

CONFLICT, STABILITY AND SECURITY FUND (CSSF) Sudan

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON: Support for local peacebuilding and addressing gender-based violence September 2020

The Fund

The CSSF is a UK cross government fund, which supports and delivers activity to tackle instability, prevent conflicts and respond to fragility. The CSSF operates in 70 countries, including in Sudan.

CSSF within the British Embassy in Khartoum is pleased to announce a call for bids for not-for-profit organisations seeking to deliver measurable outcomes in support of local peacebuilding and to address sexual and gender based violence in conflict affected areas of Sudan.

Context, need and opportunity to intervene

Sudan is at a pivotal moment. The ousting of Omar Al-Bashir after 30 years in power opens the possibility of a peaceful transition and democratic settlement. Conflict in Sudan drives economic and humanitarian crises and stunts development. Covid-19 is making these crises worse.

Peace is the top priority of the Transitional Government of Sudan (TGoS). A revitalised peace process is making some good progress but talks with the armed rebel movements have been complicated and slow. The non-inclusive nature of the talks remains a significant challenge. Local communities – particularly women and youth - feel unrepresented by those negotiating. One major armed group also remains outside the process.

The peace process is yet to deliver increased stability at the local level and in some areas of Sudan localised violent conflict is increasing in 2020. These conflicts are occurring in Darfur and the Two Areas, both of which have long experienced instability, but also in areas such as the East of Sudan, not historically impacted by violent conflict. Across the majority of affected areas, cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) are reported to be increasing and the majority of affected areas are characterised by an absence of stable response services. As state institutions adapt to the changes in the country, gaps in the provision of security and protection will remain a significant challenge.

The violent incidents show that Sudan is working through a process of political change while living with a legacy of decades of violence. Many of the root causes of this conflict have remained the same for decades and are driven by exclusionary politics, historic divisions and tribal narratives, competition over access to the state and other resources, and ethnic polarisation. Mixed with these legacies of conflict are new factors that are driving recent violence, including the worsening economic crisis, widespread and increasing food insecurity and slow progress in the peace process.

Peace agreements are a positive development and will help to manage some of the tensions at the local level. But significant work remains to bring peace and stability to the people of Sudan and avoid a return to deeper conflict in the longer term.

The UK Government (HMG) is supporting the peace process and the establishment of the new UN mission, UNITAMS. **With this Call for Proposals, we want to scale up our support for mechanisms that support local peacebuilding and address SGBV in a flexible, strategic and sustained manner.**

Gender dynamics

HMG recognises that conflict is experienced differently by women and men, girls and boys and seeks to address the different peacebuilding needs, including those of victims of SGBV.

Research demonstrates increases in SGBV under the pressure of Covid-19 lockdown measures, making the need to address the root causes of gendered violence even more pressing in the current context.

CSSF is looking to strengthen the role of local organisations supporting victims of SGBV through services and advocacy, to empower victims and allies.

The project

The project's expected **components** are:

- i) Provision of local peacebuilding in identified conflict affected areas, with gender sensitivity mainstreamed throughout, including a focus on increased women's leadership in peacebuilding;
- ii) Focus on support for victims of SGBV in conflict affected areas;

We welcome proposals to deliver one or both components; and joint/consortium bids from multiple organisations to deliver both components.

We foresee that this project could work to support the following indicative activities:

- Support local peacebuilding. Methodologies could include community security, dispute resolution, reconciliation, mediation, early warning, or dialogue in target areas;
- Work with/support gender inclusion and women's empowerment (including empowering of allies and champions) with civil society organisations focused on peacebuilding;
- Deliver support to those affected by SGBV. Support could include, but is not limited to: access to justice, psychosocial services, community reconciliation, tackling stigma, access to referral pathways and access to sexual and reproductive health;
- Identify, technically review and recommend on programming opportunities in existing and emerging conflict areas in Sudan, responding to political and contextual risks and challenges;
- Support HMG identification and review of geographic and regional areas of focus;
- Issue and manage grants to downstream partners if appropriate, including assurance on due diligence to meet HMG standards, management of finances and assets;
- Gather and apply lessons and adaptive programming techniques.

CSSF is looking for proposals to deliver a 2-year project valued at up to £2.8m to address local peacebuilding needs.

This project will focus on sub-national peacebuilding, selecting a number of geographical areas in which to work, while also allowing for priority activities that link to the national and regional levels. It

will identify and support efforts by Sudanese institutions and groups that show signs of successfully managing and reducing conflict, and of promoting civic attitudes and practices.

This project will sit within the strategic framework of the CSSF, and therefore will deliver towards the CSSF results framework. It will need to adapt to ongoing development of the CSSF's strategic approach and focus, and to ensure cross-CSSF complementarity.

Assessment Criteria

- **Peacebuilding, conflict prevention and gender expertise:** competence and prior expertise relevant to establishing and managing peacebuilding activities at a local level, analysing and acting upon conflict and gender dynamics, supporting victims of SGBV, and promoting women's leadership.
- **Sustainability and local ownership:** a track record of working with Sudanese stakeholders and of developing approaches that prioritise local ownership and decision-making. Potential partners should ensure complementarity and synergy between supported interventions and with other activity in the subnational areas of focus (for example, other civil society initiatives or activities supported by INGOs and the UN);
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL):** an indicative approach, demonstrated competence and prior expertise in flexible and adaptive programming methodologies. The successful bidder will finalise a detailed MEL strategy that is appropriate for the context by the end of the inception phase. This may include completion of a baseline study. They will work closely with third party monitoring and learning/evaluation programmes established by CSSF.
- **Approach and methodology:** an indicative quarterly implementation plan, indicative area identification and modalities for partnerships, consortiums and/or sub-granting arrangements in the bid, with a clear approach for how this will be finalised by the end of the inception phase, working closely with the CSSF team.
- **Project and financial management:** competence and prior expertise in establishing and maintaining robust project cycle management practices and financial procedures and controls. All funds will be managed by the supplier. No funds will be channelled through Government of Sudan systems.
- **Risk management:** an indicative risk management matrix and outline how this be reviewed and maintained. A high risk and unpredictable operating environment is likely to persist for the full duration of the project. Risk management will be discussed at least on a quarterly basis due to the need to adapt to a changing context.
- **Conflict and gender-sensitivity:** competence, prior expertise and a plan for how the project will adopt a conflict and gender sensitive approach.
- **Engagement and communications strategy:** an indicative communications strategy. This will be finalised during the project inception phase with guidance from HMG. Key issues covered will include, but are not limited to: effective communication with those individuals and organisations targeted for support, beneficiary and non-beneficiary feedback, knowledge transfer, branding and donor reporting.
- **Value for money:** financial soundness of the proposed activity and strong monitoring and evaluation framework.

Other Requirements

- It is a requirement that the Supplier has the necessary authorisation and accreditation to work in Sudan.
- CSSF will conduct a due diligence assessment on the successful potential partner(s)
- CSSF will subsequently sign a standard accountable grant contract with the successful partner/s. The terms of the standard contract templates are not negotiable.
- Additional project documentation will be completed by the successful bidder/s, following the award.

Submission

- Complete the project bid in the '*Project Proposal Form*' and '*Activity Based Budget*' in English
- Completed forms should be sent in standard format with the subject title "CSSF Sudan Peacebuilding Project: XXX name of the implementer", to Afnan.Hassan@fcdo.gov.uk
- Deadline for submission: bids must be submitted by **Thursday 8th October 2020**.
- Bidders will be notified via email, of the outcome of assessment by Monday 30th November 2020, once internal approval process has been complete. Due to the volume of bids expected, we will not be able to provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.