



**Spotlight
Initiative**
To eliminate violence
against women and girls

Call for Small Grants **Civil society advocacy and response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women and girls**

Purpose: To support civil society advocacy and response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in all their diversity.

Eligible organisations: Civil society organisations engaged in and committed to ending violence against women and girls including: delivering gender-based violence services, sexual and reproductive justice, economic rights, disability justice, LGBTQIA+/sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) rights, climate and environmental issues etc.

****NOTE:** *eligible organisations must be legally registered and operational for 3 or more years*

Eligible countries: Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu

Amount: Expressions of interest can range from a minimum of \$5,000 USD to a maximum of \$15,000 USD to be spent within a **six-month period**.

Submission deadline: Please submit expressions of interest via email to sonia.rastogi@unwomen.org and leimor.penjueli@unwomen.org by **5:00pm Fiji time on 11 September 2020**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Background

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) have embarked on a new, global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) - The Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative is so named as it brings focused attention to the issue of violence against women and girls, moving it into the spotlight and placing it at the centre of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Pacific, the Spotlight Initiative has one Pacific Regional Programme and four Country Programmes (Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu). The focus of the Spotlight Initiative is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV).

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office is the Technical Lead Agency and an implementing agency for the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional programme. This call for Small Grants is implemented by UN Women's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls section as part of the Regional Programme.

Call for Small Grants:

As evidenced from around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has a direct impact on women and girls. Already a crisis, violence against women and girls has increased in severity and frequency due

to COVID-19 measures and lock downs. Due to COVID-19 measures, such as isolation and staying at home, many women and girls may find themselves at home with their abuser, with increased mobility restrictions and without options to seek support from communities or GBV services. Additionally, the medium and long-term social and economic effects of the global pandemic will also disproportionately impact women and girls through higher food prices, family/community income loss or shifts in resource streams for life-saving social and health services to name a few.

UN Women welcomes expressions of interest **between \$5,000 USD to \$15,000 USD** from civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in and committed to ending violence against women and girls. UN Women's Small Grants are designed to support institutional strengthening and capacity-building, especially for smaller organisations. This call specifically supports civil society advocacy and response efforts in smaller Pacific Island Countries to address COVID-19's socio-economic impact on women and girls in all their diversity. Expressions of interest that focus on intersectional issues and/or communities most impacted (e.g. rural women and girls, young people, women and girls with disabilities, queer, transgender and gender non-conforming communities etc.) is **highly encouraged**.

Small Grants can be used for a diversity of activities such as strengthening advocacy; fostering coalition-building; building internal/institutional capacities; learning and capacity-building; adapting services and referrals for a diversity of scenarios, such as a lock down scenario; advancing an intersectional analysis etc.

The Small Grants are not able to fund provision of direct services or operating/running costs unrelated to a proposed activity.

Below are some examples of activities, however **they are not prescriptive/required and creativity is welcomed**:

Sample objectives and activities	
Objective	Activities
To understand the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women and girls	<p>Convene a series of workshops and dialogues with other civil society organisations and directly affected communities to articulate the intersection of COVID-19's impact on violence against women and girls in the medium- to long-term</p> <p>Developing a report, media product, series of webinars/in-person briefings on the findings from the workshops</p>
To strengthen advocacy for women and girls in light of the impact of COVID-19	<p>Facilitate teach-ins and learning/knowledge sharing sessions to build internal capacity</p> <p>Co-create an advocacy plan to address the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls</p>
To build coalitions and capacities within civil society networks to better advocate for women and girls	<p>Secure trainers and facilitators to build capacities on topics of interest</p> <p>Establish communications and coordination platforms for coalition work</p> <p>Host coalition development meetings</p>
To ensure presence, accessibility and safety of services for survivors	Strengthen and adapt referral pathways for survivors across different sectors

of violence, including crisis center services; SRH; services for people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity etc.	<p>Develop standard operating procedures with key service providers for scenarios in which referral pathways will adapt to different configurations</p> <p>Convene learning sessions on how to adapt counselling, hotlines, health services, transportation and safe shelter to a diversity of scenarios (remote, online, in-person, accessible to different ages/rural/abilities)</p>
Capacity-building of essential frontline workers	<p>To provide GBV referrals capacity-building and training to essential frontline workers working directly with communities</p> <p>Trainings on GBV referral pathways and how to support a survivor to get services, creating a protocol for what to do during COVID-19</p>

Eligibility Criteria for Applicants

- the applicant is a registered CSO in operation for at least three years;
- the applicant is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List;
- the applicant is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
- the applicant is not currently engaged with UN Women as a Partner or has not been engaged with UN Women as a Partner any time after November 2019;
- if a previous Partner, the applicant has a prior positive working experience as a partner for UN Women implemented projects;
- the applicant is not a government entity, a UN organization or an established CSO with the capacity to be engaged as a Partner;
- the applicant has sufficient capacity to collaborate with various stakeholders;
- the applicant has sufficient financial stewardship, including having adequate financial policies and procedures in place to manage the small grant; and,
- the applicant's past performance has been deemed satisfactory (if the CSO has received funding from UN Women before).

How to apply

Step One: submit Expression of Interest and registration certificate

- **Required:**
 - Complete and send the attached Expression of Interest (see template in Annex 1) and a copy of the organization's registration certificate evidencing that the applicant is a registered CSO in operation for at least three years.
 - All applications must be in English.
 - All applications must be submitted via email. Unfortunately, handwritten or mailed applications will not be accepted.
- **Optional:**
 - A short (1 – 2 minute) video sharing your organisation's expression of interest.
 - Applications without a video will not be penalized.
- UN Women will reject any application that does not contain enough information to show that the CSO or activities are eligible.
- UN Women will send a confirmation email upon receipt of application.

Applications, including videos, should be sent by email to sonia.rastogi@unwomen.org and leimor.penjueli@unwomen.org by 5:00pm Fiji time on 11 September 2020.

Step Two: if shortlisted, submit supporting documents

- UN Women will notify short listed candidates within 3 weeks of the application deadline. Please do not send supporting documents unless notified of shortlisting.
- If shortlisted, UN Women will request a 1) copy of the organization's last financial audit, 2) operational documentation, including finance and operations manual, 3) copy of last annual or project report.

Step Three: if awarded a small grant, complete agreement process

- If successful, UN Women will request a completed UN Women vendor form and supporting documentation.
- Based on all completed documentation and the proposal budget, UN Women will disburse the grant amount to the organisation's bank account.

Step Four: implement activities within a six-month period

- Activities must be completed and fully acquitted within a **six-month period**.

Selection process and key dates

All submitted applications will receive a confirmation of receipt email from UN Women. All applications will be assessed by a panel of 3 to 4 UN Women staff.

Call for proposals released	30 July 2020
Expressions of interest due	11 September 2020 (5:00pm Fiji time)
Short-listed applicants notified	by 25 September 2020
Supporting documents required	by 2 October 2020
Successful applicants notified	15 October 2020

Small Grant requirements for grantees

If selected for a Small Grant, all grantees are required to:

- submit an Expression of Interest and supporting documents (see "How to Apply" on page 4);
- submit two brief narrative progress reports at the mid-point (3 months) and end of the small grant (6 months); and
- submit one financial report at the end of the reporting period with documentation of expenses (e.g. receipts).

UN Women's commitment to grantees

UN Women values equal partnership and mutual accountability. UN Women commits to supporting grantees with technical assistance and capacity-building for institutional and technical topics.

