in any learning facility that you deem are in need of rehabilitation, including ‘normal school buildings’.

**Can I merge two activities? For example instead of having a budget line for education kits and a budget line for recreational kits, can I have budget line for distribution of kits?**

No, unfortunately you cannot. The budget is aligned with the standard indicators and should follow the logic and the structure of the budget template.

**I want to work in an area that’s half in Syria and half in Lebanon. Can I work in these areas?**

No, this is not possible. The ECW funds are only to cover education needs inside Syria only.

**What’s the difference between teaching resources/guides and teaching materials? Can you give specific examples?**

Teaching materials: This include items such as chalk, blackboard paint, rulers, whiteboard markers and other teaching resources to be able to effectively teach but not including textbooks, curriculum or teaching guides.

Teaching resources/guides: These support in-class teaching (books, magazines, online materials etc.) and/or kits and guides including textbooks, teaching guides and materials to help teachers and other education personnel achieve their learning objectives.

**Is the 10% that INGOs must contribute to the budget on top of the \$1-million USD limit or is it included in the \$1-million USD limit?**

It is on top of the \$1 million USD limit i.e. the total budget of a project that includes an INGO will be \$1,100,000. \$1,000,000 is from UNICEF (ECW funds); \$100,000 is from the INGO.

**Can the 10% that INGOs must contribute to the budget be used for extra activities that complement the ECW activities or is the 10% contribution needed to cover only ECW activities?**

It is up to the INGO to decide. If additional activities are included, the activities need to be in line within the pillars of access and quality and need to be based on clear needs on the ground.

**Do NGOs that are already UNICEF partners need to submit all documents- registration, profile etc.**

Yes, all applications must include the full package of requested documents as highlighted in the Call for EoI.

**If there is a consortium, do all NGOs need to submit their documents?**

Yes, all consortium members need to submit their documents. However only 1 proposal and 1 budget are required.

**I have permission letter from the local authorities. Can I translate it myself or does it need to be official translation?**

Unfortunately, it needs to be an official translation.

**If people in the consortium are going to operate in different geographic areas, do all organization names need to appear in the permission letter.**

The vetting committee will look at the permission letters from the local authorities and ensure that the location suggested for implementation are clearly included in the letter with the name of the CSO that is going to operate in that area. This will confirm that particular members of the consortium have the ability of operating in a particular area.

**In the ECW call you're requesting a 'recent need assessment'. What would be considered recent?**

This may vary, however a recent assessment could be considered as done in the last 3 months.

**Do we need to do our own assessment or can we use other sources?**

You are strongly encouraged to do your own assessment to fully understand the needs on the ground and anchor your proposal in evidence. However, you can also use secondary data sources. Please ensure that the sources of the data are clearly referenced by attributing the source in the text, footnotes, etc.

**Do we get a higher score if we work in hard to reach (HTR) or besieged areas?**

Yes, you will get a higher score for targeting HTR and besieged locations as per UN OCHA official list.

**Which level of severity should I choose?**

You are highly encouraged to focus on severity 4, 5 and 6.

**Are you scored more for targeting areas with severity 6, than severity 5, severity 5 than severity 4?**

As highlighted in the call for EoI, the project targets geographical areas based on the 2017 HNO Severity Ranking; higher scores will be given to CSOs that are targeting communities in the severity scale 4, 5 and 6.

**The situation inside Syria is very volatile. Can we have a contingency line, i.e. is there any lump-sum money for unexpected emergencies that may arise?**

No, you cannot have a contingency line for unexpected emergencies that may arise. If you are awarded the grant if the situation changes significantly you will need to inform UNICEF.

**If I stop my activities in the summer for 2 months, can I request an extension so that the project does not end in March but cover the whole school year?**

No, at the moment this is not possible. Many activities can still be run during the summer holidays. Please use the timeframe on the Call for EoI on page 1.

**I cannot see any budget narrative template? So does UNICEF not require NGOs to submit a budget narrative?**

Indeed a budget narrative is not required. Your proposal should be clear enough that the purpose for each budget line is clear. If you wish, you can add a column in the budget and add any comments you may think are needed.

**What's the difference between consortium and implementing partners?**

Consortium: A group of more than one CSO who take equal ownership and authority of the proposed project. One member of the consortium will act as the contact between UNICEF and the consortium, and will sign the PCA with UNICEF on behalf of all its members. However all members of the consortium remain equal. The members of the consortium are legally obligated to UNICEF.

Implementing partner: The applying CSO does not have a capacity to fully implement its proposed project. For this reason, the CSO allocates part or all of the project to another organization. The ownership and authority of the project is with the applying CSO not the implementing CSO. The applying CSO (not the implementing partner) is legally obligated to UNICEF.

**Only NGOs that submitted all of their 4Ws in 2017 are eligible to apply. What does it mean to "submit" a 4W?**

As long as you have sent your monthly 4Ws for all the months you were a cluster member in 2017 before the ECW call went out on 7 July 2017 your 4W is considered "submitted".

**I did not submit all of my 4Ws in 2017. If I submit them now are they considered "submitted"?**

No, only 4Ws received before the ECW call went out on 7 July 2017 are considered "submitted".

**Does my implementing partner need to be a member of the cluster as well?**

Your implementing partner must be an **active member** of the cluster. The criteria for active membership is different for each hub. Please contact your cluster/sector co-coordinators for a copy of the active membership Terms of Reference (ToR).