

Call for Expression of Interest

Partnership in support of the operational delivery of 2024 – 2026 UNHCR Strategy in Slovenia

HCR/SVN/2023/002

1 Timeline

Posted	Sep 4, 2023
Clarification Request Deadline	Sep 15, 2023
Application Deadline	Sep 26, 2023
Notification of Results	Oct 25, 2023
Start Date	Jan 1, 2024
End Date	Dec 31, 2024

2 Locations

- A Slovenia
 - a Mestna Obcina Ljubljana

3 Sector(s) and area(s) of specialization

- A Protection
 - a Gender based violence
 - b Legal assistance and access to justice
 - c Protection - general

4 Issuing Agency

UNHCR

5 Project Background

In 2024, UNHCR Central Europe will enter a new strategic planning period (2024 – 2026). It is expected that during this upcoming period the context will continue to be heavily influenced by the consequences of the ongoing war in Ukraine. With continuing arrivals of Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries and pendular movements an ongoing characteristic, the impact of the war is expected to be felt throughout the planning period, with added complexities due to economic challenges and overstretched national systems and services. Response needs will become more wide-ranging as prolonged conflict leads to the further diversification of issues. These support needs are likely to be insufficiently matched by the available services, considering country specific and local challenges in support to displaced and stateless person relating to gender-based violence, child protection, trafficking in human being, labour exploitation, mental health and psychosocial support and access to social safety nets. Specific challenges associated with inclusion, such as access to national social protection systems, community cohesion and self-reliance are likely to increase and become a prominent feature of the response. In this context UNHCR Central Europe will focus on

ensuring protection and access to asylum for all nationalities within functioning protection systems, while moving towards comprehensive inclusion of refugees, in both their host societies and within national systems and services, in line with the Global Compact for Refugees objective of enhancing refugees' self-reliance. Demographics of those arriving from Ukraine and staying in Slovenia are expected to remain similar, with significant proportions of women, children, people with disabilities and older persons. It is expected that the number of refugees from Ukraine in country will gradually stabilize with steady numbers of new applications for Temporary Protection and continued onwards and return movements. Concurrently to arrivals from Ukraine, ongoing movements of asylum-seekers and refugees of different nationalities along the Western Balkan route are expected; it is anticipated, however, that the region remains primarily a transit rather than a destination area. In Slovenia, the operation will focus on three main impact strands – first, support access to a strengthened asylum system, specialized services and rights, with an emphasis on accessible provision of information and swift identification and referral of persons with specific needs. UNHCR will also continue its long - standing support to the national authorities providing training, exchange opportunities and technical support to practitioners. Second, in coordination with relevant authorities, UNHCR will support the reinforcement of services in the reception system for asylum-seekers and refugees (including beneficiaries of Temporary Protection), in complementarity with existing initiatives and encompassing orientation and community-based activities, capacity building for reception staff and direct protection support to individuals at heightened risks. Third, UNHCR will support the self-reliance and inclusion of refugees residing in Slovenia, including beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, through active engagement and support to efforts aiming at ensuring access to social services, as well as health services, education, housing, social safety nets, and access to employment and decent work opportunities.

6 **Expected Results**

Project A - Legal Assistance, Counselling, and Information for refugees and asylum-seekers - General information provision on legal and social rights and obligations, including through development of accessible messaging, considering a variety of communication channels, and considering the specific needs of marginalized groups, complemented with in-person and online information sessions and in partnership with relevant stakeholders. - Para-legal support and accompaniment for vulnerable individuals during asylum and integration procedures (including for family reunification). - Legal representation for vulnerable individuals or complex cases in the context of the asylum procedure or to ensure access to justice. - Capacity building for authorities, service providers and other relevant stakeholders. This can include training and development of practical tools. The partners' primary focus should be service delivery. They should support individual in collective facilities and people in host communities. In the proposal they should elaborate on their strategy and partnership for outreach in host community. Mobile units and partnership with local governments and local stakeholders (e.g refugee led initiatives, local NGOs) are highly encouraged. Project B - Delivery of protection services in asylum – facilities - MHPSS services (group and/or individual counselling), aiming to strengthen mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of vulnerable individuals and communities, and to prevent and respond to risks of GBV, THB, SEA and child protection concerns. - Provision of basic orientation information to new arrivals in reception centre Višnja. - Implementation of AGD sensitive community-based activities aiming to promote peaceful co – existence within collective facilities and with local communities neighbouring collective facilities (e.g., social, and cultural orientation, recreational activities, community-based activities). - Providing interpretation and/or cultural mediation to ensure accessible and inclusive information, services, and activities. - Capacity building for authorities, service providers and other relevant stakeholders. This can include trainings and development of practical tools. Activities should primarily target asylum-seekers residing in reception and accommodation centres, with a particular focus on Višnja, Logatec, Postojna, Debeli rtič and Kotnikova. Applicant may propose a limited range of services to asylum-seekers and refugees residing in local communities, outside of reception and accommodation centres. UNHCR expects from partner to prioritize vulnerable / marginalized individuals. With regards to service delivery to GBV and THB survivors individual case management approach should be utilized to support quality response and referrals in compliance with national frameworks as well as international guidance and minimum standards to ensure adequate quality of services. The selected partner should closely coordinate with UNHCR on the provision of information and capacity building interventions. Project C - Inclusion, community engagement & provision of holistic integration services - Facilitating refugee empowerment through support to refugee-led initiatives and organizations, volunteering or social engagement and engagement in leadership opportunities. - Implementing interventions targeting access to services and the inclusion of marginalized and less visible groups, such as youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ persons. - Support access to safe and affordable housing and/or decent employment. - Developing and implementing, jointly with refugees and local communities, innovative community-based activities aiming to facilitate access to labour market, through the engagement of refugee communities, municipalities, relevant government institutions and the private sector. - In coordination with national employment services, provide coordinated support and referrals to language classes, skills training, job placement and entrepreneurship activities. - Providing

individual case management for persons with vulnerabilities, including facilitating access to health services, education, social protection services and housing. - Providing of social inclusion services and peaceful co – existence among refugees and with the local communities. - Development of policy briefs on integration challenges with recommendations. The target population should primarily focus on Temporary Protection holders living outside collective accommodations or seeking to move out of collective accommodation, but services should also be open to other refugees and resettled families. The partner is strongly encouraged to support those seeking to move out of collective accommodation into independent living situations. Full details of the projects are described in the Annex A - Call for Expression of Interest.

7 Indicative Budget

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8 Other Information

Intended Population Coverage: Total number of refugees in country is projected to remain relatively stable. In Slovenia 8,387 registered for Temporary Protection in 2022, including 4,194 women and girls (54%), and 2,684 children (32%). By mid – 2023, the number of Temporary Protection applicants stood at 8,654. In 2022 over 32,000 irregular arrivals from other countries were recorded, a 214% increase compared to the previous year, of whom the large majority expressed their intention to apply for international protection. While the majority then moved onward, 6,787 persons lodged an asylum application. Mid-year statistical data for 2023 shows again an increase in the number of people voicing intention to seek asylum (19,451) as compared to the same period in previous year (5,211). This increase is creating pressure on the reception system, with main reception facilities facing significant overstretching of their capacities. However, the number of people effectively seeking asylum (3,115) remains steady due to the onwads movements. Based on the trends it is expected that the number of persons making an asylum application will remain comparable with previous year. While the exact number of stateless persons or those at risk of statelessness is not known, numbers are estimated to be small based on partner estimates. Submission guidance: The Call provides for a project-focused selection process targeting prospective partners able to demonstrate specific technical expertise and capacity to implement projects under pre-defined key areas. The Call describes "Projects" under the below section - Expected Outputs and Main Activities. Applications can be submitted for one or more Projects. When selecting the Project, partners should consider the main desired result of their intervention and the most significant financial cost. The intervention strategy should endeavour to address activities listed under core activities but may include supplemental activities relevant to achieving the objective. Scope of coverage of the core activities will be considered in the selection. The Project under which the applicant wishes to be considered should be clearly stated in the Concept Note. If the partner wishes to be considered for more than one Project, they may submit multiple Concept Notes and Budgets (one per project). Each Concept Note and Budget will be evaluated on its own merit against the proposals submitted in the same Project category. Where an organization to be selected under more than one Project, cost structure will be reviewed during the detailed proposal phase. Submissions which include sub-granting arrangements are welcome. The lead applicant submitting the application should clearly state the name of the sub-granted partner, the envisaged sub-granting arrangement and provide cost repartition across partners. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for project with costing ranging between EUR 50,000 and EUR 300,000. There is however no mandatory limit. Legal status in Slovenia is a requirement for all applicant organizations as follows: - Legal registration at the location of the NGO's Headquarters. - Authority to operate in Slovenia, if registered in another country. - Authority to operate a bank account in Slovenia. Full details are described in Annex A - Call for Expression of Interest. Procurement capacity: Capacity and capability for undertaking procurement at the required scale may be required in accordance with the Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 4 (Revision 1) on Procurement by Partners under Partnership Agreement. Partner's capacity to mitigate, respond and prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): All potential partners who have not previously undergone a PSEA assessment with the UN shall initiate their PSEA Self-Assessment process via the new PSEA Module on the UN Partner Portal as part of the submission to this Call. Organizations that have previously been assessed on PSEA capacity by another United Nations entity shall first check if their previous assessment has been migrated into the PSEA Module on the UN Partner Portal or not. Otherwise, they can initiate the process by uploading their previous assessment on the UN Partner Portal by providing the date of the assessment, the UN Organization and the PSEA capacity rating, along with all supporting documentation. Current partners who are undergoing the PSEA capacity strengthening implementation plan (CSIP) with UNHCR shall continue implementing their activities PSEA capacity strengthening, and implementation plans in cooperation with UNHCR and agree to upload the current assessment and reflect the CSIP on the UN Partner Portal.

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	Partner has clear evidence of leading technical expertise in required sector(s) for the UNHCR project.	20
Local experience and presence	Partner has clear evidence of strong local experience and geographical presence / coverage in required sector.	10
Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results	Partner submission addresses the services outlined in the call for the selected outcome.	10
Clarity of activities and expected results	Partner outlined strong evidence of clear, realistic and technically sound program methodology with clear theory of change.	20
Project management	Partner has outlined clear & robust considerations for good programming principles including Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM), inclusion and accessibility, Feedback and Complaint mechanism within the project's methodology. Partner's project management structure is clear & sufficient for the scope of UNHCR project. Partner has good capacity to deliver outputs as expected in a timely manner & can adapt to changes as required. Partner has clear & sufficient internal control and procurement systems in place for the scope of UNHCR project. Partner actively participates (or is committed to do so) in all relevant inter-agency coordination fora & shares information with key stakeholders. Partner's prior experience with UN or EU funding instruments with good compliance & unmodified audit opinions.	30
Cost effectiveness	Strong evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes, while equally managing project risks appropriately.	10

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Annex A - Call for Expression of Interest	Download the document here
Annex B - Concept Note	Download the document here
Annex C - Budget	Download the document here
Annex D - Questions and Answers	Download the document here

11 Concept Note Template

[Download the document here](#)

12 For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit

[UN Partner Portal](#)