

*Invitation for Expression of Interest to UNHCR-funded grants for  
Local Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in Moldova*

**Invitation for Expression of Interest**

The purpose of this Invitation for Expression of Interest is to encourage Community-Based Organizations<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as CBOs) including local Refugee-Led Organizations<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as RLOs), Organizations led by Forcibly Displaced and Stateless people and Women-Led Organizations<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter referred to as WLOs) in Moldova to seek support in developing their capacity in various areas of interest to respond to the needs of refugees and host communities by establishing small-scale partnerships with UNHCR and implementing grant agreements.

UNHCR finds it crucial to strengthen self-organized networks and communities and expand their capacity to form and improve themselves. UNHCR's grant agreement for CBOs including RLOs, WLOs, as well as initiative groups, volunteer movements and other initiatives led by refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless persons, represents an opportunity to support such organizations in their efforts to maintain a relevant and active role in addressing community challenges at a local level, by contributing to their capacity development.

The grant offers a **maximum of USD 12,000** per organization during the implementation year (2024). The basis of the partnership will be a grant agreement that entails a description of the activities envisaged during the grant period, a commitment to use funds solely for the purpose of activities as agreed and described in the project proposal that will strengthen the capacity of the selected organization to work with the refugees and local communities, as well as simplified financial and performance reporting requirements.

**A project proposal within a total amount of max. USD 12,000 can be submitted for one or more activities.**

UNHCR has the discretion to approve either the entire proposal as submitted, or to select only certain parts of it that are suitable. The conclusion of a grant agreement with UNHCR is subject to a selection process and availability of funds. The selection of a partner through this invitation does not constitute an obligation for UNHCR to conclude a grant agreement with the selected partner.

**The following are eligible:**

Category 1: An organization that has legal registration in the Republic of Moldova, where it intends to perform activities

Category 2: An individual with a legal status in the Republic of Moldova, representing an informal union

<sup>1</sup> A Community-based Organization (CBO) is a group of people who come together to accomplish a common goal (or a set of goals) that provides services at the community level. It is a non-profit, grassroots organization whose activities are based primarily on volunteer efforts.

<sup>2</sup> A Refugee-led Organization (RLO) is an organization that is either entirely established and led by refugees/asylum seekers/stateless people or have more than 50% of refugees/asylum seekers/stateless people in positions of leadership and decision-making.

<sup>3</sup> Local women-led organization (WLO): An organization with a humanitarian mandate and/or mission that is (1) governed or directed by women; or 2) whose leadership is principally made up of women, demonstrated by 50 percent or more occupying senior leadership positions.

of persons with a common objective that does not have legal status (legal personality) in the Republic of Moldova or in another country. The individual with legal status in the Republic of Moldova acts on the union's behalf.

Other groups may be considered based on flexible grant arrangements and strategic UNHCR priorities.

Eligibility will be determined based on the review of the submissions of applicant organizations, including they meet main selection criteria for Grant Agreements presented below under the respective section.

Project title and identification	Project Locations
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Implement small-scale initiatives for refugees and local communities while enhancing the capacity of CBOs.	Republic of Moldova
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**Project Period: Estimated start and end dates of project**

**2024 Programme Cycle**

This invitation for expression of interest covers activities to be implemented during the 2024 programme cycle:

The implementation start date will be agreed with UNHCR after the selection of the organizations and the projects. The indicative timeline is envisaged from August to December 2024.

Timeframe & deadlines (date open, date closed)	Date results to be communicated to applicants
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Date Open: 4 June 2024 Date Closed: 21 June 2024 (inclusive) Queries will be accepted via e-mail to <a href="mailto:mdachipmc@unhcr.org">mdachipmc@unhcr.org</a>	UNHCR will contact the selected applicant to initiate the partnership, as per the operational priorities, following a review of the applications and decision by the Office. All applicant organizations will receive a reply to their applications.
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**Main Focus for Areas of Intervention for Project Proposals**

**UNHCR will prioritize organizations and interventions that address the needs of refugees and host communities on the following areas:**

1. Community mobilization and empowerment
2. Gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response, including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and work with LGBTIQ+ persons.
3. Women's empowerment
4. Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion
5. Protection and Advocacy
6. Community integration of groups at higher risk of marginalization and/or violence
7. Work with persons with disabilities
8. Psychosocial wellbeing (including MHPSS)

Other important considerations for the proposals include the following:

- The project does not duplicate existing services provided in the locality.





**UNHCR**

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Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

- The project does not create parallel systems to those of the Government.

### Main selection criteria for Grant Agreements

**1. Qualification as a refugee-led organization:** At least one of the following should be applicable:

- The organization was founded by >50% asylum-seekers/refugees or stateless persons
- The organization has >50% asylum-seekers/refugees/stateless persons in leadership and decision-making positions
- The organization has documented evidence of having primarily undertaken advocacy, protection, or assistance services for refugees/asylum seekers/stateless persons or communities.

Applicant organizations are required to submit an application that sets out the name of the grantee and members in leadership positions and includes copies of the organization's documents listed below and bank account details (in case of informal organizations, include the identification documents of the individual representing the organization, and bank account details).

**2. Experience working with UNHCR / UN, its partners, and/or evidence of previously implemented initiatives through the provision of at least one reference.**

**3. Organizational Sustainability:** Include in the proposal the length of time (e.g., years, months etc.) the organization existed.

**4. Governance Structure:**

- For registered organizations: Organigram of the organization and evidence/information on how diverse representation in planning and decision-making (if available) to be included in the proposal.
- For non-registered organizations: evidence/information on how diverse representation in planning and decision-making (if available) to be included in the proposal.

**5. Operational Effectiveness:** Evidence of beneficiaries from its operations/projects and feedback from previous beneficiaries, included in proposal.

**6. Inclusion and Diversity:** Documented evidence that the organization has performed with equitable access by all members of a community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or social group to information, resources, and decision-making opportunities in the organization.

**7. Legal Status:** Determination of the legal status of the organization and the appropriate contracting party: If the organization is not registered in the Republic of Moldova where it intends to perform activities and is not authorized to conclude contracts in its own name, UNHCR can sign an agreement with an individual, who has a legal status in Moldova and acts as a representative of the informal organization and its participants. Otherwise, UNHCR cannot provide a grant to this organization.

**8. Financial Management:** If the organization does not have a bank account in its legally registered name, or a bank account for a key member of the organization in their name, then

UNHCR cannot provide a grant to this organization.

9. **Other Safeguards:** The organization must confirm that they are willing to 1) commit to the Code of Conduct (CoC), which should include a clause on PSEA, and have all its staff sign it; 2) undertake mandatory training on preventing SEA; 3) have a reporting mechanism for personnel, beneficiaries, and communities to report misconduct including SEA allegations and 4) undertake mandatory training on identification and referral of children at risk if the proposed project involves direct contact with children. In addition, UNHCR may conduct periodic monitoring and should include the grantee in capacity development and training activities on these important issues.

If the organization is selected, it will also be required to officially join PSEA Network.

**Documents to be submitted:**

1. Annex B- Project Proposal Template
2. The Governing Document/Statute of the applicant Organization, if available
3. At least 1 reference attesting the area of expertise of the organization and work conducted so far
4. Organigram
5. Bank account details

Applications should be submitted at [mdachipmc@unhcr.org](mailto:mdachipmc@unhcr.org) by the submission deadline: 21 June 2024. Applications may be submitted in English, Romanian, or Russian.

**UNHCR encourages all organizations to apply even if they cannot provide the totality of the above-mentioned documents.**

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<b>Full name and title, Head of Office:</b>	Mr. Bertrand Blanc, Representative a. i.
<b>Name of UNHCR Office:</b>	UNHCR Representation in the Republic of Moldova
<b>Date:</b>	3 June 2024

