

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST [TO BE ISSUED BY UNHCR]

Note: The purpose of the Call for Expression of Interest (CfEol) is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to collaborate with UNHCR to achieve common outcomes.

UNHCR Offices are required to provide context for the partnership and selection criteria. A sample template for a Call for Expression of Interest (CfEol) is below.

Please note that the following template mirrors the structure of the information required on the UNPP for the CfEol. Any supplementary information should be attached as an additional document.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CfEol)

Project Details	
CfEol ID	HCR/AFG/2024/003
Title	Child Protection
Project/Programme Focal Point(s)	Aram Abdullah – Child Protection Officer Mildred Watchipa - Senior Programme Officer
Project location	20 PARRs with limited interventions in other areas subject to assessment findings. Focus will be on refugee returnees as main target population. Interventions outside the 20 PARR areas will be very limited as it will depend on the number of refugee returnees to these non-PARR areas. <i>Please refer Annex A2 - 2025-2027 PARRs</i>
Sector(s) and Area(s) of Specialization	
Sector(s)	Protection
Area(s) of Specialization	Outcome Area 5 - Child Protection
Issued by	UNHCR
Project background:	
Processing of personal data ¹ (if required within the partnership)	C2C arrangement
Direct contact with forcibly displaced and stateless persons	YES
<p>With the end of major hostilities in Afghanistan after more than 40 years and the consolidation of control by the de facto authorities in August 2021, conflict is no longer the primary driver of displacement. However, 3.2 million Afghans remain displaced within the country, and over 5.53 million are registered refugees or Afghans in refugee-like situations in the region. An estimated 52,000 refugees are living in Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika regions.</p> <p>Children face multiple child protection risks and have limited access to prevention and response services. Due to limited economic opportunities, socio-economic instability, and restrictive policies, many children in Afghanistan are compelled into child labor, engaging in work such as carpet weaving, garbage collection, and livestock herding. Girls face severe educational restrictions beyond grade 6, which significantly limits their future opportunities and heightens their vulnerability. Children face protection and security risks due to economic hardships, and those with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect due to a lack of targeted support services. Family separation is an additional risk, especially during repatriation from Pakistan and</p>	

¹ Please see below for arrangement definitions for processing of personal data.

Iran, leading to more unaccompanied and separated children. Addressing child protection concerns in Afghanistan requires a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach.

UNHCR partners with NGOs in various regions using an area-based approach in 80 priority areas of return (PARRs). Its engagement in child protection aligns with the UNHCR Policy on Child Protection, which also aligns with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, and the UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity Policy.

UNHCR implements child protection programs in the country's southern, western, eastern, and central regions, with the plan to expand to other locations as determined by the evolution of the child protection situation in operation. These programs will target refugees and asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as IDP and refugee returnee children. More information will be obtained from the planned assessment, which will inform the strategic direction.

In this context, UNHCR envisages establishing a partnership with a humanitarian actor capable of providing child protection services to vulnerable children across the country who are exposed to violence, neglect, abuse, exploitation, and family separation, especially in the context of return from Pakistan and Iran. UNHCR's work will include ensuring that children at risk have access to quality child protection services; supporting children, families, and communities to protect and care for children; ensuring that children have access to child-friendly protection and solutions in their best interests; mainstreaming child protection across other sectors; ensuring accountability and child-friendly communication to children; and supporting the strengthening of child protection systems.

Expected results:

Impact Statement: *By 2027, more forcibly displaced, returnees, and stateless people, as well as vulnerable host communities, particularly women and girls, are able to better exercise their rights in safety and dignity*

Outcome Area 5: Child Protection

Outcome: By 2027, the national child protection system, humanitarian actors, children, families, and communities in Afghanistan will be increasingly able to protect refugee, internally displaced, returnee, and stateless children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, violence, and family separation and promote solutions in children's best interests.

UNHCR anticipates that the selected partner will enhance the availability and accessibility of prevention and response services for children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. This intervention includes establishing child-friendly spaces, providing comprehensive case management services, and implementing psychosocial support programs. By creating safe environments and offering psychosocial support, partners will help children recover from trauma and build resilience, ensuring their protection and well-being.

In addition, the selected partner should increase awareness and engagement among children, families, and communities regarding child protection issues through awareness-raising campaigns and educational programs on child rights and protection. By establishing and supporting community-based child protection mechanisms, partners will empower local communities to safeguard children actively. Furthermore, promoting child participation in decision-making will ensure that children's voices are heard and considered in matters affecting their well-being.

The selected partner is expected to enhance the skills and knowledge of community-based child protection networks through specialized training programs and improved coordination among

humanitarian organizations. By sharing best practices and tools, partners will ensure a cohesive and comprehensive response to child protection concerns, fostering effective collaboration towards common goals.

UNHCR expects the selected partner to actively participate in interagency child protection forums, such as the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AOR), at national and sub-national levels. This active engagement ensures that responses to child protection concerns are coordinated and aligned with the UNHCR Policy on Child Protection, as well as the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, and the UNHCR Age, Gender, and Diversity Policy.

To ensure the adequate protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR requires partners to adhere to applicable sector standards outlined within [UNHCR's areas of specialization](#).

Indicative budget (optional):

N/A

Processing of personal data (if required within the partnership):

[Partner Data Protection and Information Security Self-Assessment](#) should be completed by the partner at the country level and submitted with the concept note.

As a data controller, the partner is accountable for the implementation of data protection standards. The concept note should describe the measures ensuring adherence to the data protection principles, procedures and mechanisms envisaged for providing information to the data subjects, receiving and processing data subject rights request, complaints and independent redress.

As part of this project, the partner is expected to ensure that the principle of informed consent is respected in all the phases of the project. This is of particular importance during the case management process and referrals. The selected partner will also ensure the highest standard of confidentiality for all individual case files by adopting robust filing and recording mechanisms in line with UNHCR and CP AoR protocols, especially when it comes to the implementation of CPIMS+. Individual files and personal data of assisted persons shall in no circumstances be shared with external parties.

Controller-to-Controller (C2C): is a relationship between UNHCR and a partner for processing the data of forcibly displaced and stateless persons where UNHCR and the partner act as data controllers. It includes a transfer of personal data between two data controllers. Both Controllers determine the purposes and essential means of the personal data processing that is required for the project/service, and thus they are separately accountable for the personal data processing they control, including the responsibility for addressing requests by data subjects relating to their data subject rights.

Other information (optional): Interested National and International Non-Governmental Organizations in Afghanistan are invited to [submit concept notes](#) and other required documents to UNHCR, as specified below

Concept note

The concept note should be concise and contain clear information on proposed activities specifying Outcome area, outcome statement and specific activities that Partner is able to implement, indicating location of implementation. Concept notes should not exceed six pages and should not be a fully developed project proposal, should make clear reference to guidelines and other similar approved interagency tools and must be submitted in a [Template](#) attached to this call for EoI as **Annex A1**. Budget should be included in the concept note as a table or submitted separately as an attachment.

Important Notes: All applicant NGOs in Afghanistan are required to register the organization, if not yet done, on the UN Partner Portal- <https://unpartnerportal.org>; upload all required

documents, including Concept Notes, budget and other supporting documents in response to this call for Expression of Interest by **24 October 2024 midnight Afghanistan time**.

UNHCR is committed in undertaking adequate due diligence and conduct the process of selection of partners in an objective, consistent, transparent and timely manner. All applicant organizations will receive written notification on the outcome of the selection process.

CfEOI timeline				
Request for clarification deadline	Application deadline	Notification of results	Estimated start date	Estimated end date
23 October 2024 AFGKAEOI@unhcr.org	24 October 2024	15 November 2024	01 January 2025	31 December 2025
Selection Criteria				
Criteria Description				Assigned Weighting
<p>Sector expertise and experience: The selected partner must possess extensive experience and a strong background in child protection, with a proven track record in implementing child protection programs and delivering high-quality services to vulnerable children. Expertise in handling the Case Management process for child protection is essential, along with substantial capacity to manage complex child protection cases effectively. Additionally, the partner should demonstrate proficiency in awareness raising, psychosocial support (PSS), and possess strong technical skills in child protection.</p> <p>The partner needs to demonstrate knowledge of protection and humanitarian principles and the Age, Gender, Diversity (AGD) approach as well as gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion.</p> <p>The partner needs to show strong commitment to Accountability to Affected Persons (AAP) and have robust complaints and feedback mechanisms in place. The partner should highlight how they ensure participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the Programme Cycle.</p> <p>Partner's PSEA capacity self-assessment and data protection and information security self-assessment have been completed and submitted (where relevant to the partnership). The Partner should also demonstrate awareness about PSEA reporting mechanisms and commitment to staff capacity building on PSEA.</p> <p>Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action.</p>				30%
<p>Project management: ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes, and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past</p>				20%

	performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management; adequate control over procurement, of assets and inventory (if applicable).	
	Local experience and presence: ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; participation in inter-agency coordination fora – especially the CP Sub-Cluster at the national and regional levels, engaging forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the programme cycle; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; feedback and complaint mechanisms for affected communities; self-organized groups of forcibly displaced and stateless persons; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the affected communities and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	20%
	Cost effective: Evidence of a methodology for allocation of shared costs to project activities. Evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes while also ensuring that resources are also directed to activities that ensure project risks are being appropriately managed.	15%
	Access/ Security Considerations: ability to operate in security conditions of the Project site(s) or country as well as existence and functionality of partner's organizational policies, procedures and practices related to security risk management.	15%

Issuing UNHCR Office

UNHCR Country Office Kabul

Contact Address

 ICON Compound, Supreme Road, District # 9,
 Jalalabad Road, Kabul- Afghanistan

Signature, Head of Office



Full name and title, Head of Office

 pp. Jamal Arafat, Representative UNHCR
 Afghanistan

Name of UNHCR Office

UNHCR Country Office Kabul

Date

25- September- 2024

