

ANNEX C: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Note: The purpose of the [Call for Expression of Interest](#) is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to participate in a UNHCR operation and contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge, funds, in-kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment) to achieving common objectives as agreed in a [Project Partnership Agreement](#).

UNHCR Offices are required to provide a brief description and background of the [Project](#) and selection criteria for the [Project](#). A sample template for a [Call for Expression of interest](#) is below.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No.	
<p><u>Project title and Identification:</u></p> <p><i>Strengthening the protection of asylum-seekers/refugees/stateless persons with specific needs</i></p>	<p><u>Project Location:</u></p> <p>SLOVENIA</p>
<p><u>Brief Background of the Project:</u></p> <p>Between January and July 2016, 651 asylum applications have been lodged in Slovenia. This constitutes more than the average annual number of applications between 2007 and 2015. The five main countries of origin are: Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Morocco and Pakistan. Furthermore, the Slovenian government has committed to accepting 567 persons from Italy and Greece under the EU relocation mechanism and another 60 persons under the regular resettlement programme.</p> <p>With the increase in the number of asylum-seekers – there is also a higher number of people with specific needs (PWSN). Numerous gaps in the national reception framework present protection risks and impede access to effective protection support. . Asylum seekers are housed in reception facilities within the capital and other cities until their claims are decided. Crowded conditions and the uncertain outlook for many asylum seekers lead to frustration and tensions among residents, in some cases resulting in violent behaviour, including in the form of SGBV.</p> <p>Special care for vulnerable groups is provided for in national legislation, however its implementation remains a considerable challenge particularly due to the increase in the number of persons in need of assistance. The announced reorganization of governmental bodies for reception and care of refugees in 2016 raises further uncertainty about the implementation of procedures in support of persons with special needs, including SGBV victims.</p> <p>It has be identification and referral channels to ensure access to the relevant procedures. The lack of capacity, resources and expertise in the national context, can present obstacles to effective protection.</p> <p>In 2017, UNHCR will further enhance its focus on strengthening protection support for persons with special needs; including to ensure their effective access to the asylum procedures and relevant services. UNHCR will provide guidance, and as appropriate assist, the authorities to ensure that adequate long-term reception capacity is available to address the needs of the growing number of asylum-seekers. As part of this effort UNHCR will continue to support the government with developing an appropriate psycho-social support system for unaccompanied and separated children and victims of all forms of violence and SGBV.</p> <p>In conclusion the project aims to contribute to a strengthening of the asylum system in Slovenia by ensuring</p>	

that people with special needs have access to information and counselling, suitable reception conditions; and that they are able to access mainstream national protection mechanisms.

Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities:

UNHCR will focus on strengthening national protection systems and ensure access to mainstream social and economic rights for the population of concern in Slovenia. This will be pursued by focusing on guidance capacity-building for national authorities and other relevant counterparts to maintain a protection and rights-centred response to refugees and asylum seekers in Slovenia. Outreach activities, including through provision of information, legal advice and counselling to persons of concern will ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are in a position to take informed decisions regarding their future.

Advocacy, public information and sensitization campaigns, including activities aimed at preventing xenophobia, will be conducted. In the context of increasing xenophobia and racism in the public debate on refugees and migrants in Europe, the aim is to raise awareness and maintain public goodwill for refugees and migrants hosted in Slovenia.

Coordination mechanisms established in line with the Refugee Coordination Model and in support of national authorities' response will be maintained and improved..

In 2017, UNHCR aims to address the following problems and gaps:

- Strengthen identification and referral of persons with specific needs, including SGBV victims, and provision of appropriate and relevant assistance. PWSN will have access to mainstream protection and support mechanisms, including complementary mechanisms
- Ensure that persons with specific needs are not detained, including through the effective use of alternatives to detention
- Strengthen and systematize the protection mechanisms for of children
- Enhance SGBV prevention and response to strengthen prevention, protection and referral mechanisms.
- Facilitate the provision of protection and legal information, including information on accessing protection and asylum procedures in Slovenia..
- Improve the provision of psychosocial assistance and other types of support to vulnerable persons, specifically mothers, infants and children in child friendly spaces

Objective: Protection of Children Strengthened

UNHCR continues to give particular attention to refugee children. The scope of the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe in 2015 and 2016, has resulted in complex challenges to assure the wellbeing and safety of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Slovenia. While there is a national child protection system in place, UNHCR remains concerned that a high number of UASC abscond from their accommodation facilities.

UNHCR aims to ensure that UASC have effective access to the asylum procedures as well as to quality support services, including adequate reception conditions that address the needs of persons with specific needs.

Objective: Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved

Prevention of SGBV will be enhanced leading to a decrease in the number of SGBV incidences. Persons of concerns will have access to effective and functioning counselling, treatment and referral mechanisms; and SGBV prevention and protection mechanisms will be mainstreamed into the national protection systems.

Objective: Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved

UNHCR and relevant stakeholders will continue to ensure effective access to asylum procedures. These procedures will be fair and have the necessary quality to ensure that substantive claims for asylum are recognised.. Identification mechanisms of vulnerable persons will be put in place as well as support systems to

address their needs. Quality training will be available for relevant government and NGO stakeholders.

Objective: Ensure access to legal assistance and legal remedies to persons of concern

UNHCR and relevant stakeholders will complement the efforts of the authorities to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees, particularly persons with special needs have access to information, legal services and counselling.

Access to legal services for the majority of persons of concern shall further be improved by ensuring availability of efficient translation/interpretation services. The access to legal services and legal remedies shall be ensured regardless of vulnerability, age, education, youth, origin, background or other cultural issues, as well as physical or psychological disability. Access to information and legal assistance is a crucial element in effective access to the RSD procedure.

Intended Population of Concern:

Asylum seekers and refugees

Project Period [estimated start and end dates of project]:

1 January- 31 December 2017

Submission Deadline:

02 September 2016

Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:

30 September 2016

Selection Criteria

Choose relevant criteria	Criteria Description	Assigned Weighting (optional)
X	Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	20%
X	Project management: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable.	10%
X	Local experience and presence: ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging refugees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	15%
X	Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	15%
X	Cost effectiveness: level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.	30%
X	Experience working with UNHCR: global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	10%
	Other: as required by the UNHCR Office for any specific project (specify)	

Please submit the following documents to the below indicated contacts. Please feel free to choose one or more objectives based on your expertise, experience and interest.

