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EU-Moldova: Stronger Together

Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts



This project is implemented by UN Women

**EU funded/ Call for Applications for Small Grants
for local Civil Society Organizations from Cahul and Ungheni districts**

Advertisement No.	CFA-2021-001
Location:	Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Type of contract:	Small Grants Agreement
Languages required:	Romanian
Application deadline:	April 12, 2021, 17:00 pm
Starting date:	May 06, 2021
Duration of the implementation:	Up to 6 months, from May 2021 to October 2021
Project:	"Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts" 119802
Purpose of the activity:	Strengthening the institutional capacity of civil society organizations from Cahul and Ungheni districts to become future advocates of gender equality in the South and Center region.

BACKGROUND

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.

The work of UN Women in Moldova is guided by its [Country Strategic Note for 2018-2022](#), aligned with [the Republic of Moldova–United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018–2022](#), [the Global Strategic Plan of UN Women for 2018-2021](#), the [National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2017-2021 \(NSGE\)](#), the [National Strategy for prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence for 2018-2023](#) developed in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). [UN Women Strategy for Moldova 2018-2022](#) focuses on three main areas: 1) strengthening women's participation in politics and decision-making, 2) economic empowerment of women and 3) ending violence against women and girls. To achieve progress under these areas, UN Women works with a variety of national and international partners, as part of different national and regional initiatives.

Based on the European Commission Decision ENI/2018/041-302 regarding the Annual Action Programme 2018 in favor of the Republic of Moldova for supporting the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, UN Women Moldova CO is implementing a three-year project under the name "Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts" (hereinafter EVA). The project is implemented in line with and in contribution to the Gender Action Plan II (GAP II) of European Commission "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the lives of girls and women through external relations 2016-2020", adopted in September 2015.

The project started in January 2020, being funded by the European Union, co-founded and implemented by UN Women Moldova Country Office and in partnership with UNICEF. The overall purpose of the EVA Project is to promote gender equality, women's empowerment through strengthened implementation of gender mainstreaming in local policies and combating gender-based and domestic violence affecting women and children in two focal regions: Ungheni and Cahul.



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One of the expected results under the EVA project is that gender equality is promoted and mainstreamed in local policy making and decision-making. The project supports Cahul and Ungheni localities to integrate gender equality in their policies and budgets through training elected and appointed representatives of the LPAs on gender equality and gender mainstreaming and its implications for decisions taken by the LPAs; coaching LPAs to adhere to the principles of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life; raising the capacities and knowledge on women's rights of local CSOs; raising awareness of local population on gender equality and empowering women to actively participate in local decision-making processes.

Another set of expected results under EVA project refers to a greater access to effective survivor - focused multidisciplinary services for the victims of domestic violence, including sexual violence; and violence prevention programmes piloted in local schools and communities. In this sense, UN Women EVA project supports strengthening the capacities of the multidisciplinary teams for an effective protection of women and children victims of domestic violence, empowering domestic violence survivors, and the usage of innovative tools to raise the capacities of local civil society (CSOs) to change attitudes and behaviors on violence against women and gender-based violence.

Civil society plays a pivotal role in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and has been at the forefront of shaping the global rights architecture on gender. The partnerships with civil society organizations and women's groups are of strategic importance in the on-going efforts for mainstreaming gender in local public policies and in raising awareness among the general public on GEWE. From the 117 officially registered non-governmental organizations in Cahul and Ungheni districts, only 32% of them are 'functional'¹. Evidence shows that local CSOs are characterized by limited experience in implementing large-scale projects; lack qualified personnel with experience in internal management and project management; lack internal long-term development strategies and experience in budget planning and result-based management. All these institutional limitations determine a sporadic activity of local CSOs and adversely affects their sustainability.

Under this call, UN Women intends to support the institutional capacity development of local civil society organizations from Cahul and Ungheni districts to enable them advocate for gender equality and women empowerment at local and regional level. These grants will bring a transformative change to the local CSOs that will be supported to develop gender-sensitive internal policies and will subsequently promote the culture of tolerance, equality, and non-discrimination in Cahul and Ungheni regions.

General Overview of the Advertisement

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) plans to award small grants to eligible Civil Society Organizations in the range of USD 5,000 to USD 10,000. **Small grants are intended exclusively to finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity.**

UN Women is targeting CSOs in the context of the "Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts" project implemented by UN Women in partnership with UNICEF, funded by the European Union.

UN Women invites eligible applicants to submit **Small Grants applications** for the eligible activities, as elaborated in this advertisement. **UN Women will consider awarding several small grants in this case.**

¹ For the purpose of the research, a "functional" NGO/CSO is defined as an organization that has had activities and projects, irrespective of their financial amount, for the past 3 years. Report on the mapping of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) directly or indirectly involved in providing social services for children and youth in the EU4Moldova focal regions programme, Cahul, and Ungheni, including other CSOs able to deliver social services in the two regions.



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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.

Eligibility criteria

The applicant must be a local Civil Society Organizations² (CSO) legally established and operating in Cahul or Ungheni districts. The applicant may apply if it:

- is a registered CSO in operation for at least three years;
- is a CSO located and operating in Cahul and/or Ungheni districts;
- is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List³;
- 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 an UN organization;
- is not an established CSO with the capacity to be engaged as an Implementing Partner/Responsible Party (an organization could be a Responsible Party if at the moment it has the internal capacity well developed and all the mandatory policies in place: anti-fraud policy; Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) policy; Internal control framework; procurement policy);
- has sufficient capacity to collaborate with various stakeholders: public, private and/or development partners (implemented at least 3 projects or initiatives);
- has sufficient financial stewardship, including having adequate financial policies and procedures in place to manage the small grant (has a minimum capacity to manage financial resources);
- 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).
- is committed to work on advocacy for gender equality, preventing violence against women and gender-based violence.
- agrees to actively engage in mentoring programmes of UN Women (preliminary planned for June 2021 – February 2022) on gender equality and women human rights in order to become vocal advocates for gender equality and ending violence against women and children in the district/region.

The applicant must be operating in one or more of the following areas:

- Local governance and decision making processes;
- Women's leadership and participation in the Agenda at the local and regional levels;
- Non-profit women-led organization;
- Non-profit media organization;
- Human rights organizations;

² Non-State, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the State and the market. CSOs represent a wide range of interests and ties. The definition of CSOs includes but are not limited to community-based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), youth-led organizations, LGBTI organizations, faith-based organizations and academic institutions but the definition of CSOs does not include business or for-profit associations.

³ <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>



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Strengthened Gender Action in
Cahul and Ungheni districts



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- Community-based organization.

Eligible activities

The purpose of small grants is NOT to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity. The applicant may apply for a small grant to cover the following type of activities:

1. Introducing and improving organizational systems, tools, and processes (Governance\Management Structure and Financial and Administrative Management areas)

Indicative activities could be but **not limited** to the following:

- Analysis and adjustment of the organization's Statute (for ensuring transparent oversight of the organization decision making; update the roles of the board and audit committee, etc.);
- Development/adjustment of organization's organigram and updating job descriptions, etc.;
- Development of organization's Strategy and Activity plan with integrated gender equality perspective for at least the period 2021-2023;
- Development of a Gender sensitive Communication and Visibility strategy;
- Development of a Manual of internal policies and procedures of the organization, or separate policies and procedures on areas like:
 - o human resources (employment of staff, contractual services, leaves, payments, performance evaluation, bonuses, etc.);
 - o data privacy and data protection;
 - o code of conduct for staff and partners, inclusively on prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment; non-discrimination and gender equality;
 - o filing of documents;
 - o transparent financial management (reporting, auditing, payments, etc.);
 - o transparent and efficient procurements (procurement plan, ceilings, announcing and evaluation of offers, etc.);
 - o anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies/provisions;
 - o conflict of interests, etc.

2. Training of workforce in technical and managerial skills:

- Participation in trainings for strengthening the technical and managerial capacities of the staff of the organization. Tentative training areas could be but not limited to: project writing, project management, results based management, financial management for CSOs, public communication, advocacy, languages, computer literacy, etc.;
- Participation in various capacity building provided by UN Women and its partners on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

3. 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.

The implementation of the small grant must be completed by 31 October 2021 for the purposes of this call.

Limitations

For the purposes of this call, UN Women's small grants are limited to a **maximum of USD 10,000 per CSO per 6-month period.**

Application

- An application must contain all relevant information showing that the applicant and the proposed activities are eligible. All applications must be in English or Romanian. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.



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- Please use the attached application form (Annex 1) and declaration form (Annex 2) when submitting your application.
- Please submit a registration certificate evidencing that the applicant is a registered CSO that has been in operation for three years and the CV/ activity reports of the organization.
- UN Women will reject any application that doesn't contain enough information to show that the application or the activities are eligible.
- UN Women will organize an information meeting open to all interested potential applicants. The meeting will be organized on-line on **April 08, 2021, between 14.00-15.30 p.m.** Please register for the meeting from the following link: [Google form link](#). The link to the online meeting will only be provided to the registered participants.
- The application must be received by UN-Women tender.md@unwomen.org not later than **12 April 2021, time 5.00 p.m.** UN Women will not consider applications sent by any other means.

Review Criteria

The applicant must:

- propose eligible activities that develop or strengthen the institutional capacity of the applicant and are consistent with the purposes of this call: to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity;
- 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 to purchase copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
- propose a timeline and eligible activities that does not extend over 31 October 2021, including political, security, logistical considerations;
- not propose to cover its indirect costs/support costs⁴ 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;
- propose eligible activities where the applicant has the capacity to reach the target audience; and,

⁴ **Support costs** - mean those indirect costs that are incurred to operate the CSO as a whole or a segment thereof and that cannot be easily connected or traced to the Allowed Activities to be performed with the small grant, i.e., operating expenses, over-head costs and general costs connected to the normal functioning of an organization/business, such as cost for support staff, office space and equipment that are not Direct Costs.

Direct costs - mean costs that can easily be connected and traced to the Allowed Activities to be performed with the small grant. For example, if an employee or consultant is hired to work on the Allowed Activities, either exclusively or for an assigned number of hours, their labor with respect to the Allowed Activities is a direct cost.

Allowed activities - means introduction or improvement of organizational systems, tools and processes, training of workforce in technical and managerial skills and purchase of adequate Equipment.



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- propose a budget that is cost-effective given the eligible activities, the number of targeted beneficiaries, and the proposed location.

Award

UN Women will evaluate applications that meet all the criteria.

UN Women will award the small grants to the applicants that best prove commitment to gender equality and are ready to engage in gender equality and women empowerment programmes.

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.



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Annex 1

Application Form

CSO/Applicant details	
Name and registration number Please submit proof of registration	
Mandate of the CSO	
CSO staff focal point and alternate	<i>(Please insert full name, title, e-mail address, telephone number)</i>
Application details	
Proposal title	
Small Grant Amount	<i>(Please provide the amount MDL)</i>
Duration and proposed start date	<i>(Please state the duration in months)</i>
Background	
Main objectives/Results to achieve	
Thematic Focus and Priorities	
Geographical area	<i>(Please indicate locality and district)</i>
Activities (list them 1.,2.,) and related expected timeframe	
How are the activities supporting the development or strengthening of the CSO's institutional capacity?	



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Annex 2

Declaration by the Authorized Representative of the Applicant Organization:

Through submitting this application, I confirm that:

1. The Organization expresses its commitment to become a vocal advocate for gender equality and preventing violence against women and gender-based violence in Cahul/ Ungheni.
2. The Organization expresses its commitment to participate in the mentoring programmes conducted by UN Women at the local level.
3. The Organization is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List;
4. The Organization is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
5. The Organization is not currently engaged as a Partner of UN Women through a Project Cooperation Agreement;
6. The proposal for the small grant does not aim to cover the Support Costs of a project implemented by the Organization;
7. The Organization will not make a direct profit from the small grant;
8. The Organization is not proposing to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement.

Date:

Name:

Stamp and signature: