

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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The purpose of the call is to solicit the interest of prospective or existing partners that wish to participate in the UNHCR led operations in Ghana, and contribute complementary resources (human, financial or in-kind resources) in order to achieve common and agreed objectives undertaken through a Project Partnership Agreement.

Project title and Identification

Project Locations

PROTECTION AND MIXED SOLUTIONS TO REFUGEEES & ASYLUM - SEEKERS IN GHANA

WESTERN, CENTRAL, BRONG AHAFO, VOLTA AND GREATER ACCRA REGIONS, GHANA

Brief background of the project

Overall operational context :

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It also has a mandate to help stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness.

Ghana hosts approximately 20,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities. Among the most significant refugee population, there are 10,803 Ivorian refugees and asylum-seekers. Over 8,717 (80%) reside in the three refugee camps (Ampain in the Western Region, Egyeikrom in Central Region and Fetentaa in Brong Ahafo Region). Additionally, 3,703 Togolese refugees, majority of whom are located in the Volta Region, Krisan settlement for a small number of Togolese in residence and in Urban Accra for Togolese refugees registered in the metropolitan area. There are also approximately, 5,000 Liberians who are located in the Buduburam camp. Majority of Liberians have opted for Local Integration, and the process is about to be completed. Finally, 1,272 asylum seekers and refugees originating from 29 different countries are also hosted in Ghana.

UNHCR Ghana supports the Government of Ghana, to deliver protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR works in close cooperation with the Ghana Refugee Board, which is the main State body responsible for refugee matters, including first instance refugee status determination. UNHCR also works closely with other State agencies in the context of camp management, local integration and provision of social services. In order to effectively support the persons of concern, UNHCR works in partnership with a number of other stakeholders including international and national NGOs state agencies and other UN organizations as well as international donors.

Assistance to refugees and asylum Seekers in the camps is mainly in the areas of livelihoods, provision of sanitation and hygiene, health services, water, food and nutrition, shelter and other Infrastructure, provision of domestic and household items, reproductive health and HIV care, prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child protection, education, and legal assistance, provision of household and domestic items, social mobilisation and community development, repatriation, resettlement and environmental services. UNHCR Ghana seeks qualified partners to provide assistance and solutions to refugees in the above mentioned areas.

Support to refugees and asylum-seekers who live outside the camps, in urban areas and host communities include access to integrated services such as primary health care delivered through enrolment on the National Health Insurance Scheme; and basic education in public schools with minimum assistance provided. Additionally, livelihood support is provided to facilitate self-reliance.

Brief background of the project :

The Representation Office of the UNHCR in Ghana invites qualified Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), service providers to make a firm offer for establishment of a Project Partnership Agreement for the provision of any/or all of the following services (hereinafter referred to as sectors):

- **Livelihoods**
- **Health, reproductive health, HIV**

- **Food and Nutrition**
- **Prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-based violence**
- **Water and Sanitation**
- **Shelter and Infrastructure**
- **Child Education**
- **Provision Legal assistance**
- **Community mobilisation**

Overall requirement

With respect to each of the below listed sectors, the expectation of the successful agency will be:

- To submit regular monitoring reports to the UNHCR, including quarterly progress reports as well as an annual report detailing project progress and achievement of results as contained in the Project Partnership Agreement.
- To ensure participatory and age gender diversity mainstreaming programme design and implementation that takes into account the needs and aspirations of the Government of Ghana, UNHCR, refugees, host communities and other key stakeholders;
- To ensure that the sector design and implementation responds to gender equity and equality, environmental conservation and rehabilitation as well as to other needs relating to prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV);
- To ensure that the security and safety of all refugees, especially refugee women, children and persons with specific needs are taken into account in programme design.

Partner Profile :

UNHCR will partner with organizations that are committed to:

Common humanitarian goals;

The core values of UNHCR and the United Nations;

The Principles of Partnership; and,

Good governance, including transparency, accountability and sound financial management.

By fulfilling the profile criteria described above, the prospective partner may be eligible and have a strong ability to work with UNHCR.

Selection Criteria:

The prospective partner should ensure the following:

Sector expertise and experience: The selected agency will possess the required sector specific skills, expertise, knowledge and human resources.

Project management: The selected agency will have the 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.

Local experience and presence: On-going programmes in the area of operation, trust from local communities, local knowledge as well as engagement with refugees and other persons of concern will be an added advantage. The selected agency will need to demonstrate a coherent policy on community relations, complaint mechanisms for persons of concern and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern, which would reduce administrative difficulties.

Contribution of resources: The selected agency demonstrates an ability to contribute resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.

Cost effectiveness: The level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables should not exceed 30%.

Experience working with UNHCR: Knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations, and associated inherent risks will be an added advantage. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.

Project Period :

The project period is from **1 January 2015 until 31 December 2015.**

Project Goals and Expected Outcomes relating to the below listed sectors

Livelihoods

UNHCR considers that livelihoods programs aim at impacting positively on the socioeconomic well-being of refugees with three-pronged objectives: (1) reducing their vulnerabilities, (2) helping them to increase/ diversify their sources of incomes, as well as prevent negative coping strategies, and (3) facilitating access to the labour market and create an enabling environment for livelihoods in the host area. In the Ghana refugee operation, strengthening livelihoods support is crucial to gradually reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and assistance with a view to increase the economic capacity of refugee households or refugee individual; underpinning each durable solutions in particular voluntary repatriation or local integration. With that in mind, skills training, provision of start-up kits, apprenticeship and certification of their skills through National Vocational Training Institute, entrepreneurship training, business set up support; microfinance as well as agricultural support is the approach to facilitate attainment of self-reliance by refugees.

Expected Outcomes:

Livelihoods assets of Persons of Concern (PoC) households or individual are protected.

Livelihoods strategies of PoC households or individual are built and improved.

Economic capacity of PoC households or individual is increased.

Self-reliance of PoC households or individual is fostered.

Health, Nutrition and Reproductive Health and HIV:

UNHCR Ghana's public health programmes for refugees are anchored on the principles of primary health care and support for secondary and tertiary health care. UNHCR seeks to ensure that all refugees can access quality health care, reproductive health and HIV care. There is an on-going process of integrating health care services at the camps into the national health system, including registration on National Health Insurance Scheme.

Expected Outcomes:

Health indicators are maintained at international standards;

PoC will have access to health services similar to those of the nationals in host communities;

In coordination with other stakeholders, systems are set up to address specific nutrition gaps;

Effective management of all health facilities and supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes;

Prevention of HIV/AIDS and care to Persons Living With HIV/AIDS including facilitating the provision of Anti-Retroviral Treatment among other courses of treatment;

Management of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programmes.

Food and Nutrition

UNHCR considers that food aid helps to meet the basic needs of individuals and households and enables the PoC households to protect and/or recover their livelihoods assets and build on gradually sustainable livelihoods strategy. Since 2011, Ivoirian refugees and asylum-seekers hosted in the three camps have been provided with food rations in close cooperation with World Food Program (WFP). Specific care and attention to persons with specific needs in the context of food distribution is also made to reduce their vulnerability. Supplementary feeding is required to complement high nutritional demands due to their vulnerabilities.

Expected Outcomes:

PoC households or individuals enjoy timely, quality and effective distribution of food with due attention paid to people with specific needs, through delivery mechanisms that respect the guiding principles of humanitarian action, especially accountability and transparency.

Prevention of malnutrition and food insecurity among PoC is ensured and strengthened through regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms of PoC's nutrition and food security status.

Shelter and Other Infrastructure:

While access to adequate shelter is another basic need of the PoCs, UNHCR seeks to reinforce previous investments and construction works carried out in areas hosting refugee camps. UNHCR makes available shelter material and technical support, through its partner, to PoC households or individual willing to rehabilitate and improve the current shelters with a view to ensure dignified accommodation. Emphasis will be put on increased community participation in that area, through building the capacities of the PoC and structuring of shelter committees at camp level, to ensure the rehabilitation work of their shelter with due attention to persons with specific needs.

Expected Outcomes:

Shelter Committees are strengthened in each camp to provide support for shelter rehabilitation in camps.

PoC households or individuals enjoy adequate shelters

PoC Households that include persons with specific needs have access to adequate shelter according to their specific needs.

Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based violence(SGBV):

Prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence are crucial to UNHCR while being directly linked to the protection of refugees, especially women and girls. UNHCR considers that ensuring the safety of the victims and family at all times is crucial, while respect for confidentiality of the affected persons and their family's needs to be ensured at all times. In accordance with its guidelines to prevent and respond to SGBV, security, legal, psycho-social response must be provided to the victim of SGBV.

Expected Outcomes

SGBV incidents are effectively reported by affected refugee population in accordance with the relevant Ghanaian law and the Standard Operating Procedures to prevent and respond to SGBV affecting PoCs in Ghana.

PoC are informed and are aware of their rights and legal entitlements regarding SGBV.

Host communities, local communities and services providers in camp and around the camp are effectively sensitized on SGBV and are aware of the relevant Ghanaian law and the Standard Operating Procedures to prevent and respond to SGBV.

SGBV victims have access to legal process and redress with the appropriate bodies, including judiciary.

PoC understand and promote gender equality with a view to seek to protect and respect the rights of women and girls.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

UNHCR Ghana interventions in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector aims to ensure that refugees have safe access to water of sufficient quality and quantity and to improve sanitation and hygiene services. Additionally, the WASH sector addresses specific needs to ensure that minimum standards are met, and that both the quality and quantity of water and sanitation are enhanced to reduce the likelihood of a negative impact on protection and health status.

Expected Outcomes:

PoC enjoy continued access to potable water and sanitation that meet minimum standard requirements

The enhancement of technical capacity to monitor and improve the quality of services.

The rehabilitation or upgrading of existing water and sanitation facilities are ensured

Children education

UNHCR places great importance on the provision of quality education for refugee children and asylum-seekers and is pursuing an education strategy which will culminate in the integration of camp schools in the Ghana Education Service System. This will ensure harmonization with national curriculum, certification as well as easy and equal access for all refugee children into primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

Expected Outcomes:

-All PoC have improved access to primary education, are enrolled and retained in school.

-Access to secondary education in the national system is promoted

Provision of Legal Assistance

Provision of legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees is crucial to empower them with the ability to make

their own choices regarding their future, and to ensure effective enjoyment of their rights and entitlements in their country of asylum. Legal assistance includes legal and procedural information, legal advice and counselling, participation in personal RSD interviews, drafting administrative and legal documents, as well as court representation and coaching. The quality and effective provision of legal and procedural information and legal counselling for asylum-seekers will ensure that they enjoy sufficient procedural safeguards and legal guarantees in the context of their asylum case processing, in particular in urban area (Accra) with a view to contribute to strengthen fair and efficient RSD procedures in Ghana. Additionally, the provision of legal and procedural information as well as legal advice for refugees will ensure effective access of their rights and entitlement in Ghana, without discrimination with a view to achieve self-reliance and foster sustainable livelihoods.

Expected Outcomes:

All principal asylum-seekers are provided with legal and procedural information in the context of their individual asylum case processing by the Ghana adjudicating asylum body and if need be, with legal assistance and representation with a view to ensure fair and efficient refugee status determination Process.

Legal counselling, legal assistance, and if appropriate, representation to refugees and asylum-seekers are provided to ensure appropriate response to issues linked to tenancy agreement, land tenures, labour and employment, family disputes including alimony for the children as well as criminal offences

Legal and procedural information and if need be, legal assistance is provided to persons of concern to UNHCR for issues relating to access to nationality and civil status documentation and birth registration with a view to prevent statelessness and legal integration for protracted refugees.

-Refugees are adequately counselled on their rights, entitlements, and obligations in the country of asylum to ensure access to employment and development of small scale enterprise. Particular attention will be paid to respond to issues relating to self-employment, labour employment (work permit), access to market (stall, kiosk, enterprise, retailing, hawking), certification of diploma, and access to credit schemes and banks)

i) **Community Mobilisation**

In refugee camp situations, community mobilisation is crucial to ensure social cohesion among refugee population, to foster solidarity among refugee and host community population, as well as to ensure positive dialogue within the refugee community and with the surrounding host communities located around the refugee camps. Community mobilisation comprises a range of components from counselling, coaching and support to refugee committees, with a view to ensure the creation and/or the strengthening of well- balanced and representative instances of refugees at camp and at local level, and to promote self-management of some services provided in camp, and to foster social cohesion in particular regarding special needs groups.

Expected Outcomes:

- Effective communication channels among refugee communities for refugees hosted in camps are set up and improved with a view to foster positive messages on self-reliance, livelihoods opportunities and peaceful coexistence with host communities.
- All Refugee Representative Committees and other representatives' bodies in relevant sector areas at camp level are functioning and reinforced.
- Self-help committees for providing targeted support to people with specific needs in camp locations are created and/or reinforced and structured.
- Community self-management committees in camps responsible for targeted social services provided in camp such as water supply, food distribution, shelter, and child care are set-up and/or reinforced in a way that is consistent with the gradual integration of basic services for refugees in existing national services.
- Peace building and civic rights education are promoted through range of social communication activities with a view to foster peaceful coexistence and social cohesion among populations, and promote due respect of law.

Practical information

Any interested organization or agency (hereinafter referred to as agency) that deems itself eligible to perform (in accordance with the above criteria, the project goals and expected outcomes) in one or several of the listed sectors are encouraged to apply. The application may be either for one sector or a number of sectors. For each sector that the agency intends to cover, one standard concept note is required to be completed. When the agency intends to

cover a number of sectors listed above, they are required to complete **one concept note per sector**.

The **standard UNHCR concept note template** will be provided upon request to all interested agencies. A request for the template can be made to the following UNHCR Ghana email address: ghaac@unhcr.org

Kindly note **the deadline for the submission of the Concept Note(s) to UNHCR Representation in Ghana is Monday the 10 November 2014 at 5.00 pm (GMT)**.

When using post mail, the concept note(s) shall be sealed in an envelope with a cover letter detailing the number of concept note submitted, as well as sectors intended to be covered and should be addressed to:

***Secretary of the Local Committee on Implementing Partner
UNHCR Representation in Ghana, 16 Labone drive, 4 Dade walk***

or using the UNHCR private mail box addressed to :

Private Mail Bag, KIA, Accra, Ghana

or alternatively the scanned copy of the concept note(s) can be sent by email with a cover electronic message detailing the number of concept notes submitted as well as mentioning each sector intended to be covered to:

ghaac@unhcr.org

Issuing UNHCR Office: UNHCR Branch Office, Accra, Ghana

For Further information: Please contact : ghaac@unhcr.org