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**Contracting authority: Italian Agency for Development
Cooperation**

**WE-RISE! Women Empowerment for Resilience, Inclusion,
Sustainability and Environment**

T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-96-02

Promoting positive social norms towards GEWE

**Guidelines
for grant applicants**

Budget lines 3.1.5; 3.2.3; 3.3.3

Reference: Grant/01/WE-RISE!/T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-96-02

Deadline for submission of concept notes and full applications

14th July 2022 at 5:30 p.m. GMT +2 (Khartoum, Sudan)

Notice

This is an open call for proposals, where all documents are submitted together (concept note and full application). In the first instance, only the concept notes will be evaluated. Thereafter, for the lead applicants who have been pre-selected, the full applications will be evaluated. After the evaluation of the full applications, an eligibility check will be performed for those which have been provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the contracting authority and the signed 'declaration by the lead applicant' sent together with the full application



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1. WE-RISE! Women Empowerment for Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability and Environment. Promoting positive social norms towards GEWE

1.1. BACKGROUND

Sudan is in a critical moment, moving away from decades of isolation towards a new political and socio-economic set up. Under a civil-military administration, Sudan had embarked in a reformatory process that was supposed to last three years and guide the Country to democratic elections.

However, on 25 October, 2021 - after a few weeks of growing political tensions - a military putsch dismissed the Transitional Government and dissolved the Sovereign Council, leading to a still on-going violent political unrest and protests.

The 36-months **WE-RISE! Programme - Women Empowerment for Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability and Environment - T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-96-02**, jointly implemented by AICS and UN Women, was designed in 2019, when the transitional government was moving its first steps, aiming at changing the dysfunctional socio-economic system with political transformation and forging a new and more inclusive social contract, built on sustainable peace.

This Programme represents one of the three actions funded by the special allocation 2019-2020 channeled under the EUTF - *European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa*, to multiple governments, to realize the programme “Sudan - Support to Economic Opportunities for Youth and Women - T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-96”.

Bearing in mind the new challenges resulting from the current situation in Sudan, *WE-RISE!* Programme is continuing its mission, officially started in February 2021: the enhancement of the economic opportunities for youth and women in Sudan. As specific objectives, it aims at creating a conducive environment for the economic empowerment of women living in the most vulnerable situations in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States, through microfinance mechanisms, policy development and cultural change.

To contribute to the final target of the programme (23,000 individuals, between women, girls, host communities and urban population, IDPs and refugees and civil servants), the **Result 3** of *WE-RISE!* - “Positive social norms and attitudes towards GEWE and WEE are embraced by families and communities” - aims at leaving a valuable and sustainable impact on 3,400 individuals (for further details on the target groups see paragraph 1.2).

This result has been designed in line with the main vision of the programme, in order to address main barriers for Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE), by preventing negative social norms, including mechanisms to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) as obstacle to WEE and the promotion of positive social norms towards GEWE.



1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES

The **global objective** of this call for proposals is: ***Promoting positive social norms towards GEWE - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment***

The **specific objective(s)** of this call for proposals is/are:

1. To support women groups to promote WEE - Women Economic Empowerment in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States
2. To promote awareness, advocacy and coordination among civil society.
3. To promote women's health and safety as a driver for WEE - Women Economic Empowerment.

These three specific objectives have been developed in line with the larger vision of WE-RISE! Programme, aiming at crosscutting between the two key sectors of interventions (economic and social), addressing GBV and other social and cultural barriers to WEE, promoting positive social norms to create a conducive environment for women's empowerment at community and family levels.

According to the indicators included in WE-RISE! Programme, the advisable number of beneficiaries should be distributed as follow:

State	Number
Kassala	1000
Gedaref	1000
Red Sea	1400
Tot	3400 (50% women)

The priority(ies) of this call for proposals is/are:

Priority Area 1: *Supporting women groups to promote WEE, in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States*

- Support production and access to market for women groups and organizations (by assessing and enhancing their capacities)
- Strengthening leadership, business management and basic literacy capacities of cooperatives-leading women;
- Supporting women participation to decision making positions (including WEE-related areas)
- Assisting women and their communities to establish a common agenda for women's rights advocacy among civil society.
- Building and strengthening women's knowledge and capacities on monitoring, evaluation, GEWE and WEE, international conventions (i.e. CEDAW) and supporting campaigns for their adoption.

The design of this action should ensure the inclusion of the following target groups: women who run cooperatives, women's groups, organizations and associations related to business, production, and access to market, civil society and activists, community members and other relevant actors

Priority Area 2: Promoting awareness, advocacy and coordination among civil society, in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States

- Coordinating with and assisting communities and other stakeholders to address the key issues highlighted by the gender analysis ("The Impact of Social Norms on WEE", study that UNWomen - as Partner of WE-RISE! Programme - is developing and that will be provided to the selected coordinator)¹;
- Online and offline advocacy to raise awareness on gender discriminations and its impact on the well-being of communities.
- Establishing community-based plans to combat traditional harmful practices and other gender discriminatory social norms.
- Mainstreaming gender into the media actors involved in the action (focus on journalism and social media)

The design of this action should ensure the inclusion of the following target groups: communities and media workers.

Priority Area 3: Promoting women's health and safety as a driver for WEE, in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States

- Establishing a support mechanism at community level to sensitize against GBV
- Supporting already existing structures such as counselling centres and providing women a safe space for meeting and sharing.
- Conducting awareness campaigns on GBV and other discriminatory practices with the involvement of religious leaders, community leaders and male community in general.
- Setting up an early warning system to detect occurrence of violence and a referral mechanism for survivors.
- Supporting already existing counselling centres and health centres at state levels and train women on family planning, prevention of breast and cervical cancer, FGM/C, breastfeeding, nutrition.
- Organising awareness sessions at family and community levels on SRHR.
- Involving men in family planning sessions and creating awareness groups specifically targeting men.

The design of this action should ensure the inclusion of the following target groups: women and girls at risk of and experiencing GBV, workers of counselling and health centers, community leaders, families.

¹ Based on the findings of the gender analysis, the Action will (1) use strategies that seek to intentionally shift social norms by calling out the norms with the target community and developing activities to change the social norm itself; (2) select sub-sectors where women are already economically active; (3) choose to work within existing social norms, promote the identified positive norms and assume that the impact of the resulting economic gains for women will change the negative social norms over time.

Cross cutting issues:

Inclusion of groups at risk of vulnerability and marginalization, disability, gender, youth, displacement (IDPs and refugees), Covid-19, men and boys engagement.

1.3. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is EUR 910.000,00. The contracting authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.

Size of grants

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must not exceed the below maximum amount:

- maximum amount: EUR 910.000,00.

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must not exceed the below maximum percentage of total eligible costs of the action:

- Maximum percentage: 100% of the total eligible costs of the action (see also Section 2.1.4.).

The balance (i.e., the difference between the total cost of the action and the amount requested from the contracting authority) must be financed from sources other than the general budget of the Union or the European Development Fund².

The grant may cover the entire eligible costs of the action if this is deemed essential to carry it out. If that is the case, the lead applicant must justify full financing in Section 2.1 of Part B of the grant application form. The validity of the justification provided will be examined during the evaluation procedure. The absence of any justification may lead to the rejection of the application.

Co-financing is not allowed, by any means.

² Where a grant is financed by the European Development Fund, any mention of European Union financing must be understood as referring to European Development Fund financing.

2. Rules for this call for proposals

These guidelines set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of the actions financed under this call, in conformity with the practical guide, which is applicable to the present call (available on the internet at this address <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?locale=en>).³

2.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

(1) the actors (2.1.1.):

- the **‘lead applicant’**, i.e. the entity submitting the application form;
- if any, its **co-applicant(s)** (**where it is not specified otherwise the lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) are hereinafter jointly referred as ‘applicant(s)’**);
- and, if any, **affiliated entity(ies)** to the lead applicant and/or to a co-applicant(s);

(2) the actions (2.1.3.):

- actions for which a grant may be awarded;

(3) the costs (2.1.4.):

- types of cost that may be taken into account in setting the amount of the grant.

2.1.1 Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s))

Lead applicant

(1) In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- be a legal person **and**
- be non-profit-making **and**
- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation⁴ **and** national regulation.

³ Note that a lead applicant (i.e. a coordinator) whose pillars have been positively assessed by the European Commission and who is awarded a grant will not sign the standard grant contract published with these guidelines but a contribution agreement based on the contribution agreement template. All references in these guidelines and other documents related to this call to the standard grant contract shall in this case be understood as referring to the relevant provisions of the contribution agreement template.

⁴ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also recognised as international organisations.

- be established in⁵ a Member State of the European Union or in countries eligible under EDF-ENI- and DCI-funded programmes (see PRAG Annex a2a for the list of eligible countries) and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary **and**
- be registered and active in the PADOR (Potential Applicant Data On-Line Registration; off-line form Annex F), EU on-line database of legal entities and
- have managed at least two programmes in similar contexts and
- have managed at least two programmes in similar budget - between 500.000,00 and 1.000.000,00 and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary and
- be registered and/or authorized to implement activities in Sudan and
- be operative in Sudan for the past 3 years (preferred - will receive higher score during the evaluation) and
- be operative⁶ in Eastern Sudan States and
- have managed programmes funded by EU (preferred - will receive higher score during the evaluation)

(2) Potential applicants may not participate in calls for proposals or be awarded grants if they are in any of the situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide;

Lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entities and, in case of legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over the lead applicant, the co-applicants and the affiliated entities are informed that, should they be in one of the situations of early detection or exclusion according to Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide, personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the early detection and exclusion system, and communicated to the persons and entities concerned in relation to the award or the execution of a grant contract. In this respect, provisionally selected lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities or those placed in the reserve list are obliged to declare that they are not in one of the exclusion situations through a signed declaration on honour (PRAG Annex A14). For grants of EUR 15 000 or less, no declaration on honour is required. See Section 2.4.

In Part B Section 8 of the grant application form ('declaration(s) by the lead applicant'), the lead applicant must declare that the lead applicant himself, the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) are not in any of these situations.

The lead applicant must act with at least one co-applicant as specified hereafter. One of the co-applicants must be a local entity/organization.

⁵ To be determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes, which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned and that its head office is located in an eligible country. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a 'Memorandum of Understanding' has been concluded.

⁶ All the applicants (lead and co-) for this call for proposal should have the "national registration" with HAC, in order to be allowed to work in all Sudan's States. At the moment of the application, at least the co-applicant(s) should be operative through: **(1)** active projects in the 3 States or **(2)** having an office in the 3 States or **(3)** having signed a technical agreement/MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the 3 States.

If awarded the grant contract, the lead applicant will become the beneficiary identified as the coordinator in Annex G (special conditions). The coordinator is the sole interlocutor of the contracting authority. It represents and acts on behalf of any other co-beneficiary (if any) and coordinate the design and implementation of the action.

Co-applicant(s)

Co-applicants participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the lead applicant.

Co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant him/herself (except for the PADOR registration, the experience in two programmes in similar budget - between 500.000,00 and 1.000.000,00, which are mandatory only for the lead applicant).

Co-applicants must sign the mandate in Part B Section 4 of the grant application form.

If awarded the grant contract, the co-applicant(s) (if any) will become beneficiary(ies) in the action (together with the coordinator).

- (3) In addition, please note that contracts cannot be awarded to or signed with applicants included in the lists of EU restrictive measures (see Section 2.4. of the PRAG).

2.1.2 Affiliated entities

The lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) may act with affiliated entity(ies). **Only the following entities may be considered as affiliated entities to the lead applicant and/or to co-applicant(s):**

Only entities having a structural link with the applicants (i.e. the lead applicant or a co-applicant), in particular a legal or capital link.

This structural link encompasses mainly two notions:

- (i) Control, as defined in Directive 2013/34/EU on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings:

Entities affiliated to an applicant may hence be:

- Entities directly or indirectly controlled by the applicant (daughter companies or first-tier subsidiaries). They may also be entities controlled by an entity controlled by the applicant (granddaughter companies or second-tier subsidiaries) and the same applies to further tiers of control;
 - Entities directly or indirectly controlling the applicant (parent companies). Likewise, they may be entities controlling an entity controlling the applicant;
 - Entities under the same direct or indirect control as the applicant (sister companies).
- (ii) Membership, i.e. the applicant is legally defined as a e.g. network, federation, association in which the proposed affiliated entities also participate or the applicant participates in the same entity (e.g. network, federation, association,...) as the proposed affiliated entities.

The structural link shall, as a general rule, be neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation. This means that the link would exist independently of the award of the grant; it should exist before the call for proposals and remain valid after the end of the action.

By way of exception, an entity may be considered as affiliated to an applicant even if it has a structural link specifically established for the sole purpose of the implementation of the action in the case of so-called 'sole

applicants' or 'sole beneficiaries'. A sole applicant or a sole beneficiary is a legal entity formed by several entities (a group of entities) which together comply with the criteria for being awarded the grant. For example, an association is formed by its members.

What is not an affiliated entity?

The following are not considered entities affiliated to an applicant:

- Entities that have entered into a (procurement) contract or subcontract with an applicant, act as concessionaires or delegates for public services for an applicant,
- Entities that receive financial support from the applicant,
- Entities that cooperate on a regular basis with an applicant on the basis of a memorandum of understanding or share some assets,
- Entities that have signed a consortium agreement under the grant contract (unless this consortium agreement leads to the creation of a 'sole applicant' as described above).

How to verify the existence of the required link with an applicant?

The affiliation resulting from control may in particular be proved on the basis of the consolidated accounts of the group of entities the applicant and its proposed affiliates belong to.

The affiliation resulting from membership may in particular be proved on the basis of the statutes or equivalent act establishing the entity (network, federation, association) which the applicant constitutes or in which the applicant participates.

If the applicants are awarded a grant contract, their affiliated entity(ies) will not become beneficiary(ies) of the action and signatory(ies) of the grant contract. However, they will participate in the design and in the implementation of the action and the costs they incur (including those incurred for implementation contracts and financial support to third parties and subcontractors) may be accepted as eligible costs, provided they comply with all the relevant rules already applicable to the beneficiary(ies) under the grant contract.

Affiliated entity(ies) must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as the lead applicant and the co-applicant(s). They must sign the affiliated entity(ies) statement in Part B Section 5 of the grant application form.

2.1.3 Associates and contractors

The following entities are not applicants nor affiliated entities and do not have to sign the 'mandate for co-applicant(s)' or 'affiliated entities' statement:

- Associates

Other organisations or individuals may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant, with the exception of per diem or travel costs. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in Section 2.1.1. Associates must be mentioned in Part B Section 6 — 'Associates participating in the action' — of the grant application form.

- Contractors

The beneficiaries and their affiliated entities are permitted to award contracts. Associates or affiliated entity(ies) cannot be also contractors in the project. Contractors are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

2.1.4 Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

Definition:

An action is composed of a set of activities.

Duration

The initial planned duration of an action may not exceed 16 months and may last maximum until 30 November 2023.

Sectors or themes

1. Specific sectors to which the actions must relate, including, but not limited to:
 1. Economic/work
 2. Social
 3. Communication
 4. Social Protection
 5. Health

2. Specific themes to which the actions must relate, including, but not limited to:
 - Women's economic empowerment
 - Gender-sensitive and responsive and sustainable women-led business and cooperatives
 - Gender-balanced representation in decision making, managing and leading
 - Stakeholders' engagement: men (i.e. as gender champions), families and community
 - Coordination among civil society, duty-bearers and rights-holders (including community leaders)
 - Gender-sensitive and gender-responsive media
 - GBV prevention and management (including economic violence)
 - Child labor
 - Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (family planning, breast and cervical cancer prevention, FGM female genital mutilation, breastfeeding and nutrition)

Location

Actions must take place in the following country: Sudan, specifically in each of the following three States

1. Kassala
2. Gedaref
3. Red Sea

Types of action

All proposed actions and initiatives supported should aim at promoting positive social norms towards GEWE (among the identified target groups) in the three target States in Sudan.

Actions should be operations whose impact can be measured on the short and long-term according to the use of SMART, beneficiary and results-oriented indicators and indicating a coherent set of activities with clearly defined operational objectives, target groups, planned tangible outcomes, and be executed within a limited timeframe. They should be designed as:

- sustainable, scalable and replicable;
- based on an inclusive and participatory approach and on the "leave no one behind" principle and the "do not harm" policy;
- in response to the specific needs of the target groups identified by the applicant;

- including the adoption of efficient and effective Monitoring and Evaluation and Risk Management mechanisms;
- taking in high consideration potential risks and existing challenges within the target communities;

Applicants in their proposals must incorporate a series of complimentary activities that target the three priority areas as stipulated on section 1.2.

The following types of action are ineligible:

- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.

Types of activity

Only activities that fall under the priority sectors described in 1.2 of these guidelines are eligible for funding under this Call for Proposal. Proposals outside these priority sectors will not be considered for funding.

The list below includes the activities that may be financed under this call, but it can be expanded according to the applicants' proposals:

- Stakeholders and needs' mapping and analysis
- Networking with key players and drivers of change
- Knowledge creation through data collection and analysis tools: assessment and restructuring women groups and cooperatives;
- Capacity building sessions: building capacities of women-led cooperatives;
- Technical assistance: to promote women's participation and advocacy;
- Raising awareness sessions on gender discriminations and their impact at multiple levels, on gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual reproductive health rights (SRHRs);
- Networking and partnership building with media;
- Activities to support protection mechanism, GBV prevention and to promote SRHRs;
- Advocacy-related activities: online and offline campaigns.

Proposed activities that include the following elements will receive higher scores during the evaluation process for this funding opportunity:

- a participatory approach to addressing identified needs based on innovation and intersectionality
- a high potential for a lasting impact and/or multiplier effects
- taking in high consideration the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the current situation and unrest in the country, which are affecting the socio-economic conditions and needs of the target population. (i.e. through the SWOT and PESTLE analysis);
- guaranteeing the project beneficiaries' ownership and the sustainability of the proposed action (i.e. through a peer-to-peer model).

Indicators

- *% of beneficiaries supported in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea States*
- *% women's groups/associations which adopted a common agenda*
- *% women's groups/associations participation to the accountability mechanism*
- *# of trainings on international conventions*
- *# of awareness sessions specific for beneficiaries*

- *# of public awareness sessions to foster positive impact*
- *% of women having direct access to protection mechanism and referral systems*
- *# of counselling centres supported*
- *# of trainings and information sessions on SRHR*
- *# of media partners*

Financial support to third parties⁷

Applicants may not propose financial support to third parties.

Visibility

The applicants must take all necessary steps to publicise the fact that the European Union has financed or co-financed the action. As far as possible, actions that are wholly or partially funded by the European Union must incorporate information and communication activities designed to raise the awareness of specific or general audiences of the reasons for the action and the EU support for the action in the country or region concerned, as well as the results and the impact of this support.

Applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing (see the Requirements for Visibility Communication for EU external actions specified and published by the European Commission at https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-visibility-requirements-2018_en.pdf)

Number of applications and grants per applicants / affiliated entities

The lead applicant may not submit more than 1 application(s) under this call for proposals.

The lead applicant may not be awarded more than 1 grant(s) under this call for proposals.

The lead applicant may not be a co-applicant or an affiliated entity in another application at the same time.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity may not be the co-applicant or affiliated entity in more than 1 application under this call for proposals.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity may not be awarded more than 1 grant(s) under this call for proposals.

2.1.5 Eligibility of costs: costs that can be included

Union contributions under this call for proposals take the following form(s):

- Financing not linked to costs of the relevant operations based on⁸:

the achievement of results measured by reference to the previously set milestones or through performance indicators;

⁷ These third parties are neither affiliated entity(ies) nor associates nor contractors.

⁸ Such performance-based financing is not subject to other sub-articles of Article 14 of the General Conditions to the grant contract. The relevant results and the means to measure their achievement shall be clearly described in Annex I to the contract.

The amount to be paid per achieved result shall be set out in Annex III. The method to determine the amount to be paid per achieved result shall be clearly described in Annex I, take into account the principle of sound financial management and avoid double-financing of costs. The beneficiary shall not be obliged to report on costs linked to the achievement of results. However it shall submit any necessary supporting documents, including where relevant accounting documents, to prove that the results triggering the payment as defined in Annex I and III have been achieved.

Articles 15(1) (schedule of payment), 15(7) (expenditure verification), 17(3) (no-profit) of the General Conditions do not apply to the part of the action supported by way of result-based financing.

- Reimbursement of eligible costs that may be based on any or a combination of the following forms:

- (i) actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies);
- (ii) one or more simplified cost options (see below).

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for 'eligible costs'.

Simplified cost options (SCOs) may take the form of:

- **unit costs:** covering all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by reference to an amount per unit.
- **lump sums:** covering in global terms all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance.
- **flat-rate financing:** covering specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by applying a percentage fixed ex ante. This form is not applicable to output or result based SCOs.

Simplified costs options are divided in two categories:

1/ "output or result based SCOs": this category includes costs linked to outputs, results, activities, deliverables in the framework of a specific project (for example the determination of a lump sum for the organization of a conference, or for the realisation of a determined output/activity). Where possible and appropriate, lump sums and unit costs shall be determined in such a way to allow their payment upon achievement of concrete outputs and/or results. This type of SCO can be proposed by the beneficiary (no threshold is applicable) at proposal's stage (Grant application form – Full application). In case the evaluation committee and the contracting authority are not satisfied with the quality of the justification provided, reimbursement on the basis of actually incurred costs is always possible.

2/ "other SCOs": This second category entails simplified cost options embedded in the cost accounting practices of the beneficiary, if they are accepted by national authorities under comparable funding schemes. In this case, the grant beneficiary shall demonstrate that the national authority accepted the cost accounting practices and will have to specify in which context this acceptance was given. The evaluation committee will assess if the funding scheme is comparable. To obtain reimbursement of this category of SCOs, the beneficiary shall make reference to the comparable funding schemes of national authorities in the budget justification sheet (annex B). In case the evaluation committee and the contracting authority are not satisfied with the quality of the justification provided reimbursement on the basis of actually incurred costs is always possible.

The amounts or rates have to be based on estimates using objective data such as statistical data or any other objective means or with reference to certified or auditable historical data of the applicants or the affiliated entity(ies). Determining SCO is possible also through 'expert judgement' provided by internally available experts or procured in accordance with the applicable rules. Experts must be either commissioned auditors or chartered accountants, or staff of the contracting authority but cannot be staff of the beneficiary. The methods used to determine the amounts or rates of unit costs, lump sums or flat-rates must comply with the criteria established in Annex K, and especially ensure that the costs correspond fairly to the actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies), are in line with their cost accounting practices, no profit is made and the costs are not already covered by other sources of funding (no double funding). Please refer to Annex K for the details of the procedure to be followed depending on the type and amount of the costs to be declared as SCO.

Applicants proposing this form of reimbursement, must clearly indicate in worksheet no.1 of Annex B, each heading/item of eligible costs concerned by this type of financing, i.e. add the reference in capital letters to 'UNIT COST', 'LUMPSUM', 'FLAT RATE' in the Unit column (see example in Annex K).

Additionally in Annex B, in the second column of worksheet no.2, 'Justification of the estimated costs' per each of the corresponding budget item or heading applicants must:

- describe the information and methods used to establish the amounts of unit costs, lump sums and/or flat-rates, to which costs they refer, etc for output or result based SCO;
- clearly explain the formulas for calculation of the final eligible amount for output or result based SCO;
- make reference to the national authorities comparable funding schemes for other SCOs.

Where SCOs are proposed the evaluation committee and the contracting authority decide whether to accept the proposed amounts or rates on the basis of the provisional budget submitted by the applicants, by analysing factual data of grants carried out by the applicants or of similar actions. In case the evaluation committee and the contracting authority are not satisfied with the quality of the justification provided reimbursement on the basis of actually incurred costs is always possible.

No threshold is set ex-ante for the total amount of financing that can be authorised by the contracting authority on the basis of simplified cost options. Other SCOs can be proposed only if previously accepted by national authorities in comparable funding schemes.

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checks preceding the signing of the grant contract do not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the contracting authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant or the percentage of EU co-financing as a result of these corrections.

It is therefore in the applicants' interest to provide a **realistic and cost-effective budget**.

The grant may take the form of a single lump-sum covering the entire eligible costs of an action or a work programme.

Single lump sums may be determined on the basis of the estimated budget, which should comply with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Compliance with these principles shall be verified ex ante at the time of evaluation of the grant application.

When authorising single lump sums the authorising officer responsible shall comply with the conditions applicable to output or result based SCOs.

When using this form of financing, the description of the action shall include detailed information on the essential conditions triggering the payment, including, where applicable, the achievement of outputs and/or results.

Eligible direct costs

To be eligible under this call for proposals, costs must comply with the provisions of Article 14 of the general conditions to the standard grant contract (see Annex G of the guidelines).

The applicants (and where applicable their affiliated entities) agree that the expenditure verification(s) referred to in Article 15.7 of the general conditions to the standard grant contract (see Annex G of the guidelines) will be carried out by [the contracting authority or any external body authorised by AICS -

Contingency reserve

The budget may include a contingency reserve not exceeding 5% of the estimated direct eligible costs. It can only be used with the **prior written authorisation** of the contracting authority.

Eligible indirect costs

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7% of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The lead applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the grant contract is signed. However, once the flat rate has been fixed in the special conditions of the grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided.

If any of the applicants or affiliated entity(ies) is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the EU, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.

Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind mean the provision of goods or services to beneficiaries or affiliated entities free of charge by a third party. As contributions in kind do not involve any expenditure for beneficiaries or affiliated entities, they are not eligible costs (except for personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or an operating grant if so authorised).

Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- debts and debt service charges (interest);
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- costs declared by the beneficiary(ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a European Union (including through EDF) grant;
- purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the action, in which case ownership must be transferred in accordance with Article 7.5 of the general conditions of the standard grant contract, at the latest at the end of the action;
- currency exchange losses;
- credit to third parties;
- salary costs of the personnel of national administrations.

2.1.6 Ethics clauses and Code of Conduct

a) Absence of conflict of interest

The applicant must not be affected by any conflict of interest and must have no equivalent relation in that respect with other applicants or parties involved in the actions. Any attempt by an applicant to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or the contracting authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing applications will lead to the rejection of its application and may result in administrative penalties according to the Financial Regulation in force.

b) Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labour standards

The applicant and its staff must comply with human rights. In particular, and in accordance with the applicable act, applicants who have been awarded contracts must comply with the environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, and with the core labour standards as applicable and as defined in the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions (such as the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; abolition of child labour).

Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

The European Commission applies a policy of 'zero tolerance' in relation to all wrongful conduct which has an impact on the professional credibility of the applicant.

Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

Applicants (and affiliated entities) other than (i) natural persons, (ii) pillar-assessed entities and (iii) governments and other public bodies, whose application has been provisionally selected or placed in a reserve list shall assess their internal policy against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA-H) through a self-evaluation questionnaire (Annex L). For grants of EUR 60 000 or less no self-evaluation is required. Such self-evaluation questionnaire is not part of the evaluation of the full application by the contracting authority, but is an administrative requirement. See Section 2.5.6 of the PRAG.

c) Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The applicant shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process or during the execution of a contract and if the contracting authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, 'corrupt practices' are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or execution of a contract already concluded with the contracting authority.

d) Unusual commercial expenses

Applications will be rejected or contracts terminated if it emerges that the award or execution of a contract has given rise to unusual commercial expenses. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a payee who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

Grant beneficiaries found to have paid unusual commercial expenses on projects funded by the European Union are liable, depending on the seriousness of the facts observed, to have their contracts terminated or to be permanently excluded from receiving EU/EDF funds.

e) Breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud

The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. If breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the contract, the contracting authority may refrain from concluding the contract.

2.2 HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW

Open call for proposals

2.2.1 Application forms

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the concept note and the full applications in the grant application form annexed to these guidelines (Annex A). Lead applicants should then keep strictly to the format of the grant application form and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order.

Applicants must apply in English.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the instructions on the concept note or any major inconsistency in the application (e.g. if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when the information provided is unclear and thus prevents the contracting authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Please note that only the grant application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action.

With the application the lead applicant also has to submit completed PADOR registration form (Annex F) for the lead applicant, each co-applicants(if any) and each affiliated entities(if any).

Please note that the following documents should be submitted together with the PADOR registration form and the application form:

1. The statutes or articles of association of the lead applicant, (if any) of each co-applicant and (if any) of each affiliated entity. Where the contracting authority has recognised the lead applicant's, or the co-applicant(s)'s, or their affiliated entity(ies)'s eligibility for another call for proposals under the same budget line within 2 years before the deadline for receipt of applications, it should be submitted, instead of the statutes or articles of association, a copy of the document proving their eligibility in a former call (e.g. a copy of the special conditions of a grant contract received during the reference period), unless a change in legal status has occurred in the meantime. This obligation does not apply to international organisations which have signed a framework agreement with the European Commission.
2. Legal entity form (see Annex D of these guidelines) duly completed and signed by each of the applicants (i.e. by the lead applicant and by each co-applicant, if any), accompanied by the justifying documents requested there. If the applicants have already signed a contract with the contracting authority, instead of the legal entity sheet and supporting documents, the legal entity number may be provided, unless a change in legal status occurred in the meantime.
3. A financial identification form of the lead applicant (not from co-applicant(s)) conforming to the model attached as Annex E of these guidelines, certified by the bank to which the payments will

be made. This bank should be located in the country where the lead applicant is established. If the lead applicant has already submitted a financial identification form in the past for a contract where the European Commission was in charge of the payments and intends to use the same bank account, a copy of the previous financial identification form may be provided instead.

4. Declaration of Honour (Annex H);
5. PADOR off-line form (Annex F), for the lead applicant;
6. Certificate of registration in the country of the programme (Sudan) and authorizations of duly authorized representatives for lead and co-applicant(s).

In addition, for the purpose of the evaluation of the financial capacity, the following documents should be submitted⁹:

For action grants exceeding EUR 750 000 and for operating grants above EUR 100 000, the lead applicant must provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor where it is available, and always in cases where a statutory audit is required by EU or national law. That report shall certify the accounts for up to the last three available financial years. In all other cases, the applicant shall provide a self-declaration signed by its authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for up to the last three available financial years. Such self-declaration shall be dated and signed, either by hand or by applying a qualified electronic signature (QES)¹⁰ by an authorised representative of the signatory.

This requirement shall apply only to the first application made by a beneficiary to the same contracting authority in any one financial year.

The external audit report is not required from the co-applicant(s) or affiliated entities (if any).

1. For action grants not exceeding EUR 750 000 and for operating grants below EUR 100 000 a copy of the lead applicant's profit and loss account and the balance sheet for up to the three last financial years for which the accounts were closed¹¹. A copy of the latest account is neither required from the co-applicant(s) (if any) nor from affiliated entity(ies) (if any).

Documents must be supplied in the form of originals, photocopies or scanned versions (i.e. showing legible stamps, signatures and dates) of the said originals.

Where such documents are not in one of the official languages of the European Union, a translation into English of the relevant parts of these documents proving the lead applicant's and, where applicable, co-applicants' and affiliated entity(ies)' eligibility, must be attached for the purpose of analysing the application.

Where these documents are in an official language of the European Union other than English, it is strongly recommended, in order to facilitate the evaluation, to provide a translation of the relevant parts of the documents, proving the lead applicant's and, where applicable, co-applicants' and affiliated entity(ies)' eligibility, into English.

If the abovementioned supporting documents are not provided by the deadline for the submission of the application form, the application may be rejected.

No additional annexes should be sent.

⁹ No supporting documents will be requested for applications for a grant not exceeding EUR 60 000.

¹⁰ Please note that only the QES within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation) will be accepted. Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC.

¹¹ This obligation does not apply to natural persons who have received education support or who are in most need or in receipt of direct support, nor to public bodies and to international organisations. It does not apply either when the accounts are in practice the same documents as the external audit report already provided pursuant to Section 2.2.1, point 1.

2.2.2 Where and how to send applications

Applications must be submitted in one original and 2 copies in A4 size, each bound. The complete application form (Part A: concept note and Part B: full application form), PADOR registration form, budget and logical framework must also be supplied in electronic format (USB¹²) in a separate and single file (i.e. the application must not be split into several different files). The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version enclosed. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

The declaration by the lead applicant (Section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) must be stapled separately and enclosed in the envelope.

Where a lead applicant sends several different applications (if allowed to do so by the guidelines of the call), each one has to be sent separately.

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with the title of the applicant action (if different from the one of the call for proposal), the full name and address of the lead applicant, and the words 'Not to be opened before the opening session' and

‘لا تفتح المظروف قبل الجلسة الافتتاحية’.

Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) at the address below:

Postal address

Att. Michele Morana – Head of Office

AICS - (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation)

Street 33 Amarat- P.O Box 793 Khartoum, Sudan

Address for hand delivery

Att. Michele Morana – Head of Office

AICS - (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation)

Street 33 Amarat- P.O Box 793 Khartoum, Sudan

Open from 8:30am to 5:30pm

Applications sent with not sealed envelopes and by any other means (e.g. by fax, by e-mail or by PEC-certified email) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Please note that incomplete applications may be rejected. Lead applicants are advised to verify that their application is complete using the checklist (Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form).

2.2.3 Deadline for submission of applications

The applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that there are two different systems for sending applications/full proposals: one is by post or private courier service, the other is by hand delivery.

In the first case, the application/full proposal must be sent before the date for submission, as evidenced by the postmark or deposit slip, but in the second case it is the acknowledgment of receipt given at the time of the delivery of the application/full proposal which will serve as proof.

¹² If you want to allow for other devices (e.g. USB sticks) make sure that appropriate IT security measures are in place.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 18.4.2022 as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. In the case of hand-deliveries, the deadline for receipt is at 18.4.2022 before 12:00 pm Khartoum local time, as evidenced by the signed and dated receipt. Any application submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected.

The contracting authority may, for reasons of administrative efficiency, reject any application submitted on time to the postal service but received, for any reason beyond the contracting authority's control, after the effective date of approval of the first evaluation step (i.e. concept note), if accepting applications that were submitted on time but arrived late would considerably delay the award procedure or jeopardise decisions already taken and notified. (see indicative calendar under Section 2.5.2).

Any application submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

2.2.4 Further information about applications

Questions may be sent by e-mail not later than 23 June 2022 at 5:30 pm (21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications) to the below address(es), indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals:

E-mail address: procurement.sudan@aics.gov.it

The contracting authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published on the website where the call was published: website of the contracting authority [calls for proposals for development cooperation initiatives | AICS - Khartoum](#), as the need arises. It is therefore advisable to consult the above-mentioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

Please note that the contracting authority may decide to cancel the call for proposals procedure at any stage according to the conditions set out in Section 6.5.9 of the PRAG.

2.3 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the contracting authority with the possible assistance of external assessors. All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in Section 2.1, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

(1) STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS AND CONCEPT NOTE EVALUATION

During the opening and administrative check the following will be assessed:

- If the deadline has been met. Otherwise, the application will be automatically rejected.
- If the application satisfies all the criteria specified in the checklist in Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form. This includes also an assessment of the eligibility of the action. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that **sole** basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The concept notes that pass this check will be evaluated on the relevance and design of the proposed action.

The concept notes will receive an overall score out of 50 using the breakdown in the evaluation grid below. The evaluation will also check on compliance with the instructions on how to complete the concept note, which can be found in Part A of the grant application form.

The evaluation criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

	Scores	
1. Relevance of the action	Sub-score	20
1.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals and to the specific themes/sectors/areas or any other specific requirement stated in the guidelines for applicants? Are the expected results of the action aligned with the priorities defined in the guidelines for applicants (Section 1.2)?	5	
1.2 How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target country(ies), region(s) and/or relevant sectors (including synergy with other development initiatives and avoidance of duplication)?	5	
1.3 How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs (as rights holders and/or duty bearers) and constraints been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	5	
1.4 Does the proposal contain particular added-value elements (e.g. innovation, intersectionality, best practices)? and the other additional elements indicated under 1.2. of the guidelines for applicants	5	
2. Design of the action	Sub-score	30
2.1 How coherent is the overall design of the action? Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved by the action? Does the intervention logic explain the rationale to achieve the expected results? Are the	5x2**	

activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the envisaged outputs and outcome(s)?		
2.2 Does the design reflect a robust analysis of the problems involved, and the capacities of the relevant stakeholders?	5	
2.2 Does the design take into account external factors (risks and assumptions)? (Including the potential effects of the current situation and unrest in the country on the socio-economic conditions of the target population).	5	
2.2 Does the proposal/Logical Framework include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feasible and consistent activities in relation to the expected results (including timeframe)? Are results (output, outcome and impact) realistic? - credible baseline, targets and sources of verification? If not, is a baseline study foreseen (and is the study budgeted appropriately in the proposal)? 	5	
2.6 To which extent does the proposal integrate relevant cross-cutting elements such as promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of people with disabilities, rights of groups at risk of vulnerability and marginalization, people in displacement (IDPs and Refugees), Covid-19, youth, men and boys engagement.	5	
TOTAL SCORE		50

**this score is multiplied by 2 because of its importance

Once all concept notes have been assessed, a list will be drawn up with the proposed actions ranked according to their total score.

Firstly, only the concept notes with a score of at least 30 will be considered for pre-selection.

Secondly, the number of concept notes will be reduced, taking account of the ranking, to the number of concept notes whose total aggregate amount of requested contributions is equal to at least 200% of the available budget for this call for proposals. The amount of requested contributions of each concept note will be based on the indicative financial envelopes for each lot, where relevant.

After the evaluation of concept notes, the contracting authority will send letters to all lead applicants, indicating whether their application was submitted by the deadline, informing them of the reference number they have been allocated, whether the concept note was evaluated and the results of that evaluation. The evaluation committee will then proceed with the lead applicants whose proposals have been pre-selected.

(2) EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATION

If the applications pass the opening and administrative checks along the instructions of the Step 1: they will be further evaluated on their quality, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies). They will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

The selection criteria help to evaluate the applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s operational capacity and the lead applicant's financial capacity and are used to verify that they:

- have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding (this only applies to lead applicants);
- have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to successfully complete the proposed action. This applies to applicants and any affiliated entity(ies).

The award criteria help to evaluate the quality of the applications in relation to the objectives and priorities set forth in the guidelines, and to award grants to projects which maximise the overall effectiveness of the call for proposals. They help to select applications which the contracting authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities. They cover the relevance of the action, its consistency with the objectives of the call for proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Scoring:

The evaluation grid is divided into Sections and subsections. Each subsection will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Evaluation grid

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity	20
1.1 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient in-house experience of project management? (Including experience in managing EU-funded projects)	5
1.2 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient in-house technical expertise? especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed (including knowledge of the context resulting from at least 3 years of experience in Sudan and in the States for the lead applicant)	6
1.3 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient in-house management capacity? (Including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)?	4
1.4 Does the lead applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance?	5
2. Relevance	20
<i>Score transferred from the Concept Note evaluation</i>	
3. Design of the action	15
3.1 How coherent is the design of the action? Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved by the action? Does the intervention logic explain the rationale to achieve the expected results? Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the envisaged outputs and outcome(s)?	5
3.2 Does the proposal/Logical Framework include credible baseline, targets and sources of verification? If not, is a baseline study foreseen (and is the study budgeted appropriately in the proposal)?	5
3.3 Does the design reflect a robust analysis of the problems involved, and the capacities of the relevant stakeholders?	5
4. Implementation approach	15

4.1 Is the action plan for implementing the action clear and feasible? Is the timeline realistic?	5
4.2 Does the proposal include an effective and efficient monitoring system? Is there an evaluation planned (previous, during or/and at the end of the implementation)?	5
4.3 Is the co-applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory?	5
5. Sustainability of the action	15
5.1 Is the action likely to have a tangible impact on its target groups?	5
5.2 Is the action likely to have multiplier effects, including scope for replication, extension, capitalisation on experience and knowledge sharing?	3
5.3 Are the expected results of the proposed action sustainable? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financially (<i>e.g. financing of follow-up activities, sources of revenue for covering all future operating and maintenance costs</i>) - Institutionally (<i>will structures allow the results of the action to be sustained at the end of the action? Will there be local 'ownership' of the results of the action?</i>) - At policy level (where applicable) (<i>what will be the structural impact of the action — e.g. improved legislation, codes of conduct, methods</i>) - Environmentally (if applicable) (<i>will the action have a negative/positive environmental impact?</i>) 	4
5.4 In support of a sustainable approach, is the project beneficiaries' ownership guaranteed? (i.e. through a peer-to-peer model)	3
6. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action	15
6.1 Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	5
6.2 Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the results satisfactory?	6
6.3 Does the budget include a level of gender-responsiveness (taking in account needs and challenges of both male and female beneficiaries)?	4

Maximum total score	100
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If the total score for Section 1 (financial and operational capacity) is less than 12 points, the application will be rejected. If the score for at least one of the subsections under Section 1 is 1, the application will also be rejected.

If the lead applicant applies without co-applicants or affiliated entities the score for point 4.3 shall be 5 unless the involvement of co-applicants or affiliated entities is mandatory according to these guidelines for applicants.

Provisional selection

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their score. The highest scoring applications will be provisionally selected until the available budget for this call for proposals is reached. In addition, a reserve list will be drawn up following the same criteria. This list will be used if more funds become available during the validity period of the reserve list.

**(3) STEP 3: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS
AND AFFILIATED ENTITY(IES)**

The eligibility verification will be performed on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the contracting authority (see Section 2.2.1). It will by default only be performed for the applications that have been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available budget for this call for proposals.

- The declaration by the lead applicant (Section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided by the lead applicant. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the declaration by the lead applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.
- The eligibility of applicants and the affiliated entity(ies) will be verified according to the criteria set out in Section 2.1.1.

Any rejected application will be replaced by the next best placed application on the reserve list that falls within the available budget for this call for proposals.

2.4 SUBMISSION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The lead applicant should submit the documents listed in Section 2.2.1

In addition, a lead applicant whose application has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list will be informed in writing by the contracting authority. It will be requested to supply the following documents¹³:

1. Declaration on honour: the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities shall fill in and sign the declaration on honour certifying that they are not in one of the exclusion situations (see Section 2.6.10.1 of the PRAG) where the amount of the grant exceeds EUR 15 000. The declaration on honour shall be dated and signed, either by hand or by applying a qualified electronic signature (QES)¹⁴ by an authorised representative of the signatory.
2. Self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H: the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities shall fill in the self-evaluation questionnaire assessing the organisation's internal policy and procedure against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA-H) (Annex L) where the amount of grant exceeds EUR 60 000 (see Section 2.5.6 of the PRAG)¹⁵.
3. Other supporting documents required: PADOR off-line form (Annex F) for the lead applicant, certificate of registration in the country of the programme (Sudan) and authorizations of duly authorized representatives for lead and co-applicant(s).

After verifying the supporting documents, the evaluation committee will make a final recommendation to the contracting authority, which will decide on the award of grants.

NB: In the eventuality that the contracting authority is not satisfied with the strength, solidity, and guarantee offered by the structural link between one of the applicants and its affiliated entity, it can require the submission of the missing documents allowing for its conversion into co-applicant. If all the missing documents for co-applicants are submitted, and provided all necessary eligibility criteria are fulfilled, the above mentioned entity becomes a co-applicant for all purposes. The lead applicant has to submit the application form revised accordingly.

2.5 NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION

2.5.1 CONTENT OF THE DECISION

The lead applicants will be informed in writing of the contracting authority's decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision. Please note that the lead applicant is the intermediary for all communications between applicants and the contracting authority during the procedure.

An applicant believing that it has been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may lodge a complaint. See Section 2.12 of the practical guide.

Applicants and, if they are legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations of early detection or exclusion, their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the early detection and exclusion system, and communicated to the persons and entities concerned in relation to the award or the execution of a grant contract.

¹³ No supporting documents will be requested for applications for a grant not exceeding EUR 60 000.

¹⁴ Please note that only the QES within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation) will be accepted. Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC.

¹⁵ Applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities who are (i) natural persons (ii) pillar-assessed entities and (iii) governments and other public bodies do not have to submit the self-evaluation questionnaire.

For more information, you may consult the privacy statement available on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm

2.5.2 INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

	DATE	TIME
1. Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the contracting authority	23/6/2022	5:30 pm
2. Last date on which clarifications are issued by the contracting authority	3/7/2022	5:30 pm
3. Deadline for submission of applications	14/7/2022	5:30 pm
4. Opening session (AICS Khartoum Office, Amarat Street 33)	25/7/2022	11:00 am
5. Contract signature (Provisional)	16/8/2022	-

All times are in the time zone of the country of the contracting authority (Khartoum time).

This indicative timetable refers to provisional dates (except for dates 2, 3, and 4) and may be updated by the contracting authority during the procedure. In such cases, the updated timetable will be published on the web site where the call was published: website of the contracting authority [calls for proposals for development cooperation initiatives | AICS - Khartoum](#)

3. Conditions for implementation after the contracting authority's decision to award a grant

Following the decision to award a grant, the beneficiary(ies) will be offered a contract based on the standard grant contract (see Annex G of these guidelines). By signing the application form (Annex A of these guidelines), the applicants agree, if awarded a grant, to accept the contractual conditions of the standard grant contract. Where the coordinator is an organisation whose pillars have been positively assessed, it will sign a contribution agreement based on the contribution agreement template. In this case, references to provisions of the standard grant contract and its annexes shall not apply. References in these guidelines to the grant contract shall be understood as references to the relevant provisions of the contribution agreement.

Implementation contracts

Where implementation of the action requires the beneficiary(ies) and its affiliated entity(ies) (if any) to award procurement contracts, those contracts must be awarded in accordance with Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

In this context, a distinction should be made between awarding implementation contracts and subcontracting parts of the action described in the proposal, i.e. the description of the action annexed to the grant contract,

such subcontracting being subject to additional restrictions (see the general terms and conditions in the model grant contract).

Awarding implementation contracts: implementation contracts relate to the acquisition by beneficiaries of routine services and/or necessary goods and equipment as part of their project management; they do not cover any outsourcing of tasks forming part of the action that are described in the proposal, i.e. in the description of the action annexed to the grant contract.

Subcontracting: subcontracting is the implementation, by a third party with which one or more beneficiaries have concluded a procurement contract, of specific tasks forming part of the action as described in annex to the grant contract (see also the general terms and conditions in the model grant contract).

List of annexes

DOCUMENTS TO BE COMPLETED

- Annex A: Grant application form (Word format)
- Annex B: Budget (Excel format)
- Annex C: Logical framework (Excel format)
- Annex D: Legal entity form
- Annex E: Financial identification form
- Annex F: PADOR registration form

DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION¹⁶

- Annex G: Standard grant contract
 - Annex II: general conditions
 - Annex IV: contract award rules
 - Annex V: standard request for payment
 - Annex VI: model narrative and financial report
 - Annex VII: model report of factual findings and terms of reference for an expenditure verification of an EU financed grant contract for external action
 - Annex VIII: model financial guarantee
 - Annex IX: standard template for transfer of ownership of assets
- Annex H: Declaration on Honour
- Annex I: Daily allowance rates (per diem), available at the following address:
https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/per_diem_rates_20191218.pdf
- Annex J: Information on the tax regime applicable to grant contracts signed under the call.
- Annex K: Guidelines for assessing simplified cost options.
- Annex L: Self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H
- Annex M: Explanatory note

Useful links:

Project Cycle Management Guidelines

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/funding/managing-project_en

The implementation of grant contracts

A Users' Guide

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/companion/document.do?nodeNumber=19&locale=en>

Financial Toolkit

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/financial-management-toolkit_en

Please note: the toolkit is not part of the grant contract and has no legal value. It merely provides general guidance and may in some details differ from the signed grant contract. In order to ensure compliance with their contractual obligations beneficiaries should not exclusively rely on the toolkit but always consult their individual contract documents.

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¹⁶ These documents should also be published by the contracting authority.