

PROTECTION SUPPORT FUND

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Open from December 1st 2016 until March 15th 2017

THE CALL

In October 2015, Protection International (PI) became member of a consortium carrying the EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism under the name of ProtectDefenders.eu. This call for proposals is organised thanks of the funds allocated under the component 2 (C2) of the Protect Defenders fund, in order to reinforce the sustainability of local human rights organisations.

The call prioritises proposals for **consolidating operational capacities of local human rights organisations** which are important to the medium to long term prospects for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), such as:

- Supporting local initiatives, especially the ones in isolated areas or strengthening HRDs' protection structures, such as networks, response mechanisms or focal points;
- Allowing HRDs to manage risks inherent to their own work and/or work of other HRDs, and thus support continued human rights activism;
- Building capacities of local organisations, by allowing them to obtain and/or conduct specific trainings in areas that would assist in protecting them, such as physical and digital security, legal defence, litigation, etc.;
- Providing a lifeline to local organisations that are endangered by unexpected and/or grave security, financial, legal or administrative situations.

This call for proposal **will NOT support** individual or emergency grants, nor any relocation request as these needs are covered by other call for proposals under Protectdefenders.eu (see in particular "[Emergency grants](#)" and "[Relocation grant](#)").

DEADLINE

Applications can be received anytime during the opening of the call (see dates above). Proposals will be dealt upon as they arrive. The call will be closed as soon as the available amount has been fully allocated and **at the latest on March 15th 2017**.

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The overall indicative amount made available to Protection International under Component 2 (C2) for this Call for Proposals is EUR 130 000. Only one contract will be awarded per applicant under this call. Protection International reserves the right not to award all available funds.

PRIORITY COUNTRIES:

- **Africa**: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan;
- **Americas**: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, USA;
- **Asia**: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand.

ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the **minimum amount of EUR 5000 and the maximum amount of EUR 20 000**.

Only activities taking place **from October 1st 2016 until September 30th 2017** will be considered eligible.

To avoid creating a misbalance and/or dependency towards the Fund, the grant requested cannot be more than 30% of the organisation's previous annual financial statement (to be provided along the application).

Applicant eligibility:

The call is only open to non-profit organisations and networks that:

- are formally registered;
- are working with the following priority groups:
 - HRD or communities who are particularly vulnerable due to gender, sexual orientation, the issue they work on (e.g. land rights; anti-corruption), or their geographical location (e.g. remote or rural areas, conflict area);
 - HRD or communities with little means to access the required financial resources through other channels.

Fixed list of eligible activities:

- Setting up and maintaining protection systems (including but not limited to office physical and digital security measures);
- Preventive protective accompaniment by third party;
- Organisational capacity building and systems
- Running a protection network or collective protection mechanism;
- Activities related with team supervision, psychosocial support, rest and respite or other well-being measures;
- One-off financial support to ensure the organisation's operational functioning or a bridge to cover a funding gap.

Other criteria for selection:

- PI prioritises projects that aim for sustainable results in order to achieve lasting impact. In particular, applicants are highly encouraged to include in their proposal specific activities aimed at increasing financial, management and organizational capacities to

ensure the continuation of their work in the long term (financial, legal, physical, psychological, digital and reputational resilience);

- Applicants are not receiving funds already for organisational development from any of the EU ProtectDefenders.eu component;
- PI aims for a geographically balanced distribution;
- PI expects a gendered approach to protection and security;
- Equal treatment and non-discrimination: PI will not discriminate against any applicant because of race, colour, religion, gender, or national origin.

PAYMENT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Payments shall be made in accordance with the terms described hereafter:

- An initial pre-financing payment of 80% of the granted amount will be disbursed upon reception of the signed contract;
- The balance of the final amount of the grant will be disbursed **after reception and approval of the financial report by PI** in the limits of:
 - maximum 20% of the amount originally granted;
 - AND maximum of the total amount duly reported and accounted for in the financial report. Should that final amount be inferior to the total amount granted, only expenses accounted for will be reimbursed.

The final reports (financial and narrative) must be sent as soon as the whole funds have been spent and **no later than October 31st 2017** (one month after the end of the implementation period).

PROCESS

- Correspondence related to the call and possible grant-making process is encrypted if opportune or required;
- The proposals are presented using the application form provided;
- Applications will be examined and evaluated by PI head office and their protection desks with the possible assistance of external assessors. All submitted proposals will be assessed;
- If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated above, the application will be rejected on this sole basis;
- The applicants will be informed in writing of Protection International's decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision;
- An applicant believing that it has been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may lodge a complaint;
- Following the decision to award a grant, the Beneficiary(ies) will be requested to sign a Grant Agreement based on the application. By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees, if awarded a grant, to accept the contractual conditions of the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement describes the main terms of the grant, identifies the contact person, details the reporting requirements and provides a complaint procedure.