



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



British Embassy
Juba

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Empowering Civil Society Engagement in the UPR Process (ECSEP): The Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy (MCFHRD) call for Proposals.

The British Embassy Juba is seeking bids for projects that seek to improve the capacity of civil society to advocate, monitor and engage effectively with the South Sudan's Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Background

UK Magna Carta Fund

The UK's Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy (MCFHRD) is the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) dedicated strategic fund supporting our global human rights and democracy work. Promoting and protecting democracy and human rights overseas is a long-standing UK government commitment, reiterated in the 2022 UK International Development Strategy and 2021 Integrated Review. The MCFHRD provides support to UK human rights priority countries to tackle existing human rights or democracy challenges.

Context

The 3rd South Sudan Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle took place at the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2022. 258 recommendations were made with 222 accepted by the South Sudanese delegation. Some of the key recommendations include recommending that South Sudan: uphold freedom of speech, assembly and press specifically by creating and implementing targeted policies and initiatives to prevent harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance and killing of civilians, journalists and members of civil society; eliminate conflict related sexual violence in particular through the implementation of South Sudan's Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan (Jan 2021-Dec 2023); and more broadly to improve the quality of service provided by rule of law institutions to investigate, prosecute and hold perpetrators to account through a competent and impartial court. However, there is slow or lack of implementation of these recommendations. Civil society require greater tools, capacity and knowledge to monitor, document and report on the progress of the UPR recommendations and hold the government accountable to them.

1. Objectives and scope of work

Objective

The project will improve the capacity of civil society to advocate, monitor and engage effectively with the South Sudan's Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Activities to support this could include:

- Provision of technical assistance to CSOs to establish a National Recommendations Tracking Database to follow up on specific UPR recommendations.
- Capacity building of civil society on research skills and UPR shadow report writing.
- Supporting civil society to engage with government stakeholders.
- Convening UPR stakeholders to share experiences, lessons and facilitate information-sharing on progress.

Projects should employ a conflict sensitive and gender sensitive approach and ensure interventions are well coordinated with other initiatives to maximise impact. Proposals should “do no harm” and be based on local ownership and long term sustainability.

2. Scope

Proposals must clearly demonstrate how the work will help the UK deliver against the objective outlined above. Proposals may include some of the identified activities above, or others they believe will deliver the project objective. Proposals should demonstrate awareness of other implementing partners and projects operating in this space and make clear how the proposed project will complement these.

3. Budget

The budget for this work is only One Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand United States Dollars (**\$123,000**) for the UK financial year April 2023 – March 2024. Project proposals should not exceed this amount.

4. Competencies / expertise required

Proposals should ideally demonstrate that the implementing partner has:

- Profound knowledge of the South Sudan Human Rights context, particularly UPR processes and accepted recommendations, and issues around protection of civilians, human rights and civil society capability building in fragile contexts.
- Experience of working with civil society and local populations.
- Existing capacity and capability to deliver the proposed activities or the ability to stand up a team quickly.
- Extensive programme and project experience in conducting programmes for human rights in fragile contexts.
- Excellent project management skills.
- Judgement in identifying, managing and mitigating risks.

5. Eligibility criteria.

- National and International organisations registered in South Sudan
- Must be Not for profit organisation
- Working in the area of Human and Women Rights.

6. Outputs and deliverables – reporting

- Implementers should expect to meet the programme manager monthly (and to be in contact as often as needed). We require quarterly written narrative, results and financial reporting. A project completion report will be needed upon project completion.
- When assessing your bid, we will be interested in your Theory of Change, the impact and outcomes you consider realistic and achievable, and how this impact will be measured. Please use the attached project proposal form to help achieve this.

7. Finance

- Payments will usually be made quarterly in arrears. Evidence of expenses and achieved deliverables for the reporting period will need to be presented before payment.
- The combined total of management fees, overheads and administration ***should not exceed 10% of the overall project cost.***

8. Assessment

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Project Impact:** delivering sustainable, meaningful change;
- **Project Viability:** including a realistic description of methodology and activities to deliver the outcome and deliverables (outputs) within the project duration;
- **Project Design:** there must be clear links between the proposed activity and the project outcomes;
- **Stakeholder Management** – including the capacity of the implementing organisation to engage with key stakeholders and involve local/international expertise to deliver expected outcomes;
- **Risk management:** robust analysis of key risks, and a plan of action to manage and mitigate those risks;
- **Value for Money:** including the number of direct beneficiaries and the scale of achievable outcomes;
- **Strategic Fit:** alignment with stated objectives and scope of work expected;
- Clear monitoring and evaluation procedures.

9. How to bid

Please complete the attached 'Project Proposal Form' and 'Activity Based Budget' using the guidance provided. Completed forms should be sent in standard document and spreadsheet formats to Taban.Kiston@fcdo.gov.uk by **28 August 2023**, with '**Call for Bids MCHRD**' in the subject line of your email. Bids submitted after this date will not be considered. Bids can be submitted at any time up to the indicated deadline.

Bidders will be notified via email of the outcome of assessments before or on **4th September 2023**. Due to the volume of bids expected, we will not be able to provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.

Please also familiarise yourself at an early stage with the standard 'Grant Agreement Template' attached.

10. Key documents

- Project proposal form
- Activity based budget

11. Contacts

Please contact Taban.Kiston@fcdo.gov.uk with any questions or queries.