

Call for Concept Notes

Develop and conduct community programs for reintegration of prisoners back into society

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 Expressions of Interest to develop and conduct community projects to support reintegration of prisoners back into the society.

These projects should aim to address issues that challenge reintegration, especially social stigma arising from negative attitudes and stereotypes towards former inmates, and that reduce discrimination towards these individuals.

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 or anti-social behavior.

Existing research shows that recidivism is high in the Maldives. For example, according to the Youth Vulnerability report by UNDP (2019), the prison population is made up mostly of recidivists. There are only about 100 first-time offenders annually compared to [recidivism figure]. The report also noted that most inmates were aged 30 and 80% were serving sentences for drugs. Prison overcrowding and lack of resources for rehabilitation are identified as the reason formerly incarcerated people relapse and re-offend.

Most offenders face significant social adaptation issues, which can include family and community stigmatization and ostracism, and the ensuing negative impact on their ability to find jobs or housing, return to formal education or build (or rebuild) individual and social capital. Unless they receive help to face these issues, they risk getting caught up in a vicious cycle of failed social integration, reoffending, reconviction and social rejection.

Reintegration is thus a necessary component of any comprehensive strategy to prevent crime as well as a crucial element to build more resilient communities and reduce recidivism. Reintegration initiatives, ranging from personal empowerment to the development of employment opportunities, should begin when the inmate or drug-dependent persons in prison is still in custodial, detention or rehabilitation settings to prepare for release. The goal of such initiatives should be to reduce social alienation and the likelihood of recidivism. However, reintegration initiatives should also extend to communities in order to promote social cohesion and reduce negative perceptions of former inmates and drug-dependent persons in order to bridge the separation of families, connect them to job opportunities, and break the stigma and discrimination that follow former inmates and drug dependent persons.

The families of offenders, their immediate circle of friends, and the community have a fundamental role to play in assisting the offenders' return to society and supporting ex-offenders in rebuilding their lives. Research indicates that having strong family support is one of the most important factors contributing to successful rehabilitation, together with gaining steady employment. Successful

treatment for drug addiction and desistance from returning to former drug circles is another key issue for many, and family support is crucial.

Funding opportunities under PRIME program's **Objective 2.2** focuses on focuses on developing life-skills, career guidance and vocational trainings for inmates as well as conducting community and family-oriented programs aimed at addressing community barriers for successful reintegration following incarceration.

To ensure sustainable partnerships within the communities and to encourage CSO involvement, inclusion, and partnership in building community resilience and social cohesion; programs under this funding opportunity will be implemented through CSOs.

Scope

Projects can include (but are not limited to):

1. Capacity building of families and communities through sustainable interventions
2. Activities promoting and supporting bridging prisoners or drug dependent persons with their families and communities
3. Programs for employers to create employment opportunities and trainings, and assist in providing gainful employment for those leaving prison or rehabilitation centers

Target Beneficiaries

The program is broadly targeted towards communities, however, Concept notes may include specific target audiences depending on the interventions and activities.

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 at least 500 people through different community program interventions

Grant Value: minimum USD 10,000 – maximum USD 20,000 per grant, per year

Number of grants available: up to 3 grants or more (depending on value of proposals received)

Grant Duration: 12 months to 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 (EOI should highlight how the planned program will contribute towards achieving the project’s Sub-Objective 2.2 of Objective 2 to **enhance agency and social cohesion of populations vulnerable to violence by increasing prevention and response measures that address** recidivism 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%
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<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%
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<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.