

Call for Concept Notes

Long term Youth and Community Engagement Programs

Introduction

As part of its Promoting Resilience in the Maldives (PRIME) program, Transparency Maldives invites Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) registered in the Maldives to submit Concept Notes to develop and implement community projects with the objective of establishing **long-term youth and community engagement for communities vulnerable to violent extremism (VE)**.

The larger objective is to increase social cohesion and to engage young people, especially those who may be vulnerable to drug abuse, violent gangs and other delinquent behaviors. As such projects include those that focus on skills development, career guidance, workforce training, community engagement, psychosocial support and/or other broader social work approaches to engage youth.

Background

PRIME is a four-year program aiming to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and at-risk groups such as youth, men and women alike in order to create an atmosphere for young people to grow into being contributing citizens of the Maldivian society. The program includes both preventive and rehabilitative interventions targeting youth in general as well as targeted rehabilitative interventions for youth at risk who are excluded and/or participated in criminal activities and anti-social behavior.

According to the Youth Vulnerability report by UNDP (2019), the risks faced by youth in the Maldives usually consist of unemployment, underemployment, limited access to education, loss of identity, perceived unfairness, ostracism, and disillusionment. The study also reported that 69% of the participants felt that social isolation is a huge issue faced by the youth of Maldives. It further highlighted the lack of support networks in schools, as well under preparation for employment which can exacerbate the mentioned risks. The factors stated above may lead some people to substance abuse and gang violence, which, in turn, can increase their vulnerability to violent extremism.

PRIME Project 's **Sub-objective 2.2.1 focuses on: Establishing consistent and long-term youth and community engagements for communities vulnerable to violence**. The aim is to strengthen preventive and response interventions that discourage youth from becoming susceptible to drivers of violence and that address relevant issues at the community level. Preventive intervention that could achieve this goal include improving life skills, career guidance, and workforce training for at-risk youth, as well as projects that empower marginalized populations. The broader focus of these engagements should be to raise community awareness about the importance of enhancing agency and social cohesion and to provide them with the resources needed to address these driving factors.

Scope

Projects under the sub-grants can include but are not limited to those that:

1. Increase advocacy and public awareness at community level
2. Provide psychosocial support activities
3. Support healthy lifestyles

4. Engagement through sports
5. Promote Civic education and engagement
6. Provide life skills to youth

Target Beneficiaries:

The program is broadly targeted towards men and women aged between 18 and 34 years, especially focusing on at risk youth (who may include school dropouts, young mothers, unemployed and underemployed youth). However, Concepts Notes may include specific target audiences depending on the interventions and activities such as first-time drug related offenders, youth involved in gangs or susceptible to gang recruitment, etc.

Target Reach:

- Location: Greater Male' area, Addu City, Fuvahmulah City, Kulhudhufushi City. Additional locations with justifications on the relevance of the project can be considered.
- Beneficiaries
 - o Direct and indirect beneficiaries: Reach 300 – 400 individuals (girls, boys, women and men) through sustainable long-term programs promoting positive behavioral change

Grant Value: minimum USD 5,000 – maximum USD 15,000 per grant

Grant Duration: 12 – 24 months

Eligibility Criteria for CSOs

CSOs shall meet the following criteria to be eligible to participate in this program:

- Must be a registered Civil Society Organization (CSO) of the Maldives under the Ministry of Youth, Community Empowerment and Sports.
- Must have at least a basic accounting and reporting system in place.
- Currently active in the community with existing programs
- Commitment and flexibility to work in partnership with TM
- Credibility and proven relevant experience
- Must not have affiliations with a religious or political party, and must not utilize funds for religious or political purposes
- Must NOT subgrant the funds to a third party
- Must not be a government entity or a politically elected individual/entity, or an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO).
- Must demonstrate an ability to manage funds and have a designated person to manage finances of this grant.
- Must submit a completed application (as explained below) including all requested supporting information

Concept Note Application

Concept Notes can be submitted in English or Dhivehi, should not exceed five pages in length and must include the following:

- **Project Description:** Project rationale, objectives (Concept Note should highlight how the planned program will contribute towards achieving the project's Objective 2 **to enhance agency and social cohesion of populations vulnerable to violence by increasing prevention and response measures that address youth drug addiction, substance abuse, and youth involvement in criminal gangs** (sub-objective 2.1) and hence contributes towards the attainment of the overall goal of the project) and briefly explain the outcomes, outputs and activities. Specify the target locations and beneficiaries of the project with justification. Highlight the sustainability strategy of the planned program together with the summarized estimated budget.
- **Organization's profile:** Name of the organization, year of establishment, brief information on history and mission of the organization (please provide details of formal registration under local or national authorities).
- **Relevant experience:** Description of prior work relevant to working with vulnerable groups, geographical working areas (May provide supporting documents if any).
- **Organizational capacity:** Number of staff, staff expertise and physical resources, organization's technical competence, prior history managing donor funds, governance (details of board members) and finance structure, and accomplishments to date. If applicable, please submit most recent audit and or annual reports. Include organigram for the implementation and management of this award. Include organigram for the implementation and management of this award.
- **Details of Focal Point:** Contact information of person responsible for the concept note including email address, postal address, phone number and web address, if available.

Concept Note Process

Concept notes will enable Transparency Maldives to select local CSO best placed to support and achieve the program objectives set out above. Transparency Maldives will review and reach out to selected CSOs. Those CSOs not selected will also be notified via email.

The following tentative schedule will apply to this concept note, but it may change in accordance with Transparency Maldives' needs or unforeseen circumstances. Changes will be communicated by email to all CSOs.

Timeline

Event	Date
Grant Application stage 1	
Release of Concept Note	2 May 2021
Information session for interested CSOs	10 May 2021

Workshop on Developing Successful Concept Notes	17-18 May 2021
Questions from CSOs due	23 May 2021
Answers from Transparency Maldives - Answers will be provided in the online document here	27 May 2021
Deadline for Concept Note Submission	9 June 2021
Evaluations completed	10-22 June 2021
Successful applicants informed	24 June 2021
Grant Application stage 2 (Applicable to successful applicants only)	
Successful applicants develop the full proposal	25 June -15 July 2021
Final deadline to submit the full proposal	16 July 2021
Evaluation of the full proposal and donor approval	27 July 2021
Award the Grant	1 August 2021

***Concept note is the first stage of the grant application process. Shortlisted listed applicants will be informed and given 3 weeks to develop their concept notes into full project proposals. Successful grant applicants will be informed within 2 weeks after receiving full proposals. DO NOT submit full proposals at this stage.**

Selection Criteria

Evaluation criteria for Concept Note	100%
<p>Technical</p> <p>The proposed project description in the Concept Note will be assessed based on following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevance of proposed activity to the scope of the Concept Note - Clear strategy proposed to achieve the outputs and outcomes of the proposed project. - An effective approach to engaging key stakeholders - The sustainability of the project 	50%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan on ensuring gender equality (if applicable) - Proposed use of different/ wide range of advocacy tools types of advocacy tools. 	
<p>Management and Staffing Capacity of the applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management structure, staffing and resources are adequate for implementation and results oriented management of the project. - The team demonstrates sound experience in successfully implementing similar donor funded projects in the Maldives. - Demonstrated ability to disburse project funds on time - Documents such as audit and annual reports are in order. 	20%
<p>Past Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant has successfully managed and implemented community-based projects in areas relevant to the scope of Concept Note. 	15%
<p>Cost Efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Cost, flexibility and transparency of applicant's financial application. 	15%

Deadline

Deadline for the submission of concept notes is 4pm on 9 June 2021. Concept Notes should be emailed to:

grantsmaldives@transparency.mv copied to shaziya@transparency.mv

Questions for clarification can also be forwarded to grantsmaldives@transparency.mv before 4pm, 25 May 2021.