

Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children

1. Introduction

The grant policy framework Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children is a subsidy instrument with a grant ceiling of EUR 15 million for a program with a duration of three years starting on 1 January 2023. The grant policy framework Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children intends to support activities of civil society organizations that aim to combat and/or prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people up to the age of 18.

The Dutch commitment to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

The promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (hereafter named SRHR), including the fight against HIV/AIDS, has long been one of the priorities in Dutch foreign policy. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) of 1994¹ – and the subsequent follow-up conferences – form an important foundation for Dutch SRHR policy. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda launched by the United Nations is now an additional key framework, especially SDG3² and SDG5³.

The Dutch SRHR policy focuses on four interrelated but independent result areas, as laid down in the SRHR Theory of Change of 8 November 2018 (see Annex 1):⁴

1. Greater freedom of choice for young people about their sexuality;
2. Improved access to contraceptives and medicine;
3. Better quality public and private health care for sexual and reproductive health, including safe abortions;
4. More respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of groups who are currently denied these rights.

Combating and preventing the sexual exploitation of children

For the purposes of this grant policy framework, sexual exploitation of children is defined as follows: “A child is a victim of sexual exploitation when she/he takes part in a sexual activity in exchange for something (e.g. gain or benefit, or even the promise of such) from a third party, the perpetrator, or by the child her/himself.”⁵ This is a violation of the rights of the child, including the right to be protected from exploitation and the right to grow up in the best possible health and a safe environment. It is also a violation of universal human rights in the area of sexual and reproductive health. The consequences for victims, whether physical, mental or social, are often long-lasting. The sexual exploitation of children deprives them of the prospect of a good future and disrupts families and communities. It is estimated that every year one to two million children worldwide are victim of sexual exploitation.⁶ The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the vulnerability of children to this form of exploitation, and the amplifying global digitalization leads to increased sexual exploitation of children.⁷

To be eligible for a grant under this instrument, an application must focus specifically on the fight against and/or prevention of sexual exploitation of children, in accordance with the Motion Ceder⁸ and the Amendment Ceder/Kuik⁹. The application must also include a link to at least one of the result areas of the Dutch SRHR policy, as well as SDG 3 and/or SDG 5.

Including a service delivery component (max. 25%) and/or lobby and advocacy component is not by definition excluded from a grant, provided that it serves the primary commitment to combating and/or preventing sexual exploitation of children and is in the interest of the groups listed under result areas 1 to 4. In that case, the lead party must provide an additional explanation in the program proposal, which clarifies how the proposed service delivery relates to the primary objective of the program.

¹ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/programme_of_action_Web%20ENGLISH.pdf

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/SDG3>

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/SDG5>

⁴ <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2018/11/08/theory-of-change-ontwikkelingssamenwerking>

⁵ <https://ecpat.org/luxembourg-guidelines/>

⁶ Based on the findings of the report Analysis of the Field of Action Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children: [Onderzoek analyse werkveld bestrijding seksuele uitbuiting van kinderen | Rapport | Rijksoverheid.nl](#)

⁷ <https://www.weprotect.org/global-threat-assessment-21>

⁸ 35 925-XVII nr.41

⁹ 35 925-XVII nr.14

The application should be implemented in at least three countries. Applicants are encouraged to target countries in the BHOS focus regions for international cooperation that are mentioned in the BHOS policy note 2022.¹⁰

2. Organizations that may be eligible for a grant

Only consortia from civil society organizations are eligible for a grant under the grant policy framework Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children. A civil society organization is defined as: a non-profit organization, neither established by a government body nor linked to a government body either de facto or under its constitution, which is a legal person under civil law and serves a public interest. A consortium consists of consortium partners, including one lead party and one or more co-applicants.

Consortium partners may be:

- Civil society organizations with their head office in low-, lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries, either in the role of lead party or co-applicant;
- Dutch civil society organizations, either in the role of lead party or co-applicant;
- International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) based in a high-income country other than the Netherlands, in the role of co-applicant.

Besides being a legal person under civil law, each consortium member should have the needed capacity, networks, experience, skills and instruments to implement the program proposal.

Each consortium must include at least one consortium partner from a low-, lower-middle- or upper-middle-income country and one consortium partner from the Netherlands.

Applications must be submitted by a lead party on behalf of the consortium. The lead party may be either a Dutch civil society organization or a civil society organization from a low-, lower-middle- or upper-middle-income country. If the application is approved, the lead party is the grant recipient and, as such, bears full responsibility for implementation of the proposed activities for which the grant is awarded and for compliance with the obligations in respect of the grant decision.

Activities for which a grant has already been awarded and activities which have already started at the time of submission of the application are not eligible for a grant.¹¹ Activities carried out by organizations that receive core-funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a period that is still ongoing, are also not eligible for a grant under the Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children.¹²

3. Distribution of available resources

A maximum of €15.000.000 is available for the grant under the grant policy framework Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children. The allocation of the grant will be done via an international tender procedure, i.e. based on a ranking of the quality of timely submitted applications. At the end of the submission period, all timely submitted applications will be considered and assessed. Each application will be assessed on the basis of the information received before the application deadline. The applications will be ranked based on the assessment of the application against the quality criteria mentioned in this grant policy framework (chapter 6). To be eligible for a grant, an application must be of sufficient quality. For matters of effectiveness, only one consortium (represented by a lead party) will be eligible for a grant under this grant policy framework. If more than one application meet the quality criteria, the application with the highest score in the qualitative check will be selected. If two or more applications obtain the same score and therefore share the first place in the ranking, a draw will take place to decide which of these applications will be awarded the grant. The applications of consortia that are not selected will be rejected. If none of the applications sufficiently meet the quality criteria, no consortium will be selected.

4. Activities, results and indicators

¹⁰ [Policy Note 2022 - Doen waar Nederland goed in is | Policy Note | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) - De focus regions are West-Africa/Sahel, Horn of Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

¹¹ See art. 9 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree

¹² See art. 4 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree

The grant to be awarded under the Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children must be used to carry out activities that have a measurable contribution to combating and/or preventing the sexual exploitation of children. In order to make this contribution visible, at both output and outcome level, applications must include a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan. This MEL plan should incorporate at least the following elements:

- Results framework, containing:
 - o A reference to at least one of the four result areas¹³ from the SRHR Theory of Change of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Annex 1);
 - o A link with at least three indicators from SRHR Results Framework of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Annex 2);
 - o At least three specific indicators for measuring the fight against and/or prevention of sexual exploitation of children;
 - o Targets per indicator (and where possible baseline information);
 - o Disaggregation per indicator, whereby disaggregation on gender is mandatory for indicators that measure numbers of persons/children;
 - o Measurement method per indicator.
- A section on reporting and evaluating with attention for:
 - o The realization of annual plans and annual reports;
 - o IATI reporting in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - [IATI Publication Guidelines – Helpdesk Open Data](#)
 - [Guidelines for partnerships – Helpdesk Open Data](#)
 - o An external end evaluation in accordance with the IOB evaluation quality criteria ([IOB Evaluation Quality Criteria | Guideline](#)).
- A plan for learning, containing:
 - o At least one developed learning question (preferably related to one of the assumptions in the TOC);
 - o How monitoring and evaluation data will be used over the duration of the program to strengthen the program.
- Attention for the protection against SEAH.

5. Eligible costs

The eligible costs are listed and explained in the model budget that must be used for the budget to be submitted with the application (Annex 3).

In calculating the costs eligible for a grant, the following principles apply:

- only costs that are necessary for carrying out activities for which grant is requested, and which cannot reasonably be covered from the applicant's own resources or in some other way, are eligible for a grant¹⁴;
- only costs incurred after the grant decision is received are eligible;
- costs of materials and depreciation costs on investments related to the implementation of the activities are eligible;
- costs of third-party services for which an external party is contracted and which are invoiced in arrears are eligible;
- costs will be compared with local standards and assessed for reasonableness;
- audit costs: under the Ministry's 2022 audit protocol a report of findings must be appended to the auditor's report. This increases the cost of an audit. Please bear this in mind when drawing up the budget.

In all cases, the funds must to the greatest extent possible be used to achieve the intended changes that will benefit the target group. Indirect costs as defined in the model budget must be kept to a minimum, and must in no case exceed 15% of the total amount requested. This is, in the absence of additional funding from third parties, equal to the total of all eligible costs incurred by the applicant or the joint consortium partners for the implementation of the activities for which a grant is requested. Further information on this subject can be found in the budget model (Annex 3).

¹³ Also see chapter 1 of the administrative rules

¹⁴ Art. 14, paragraph 1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree

The following costs are in any case not eligible for a grant:

- costs associated with developing, preparing or submitting the application and other costs that are incurred before receipt of the grant decision;
- VAT that can be offset by the applicant, lead party or co-applicant;
- costs due to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations which are greater than 5% of the total eligible costs;
- investment costs and depreciation that are not linked to activities under Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children;
- costs of registering and maintaining intellectual property rights;
- the proportion of total indirect costs that exceeds the total permitted maximum of 15% of the total costs for implementation (for example, if the total indirect costs amount to 20%, the last 5% are considered non-eligible).

These principles must be applied in the budget to be submitted with the application.

6. Selection process

The provisions of the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decision and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 are fully applicable to the assessment of applications under the grant policy framework Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the above legislation and pursuant to the criteria included in this grant policy framework. Two types of criteria are applied in the assessment: threshold criteria and criteria related to the quality of the application (quality criteria).

Threshold criteria

The threshold criteria are criteria which an application must meet at all times to be eligible for a grant. If one or more threshold criteria are not met, the application will be discarded and rejected.

Quality criteria

An application that meets all the threshold criteria will be assessed on the basis of the quality criteria. These criteria include the quality of the program proposal, the vision of the consortium on working with local organizations in the in the application proposed countries, and the quality of the track record of the consortium/consortium partners.

A total score of 1000 points can be obtained.¹⁵ To be eligible for a grant, an application must sufficiently satisfy the quality criteria. An application satisfactorily meets the quality criteria with a minimum total score of 650 points¹⁶, whereby each of the three separate components must also attain a satisfactory score. The following applies here:

1. For the program proposal a maximum of 550 points may be awarded. The program proposal is assessed as satisfactory with 355 points or more.¹⁷
2. For the vision of the consortium on working with local organizations a maximum of 175 points may be awarded. The vision is assessed as satisfactory with 120 points or more.
3. For the track record a maximum of 275 points may be awarded. The track record is assessed as satisfactory with 175 points or more.¹⁸

If one or more parts of the application or the application as a whole do/does not meet the minimum score, the application will be rejected.

¹⁵ If the application makes partial use of service delivery, a total of 50 additional points can be scored. To compensate for the difference in the maximum number of points to be awarded between applications without and with partial use of service delivery, a conversion factor will be used.

¹⁶ If the application makes partial use of service delivery, a total of 50 additional points can be scored. To compensate for the difference in the maximum number of points to be awarded between applications without and with partial use of service delivery, a conversion factor will be used.

¹⁷ If the application makes partial use of service delivery, an additional 30 points can be awarded under program proposal. To compensate for the difference in the maximum number of points to be awarded between applications without and with a partial commitment to service delivery, an adjustment factor will be used.

¹⁸ If the application makes partial use of service delivery, an additional 20 points can be scored under the Track Record section. To compensate for the difference in the maximum number of points to be awarded between applications without and with partial commitment to service delivery, an adjustment factor will be used.

For applications that have obtained at least 650 points¹⁹ in the qualitative assessment, points will be assigned to the deployment in countries in the focus regions for international cooperation mentioned in the BHOS note²⁰. Points will be assigned pro rata to the extent to which an application focuses on countries in the focus regions for international cooperation mentioned in the BHOS note. The final score is determined by the sum of the score on the qualitative assessment and the points for the geographical deployment.

7. Assessment criteria

7.1 Threshold criteria

D.1.a: *The application has been submitted on behalf of a consortium by a lead party which is a CSO established either in the Netherlands or in a low-income, lower-middle-income or upper-middle-income country (see list of countries in annex 4 to these administrative rules).*

Explanation:

This must be clear from the lead party's statutes and from a partnership agreement signed by the lead party and all co-applicants which has been concluded with a view to implementing the activities for which a grant is requested under the Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Definitions

Civil society organization: a non-profit organization, neither established by a government body nor linked to a government body either de facto or under its constitution, which is a legal person under civil law and serves a public interest.

Civil society organization established in the Netherlands: an organization founded in the Netherlands under Dutch law and having had its registered office in the Netherlands for at least three years as of 1 January 2022.

Civil society organization established in a low-income, lower-middle or upper-middle-income country: an organization that has its registered office in one of the countries listed in annex 4 and is established there under that country's prevailing laws.

D.1.b: *The consortium on whose behalf the lead party has submitted the application consists of civil society organizations, including at least one civil society organization established in a low-income, lower-middle or upper-middle-income country (listed in annex 4 to these administrative rules) and at least one civil society organization established in the Netherlands.*

Explanation:

This must be demonstrated by enclosing a copy of the statutes of the lead party and of all co-applicants.

International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) established in a high-income country other than the Netherlands may take part in a consortium as a consortium partner but not as lead party.

D.2: *The application must include a partnership agreement signed by both the lead party and all co-applicants which has been concluded with a view to implementing the activities for which a grant is requested under the Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children, laying down at least:*

- *how each of the consortium partners will contribute to the consortium's activities (its role, task and responsibilities);*
- *how decisions are made within the consortium;*
- *how costs and risks are shared among the consortium partners;*
- *how the consortium partners will ensure that the lead party fulfils the obligations towards the Minister in respect of the grant, including responsibility for the joint aggregated reports (including IATI-compliant reports);*

¹⁹ If the application makes partial use of service delivery, a total of 50 additional points can be scored. To compensate for the difference in the maximum number of points to be awarded between applications without and with partial use of service delivery, a conversion factor will be used..

²⁰ The focus regions are West Africa/Sahel, Horn of Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

- *how consortium partners keep each other informed about progress of the program, as well as about their financial health;*
- *how the partnership can be adapted;*
- *each consortium member's role in monitoring and evaluating the progress in the activities for which a grant has been received and in the project financed from the fund.*

Explanation:

This must be demonstrated by producing a partnership agreement signed by the lead party and all co-applicants meeting above mentioned requirements.

D.3: *Both the lead party and all co-applicants work to achieve universal access to SRHR for children and young people up to the age of 18, and the fight against and/or prevention of sexual exploitation of children in low-income, lower-middle and/or upper-middle-income countries (see annex 4) in cooperation with CSOs established in these countries.*

Explanation:

This must be demonstrated on the basis of the goals of the lead party and all co-applicants, mentioned in the statutes and/or annual reports (2019, 2020 and 2021). Please specify the annex, passage and/or page number you are referring to.

D.4: *The lead party has at least the preceding year experience in working on achieving access to SRHR for children and young people up to the age of 18, and/or the fight against and/or prevention of sexual exploitation of children in at least three of the in the application proposed countries, as of 1 January 2022.*

Explanation:

This must be demonstrated by submission of the annual report 2021 of the lead party. Please specify the annex, passage and/or page number you are referring to.

D.5: *In the 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2021 period at least 25% of the lead party's total annual income must have come from sources other than direct grants and/or contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

Explanation:

In the 2019-2021 period annually at least 25% of the consortium's total annual income came from sources other than grants and/or contributions derived directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including missions). This criterion applies to the consortium as a whole. Consequently, if the lead party or one of co-applicants derived annually less than 25% of its total annual income from sources other than grants or contributions derived directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this may be offset by (an)other party (parties) in the consortium. This must be demonstrated by the last three annual accounts (2019-2021) of all consortium partners or reference to the relevant pages in the annual reports if the annual accounts are included in these reports.

Total annual income in 2019: EUR....., of which from Ministry of Foreign Affairs: EUR.....,%

Total annual income in 2020: EUR....., of which from Ministry of Foreign Affairs: EUR.....,%

Total annual income in 2021: EUR....., of which from Ministry of Foreign Affairs: EUR.....,%

D.6

A. *The maximum remuneration of individual management and board members of a lead party or co-applicant established in the Netherlands must not exceed EUR 199.000 per calendar year for a 36-hour working week, as from the start of the period for which the grant is being requested.*

This amount includes:

1. *the total of periodically paid salary, profit shares and bonuses;*
2. *taxable fixed and variable expense allowances;*
3. *payments made at set times of year, such as holiday pay, 13th month's bonus, the employer's share of pension contributions, etc.*

B. This criterion also applies to applicants with legal personality established in other EU member-states. For applicants established in EU member-states that do not use the euro, this amount is converted into local currency using the Ministry of Foreign Affairs corporate rates (annex 5) as at 1 July 2022.

C. With reference to the data on purchasing power published by EUROSTAT (comparative price levels 2022)²¹, the following remuneration ceilings apply to applicants established in any of the following countries:

Norway	NOK	2.018.915
Switzerland	CHF	206.065
Japan	YEN	27.111.760
US/Canada	USD	210.522
United Kingdom	GBP	169.086

D. From the start of the grant period, the maximum remuneration of individual managers and board members of a lead party or co-applicants established in any other countries must be in reasonable proportion to the seniority of their position and to the organization's geographical location, size and complexity.

Notes:

Re A+B+C+D

The lead party must specify the remunerations (including allowances), as well as the size of appointment (in hours per week; see also below under Explanation of criterion) of managers (including the CEO) and board members of its own organization and of all co-applicants, of the start of the grant period – following the format below:

Position	Remuneration (the sum of periodic remuneration and profit-sharing and bonus payments)	Taxable fixed and variable expense allowances	Remuneration payable in the future, such as holiday pay, 13th month, employer's share of pension contributions and the like.	Scope of appointment (in hours per week)

For co-applicants (other than the lead party) established in EU member states that do not use the euro, and for lead parties and other consortium partners from countries outside the EU, other than the countries under C, the euro is converted into local currency using the Ministry of Foreign Affairs corporate rates (annex 5) as at 1 July 2022.

Re A

For Dutch lead parties and co-applicants that fall within the scope of the Top Incomes (Standardization) Act (WNT), the lead party may include a reference to the annual WNT notification instead of providing the specifications presented above, unless this data is no longer valid as of 1 January 2022 due to a change in remuneration (the WNT data must be published on the internet for a period of at least seven years and must be easily accessible and available to the general public).

Ad D

In addition to specifying the remuneration of the individual management and board members of the lead party and all co-applicants based outside the EU, Norway, Switzerland, Japan, USA/Canada and/or the United Kingdom, the lead party must provide, for these consortium partners, an explanation why the remunerations are in reasonable proportion to the seniority of the positions, and the geographical location, size and complexity of the organization(s) in question. You could for instance think of:

- a) Tasks and responsibilities of the official;
- b) Number of employees of the organization (organizational unit);

²¹ See: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tec00114&plugin=1>

- c) *Annual total organizational income in 2019, 2020, 2021;*
- d) *Explanation of complexity and strategic positioning of the organization (e.g. role in international policy, work terrain, knowledge function) based upon which the remuneration is justified;*
- e) *Remuneration of comparable organizations in the same country or region;*
- f) *Other relevant information about the remuneration compared to the seniority and geographical location, size and complexity of the organization.*

Explanation:

The maximum remuneration is linked to the remuneration of the Director-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. DGIS falls under the collective labor agreement for Dutch civil servants, under which a 36-hour working week constitutes full-time employment. If a management or board member is employed for less than 36 hours per week, the maximum remuneration of EUR 199,000 is reduced in proportion to the part-time factor (their weekly number of working hours divided by 36, multiplied by EUR 199,000). If a management or board member is employed for more than 36 hours per week, the maximum remuneration remains EUR 199,000. If the part-time factor is included in the grant application, this will be used to calculate the prorated maximum remuneration. If no part-time factor is provided, it will be assumed that the remuneration is paid for a 36-hour working week.

D.7.a: *The lead party must be capable of adequate financial management and can guarantee, through its experience and expertise with regards to activities such as for which a grant is requested, effective and efficient implementation of activities.*

Explanation:

The lead party should demonstrate this by submitting one of the following:

- Valid PARTOS 9001 – 2015, version 2018 certificate; or
- If the organization has a positively assessed Organizational Risk and Integrity Assessment (ORIA): a completed ORIA update form (Annex 6 to the policy rules), referring to the activity number of the grant obtained or, if the application was ultimately rejected on grounds other than lack of organizational capacity, the grant framework to which the application was submitted; or
- In all other cases: a fully completed ORIA (Annex 7 to the policy rules).

D.7.b: *The lead party demonstrates that the lead party and all co-applicants have an integrity policy in place. The lead party demonstrates that the lead party and all co-applicants have procedures in place to apply this integrity policy. This integrity policy and these procedures should serve to prevent, as much as possible, any transgressive behavior, including sexual misconduct, towards employees and third parties during the implementation of the proposed activities for which the grant is requested by the lead party and the co-applicants as well as other parties involved in the implementation. This integrity policy and these procedures should also serve to, in the event of such incidents, ensure that these are investigated, and appropriate measures are taken to put an end as promptly as possible to the misbehavior and to mitigate its consequences. These procedures are structured in a way that guarantees prompt reporting of any such incidents to the Minister.*

Explanation:

The lead party should demonstrate this by submitting one of the following for the lead party and all co-applicants:

- Valid PARTOS 9001 – 2015, version 2018 certificate; or
- For the lead party and co-applicants with a positively assessed ORIA: a reference to the activity number of the grant obtained or, if the application was ultimately rejected on grounds other than lack of organizational capacity, the grant framework to which the application was submitted; or
- For the lead party and co-applicants without an ORIA: a completed ORIA Integrity Update form (Annex 8 to the policy rules), to be submitted in English.

D.8: *The application is aimed at combating and/or preventing the sexual exploitation of children and young people up to the age of 18, as defined in the Luxembourg Guidelines* ²².

Explanation:

This is demonstrated in the program proposal.

D.9: *The activities for which grant funding is requested will be implemented in at least three countries.*

Explanation:

This is demonstrated in the program proposal.

D.10: *The activities for which grant funding is requested have a duration of three years, starting per 1 January 2023 and ending on 31 December 2025.*

Explanation:

This is demonstrated in the program proposal.

D.11: *The grant amount requested is maximum EUR 15.000.000 for the total duration of the program.*

Explanation:

This is demonstrated in the budget appended to the application.

D.12: *In the application a link is made with at least one of the four SRHR-result areas, at least three of the indicators in the SRHR-result framework, and with SDG3 and/or SDG5 (see chapter 4 of this grant policy framework).*

Explanation:

This is demonstrated in the program proposal.

D.13: *The application does not regard activities:*

- *which already receive grant funding or a contribution directly or indirectly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget;*
- *that have already started at the time of submission of the application; or*
- *by organizations already receiving core funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget for period that is still ongoing; or*
- *for-profit; or*
- *by local civil society organizations which already receive a contribution indirectly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget.*

Explanation:

This is demonstrated in the program proposal and the budget appended to the application.

7.2 Quality criteria

7.2.1 Criteria for assessing the quality of the program proposal

This section contains the criteria on the basis of which the quality of the program proposal will be assessed. The assessment is carried out using information submitted by the lead party. On behalf of the consortium, the lead party must develop and submit a program proposal (maximum 20 pages), in conformity with the requirements as described in chapter 7.

The program should include:

- A clear problem analysis resulting in a strategic objective focusing on combating and/or preventing sexual exploitation of children, which links to at least one of the SRHR result areas, and to SDG3

²² A child is a victim of sexual exploitation when he or she participates in a sexual activity in exchange for something (for example, profit or advantage or the promise of it) that belongs to a third party or to the child himself or herself.

- and/or SDG5, and setting out the different intermediate steps needed to achieve this objective using a human rights approach;
- An analysis of the underlying assumptions that link up the different steps to achieve the strategic goal of the program;
 - A cross-cutting gender and inclusion analysis;
 - A SWOT-analysis (where the T refers to a risk analysis) for the proposed program, taking into account:
 - political/social/economic (risk) factors;
 - conflict sensitivity.
 - An analysis of the key organizations and stakeholders relevant to the program;
 - A Theory of Change (TOC) and program approach, including an activity plan for the first 12 months and a multi-annual plan in general terms, that follow logically from the above mentioned analyses;
 - The region, countries or areas are chosen on the basis of the problem analysis (at least three countries per application);
 - A MEL-plan, as described in chapter 4;
 - A description of the way in which the consortium will shape the connection with Dutch society;
 - A balanced budget drawn up in accordance with the model budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Annex 3). This budget includes the requested grant amount, needed for the total duration to implement the proposed activities and interventions, as well as other possible sources from which implementation costs will be met. The budget is accompanied by a liquidity forecast (Annex 9) for the first 12 months. The forecast is linked to the activity plan, budget and estimates of required resources. (Please note: the budget and liquidity forecast may be appended to the program proposal as an annex and are not subject to the 20-page maximum for the program proposal.)
 - If the project includes a service delivery component: an explanation how the proposed service delivery relates to the primary commitment to combating and/or preventing sexual exploitation of children and is in the interest of the groups listed in result areas 1 and/or 4 (young people and people whose sexual and reproductive rights are currently denied), as well as how this will be monitored.

The quality of the program proposal will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. a. The extent to which there is a clear problem analysis, which links to the chosen result area(s) and SDG3 and/or SDG5 (see criterion D.8) that results in a single strategic objective with regards to the fight against and/or prevention of sexual exploitation of children.
b. If the application focuses on one result area: the extent to which there is a clear explanation why one result area was chosen; if the application focuses on multiple result areas: the extent to which there is a clear and logical connection between the intended results.
2. The extent to which there is a logical and substantiated link between the intended interventions, the assumptions and results, and how these contribute to the strategic objective.
3. The extent to which gender equality and inclusion are an integral part of the program proposal, and the extent to which there is specific attention for interventions to eliminate obstacles for excluded groups, women and girls, and youth in general.
4. The extent to which a clear SWOT analysis (where the T refers to a risk analysis) has been conducted, taking into account:
 - a. political/social/economic (risk) factors;
 - b. conflict sensitivity.
5. The extent to which the consortium has knowledge of key organizations and stakeholders relevant to the program and demonstrates this by means of an actor analysis.
6. The extent to which there is a clear argumentation as to why the consortium intends to collaborate with these specific organizations and groups in order to achieve the strategic objective, reflecting on their:
 - a. legitimacy;
 - b. added value;
 - c. complementarity.
7. The extent to which the TOC and program approach, including the activity plan for the first 12 months and the multi-annual plan in general terms, follow logically from the above mentioned analyses.
8. a. The extent to which achieving the intended results is realistic in the three-year period.
b. The way in which the goal will be pursued of ensuring sustainable results.
9. The extent to which a contribution is made to raising awareness of the rights of the target groups and to amplifying the voice of these groups so that they can demand their rights.

10. The extent to which the choice of regions, countries or specific areas within these countries follows logically from the problem analysis.
11. The extent to which the MEL plan is complete and allows for adequate monitoring of the program with room for adjustments if and when necessary.
12. The extent to which the consortium seeks to connect with Dutch society.
13. The extent to which the requested grant amount is explained in a clear and convincing manner (per cost category) and relates to the proposed activities and results in the period for which the grant is requested.
14. If the program proposal includes a service delivery component: the extent to which the proposed service delivery relates to the primary commitment to combat and/or prevent sexual exploitation of children and benefits the groups mentioned under result area 1 and/or 4 (young people and people whose sexual and reproductive rights are denied).

N.B.: Service delivery activities should serve the commitment to the fight against and/or prevention of sexual exploitation of children and contribute to the long-term objective; it cannot be a stand-alone activity. The beneficiaries of these services must be the target groups described in the result areas.

7.2.2 Criteria for assessing the consortium's vision on working with local organizations

This section contains the criteria on the basis of which the quality of the consortium's vision on working with local organizations in the in the application proposed countries will be assessed. The assessment is carried out using information submitted by the lead party. On behalf of the consortium, the lead party must submit an explanation of the consortium's vision on working with local organizations in the in the application proposed countries (maximum 4 pages).

This vision should include:

- An analysis of the main power relations at for the program relevant levels between the consortium partners and local partners and groups, taking account gender and inclusion;
- A description of the consortium's plans for addressing these power relations so as to ensure that local partners and groups from the in the application proposed countries have a voice in designing and implementing the program;
- A description of the way in which learning and innovation will be given a place in the partnership.

The quality of the consortium's vision on working with local organizations in the in the application proposed countries will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The extent to which there is a clear analysis of the main power relations at for the consortium relevant levels between the consortium partners and local partners and groups.
2. The extent to which the various local partners and target groups are assured an equal say in decision-making processes on:
 - roles and responsibilities;
 - mutual rights and obligations;
 - selection of partners;
 - budget allocation;
 - program design;
 - program implementation.
3. The extent to which learning and innovative ways of working are a structural part of the collaboration.

7.2.3 Criteria for assessing the track record

This section contains the criteria on the basis of which the quality of the consortium's track record will be assessed. The assessment is carried out using information submitted by the lead party. On behalf of the consortium, the lead party must submit a track record demonstrating that the consortium has the capacity, networks, experience, skills and instruments to implement the proposal (maximum 4 pages).

The track record must briefly set out two case studies, citing verifiable sources where possible, from the three years preceding 1 January 2022, drawn from the experience of different individual consortium partners, the consortium as a whole and/or parts of the consortium. Each case study must include:

- Demonstrable results achieved in the area of 1) combating and/or preventing the sexual exploitation of children, and 2) freedom of choice on matters of sexuality and access to SRHR information,

resources and services for children and young people up to the age of 18 over the past three years (reference date 1 January 2022);

- The countries relevant to the application where the lead party and co-applicants were active;
- The knowledge of the lead party and the co-applicants in the field of combating and/or preventing sexual exploitation of children, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for children and young people up to the age of 18;
- The way in which the consortium has worked with the relevant actors;
- The way in which the lead party and/or co-applicants regularly reviewed the program or another planning instrument, and how this did or did not lead to program modifications;
- Gender equality and inclusion as an integral part of the programs;
- In elaborating and implementing the programs, the attention paid to the specific needs of groups relevant to the programs, including excluded groups, and the specific interventions addressing these needs;
- The way in which sustainability of the programs' results was ensured;
- If the project includes a service delivery component: the experience and expertise of the consortium and/or consortium partners in the area of service delivery in the field of combating and/or preventing the sexual exploitation of children, and SRHR.

The quality of this track record is assessed according to the following criteria:

1. a. The extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners show(s) that they have demonstrable expertise in combating and/or preventing sexual exploitation of children, and freedom of choice on matters of sexuality and access to SRHR information, resources and services for children and youth up to the age of 18.
b. The extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners were able to effectively achieve the intended results.
2. The extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners show(s) that they have worked in the countries relevant to the application.
3. a. The extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners have knowledge of relevant actors in the countries to which the application refers (government, business, civil society and social movements).
b. The extent to which they have worked effectively with them.
4. The extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners were focused on learning and on exchanging knowledge and experiences with the actors involved.
5. The extent to which gender equality and inclusion were effectively integrated into the analysis, implementation and intended results, and were reflected in the spending of financial resources.
6. The extent to which obstacles to opportunities for optimal participation in society by excluded groups, and women and girls, and young people in general, were identified and addressed and/or removed.
7. a. The extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners ensured transparency concerning their actions.
b. The extent to which they reported on their actions to local partners, governments, supporters, financiers and any other relevant actors.
8. The extent to which the sustainability of results was ensured.
9. If the program proposal includes a service delivery component: the extent to which the consortium and/or consortium partners have experience and expertise in the area of service delivery in the field of combating and/or preventing child sexual exploitation, and SRHR.

8. Application procedure

Each grant application consists of the following parts:

1. Application form in accordance with the mandatory format (Annex 10);
2. Program proposal, including all requirements laid down in chapter 7.2.1 (max. 20 pages);
3. Vision on working with local organizations, including all requirements laid down in chapter 7.2.2 (max. 4 pages);
4. Track record, including all requirements laid down in chapter 7.2.3 (max. 4 pages);
5. Budget, annexed to the program proposal, based on the obligated budget model (see Annex 3);
6. Liquidity forecast for the first twelve months, annexed to the program proposal (see Annex 9);

7. A partnership agreement developed and signed by the lead party and all co-applicants (see D.2);
8. The documents required to show organizational capacity and integrity (see D.7);
9. All other documents and information required for the threshold criteria.

NB. The application must include a balanced and detailed budget (including the requested grant amount), corresponding with the program proposal for the period for which the grant is requested and which is necessary to implement the proposed activities and interventions, as well as the substantiation thereof. The application must also include a liquidity forecast for the first twelve months. The funds must be spent no later than 31 December 2025. This should be demonstrated in the planning and the budget. If the application is granted, the grant award, amongst others, contains an accountability requirement. This includes submission of narrative and financial reports and audit reports drawn up by an independent auditor.

Grant applications may be submitted from the first day after the date on which this grant policy framework is published in the Government Gazette until 23:59 CET on 16 September 2022. Applications must be *received* by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within this time frame, and must be duly signed (by the person authorized to do so for the applying consortium, indicating their name and position). Applications received after the date and time stated above will be rejected. The applicant bears sole responsibility for ensuring that the application is complete and submitted on time. It is not possible to submit a preliminary application.

The application must be submitted in English or Dutch. Please note that this requirement applies to all documents in the application, including statutes and/or annual reports. If a document is not available in English or Dutch, the lead party must take care of a certified translation.

With regard to the application procedure, particular attention is drawn to article 7, paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree. If an application does not comply with the formal requirements set out in this grant policy framework, the Minister may request a supplement. In this case, the date and time of receipt of the application will be the date and time on which the supplemented application is received. The shorter the time remaining between submission of the application and the deadline, the greater the risk that, if the application is incomplete, the Minister will not use their discretionary powers to request a supplement; this in connection with the time required to check whether all applications are complete. In this case, no supplement will be requested and the application will be assessed as it stands. This may lead to a lower ranking or even rejection of the application.

When drawing up the grant application, it is not sufficient to refer for the sake of brevity to other parts of the application or annexes, unless the application form explicitly states that this is wholly or partly acceptable. In case information requested in the application form is lacking – including requested annexes – the application may be rejected. Additional information (such as illustrative books, CD-ROMs, USB sticks or DVDs about an organization) will not be taken into account when assessing the application.

Applications should preferably be submitted by email to: DSO-GA@minbuza.nl with 'Application grant Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children' in the subject line. The time when the email is received on the servers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be considered the time of submission. Please note that the total size of attachments accepted by the Ministry's email server is 10MB. If the size of all attachments together is more than 10MB, these should be divided over separate emails. In this case, the time at which the last email is received will be considered the time the application is submitted. If an application is split into several files which are sent in multiple emails, the emails must be numbered, with both the email number and the total number of emails clearly indicated in the subject line.²³

Any technical or other issues related to submission are at the risk and costs of the applicant.

²³ E.g. 'email 1 of 5', 'email 2 of 5', etc.

Submitting applications by post²⁴ is not recommended. Applicants who nonetheless choose to do so should send their application to: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Social Development Department, Health and Aids Division, P.O. Box 20061, 2500 EB The Hague, The Netherlands. If you want to submit your application in person or by courier, this can be done on working days at the counter for postal items of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rijnstraat 8, 2515 XP The Hague, The Netherlands.

Any questions about this document or other matters related to the drafting of an application, may only be submitted by email to DSO-GA@minbuza.nl with "Question grant policy framework Fund Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children" in the subject line. Questions will be anonymized and, if necessary, aggregated, and published together with the answers, on <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2022/07/15/fund-against-child-labour> in addition to earlier published Q&A's. The aim is to publish new Q&A's every two weeks, starting on 3 August 2022. Please check carefully if your question is not already answered in an earlier published Q&A. The deadline for questions is 9 September 2022.

10. Administrative burden

The administrative burden of the implementation of this grant policy framework will amount to €158.280 for the entire grant period. This amounts to 1.1% of the total grant budget. The administrative burden consists of work associated with submitting the application, implementation of the activities and work involved with meeting the reporting obligations.

In drafting the grant policy framework, critical attention has been paid to ensuring that the criteria for grant applications and the intended results are clearly formulated. Besides, attention is paid to providing clarity about how the grants awarded will be funded and accounted for. Applicants must consider whether the administrative burden entailed in submitting a grant application are in reasonable proportion to the grant amount requested and the likelihood of obtaining it. The Ministry aims in this way to keep the administrative burden for applicants to a minimum.

²⁴ Applications sent by post (apart from those using a 'postage paid' envelope) and postmarked on a date before the application deadline are considered to have been submitted on time, provided they are received no later than one week after the deadline for applications has passed. For applications sent by post using a 'postage paid' envelope, the moment of receiving the application will be considered the time of submission. Please note that, if an application is sent by standard post instead of registered post, the sender bears the full risk of it being received late or not at all. Incoming mail is not recorded in the evening or at weekends.