



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UNOV / UNODC  
Global Call for Proposals  
Guidelines for grant applicants**

**Tenth Cycle of the UNVTF Small Grants Programme  
Sub-grant programme Two**



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

NOTE: A grant is defined as a small-scale, non-repayable, non-recurrent (one-off) award of funds to a recipient entity given based on a transparent, fair and competitive selection process for the purpose of undertaking activities that contribute to the achievement of the UN mandates.

NOTE: This Call for Proposals forms the basis for applying for UNOV/UNODC grants. It must neither be construed as a grant agreement, nor be regarded as a confirmation of a grant awarded by UNOV/UNODC to any entity. Consequently, UNOV/UNODC is not liable for any financial obligations, or otherwise, incurred by any entity in responding to this call for proposals. Such costs will not be considered as part of the grant budget in the event that a grant is awarded to an applicant.



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## 1 GRANTS PROGRAMME

### 1.1 Background

#### 1.1.1 United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF)

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (hereinafter referred to as ‘UNVTF’ or the ‘Trust Fund’) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 as part of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The fund is **victim-centred** and aims to provide essential humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons through established channels of assistance.

The UNVTF is managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and benefits from the strategic guidance and expertise of a five-member Board of Trustees, appointed by the UN Secretary-General for a three-year term. Since its inception in 2010, the UNVTF has supported 215 CSO projects in over 60 countries, directly impacting the lives of over 100,000 victims of human trafficking.

#### 1.1.2 Trafficking in Persons

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines human trafficking as *“the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”*

Trafficking in human beings remains a global phenomenon with a cross-border dimension and is considered as one of the worst forms of violence against individuals. It is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children, of all ages and intersectional backgrounds, fall victim into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Twenty-five years after the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children was opened for signing in Palermo (Italy), State Parties are still struggling to reduce the incidence of this crime and to offer victims the much-needed protection and care for the purpose of their full recovery and social reintegration. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serves as the guardian of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. While considerable progress has been made in this area, efforts of all actors involved need to be further strengthened in order to achieve the desired results.

The UNODC’s 2024 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP) highlights the increasing complexity of addressing trafficking in persons due to evolving global and regional dynamics. There has been a sharp increase in the number of victims detected globally, even surpassing pre-pandemic levels. Organized crime groups continue to dominate trafficking networks, exploiting vulnerable populations such as women, children, and unaccompanied minors. The report underscores the urgent need for targeted strategies, enhanced international cooperation, and robust justice mechanisms to address the nuanced challenges of trafficking in persons, protect victims, and dismantle trafficking networks effectively. Traffickers exploit the vulnerability, desperation, and aspirations of people seeking a better life. They often rely on violence, deception, and fraudulent recruitment practices, such as fake job offers or promises of education opportunities, to trick, manipulate, and coerce their victims. Human trafficking takes many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour in industries such as entertainment, hospitality, agriculture, construction, and domestic work, as well as forced marriages.



Some victims are exploited for organ removal, while children may be coerced into armed conflict or criminal activities for the benefit of traffickers.

### 1.1.3 Evidence of need

UNODC's [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024](#) describes global trends in detections of victims of trafficking in persons and convictions for trafficking in persons as well as analysing the profile of victims and forms of exploitation detected globally; the profile of offenders; major global trafficking flows; and national, legislative and criminal justice responses.

Some of the key global findings include:

- The global detection of trafficking victims has risen again after a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. A 25% increase was recorded in 2022 compared to 2019, with a 43% rise compared to the sharp decline in 2020. Preliminary 2023 data confirms this trend, though regions vary. Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, and Western Europe saw increases from 2019, while other regions rose from 2020 levels but stayed below 2019. Central America and the Caribbean recorded a decline from 2020.
- Child trafficking detections are rising globally, with distinct patterns for boys and girls. In 2022, detections increased 31% from 2019 levels, with a sharper 38% rise among girls. Regional trends show more girls detected in the Americas, Europe, East Asia and the Pacific, and North Africa and the Middle East. Europe and North America report more boy victims and unaccompanied children at borders, a group at high risk of trafficking. Sub-Saharan Africa's increase in detected cases also contributes, as the region often reports more child than adult victims. Girls are primarily trafficked for sexual exploitation (60%), while boys are trafficked for forced labor (45%) or other purposes like criminality and begging (47%).
- Trafficking for forced labour is rising, with detected victims increasing 47% from 2019 to 2022. By 2022, 42% of detected victims were trafficked for forced labour, surpassing sexual exploitation (36%). However, the criminal justice response remains limited, with only 17% of convictions related to forced labour compared to 72% for sexual exploitation. Forced labour cases often take about a year longer to prosecute due to their complexity.
- Women and girls remain the majority of trafficking victims globally, comprising 61% of detected cases in 2022. Adult females account for 39% of all victims, while girls represent 22%. Most female victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, though many are also exploited for forced labour, especially domestic work, and other purposes such as forced marriages and criminality.
- Most trafficking is carried out by organized crime groups operating as business-like networks or structured organizations. Analysis of 942 court cases shows 74% of 3,121 traffickers operated within such groups, while 26% were non-organized offenders acting alone or in pairs. Organized groups typically traffic more victims.
- In 2022, men accounted for 70% of those investigated, prosecuted, and convicted globally, with women comprising 25-30%. Children were rarely reported as offenders. Female involvement varies by group structure, with men and women often collaborating in organized trafficking. Male traffickers were more common when the victim was an intimate partner, while women were more often traffickers in cases involving parental exploitation.
- Trafficking routes are increasingly global, with African victims reaching the widest range of destinations. In 2022, UNODC recorded victims of 162 nationalities trafficked to 128 countries. African victims accounted for 31% of cross-border flows, with destinations primarily in Europe and the Middle East. Victims from East and South Asia are detected



worldwide, indicating a global reach, while trafficking from Europe and Latin America typically remains within closer regions.

- Displacement, insecurity, and climate change are increasing the vulnerability of Africans to trafficking. Armed conflicts and climate-related displacement are shaping trafficking patterns across the continent. While African countries have intensified efforts to combat trafficking, including stronger legislation and increased convictions, the focus remains on small-scale and domestic traffickers, with less emphasis on organized networks managing international trafficking. Children are often trafficked within Africa for forced labour, exploiting economic hardships, while adults are primarily trafficked internationally for labour and sexual exploitation.

According to UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024, significant regional findings highlight diverse trafficking dynamics. In 2022, victim detections in Africa and the Middle East declined by 43% compared to 2019, while convictions rose by 20%. North Africa reported 62% of victims as children, while 81% of victims in GCC countries and 60% in other Middle Eastern countries were women. Trafficking for forced labor was dominant in North Africa and GCC countries (65%), whereas 60% of cases in other Middle Eastern countries involved sexual exploitation. Major trafficking flows included victims originating from East Africa (48% in North Africa), South and East Asia (43% in GCC countries), and within the region (43% in other Middle Eastern countries).

Sub-Saharan Africa recorded a 98% increase in detected victims and a 79% rise in convictions compared to 2019. Children represented 61% of victims, with girls accounting for 42%. Forced labor dominated exploitation forms at 65%, with most trafficking occurring domestically (98%). However, victims from the region were also trafficked to Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

In Central America and the Caribbean, victim detections dropped by 53% compared to 2019, while convictions rose by 3%. Girls made up 52% of the detected victims, followed by women at 30%. Sexual exploitation accounted for 62% of trafficking cases in the region. Most victims detected as a region of destination were trafficked domestically (80%), with 20% originating from South America. As a region of origin, victims from Central America and the Caribbean were detected in North America and Europe.

In North America, victim detections rose by 78%, but convictions dropped by 28% compared to 2019. Women (56%) and girls (25%) formed the majority of victims, with 69% of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Most trafficking was domestic (75%), with cross-border flows involving short distances, often from Central America and the Caribbean.

South America experienced a 7% decline in victim detections and a 26% decrease in convictions compared to 2019. Forced labor accounted for 55% of trafficking cases, surpassing sexual exploitation (40%). Women represented 45% of victims, while 34% were men. Most trafficking was domestic (74%), with cross-border flows mainly within the region or involving Central America and the Caribbean.

Victim detections in East Asia and the Pacific fell by 46%, with a 31% decrease in convictions compared to 2019. Women (39%) and girls (40%) were the primary victims, trafficked for forced labor (38%), sexual exploitation (32%), and other forms (30%). While 60% of trafficking was domestic, the region also recorded flows to other continents.

South Asia saw a 7% decrease in victim detections but a 7% increase in convictions compared to 2019. Women (44%) and boys (24%) were the most detected victims, with forced labor (55%) and sexual exploitation (30%) as the main forms of exploitation. Most trafficking was domestic or regional, though victims from South Asia were detected in various global regions, including Europe and the Middle East.



Detections increased by 4% in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, while convictions decreased by 23%. Women and girls made up 61% of victims in Central Asia and 82% in Eastern Europe. Sexual exploitation dominated in both subregions, accounting for 59% of cases in Central Asia and 84% in Eastern Europe. Most trafficking was domestic, with victims also detected in Western and Central Europe and the Middle East.

Central and South-Eastern Europe saw a 5% decline in detections but a 29% increase in convictions compared to 2019. Women (46%) and girls (28%) were the main victims, with 50% trafficked for sexual exploitation. Most victims were trafficked domestically (73%), though significant flows originated from or were destined for Western and Southern Europe.

Western and Southern Europe reported a 45% increase in detections and a 33% rise in convictions compared to 2019. Men (39%) and boys (24%) formed the largest share of victims, with 39% trafficked for forced labor, 22% for sexual exploitation, and 22% for forced criminality. Key trafficking flows included victims from Central and South-Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South and East Asia. In the context of the above scenarios, the UNVTF is launching a Global Call for Proposals with the aim to support high-impact, short duration interventions with the support of experienced frontline civil society organizations aiding human trafficking victims (mainly women and children) for a maximum duration of eight months.

## 1.2 Objectives

This Global Call for Proposals takes into consideration the importance of harnessing all available resources towards the implementation of activities aimed at meeting the objectives of this Grants programme.

The main objectives of this Grants programme are:

- to provide direct assistance and protection to vulnerable victims of trafficking in persons
- to improve health and well-being, facilitate social integration and prevent re-trafficking amongst vulnerable victims of trafficking in persons

## 1.3 Thematic focus and priority issues

This Call for proposals seeks to provide funding support to not-for-profit organisations working in the area of trafficking in persons whose projects are aimed at providing immediate and essential direct assistance for vulnerable victims of trafficking in persons.

Priority shall be given to projects that target the following **population**:

- Women and children; and
- Those most left behind, including underserved groups especially excluded or disadvantaged victims of human trafficking (such as persons with disabilities, youth, LGBTQI+, internally displaced and refugees, indigenous, older and members of ethnic minorities).

Priority shall be given to projects that **adapt programmes or design interventions that**:

- Facilitate early identification of human trafficking victims;



- Integrate the use of innovative strategies and technologies supporting appropriate victim assistance;
- Integrate survivor-focused financial inclusion and economic empowerment approaches to support victims' rehabilitation and reintegration to society;
- Promote engagement with persons with lived experience of trafficking and taking into account trauma-informed responses for victims' reintegration into society;

Priority shall be given to projects that target persons identified in the following **situations**:

- persons identified among large movements of refugees and/or migrants, internally displaced persons affected due to conflict, post-conflict and continued instability, socio-political tensions or a breakdown of law and order;
- persons identified in or fleeing areas that has been affected by the spill-over of climate change related displacement;

Priority shall be given to projects that target the following **forms of exploitation**:

- sexual exploitation
- forced labour
- organ removal
- domestic servitude
- forced begging
- forced criminality<sup>1</sup>
- forced marriage
- production of pornographic material
- recruitment of children into armed groups
- child trafficking in sport

**Activities** that will be given priority include:

- medical assistance
- material assistance in the form of food, clothing etc.
- immediate, safe and short-term shelter
- legal advice and representation aimed at securing legal status and/or remedies
- psychosocial assistance

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<sup>1</sup> Trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality refers to trafficking in persons where victims are coerced or deceived to engage in illegal acts for the benefit of traffickers. These acts may include drug trafficking, pickpocketing, shoplifting, fraud, or other criminal activities. Despite their involvement in these offences, victims are not perpetrators but are exploited individuals acting under force, threat, or manipulation.



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- education and/or vocational training
- assistance with family reunification and/or repatriation with full consent of the victim

Priority shall be given to projects that **are able to demonstrate:**

- understanding of existing victim protection and assistance frameworks in the country or region of implementation, including through the presentation of MOUs or other formalized arrangements with relevant state institutions;
- coordinated approach with NGOs, service providers, international organizations, foundations, and/or the private sector.

## 1.4 Organizational background

Priority shall be given to organizations (lead applicant/implementing organizations) that are either:

- survivor-led
- first-time recipients of the UNVTF funding

## 1.5 Eligible Countries and Territories

This is a global call for proposals.

Projects to be implemented in origin, transit and destination countries will all be considered.

## 1.6 Duration

All activities financed by this sub-programme must be implemented within 8 months.

## 1.7 Fundamental principles

Grant applicants are expected to consider the following fundamental principles in designing their grant project proposals:

The UN Trust Fund supports initiatives based on the following principles:

- Human rights-based approaches that place paramount priority on promoting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all victims of human trafficking. A human rights-based approach requires developing the capacities of ‘duty-bearers’ and ‘rights holders.’
- Operating under ethical guidelines that ensure interventions and services prioritize and guarantee victims’ rights to safety and security, confidentiality and privacy, expression of opinion and autonomy to make decisions.
- Employing culturally appropriate measures through interventions that identify culturally relevant strategic entry points and institutions, and involve cultural, community, faith-based and other leaders.



- Addressing specific forms and settings of human trafficking through interventions based on a clear understanding on the specific context in which trafficking takes place for effective programme design and implementation, with knowledge about specific forms, settings and population groups affected.
- Working in partnership with different stakeholders, such as government, civil society and community-based groups, academic and research institutions; and importantly, victims and victim-led organizations.
- Ensuring victim-centred and empowering approaches that integrate victims' own experiences and input within all initiatives and strategies as an essential part of successful programming.
- Drawing on existing evidence through interventions that are designed based on the existing knowledge of “what works” (or doesn't) to respond to and prevent human trafficking, drawn from formal evaluations and assessments, research and studies, expert consensus and recommendations, shared practitioner experiences and – importantly - the feedback of victims, and population at risk.
- Alignment with the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#)
- Proposals must be based on a sound problem analysis, needs-based, results-focused with a clear theory of change, risk-informed and sustainable and resilience-oriented.

## 1.8 Award amounts

Proposals with budgets up to USD 20,000 will be considered for award. Please note that value for money will be assessed as a part of the rating criteria.

Grant awards will not exceed the entity's annual income for the previous fiscal year. Applicants' financial management capacity will be assessed in this respect.

## 2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 2.1 Eligibility of applicants

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants must:

- be a non-profit organization (NGO, CSO, or CBO) legally registered under applicable laws in both (i) the country of registration and (ii) the country of project implementation.;
- have been registered by 1 December 2023;
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project, i.e., not acting as an intermediary;
- demonstrate prior experience of at least two (2) year implementing activities in the area of direct assistance to victims of trafficking in persons in line with the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) or in providing other services to vulnerable populations including IDPs and forcibly displaced persons;



- complete registration<sup>2</sup> in the [UN Partner Portal](#) (UNPP) with a valid Partner ID including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Module;
- have a bank account in the organisation's name;
- confirm that the organisation takes appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and signs the Partner declaration form.

When the applicant who was previously awarded a grant by UNVTF submits a new application, the funded project from the previous grant should be programmatically and operationally concluded, i.e., **the project has concluded/activities completed, and all required reports have been submitted without pending issues or unreturned unspent balance before they can commence operation of a new project.**

## 2.2 Eligibility of projects

Only projects aimed at achieving the objectives, focusing on the priority issues and meeting all other requirements as outlined under section 1 are eligible for funding under this Call for Proposals.

- Projects should be time-bound, and have a specific, finite objective that does not require further funding to sustain results over time. Costs, activities and beneficiaries of the proposed project must be distinguished from those relating to the applicant's other operations.

The following types of project proposals are **not eligible** for funding:

- Project proposals which discriminate against individuals or groups of people on grounds of their gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or lack of them, or their ethnic origin;
- Projects focusing solely on campaigning or solely on awareness-raising;
- Projects designed solely to produce studies, publications or newsletters, or to conduct research;
- Activities that fall within the core mandate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (e.g. legislative assistance, capacity building for criminal justice practitioners, establishment of institutional frameworks to combat trafficking in persons etc.), except victim protection and assistance;
- Project proposals concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses;
- Project proposals concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Credit or loan schemes;
- Debts and provisions for losses or debts;
- Project proposals which consist of capital expenditure for purchase of land, buildings, equipment, and/or vehicles;
- Scholarships, sponsorships and school fees;

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<sup>2</sup> Access detailed guide on how to register on UNPP here: [Registration – United Nations Partner Portal \(zendesk.com\)](#)



- Cash donations;
- Political party and religious activities;
- Project proposals which provide funding for terrorist activities.

## 2.3 Eligibility of project costs

The categories of costs considered as eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and a ceiling for "eligible costs". Note that the eligible costs must be based on real costs based on supporting documents. Costs that do not appear realistic may be rejected.

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

### Eligible direct costs

To be eligible under this Call for Proposals, costs must be directly verifiable and traceable to the activities being implemented.

### Eligible indirect costs (overheads)

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the project may be eligible for flat-rate funding fixed at not more than 10% of the total eligible direct costs. Such amount may be reviewed in the context of the overall input-based budget submitted with the proposal.

### Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind are not considered actual expenditure and are not eligible costs for reimbursement.

### Ineligible costs

- Direct financial offering or compensation to victims, such as "seed money" or "start-up capital";
- Debts and provisions for losses or debts;
- Interest owed;
- Salary top-ups and similar emoluments to government employees;
- Items already financed in another framework, i.e., existing capacity should not be included in the budget;
- Capital expenditure for purchase of land, buildings, equipment, and/or vehicles;
- Reimbursement for any cost caused by fund transfer, such as currency exchange losses and bank fees;
- Taxes, including VAT, unless the Beneficiary (or the Beneficiary's partners) cannot reclaim them and the applicable regulations do not forbid coverage of taxes;
- Credit to third parties;
- Cost of awareness-raising campaigns that exceed 10% of total budget.



## 3 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All applicants must register and create a profile on the [UN Partner Portal - Where UN Agencies and Civil Society Partners Connect](#). The registration procedures for partners are outlined in resources available on the UN Partner Portal. If you have any questions on UNPP, please use the “Ask Rafiki” function at the bottom right of the screen or directly contact [UNPP helpdesk](#).

Applicants are to submit a full project proposal which will be reviewed by a technical evaluation team and UNOV/UNODC’s External Party Engagement Unit.

### 3.1 Application forms

Full project proposals must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the full project proposal application form.

Application forms (Annex A: Project Proposal, including the workplan, and Annex B: Project Budget) are available in English, French, and Spanish.

Only one application per applicant will be accepted. Multiple applications from the same applicant will result in automatic disqualification.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Due care must be taken to complete the application form. Any error or major discrepancy related in the application form (e.g., the amounts mentioned in the budget are inconsistent with those mentioned in the application form) may lead to rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested if information provided is unclear and prevents objective assessment of the application.

Only the application form and completed annexes will be assessed. Applicants should ensure that these documents contain all information relevant to the proposed project.

### 3.2 Documents to be submitted for application

The following documents must be submitted as part of the application:

- Annex A - Project proposal along with workplan ([template provided](#))
- Annex B - Project budget ([template provided](#))
- Copy of original registration (and re-registration if applicable) certificate that is in valid period as evidence for legal credentials of the organisation and registration by 1 December 2023. The registration certificate must clearly identify the non-profit status of the applicant under the relevant laws of the country. If the registration certificate is not in English, an **English translation** must be provided by the applicant.
- Signed audited organisational financial statements for the last fiscal year demonstrating annual income and expenditures. If the audited financial statement is not in English, an **English translation** must be provided by the applicant.



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- Proposals involving partner contributions must include evidence of secured funding (if applicable).
- Partner Declaration ([template provided](#))
- Two reference letters from relevant stakeholders/partners in support of the applicant's capacity and experience.

Documents may be checked for truthfulness and accuracy of representation through various means, including but not limited to internet searches, formally official confirmation from responsible offices, letters of recommendation, etc.

### 3.3 Where and how to send the application

Applications must be submitted by email to [unodc-victimsfund@un.org](mailto:unodc-victimsfund@un.org) titled

*Application for UNVTF Small Grants Programme 2026*

Applications that require UNODC to request access to documentation via password or confirmation link will not be considered.

Applications sent by any other means (e.g., by fax or by regular mail) or to other addresses will not be considered under this Call for Proposals.

Incomplete applications will be rejected.

### 3.4 Deadline for submission of applications

The deadline for the submission of full project proposals is **28 February 2026, 23:59 (CET)**, as evidenced by the date of receipt of submission email. Any application submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

## 4 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

### 4.1 Eligibility assessment

All applications will be examined and evaluated by a technical evaluation team. In a first step the eligibility of the applications will be assessed as follows:

- Has the submission deadline been respected?
- Has the correct application form been duly filled and are all requested documents attached to the application?
- Does the application meet all the eligibility criteria as mentioned in section 2 above?

If the first assessment of the application reveals that any of the above questions are negative the application may be rejected solely on that basis, and the application will not be evaluated further.



## 4.2 Technical assessment of full project proposals

The quality of the project proposals will be assessed in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in the evaluation grid below. Each subsection will be given a score in accordance with the following guidelines: 0 = information not provided, 1 = poorly meets the criteria; 2 = partially meets the criteria; 3 = adequately meets the criteria; 4 = satisfyingly meets the criteria; 5 = entirely meets the criteria.

Evaluation criteria	Weighting
<b>1. Quality of the Project Proposal</b>	<b>80</b>
1.1 The proposed project demonstrates alignment with the stated objectives (see 1.2) and thematic focus (see 1.3) of this grants programme, supported by evidence of gaps, needs assessment, research, and/or evaluations.	15
1.2 The proposed project focuses on women and child victims of trafficking, (See 1.3)	5
1.3 The proposed project adapts programmes or designs interventions aimed to reach those most left behind, including underserved groups especially excluded or disadvantaged victims of human trafficking (such as persons with disabilities, youth, LGBTQI, internally displaced and refugees, indigenous, older and members of ethnic minorities). (see 1.3)	5
1.4 The proposed project focuses on persons identified in priority situations (see 1.3) i.e., including persons identified among large movements of refugees and/or migrants, internally displaced persons affected by conflict, post-conflict and continued instability, socio-political tensions or a breakdown of law and order; or persons identified in or fleeing areas that has been affected by as well as the spill-over of climate change related displacement, and those persons targeted by organized crime groups into forced criminality, including criminal cyberfraud operations (online scams/ pig-butcherin <sup>g</sup> / financial grooming/ task scams/ sextortion etc). (see 1.3)	5
1.5 The proposed project: Facilitates early identification of human trafficking victims; integrates use of innovative strategies and technologies supporting appropriate victim assistance; engages with youth in the governance, design and implementation of project activities; integrates survivor-focused financial inclusion and economic empowerment approaches to support victims’ rehabilitation and reintegration to society; promotes engagement with persons with lived experience of trafficking and taking into account trauma-informed responses for victims’ reintegration into society.( see 1.3)	10
1.6 The proposed project addresses varied needs of victims from priority forms of exploitation (see 1.3) in a tailored, meaningful manner	10
1.7 The proposed activities and methodology are clearly defined and are linked to the project objectives (see 1.2) and thematic focus and priority issues (see 1.3), i.e., the proposal specifies not only what activities but also HOW these activities will be implemented	10
1.8 The proposal demonstrates knowledge of current provision for victims of trafficking in persons in its location, presents MOU or other working arrangements with state institutions, as well as coordinated approach with other entities, including NGOs, service providers, international organizations, foundations, and/or private sector.	10
1.9 The proposal addresses varied needs of survivors, demonstrates cultural sensitivity and responds to gender-specific needs, including mechanisms to consult with and respond to feedback from victims.	10
<b>2. Strategic Consideration</b>	<b>10</b>



2.1 Lead applicant/implementing organization is a survivor-led organization and demonstrates how survivors are involved in the governance, design, and implementation of project activities(see 1.4)	7.5
2.2 Lead applicant/implementing organization would be a first time recipient of UNVTF grants (see 1.4)	2.5
<b>3. Value for money</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 Economy – proposed costs are necessary and realistic; Efficiency - proposed costs are proportionate to scope and scale of proposed activities; and Effectiveness – proposed activities are likely to achieve measurable, relevant outcomes in line with the project’s objectives, considering the context in which the project will be implemented.	10
<b>Maximum total score</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4.3 Provisional selection

Eligible project proposals will be ranked according to the technical assessment scores awarded. A list of provisionally selected applications will be developed, taking into consideration the funding available.

PLEASE NOTE: Shortlisted proposals that are not initially selected for funding may be retained for consideration for future funding opportunities, subject to the availability of funds, for a period of up to two years from the date of submission.

## 5 APPROVAL AND AWARD

Only successful applicants will be informed in writing of UNOV/UNODC’s decision concerning their application.

The following documents will be signed as part of the grant agreement between UNOV/UNODC and grant recipients:

- Agreement based on the standard UN Project Cooperation Agreement
- Annex A – Project Proposal along with workplan
- Annex B – Project Budget

## 6 INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

	Date
Deadline for submission of full project proposals	28 February 2026, 23:59 (CET)
Estimated start date /project implementation	1 May 2026



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## 7 SUPPORT FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

Potential applicants are invited to submit any requests for clarification in writing to [unodc-victimsfund@un.org](mailto:unodc-victimsfund@un.org) by **6 February 2026, 23:59 CET**. UNOV/UNODC will prepare written responses to all timely clarification requests and will publish them for the information of all potential applicants on the following webpage: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking-fund/unvtf-funding.html>. The sources of the requests will remain anonymous.

In addition to responding to written questions, UNODC will hold two **informal information sessions via Microsoft Teams on 10 February 2026 at 15:00 CET and on 12 February 2026 at 10:00 CET**. These sessions will provide an opportunity for prospective applicants to ask further questions and raise any issues or concerns related to the application process. Meetings will be held primarily in English.

All interested participants may join the session using the following links:

**10 February 2026 at 15:00 CET**

**[UNVTF – Informal Information Session for Potential Applicants \(Session 1\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)**

**12 February 2026 at 10:00 CET**

**[UNVTF – Informal Information Session for Potential Applicants \(Session 2\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)**