



CALL FOR PROJECTS PROPOSAL

East-Africa (Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia)

“Strengthening resilience by empowering women and girls in areas affected by the Sudanese conflict”

2025

The French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement - AFD) is willing to finance a consortium of International and National Civil Society Organizations or other Non Profit Organizations (CSO/NPO) to implement a project aiming at strengthening resilience in areas affected by the Sudanese conflict by empowering women and girls (see the Terms of Reference (ToR) in Section VII).

This project will be funded through AFD Peace and Resilience “Minka” instrument. AFD has earmarked a grant of maximum EUR 8 million to fund one single project, with a anticipated duration of 24 months.

The project will be selected based on a Technical and Financial Proposal (see attached template), to be provided together with an administrative file (Section IV) and information sheets (Sections V and VI).

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Templates¹:

- Technical and Financial Proposal
- Budget
- Tentative Timeline
- Logframe

Every question and its respective answer will be shared on the AFD website for everyone’s knowledge.

Proposals must be submitted to AFD no later than Monday 19th of May, at 12:00 AM GMT via the website (under the "Submit a file" tab): <https://www.afd.fr/fr/strengthening-resilience-empowering-women-and-girls-areas-affected-sudanese-conflict>.

Any proposal received after the above-mentioned date and time will be disregarded².

The selected consortium will be then invited to engage into a negotiation process with the AFD Project team in order to agree on a final proposal. The latter must include any points arising from the discussions with AFD, thus allowing the Project Manager to present the projects to AFD's governing bodies.

¹ Use of the Technical and Financial Proposal, the Budget and the Tentative Timeline templates is mandatory, while use of the Logframe template is optional.

² If, however, the application could not be submitted before the deadline, AFD reserves the right to consider it if (i) the reasons preventing its submission are duly justified and (ii) the consortium has made its best efforts to submit it as soon as possible. In such a case, it is recommended to inform AFD as early as possible and, in any event, before the submission deadline.

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK DEFINED BY AFD

Article 1. General terms & conditions

- 1.1 The call for proposals "Strengthening resilience by empowering women and girls in areas affected by the Sudanese conflict" (the "Call") aims at financing a development-funded project managed by a consortium led by an International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), designated as the "Project Lead Institution" (PLI).
- 1.2 In line with [UN resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security"](#), and France's strong commitment to this agenda as part its feminist diplomacy³, the Call sets gender equality as the dedicated objective of the Project in line with OECD DAC recommendations on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls⁴. AFD "Gender and conflict" position paper attached to the Call provides detailed information.
- 1.3 This call for projects is part of the #AvecElles initiative ("With Women"), aimed at protecting and including refugee women, jointly launched by France and UNHCR on the occasion of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. It also contributes to France's Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2021-2025).
- 1.4 The project aims at a regional strategy and should be implemented in at least two of the three following countries: Ethiopia, Sudan and/or South Sudan. The applicant will propose and justify targeted-areas based on its existing presence, its context and need assessment and the objectives it is foreseeing.
- 1.5 The framework of the Call is to make available a subsidy amounting to a total of maximum EUR 8 000 000 (eight million euro) for the project, with a focus on population affected by forced displacements, in particular women (see the Terms of Reference in Section VII).
- 1.6 The applicants should apply as a consortium led by an International NGO and include national/local civil society organizations (CSOs) or potentially other international NGOs. By joining the "[Grand Bargain](#)", France has committed to strengthening local and national capacities in crisis prevention and response. International NGOs are therefore encouraged to collaborate with national/local CSOs in the project implementation, and to explain in its technical and financial proposal, how its operational approach aligns with aid localization recommendations.
- 1.7 The maximum number of consortium members, designated as "Project Implementation Partners" (PIP), is not fixed but should be coherent with the overall proposal.
 - 1.7.1 The Project Lead Institution (PLI):
 - Must be an International NGO;
 - Must have a local office in each country of this call;
 - Must have past experience in project implementation in the region, especially in the field of development aid to populations affected by forced displacements during conflict;
 - Should have the capacity to implement large-scale projects and demonstrate a capacity to financially and logistically manage projects of the scale of the proposal.
 - Must demonstrate its knowledge and understanding of the context dynamics in each target areas;
 - Should demonstrate ability to assess security issues and risks in the target areas;
 - Must demonstrate capacity to access and work in the target areas
 - Should demonstrate an ability to collaborate smoothly i) with the local actors, institutions and authorities, as well as ii) with AFD local office in Ethiopia, the AFD regional office in Kenya and AFD headquarters in Paris.

The PLI will sign the financing agreement with AFD.

³ [France's 3rd National Action Plan 2021-2025 implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda](#)

⁴ [OECD/Legal/5022 DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls](#) and [DAC related guidance for Development partners](#)

Since September 2023, NGOs/CSOs benefiting from AFD funding are systematically subject to a compliance validation of their procedural framework by AFD. In case the selected project's PLI has not yet undergone a review resulting in a three-year accreditation, the review will be initiated by AFD during the project negotiation phase

1.7.2 The Project Implementation Partners (PIPs):

- Can be other international NGO(s)
- Should mandatorily include national/local CSO(s)
- Must already be registered in the target area(s) of the project, in which they are designated to implement some project activities ;
- Must have a local office in the area of implementation, and be used to work closely with local actors and/or authorities ;
- Must have past experience in project implementation in the area, and demonstrate knowledge of the context in the target areas.
- Should have the capacity to implement localized projects and demonstrate a capacity to adapt to context evolution.
- Should demonstrate past cooperation experience with the PLI, and ability to collaborate smoothly with the PLI (a consortium agreement will have to be signed between the consortium members);

Overall, applicants should clearly articulate the rationale behind the consortium structure and demonstrate the added-value each partner brings to achieving the project's objectives.

Should consortium members be impacted by the recent USAID funding cuts, applicants are invited to outline the consequences on their operational presence and scope, along with their proposed strategy for mitigation. AFD will be mindful of this impact and ready to contribute to addressing these challenges within the framework of this project.

1.8 The planned activities and estimated management costs of each organization involved in the consortium must be clearly indicated in the proposed budget detailing the different components of the project.

1.9 Only one proposal by PLI can be submitted.

1.10 AFD reserves the right to end this Call if it is deemed necessary.

Article 2. Procedural rules

2.1 Through this Call, AFD's intention is to support the financing of a project developed and defined by the PLI and PIPs for a minimum implementation period to 24 months. Applications proposing a longer implementation period will be accepted, but selection will consider the budget ratio between activities and overheads/management costs.

2.2 AFD's financial support can fund up to 100% of the budget of the project, including taxes. Other financial contributions are encouraged and will be positively assessed.

2.3 In order to ensure the financial stability of the PLI, the project's annual budget shall not exceed 35% of the PLI's average annual budget over the past three years in the two target countries of implementation⁵.

2.4 The budget cannot be used for (i) expenses not directly related to the project, (ii) services already provided by other AFD-funded projects for the same PLI, (iii) services already provided in projects other than those funded by AFD.

2.5 The cost of the operations of the selected PLI will be funded with advance payments as follows:

- First disbursement based on the year 1 estimated budget of the project;

⁵ The PLI must present an annual budget of minimum €8 million or a budget of minimum €24 million over the past three years in the two-targeted countries.

- Further yearly disbursements after the delivery of annual financial auditing reports and an implementation reports, and based on actualized yearly provisional budgets.
- 2.6** PLI is responsible of all the costs related to the design of their proposal. Under no circumstances AFD could be considered responsible for the costs incurred, nor can be required to pay for it. Only expenditure incurred after signing of the financing agreement will be considered as eligible expenses for AFD financial support. The AFD may conduct on its own funds additional studies (eg. Gender and conflict analysis) to support the finalization of the selected proposal.
- 2.7** Overheads/management costs cannot exceed 10% of the total budget.
- 2.8** If the project is co-financed with another donor, procedures could be adapted to its operating procedure, subject to AFD approval.
- 2.9** Budget proposals are encouraged to include a line for 'Miscellaneous and Contingency' to account for context volatility. Applicants should provide an explanation of how they plan to use this budget line
- 2.10** During the negotiation phase, the selected applicant will be requested to complete a compliance questionnaire specific to the project. If certain activities involve cash transfers, an exemption from the requirement to filter final beneficiaries may be granted, provided that the target area and sector are included in a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Article 3. Submitting the proposals

- 3.1** Selection is based on a Technical and Financial Proposal (see template in appendix), together with an administrative file (see Section IV), and information sheets (Sections V and VI) **to be all submitted at the latest by 12 am GMT on May 19th.**
- 3.2** The PLI of the selected proposal will be invited to discussions with the AFD Project team, so that additional technical or financial information may be added to the initial proposal. The final proposal must include all the points arising from the discussions with AFD Project team. It will be submitted to the decision-making bodies of AFD for final approval.

Article 4. Audit, reporting, review and MEAL

- 4.1** AFD will support the cost and management of the external audit directly. During the implementing phase, the selected PLI should make itself available to communicate with the audit firm. The auditor will need to carry out the necessary diligence to check that the funds have been properly used.
- 4.2** Semi-annual technical and financial reports must be sent to AFD, and will be shared with the relevant national and/or local authorities.
- 4.3** The PLI will carry out and finance the Monitoring-Evaluation-Accountability-Learning (MEAL) process, including baseline and final evaluation. MEAL's responsibility will be assigned to a dedicated member within the consortium, or to a service provider contracted to support part of the MEAL. Given restricted access for AFD teams, third-party-monitoring (TPM) is recommended, either through the dedicated consortium member or a service provider. In any case, AFD reserves the right to carry out and finance an additional final evaluation as part of its usual procedures.

Article 5. Contract currency and payment currencies

- 5.1** PLI must prepare their proposals in euros (EUR), which is the currency of the financing agreement. The budget must include all taxes, be fixed and not modifiable.

Article 6. Knowledge of the terms & conditions of the call for proposals

- 6.1** When submitting their proposal, the PLI is considered to:
- have studied the terms & conditions related to the Call as described in this document; and to have accepted them;
 - fully understand the nature and scope of the actions required, the local working conditions and all the constraints associated with the actions;

- have studied the general terms & conditions (Article 1 – Section I), the administration file and the information sheets (Sections IV, V and VI).

Article 7. Opening of the proposals and Selection Committee

- 7.1** The bids will be opened by the AFD Project team, including representatives from the AFD Headquarters in Paris. A report will be drafted regarding the opening of the bids, stating whether the submitted proposals i) comply with the reception date/time and ii) include the full set of documents (project note and administration files).
- 7.2** The complying proposals will be selected by a Selection Committee, with the same members as the Committee that opened the bids. After the opening, the scoring matrix and the chosen proposals will be sent beforehand to all Committee members. The AFD Project team will write a report on the selection. It will include an analysis for each project reviewed, justifying its selection or refusal. This analysis will be communicated to the PLIs involved.

Article 8. Clarification of the proposal

- 8.1** In order to make the proposals easier to review, assess and compare, the Selection Committee may ask PLIs to clarify some aspects of their proposal.

Article 9. Determining the compliance of the proposal

- 9.1** The Committee may reject a proposal from a PLI that is deemed not to have the human, technical and/or financial resources to implement efficiently the submitted project.

Article 10. Assessing and classifying the proposals

- 10.1** The Selection Committee will assess and compare proposals, which are complying with the defined criteria.
- 10.2** The proposals will be rated out of 100 points during the selection stage using the following scoring matrix:

TITLE	PTS	CRITERIA
Presence, experience of PLI & PIPs and initial analysis (25)		
Presence and experience of the PLI and PIPs in the region	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing presence and activities in the proposed targeted areas (country strategies, ongoing programs and funding sources; facilities, HR and logistical means; participation in coordination bodies - Relevant experiences in gender and conflict sensitive programing, ideally in the targeted areas
In depth initial analysis / problem statement in the proposed area/sector	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge and understanding of the context in target areas in a gender perspective, including gender and conflict analysis, needs assessments of the targeted populations and communities, and HDP opportunities in the operating context; - Stakeholders' analysis implementing actions in the same areas; - Relevant policies and standards related to the scope of the project.
Presentation of the project (45)		
Operational scope and Methodology	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the project theory of change, overall and specific objectives, and alignment with the overarching goal set by the AFD - Justification of the target beneficiaries and areas, based on the context/conflict and gender analyses; explanation on how it

		<p>aligns with the project theory of change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation and relevance of the main activities, including activities planned in the first 6 months, and complementarity with longer-term activities. Relevance of the envisaged timeline. - Alignment with relevant policies and standards - Capacity to engage and collaborate with local authorities, institutions and actors (eg. decentralized technical services, associations of producers and cooperatives...). - Relevance of SWOT and Risk analyses -
MEAL	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning framework - Relevance of the MEAL governance: roles and responsibilities within the consortium - Relevance of the distant/TPM mechanisms, participatory approach and accountability to affected populations - Conflict-sensitiveness of the MEAL framework, including regular context and conflict analysis to feed project's steering and adaptations whenever relevant - Capitalization/Learning processes
Project sustainability	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include local actors (providers, transporters, services, etc) to foster existing market systems ; - Enhance the capacity of the project to contribute to the transition from humanitarian to development actions and include an exit strategy to address the sustainability of activities beyond project termination. - Existing systems for planning/implementing activities in relation to forced displacement issues ; - Quality of the dialogue established with the local authorities and institutions and other relevant stakeholders at central and local levels, with a focus on the latter.
Resources employed (30)		
Budget	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevance of the budget in relation to the target areas and operational scope of the project ; - Proportion of the budget that will directly benefit the populations ; - Proportion between management costs or other indirect costs and activities ; - Allocation between the consortium's members, the PIPs management and overhead costs must be clearly indicated in the budget ; - Part of the budget dedicated to flexibility/contingency.
Team & Organization	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the PLI' and PIPs' history of collaboration, if relevant in the target areas/sector of intervention. - Organizational chart proposed for the project (nameless,

		<p>specifying only functions and roles)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team organization and organization inside the consortium (leadership, coordination, etc.) including financing scheme, MoU and responsibilities distribution ; - Project governance: decision-making processes and quality controls within the consortium, project's steering bodies and planned members - Ability to pursue a dialogue with representatives from AFD Headquarters and its regional office in Kenya, and with the authorities.
Consortium governance	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation and roles of the national/local CSOs within the consortium, support to CSO partners' capacity-building - Assets to ensure smooth and constructive collaboration within the consortium members
Partnerships	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership and collaboration with other local actors, CSOs/NPOs and other community initiatives (groups, etc.) ; - Synergies with the interventions of other aid actors in the implementation area.

Article 11. AFD's right to reject any proposal

11.1 AFD reserves the right to reject each proposal and to cancel the Call as long as it has not awarded the subsidy, without incurring any responsibility towards the PLI concerned and without having to give any reasons for cancellation nor refusal.

Article 12. Developing the projects

12.1 Once the project has been selected, the AFD Project team will carry out an open dialogue with the PLI with the aim of improving jointly the proposal. The PLI from the selected consortium is free to incorporate or reject the suggestions and AFD is free to stop the process. Amongst many others, the following specific points may constitute a reason not to accept the PLI's final proposal:

- refusal to participate in a dialogue with the AFD Project team in order to develop/enrich the proposal,
- refusal to give arguments explaining why amendments suggested by the AFD Project team have not been incorporated,
- existence of a gap of more than 10 % between the budget presented in the project concept note and the final project note.

Article 13. Confidentiality

13.1 No information relating to the review, clarifications, assessment, and comparison of proposals or recommendations relating to the award of the subsidy/subsidies may be disclosed to PLI or to anyone else outside the review and assessment procedure, from the moment the envelopes are opened until the award of the subsidy or subsidies is announced to the selected PLI.

13.2 Any attempt by a PLI to influence the Selection Committee during the procedure of reviewing, assessing and comparing the proposals will have as a consequence the exclusion of the PLI and its proposal from the process.

Article 14. Information on the selection process

14.1 The consortium selected by the Selection Committee will be informed by e-mail. The Selection Committee sets the timeframe for the consortium to draft the full technical and financial file that will support the dialogue and due diligence.

14.2 Once the technical and financial proposals has been formally validated by the consortium and the award procedure has been validated by AFD's governing bodies, AFD will inform the lead PLI by letter and email.

Article 15. Information on the award and signing of the funding agreement

15.1 Upon final validation of the selected project, the AFD Project team will inform the consortium's lead PLI by letter and email, and send the draft financing agreement for approval before signature.

II. METHOD USED TO SELECT AND VALIDATE PROPOSALS

The process leading to the funding agreement is carried out in two stages:

- 1) Selection based on a project concept note (see template in Section III), together with an administrative file (Section IV), and information sheets (Sections V and VI) to be submitted at the latest **by 12 am GMT on May 19th.**
- 2) Sustained dialogue with the Project team to develop the proposal and present a final project note that will be used as a basis for submitting the proposal to AFD's governing bodies.

SELECTING THE PROPOSALS

Selection based on a project proposal and an administration file

Each lead PLI has to supply electronic copies in pdf format of:

- its proposal, using the provided template with the cover sheet and the budget table signed by an authorized representative to request financing on behalf of the PLI;
- all the administrative documents required (Section IV), including the information sheet about the applicant (Section V) and the information sheet about the project partner(s) (Section VI);

Additionally, each lead PLI has to supply electronic copy in Excel format of:

- the proposed budget for the Project and all relevant documents drafted under this format;

These electronic copies should be uploaded on AFD website using the appropriate form ([link](#)). To share your questions, a contact form is available on the AFD website ([link](#)).

Proposals should be submitted in English.

Each page of the documents making up the proposal must be initialled by the lead PLI.

PREPARATION AND FINAL VALIDATION OF THE PROPOSALS

Once it receives notification that its proposal has been selected, the PLI / the consortium can start the process of compiling its final proposal, which will take the form of a final project note. To do so, it will start a dialogue with AFD.

In the framework of AFD Minka "Peace and resilience" instrument, the PLI/consortium and AFD team will be assisted by AFD's service provider, Altai Consulting, which provides counselling to all "Minka" projects on Logframe and MEAL design. This will ensure that the intervention logic and indicators are well-aligned with Minka's goals.

Following this process, the AFD Project team will give its agreement to validate the project proposal, providing it reflects the content of the initial project note while including satisfactorily all the items arising from the dialogue it has had with the PLI and its partners.

Once the PLI has sent the final project note, the project will be submitted to AFD's governing bodies for final approval.

III. PROJECT PROPOSAL

“Strengthening resilience by empowering women and girls in areas affected by the Sudanese conflict”

Call for projects

In addition to fulfilling this section, applicants are invited to submit their 1) Technical and Financial Proposal 2) Budget 3) Tentative Timeline using the templates provided in appendixes. The draft Logframe can be submitted using the provided template or another template.

Due date for submitting project notes: 19 May 2025, at 12 am GMT (determined by date/hour of arrival)

Electronic submission ([form](#))

Name of applicant:

1) INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEAD PLI SPONSORING THE PROJECT (1-page maximum)

Title of call for projects	
Applicant	
Acronym	
Nationality	
Legal status	
Address	
Telephone no.	
Fax number	
E-mail address of the applicant	
Website of the applicant	
Project contact	
E-mail address of project contact	
Project title	
Year of establishment	
Partners for project implementation (international and national)	
Locations (country, governorate, districts, if relevant, municipality)	
Total cost of the action	
Contribution requested from AFD	
Contributions from any other partners	

Duration of the action	
------------------------	--

Registration Certificate from the national Authorities or any other document that would be required by the authorities (or proving that a registration request has been submitted to national authorities) to work in the areas targeted by the project from the PLI and all members of the consortium if relevant. *Submission of this authorisation and/or request is not a requirement to finalize the proposal, but a signed copy will be a condition precedent to the signing of the agreement with the PLI.*

Appendix 1 - PROJECT OVERVIEW LETTER template

SUBMISSION OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL

to

The Director of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Dear Sir,

After examining the tender documents of the Call for projects "*Strengthening resilience by empowering women and girls in areas affected by the Sudanese conflict*", we, the undersigned, (given name(s), surname(s)), acting in our capacity as (position(s)) in the name and on behalf of..... (legal name and address of the tenderer or the members of the consortium), after reviewing all the items included in or mentioned in these tender documents and after assessing, from our own point of view and under our responsibility, the nature of this call for projects,

Submit, bearing our signatures, the following project proposal accompanied by a budget,

We jointly and severally undertake, with (*name of the PLI*) serving as agent and manager of the consortium, to carry out the project in accordance with the proposal expressed in our draft and at the costs that we have estimated ourselves, which show the amount of funding requested in EUR to be:

AMOUNT WITH ALL TAXES AND DUTIES: EUR (amount in figures and letters),

under the economic conditions of the month of the authorised deadline for submitting our proposal, on the 19th of May 2025.

We agree that AFD is not required to respond to any of the proposals it receives.

I confirm, under penalty of termination as a matter of right, that I am not subject to, and that the PLI or consortium of actors on whose behalf I am acting is not subject to legal prohibitions in France or in the State(s) where our associations are headquartered, nor in the country of proposed intervention.

Signed in, on

Signature

The signatory shall attach the instrument that delegates to him/her the power to commit his/her association. In the case of a temporary consortium of associations, attach the instrument which constitutes the consortium and names its manager and agent.

Appendix 2 - Budget template (in euros)

	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of Grand Total</i>
Activities/programme					
Human resources					
Logistics					
Monitoring/evaluation					
Stock-taking/lessons learnt					
Project-related communication activities					
Audits					
Safety (if applicable)					
SUBTOTAL, DIRECT COSTS					
Miscellaneous and contingencies (maximum 10% of direct costs subtotal)					
TOTAL, DIRECT COSTS					
Administrative costs (maximum 10% of direct costs total)					
GRAND TOTAL					

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD OF THE CSO/NPO SPONSORING THE PROJECT

Each of the documents in the administrative file must be named in accordance with the numbers defined in the list below (for example, electronic documents to be named: "1. Information sheet... .." or "9.a. Balance sheet and operating accounts 2018' and '9.b. Balance sheet and operating accounts 2017').

1. Applicant information sheet (section V);
2. Copy of signed articles of association;
3. A copy of the statement of registration with the prefecture and a copy of the publication in the Journal Officiel or its equivalent according to the State's regulation where the PLI's headquarters are established;
4. Any document demonstrating the capacity of the PLI carrying out the project to intervene in the country in accordance with local regulations, including PLI registration certificate from the national authorities of each country of implementation;
5. Dated list of board members, offices and senior executives with their contact information and date of the most recent elections;
6. Organisation chart dated and signed by the chief executive;
7. Activity reports from the last three years and supplement on activities in the countries where the call for projects is to be implemented;
8. Minutes of the most recent shareholders' meeting or at least the agenda of the most recent shareholders' meeting and key resolutions;
9. Certified and audited balance sheets and operating statements for the past three years (with appendices and explanatory notes) that have been approved by the general assembly and show the origins (public or private) of financial resources. This information should then be updated each year.
10. Forecast budget for the fiscal year under way, both overall and for the countries where the call for projects is to be implemented, that includes a list of anticipated public funding and indicates whether it has been requested or obtained, as approved by the general assembly and signed;
11. List of private funders contributing more than 10% of the PLI's most recent budget approved by the general assembly and/or more than 10% of the budget of the present project, and the members of their Boards of Directors.

Proposals must be submitted electronically no later than the 19 of May at 12 am, GMT, using AFD form. The reception by AFD will be confirmed by a formal acknowledgement of receipt .

All proposals received after the time and date indicated above will be rejected.

V. INFORMATION SHEET ON THE CSO/PSO APPLYING FOR THE PROJECT

Full name of organisation:	
Acronym:	
Mailing address: (to which all correspondence regarding this project should be sent)	
Location of registered office: (if different from mailing address)	
Telephone:	
E-mail address:	
Internet site:	

Purpose of the organisation:	
Geographic area(s) of action:	
Field(s) of action:	
Existence of a strategic document approved by the general assembly⁶:	
Main funding and partnerships established between the PLI and AFD over the past 3 years. (specify the purpose, amount of funding and AFD department involved)	
Main funding and partnerships established between the PLIs and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the past 3 years. (specify the purpose, amount of funding and ministerial department involved) [<i>if applicable</i>]	
Membership in collectives, networks, platforms:	
Main publications of the PLI :	

Contact person(s) for this project	Name	Telephone	E-mail address
Technical contact:			
Financial contact:			
Administrative contact:			
Given name and surname of the Executive Director:			
Surname, given name and position of the person responsible for this application for co-funding⁷:			

⁶ Attach to the administrative record the NPO's strategic document, which is compulsory when applying for a grant in the framework of a programme agreement.

⁷ Attach to the administrative record a list of persons authorised to sign agreements and any other official documents for the association.

Date of creation:			
Legal status:			
References of registration with the prefecture:			
No.		Date	Department
Date of publication in the <i>Journal Officiel</i> or its equivalent:			
If appropriate, date of designation as "in the public interest" (non for profit):			
If applicable, the date of approval by a ministry and which one:			

Surname and given name of president:	
Surname and given name of secretary general:	
Surname and given name of treasurer:	
Number of members on the Board of Directors⁸:	
Does the organisation have a member working for Agence Française de Développement? If yes, specify their name and position	
Does the organisation have a politically exposed person⁹? If yes, specify their name and position	
Date of the General Assembly during which the current members of the Board of Directors and executive committee were elected:	
Expiration dates of the terms of these members:	
Expected date of the next General Assembly:	

	31/12/2022	31/12/2023	31/12/2024
Number of members			
Number of contributors			
Amount of contributions			

⁸ Attached a detailed list to the administrative record.

⁹ A **politically exposed person (PEP)** is a person who exercises or has exercised important public functions; these include heads of state or government, politicians of high rank, senior officials within the government, magistrates or high-ranking military personnel, executives of a state-owned company or political party leaders. Business relations with *the family members of a PEP or persons closely associated with them* can involve risks, in terms of reputation, similar to those associated with PEPs themselves. This expression does not cover persons of middle or lower rank in the categories listed above.

Staff at the head office of the PLI (FTE¹⁰):	Total	Total	Total
Employee(s)			
Volunteer(s)			
Total			
Staff abroad:	Total	Total	Total
Expatriate employee(s)			
Local employee(s)			
Volunteer(s)			
Total			

Budget items by source of expenditures	Total amounts of funding allocated over the past three years (in euros)							
	2022	%	2023	%	2024	%	Total	%
Operating costs								
Personnel costs (employees in the field and at head office [expatriates and locals])								
Leasing fees								
Finance charges and taxes								
Communication and fund-raising expenses								
Subtotal								
Actions¹¹								
Diagnostic, Identification of target groups, monitoring and evaluation, cooperation with other institutions								
Support to vocational training and other forms of skills development								
Support to employment creation and access to employment								
Other forms of assistance to vulnerable groups								
Missions								
Provision of volunteers (if relevant)								
Other								
Subtotal								
TOTAL								

¹⁰ Full time equivalent.

¹¹ International development work and development education actions.

Amount of total financial resources for past three years (in euros)

Year	Turnover of the PLI	Of which public funds ¹²		% of total turnover	Of which private funds		% of total turnover
2022		Total amount:			Total amount:		
		Of which AFD:			Of which contributor(s) giving more than 10% of the total budget of the PLI ¹³ :		
		Of which other central ministries:					
		Of which public contributor(s) contributing to more than 10% :					
2023		Total amount:			Total amount:		
		Of which AFD:			Of which contributor(s) giving more than 10% of the total budget of the PLI:		
		Of which other central ministries:					
		Of which public contributor(s) contributing to more than 10% :					
2024		Total amount:			Total amount:		
		Of which AFD:			Of which contributor(s) giving more than 10% of the total budget of the PLI:		
		Of which other central ministries:					
		Of which public contributor(s) contributing to more than 10% :					
2025 forecast		Total amount:			Total amount:		
		Of which public contributor(s) contributing to more than 10% :			Of which contributor(s) giving more than 10% of the total budget of the PLI:		

¹² Record here all funds of public origin: grants and subsidies; public funds of local, national, international origin.

¹³ Please list here all the private contributors who have made a contribution greater than or equal to 10% of the total budget of the NPO (relative to the most recent annual accounts approved by the General Assembly). If it is a legal person, provide the list of the members of this organisation's Board of Directors (surname, given name, position and address). If it is a moral person, provide their identity (surname, first name, position and address).

VI. INFORMATION SHEET ON PROJECT PARTNER(S)

To be completed for each partner involved in the project

Specify the total number of partners involved in the project:

Full name of organisation:	
Acronym:	
Mailing address:	
Location of registered office: (if different from mailing address)	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail address:	
Internet site:	

Contact person(s) for this project:	
Given name and surname of the Executive Director:	

Date created:	
Legal status: (Attach to the technical file the certificate of registration or its equivalent; if the structure is informal, indicate that here.)	

Surname and given name of president:	
Number of members on the Board of Directors:	
List of members of the Board of Directors:	

Purpose of the organisation:	
Primary areas of involvement:	
Human resources of the organisation:	
Total annual budget in Euros:	
Main donors:	
Membership in networks, federations, collectives, etc. :	
History and nature of cooperation with the partner(s): institutional and contractual ties	
Role and involvement in preparing the proposed project:	
Role and involvement in implementing the proposed project:	
Experience with similar actions with regard to its role in implementing the proposed action:	

VII. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. ISSUES AT STAKE

Background

Since it erupted in April 2023, the Sudanese conflict is marked by violent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This war has caused massive forced displacements and a serious humanitarian emergency, not only in Sudan but also in neighbouring countries. Combats are generating massive and widespread violations of international humanitarian law, with attacks allegedly directly targeting civilian populations. Extreme weather conditions, such as floods and droughts, are further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The extent of the conflict, which impacts most of the Sudanese territory, has not only generated internal displacements but also cross-border movements, placing considerable strain on host country resources and capacities.

After 20 months of fighting, 12.9 million people have been displaced, among whom some 8.9 million newly Internally Displaced People (IDP) and 3.7 million refugees and returnees in the neighbouring countries¹⁴. In her gender Alert#1¹⁵, UNWOMEN indicate that 10.8 million people, of whom 54% were women and girls, have fled from their homes. Some 2.2 million have sought refuge in neighboring countries, and further reports indicated that among the internally displaced, 1.8 million were women and girls of reproductive age, over 160,000 were pregnant women, with an estimated 54,000 expected childbirths in the next three months. Additionally, 1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding women were facing acute malnutrition in 2024.

The war is causing a catastrophic food insecurity situation, with a famine situation declared in the North Darfur. REACH Initiative assessment conducted in 2024 revealed how women's and girls' access to food was impacted, with 30% of women being denied food, and 26% of girls reportedly being denied any access to humanitarian lifesaving resources and services.¹⁶ The IOM Displacement Tracking Survey, April 2024, also revealed a worrisome food insecurity situation amongst women and girls in Sudan, particularly in El Fasher (North Darfur), the Buran and Beliel localities (South Darfur), and some larger parts of Greater Kordofan, the El Obeid and El Fula regions. The same survey found that out of 6 786 816 of people nationwide facing severe food insecurity, more than half were women and girls (3 597 012 _ 53%).

The impact of this crisis is also materializing in very high insecurity linked to an increase in crime (particularly in terms of human trafficking), restrictions on freedom of movement, the collapse of basic public services, and a drastic deterioration of the economic situation, all of which are added to an already challenging environment (shortages, inflation, lack of means of communication).

The conflict is driving severe protection risks, which particularly affects women and girls. According to the Human Rights Council's "Report on the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan"¹⁷, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly rape and gang rape, is widespread in conflict-affected areas. All parties to the conflict are allegedly responsible for human rights violations against girls and women. While men and boys are also victims of sexual violence, their numbers are significantly lower than those of women and girls, with victims ranging in age from 8 to 75. Survivors have reported that attacks took place in their homes or while fleeing or seeking shelter, with victims subjected to beatings, lashings, and threats of death or harm to their families before being raped. Women human rights defenders, journalists, and medical personnel have also been targeted for sexual violence, seemingly as punishment for their work¹⁸.

¹⁴ UNHCR Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025

¹⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/gender-alert-women-and-girls-of-sudan-fortitude-amid-the-flame-of-war-en.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/gender-alert-women-and-girls-of-sudan-fortitude-amid-the-flame-of-war-en.pdf>

¹⁷ Human Rights Council - Findings of the investigations conducted by the Independent, 23/10/2024

¹⁸ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/gender-alert-women-and-girls-of-sudan-fortitude-amid-the-flame-of-war-en.pdf>

Crisis impacts women, men, girls, and boys differently due to their distinct societal roles and status, with these disparities often exacerbated in conflict situations by limited resources and services. In Sudan, gender inequality is perpetuated by deeply rooted patriarchal cultural norms that reinforce male dominance and female subordination in both private and public spheres, significantly affecting women's lives. Since independence, women and girls have worked to overcome disempowerment and rights violations through literacy programs, access to education, and economic opportunities. However, this systemic inequality has been particularly detrimental to women in times of crisis, as they face denial of basic rights, freedoms, and participation in decision-making processes. Women's access to essential services such as food, water, and healthcare is especially limited due to insecurity and depleted resources.

While host communities have demonstrated strong solidarity with displaced populations, the risk of social tensions is escalating as humanitarian needs increase and resources become increasingly strained. The large-scale influx of refugees and displaced persons is placing additional pressure on neighbouring countries, many of which are already highly vulnerable due to economic fragility, climate shocks, and internal conflicts. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive, conflict-sensitive approach that considers the complex interplay of resource scarcity, ethnic and political dynamics, security concerns, governance issues, and assistance strategies. Such an approach is vital to fostering social cohesion and promoting sustainable peace in these regions.

The humanitarian situation is critical, with response efforts far below the escalating needs. On 15 April 2024, Paris hosted the humanitarian conference for Sudan, where international donors pledged the mobilization of €2 billion. On 17 September 2024, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convened development donors in Nairobi to follow up on the “Call for Action” issued at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023. The recent decisions of the new US Administration regarding USAID funding is however casting a dramatic shadow over this already dire and underfunded situation.

The Istanbul Summit (2016) recognized the critical need for development donors to remain engaged in conflict-affected contexts, both to support the resilience of populations and territories during crises and to help catalyse pathways out of them. Within the “humanitarian-development-peace” (HDP) nexus, development assistance and expertise play a crucial role in fostering social cohesion, both horizontal _ between different groups, and vertical _ between populations and institutions, ultimately aiming for a sustainable and lasting peace.

The AFD is launching this call for proposals driven by the urgent need for development actors to contribute to the Sudanese regional crisis, recognized as the largest and most devastating displacement, humanitarian, and protection crisis in the world. The AFD is seeking to provide a response embedded into the HDP nexus, in order to find a catalyst for the resilience of conflict-affected populations and areas. The strategic approach envisioned by this call is to promote this resilience through improving the living conditions and empowerment of women and girls affected by the consequences of the conflict, both within the displaced and host communities. Ensuring that women and girls have access to resources, decision-making, and leadership is crucial for fostering stronger, more resilient communities. Women's empowerment is seen as not only essential for supporting recovery in this crisis context, but also as the most effective approach to promoting the long-term resilience of entire populations and regions.

2. THE CALL FOR PROPOSAL: "Strengthening the resilience of communities and territories impacted by the Sudanese crisis"

A. Main objective

Through the empowerment of women and girls, the overarching goal is to support the resilience of areas and populations affected by forced displacements due to the conflict in Sudan and to promote social cohesion among communities.

The main objective is to ensure that women and girls, who are particularly affected by the consequences of the conflict and who are key agents of change, are central drivers to foster resilience for the benefit of affected populations and areas.

B. Specific objectives

1. Sustain the livelihoods of conflict-affected populations, territories and communities in a gender-sensitive approach, considering scarcity of resources and opportunities triggered by the conflict and other factors such as climate change;
2. Empower women and girls by leveraging their access to resources and perspectives to promote the long-term well-being of communities and social cohesion;
3. Enhance the capacity of individuals and communities to recover, adapt and thrive through a gender lens, by ensuring that women play an active and central role in recovery efforts.

C. Content and challenges

The proposals are expected to detail the following aspects, which will receive particular attention in selecting the proposals and the follow-up discussions:

1) *Target beneficiaries*

The call for proposals aims to strengthen the resilience of people affected by the forced displacements (IDPs, refugees, returnees, host communities), with a strong focus on women and girls, paying attention to particularly vulnerable situations (eg. teen mothers, women-headed households, etc.). Through a possibly (multi)-sectoral approach, the project will contribute to the empowerment of women and girls, and to the structural reduction of gender inequalities, while working towards strengthening social cohesion.

In a conflict-sensitive manner, beneficiary targeting should pay attention to be well explained and accepted, thanks to a participative approach, and to avoid fueling tensions among groups (eg. economic vulnerability may not be a relevant selection criteria, to contribute to reducing inequalities and fostering social cohesion). The selected proposal should confirm the validity of the logic of intervention in this sense.

The proposal is expected to define precisely:

1. The intended target groups and their definition in relation with the specificities of the proposed area(s)/sector(s);
2. The proposed methodology to reach out to the groups and identify the final beneficiaries (outreach strategy, partnerships with relevant organizations in the field, selection criteria);
3. When relevant, identify and reinforce positive linkages between the activities proposed and ongoing activities by consortium members or other partner organizations.

2) *Operational content*

To achieve the objectives, the following areas of intervention can be considered¹⁹:

¹⁹ These examples are neither exhaustive nor mandatory. They are provided to guide proposals' design.

- Improving health and well-being to ensure that women have access to quality health services, including right and reproductive health, mental health support, to address both their physical and emotional well-being, particularly in the context of extreme gender-based violence;
- Building economic resilience and enabling women to access economic resources, education and opportunities to diversify income sources and reduce the economic vulnerability of families and communities;
- Promoting women's rights to housing, land and property
- Promoting social cohesion and stability by empowering women to actively participate in community leadership and decision-making processes, fostering social solidarity, peace-building and conflict resolution within affected populations, through women-led and women-right organizations;
- Supporting advocacy for gender-inclusive and protection approaches through involving and capacitating local leaders in ensuring that women and girls are protected, valued and included in community resilience efforts;
- Promoting long-term development and sustainability by building women's leadership capacity to contribute to resilience and recovery strategies, promoting local ownership and the development of adaptive, community-based solutions.

Intervention strategies should look for both quick outcomes and medium/long-term sustainability. The consortium should be able to start the project immediately after the signing of the agreement with the AFD, and to implement first activities in the first 6 months, while preparing more structuring activities a. The selection process will hence assess the capacity of the consortium to deploy activities in the regions targeted in reasonable delays.

Proposals are expected to provide sufficient details on the activities contemplated in this project, as well as the methodology that will be used for their implementation. The logical link between proposed activities and expected result should be clearly explained in the theory of change. The proposals should clearly describe how the different groups/communities will be targeted, and how their common and their specific needs will be addressed within the global framework of the project.

It is expected that, each time this is relevant, partnership should be sought with local or national level services and institutions, as part of the project's sustainability. The proposal should identify precisely which entities will be involved in the project implementation.

A specific attention will be accorded to:

- Tentative eligibility criteria, both for beneficiaries, and for the type of activities that can be funded ;
- Proper integration and articulation of activities implemented by the different partners. The consortium should add value that goes beyond a simple juxtaposition of the different partners' activities ;
- Proposition of definition, indicators and targets that would later be integrated in the logical framework (to be confirmed by prior analysis) ;
- Demonstration of concrete ambition and attention towards gender based violence and economic opportunities, including gender based diagnostic of the activities.

3) Target areas

Activities must be deployed in at least two countries (Ethiopia, Sudan and/or South Sudan). The applicant should explain the targeted areas in the light of its existing presence, its context-analysis and need-assessment. It is expected that the areas' targeting will taken into account the number of people impacted by forced displacement and in particular women and girls' situation, as well as social cohesion issues.

The number of areas targeted in both countries is not fixed, but a good balance should be found between the number of final beneficiaries, activity vs support costs, and expected outcomes in relation to the available budget.

Cross-border strategies are welcome if relevant, but they are not a selection criteria. Explaining how lessons-learnt will be shared between different target-areas will be as much valued.

Considering the high volatility in the region, the AFD is opened to consider changes of target areas during the project implementation, and will expect the partners to initiate dialogue around context changes and necessary project adaptation any time relevant (cf. conflict-sensitiveness of the project).

4) *Experience of the implementing partners*

Project implementation will be entrusted to one International NGO leading a consortium of NGOs/CSOs.

Partnership with national NGOs is mandatory, and the proposal shall demonstrate how the lead institution will contribute to the capacity building of its local partner(s). 25% of the total budget shall be directly implemented by national NGOs.

Lead institutions are invited to mobilize any relevant international and local organizations to ensure that the consortium has all expected expertise and network to fulfil the mission including:

- Understanding of the context in the target areas;
- Capacity to start the project immediately
- Capacity to reach out to target beneficiaries over the lifespan of the project;
- Experience in gender-sensitive programming
- Experience in conflict-sensitive programming
- Capacity to implement inclusive and participatory approach.

5) *Monitoring and evaluation*

The proposal is expected to indicate clearly how the activities will be monitored and which consortium member will hold responsibility for this task.

6) *Medium term sustainability*

Although the call for proposal gives priority to projects aiming at short to medium term results, the sustainability of the approach is nonetheless important. Sustainability of the proposed projects will be assessed according to the criteria set in this call.

7) *Support a better consideration of climate vulnerabilities*

Considering geographical areas targeted by the project climate vulnerabilities' (notably floods and droughts) the proposal should include:

- Climate adaptation measures for territories, communities and people ;
- Comprehension of cross-cutting climate and conflict issues ;