



CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Promoting Access to Information Through Community Groups and Community Radio

Background

Within the framework of UNESCO's action to strengthen free, independent, and pluralistic media UNESCO seeks a national partner to support implementation of the “Support and Enabling Environment for Elections in South Sudan” project and “Support to a people-driven and gender responsive permanent constitution making process in South Sudan.” This will be carried out through extending support to community radios to educate and inform the public on elections and constitutional making process.

The project results are structured around five inter-related outputs, to be implemented by UNDP, UNMISS, UNESCO and UN Women in partnership with the National Elections Commission and a range of other state and non-state actors:

1. Establishment of an enabling legal framework for free, fair, and inclusive elections supported.
2. Strengthened institutional capacities for professional, transparent, and accountable election management.
3. Inclusive participation fostered through enhanced rights and access to information.
4. Enhanced environment for maintaining security and mitigating violence during elections.
5. Strengthened effectiveness in planning and implementing electoral processes for all citizens.

Promoting access to accurate and impartial information through media

The media is a central and powerful force in electoral processes. It is a primary means for communicating information to citizens, provides space for debate and becomes a tool for contestants to persuade voters to vote for them. Media can also be a watchdog and pillar of transparency, that can activate public pressure for accountability. With the media holding such a dominant role in shaping public opinion, there is always the risk that it will be co-opted and distorted for political ends.

As appropriate to UNESCO's communications mandate and area of expertise in relation to access to information and capacity building of the media, the project will aim to develop the capacity of

journalists and editors, particularly women journalists, to deliver professional, accurate, impartial, conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive reporting on elections, as well as building capacities of community radio stations in election broadcasting. Alongside this, the project will work to promote understanding of the positive role of media in electoral processes and principles of freedom of information and access to information, through awareness raising for different stakeholders, including security personnel, line ministries, commissions, media houses, journalists and particular focus will be given to engaging youth constructively in local media activities around elections, and strategies for responding to mis/disinformation and hate speech, particularly against women.

Terms of reference

Under the authority of the UNESCO Juba Head of Office and direct supervision of the Communication and Information Specialist, the contractor shall:

1. Target the following radio stations to train their women and youth listeners' clubs to promote community listenership and contribution to programmes on elections and Constitution making process issues.

Station Name	Location
Ponchatoula Radio	Pibor
Pibor FM	Pibor
Morobo FM	Central Equatoria State
Jam Jang FM	Ruweng Administrative area
Amadi	Mundri West, Western Equatoria
Nile Radio	Malakal
Voice of reconciliation	Bor, Jonglie
Duk Padiet Radio	Duk Padiet

2. For each of the radio stations, the contractor shall:
 - (i) Engage, coordinate, and mobilize participants in targeted locations to participate in 2-day capacity building workshop. Each workshop shall target at least 15 participants and include other relevant groups such as station managers/journalists.
 - (ii) Identify and engage trainers to facilitate the capacity building workshops for the women and youth listener clubs.
 - (iii) In close consultation with UNESCO, the selected partner shall prepare the programme/agenda for the workshops. Training materials to be used during the project shall be based on UNESCO publications. (*Ref below*)
 - (iv) Monitor engagement, participation, and feedback of listener club members with partner community radio stations on aired programmes regarding constitutional and electoral issues.

- (v) Educate communities on elections and constitutional making process through radio talk shows, Public Service Announcements (PSAs), Jingles etc. The radio talk shows and other materials will be aired to suit community needs and contexts.
 - (vi) Monitor and report on programmes aired by the community radios stations supported during the project with regards to educating and informing the community on constitution making process and electoral issues.
 - (vii) Train the groups on use of the Blue Messenger Bicycles, to facilitate education, and access to information for communities on elections and constitution making process. This will include facilitating the groups with a monthly allowance/fee to conduct activities on educating communities on electoral and constitution making processes.
 - (viii) Use of local languages during airing of programmes on elections and constitutional making process is obligatory during the project.
 - (ix) Provide monthly updates/reports on programmes/topics covered on elections and Constitution making process.
 - (x) Work in close partnership with the line Commissions and ministries plus experts to enhance and broaden radio talk shows at the community level.
3. Ensure equal gender representation during project implementation
 4. Carry out all logistics related for the success of the activities, such as identify venue, print visibility material, mobilize participants and community radio stations and key stakeholders to participate.
 5. Ensure visibility of the activities is done through banners, social media platforms, web articles, radio talk shows with a view to raise awareness on constitution making process and electoral issues.
 6. Undertake all logistical arrangements to ensure success of the project in target locations.

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that, as a result of the activities:

- Community radio stations supported and have obtained skills to diversify their content, information/data, and have the ability to promote balanced reporting on constitutional and electoral issues.
- Programmes on electoral and constitution making process issues recorded and aired with the aim to educate and inform communities/public.
- 8 women and youth listener clubs trained and are in position to listen and contribute to programmes on elections and Constitution making process issues.

Deliverables

- a. Submit to UNESCO by 30 April 2024 a detailed work plan, draft training programme for the listener clubs, training materials for the listeners clubs and CV for the selected national expert upon which the 1st instalment of 33% shall be made.

- b. Submit to UNESCO by 30 June 2024, progress report on activities include high resolution photos, list of participants and web article upon which 2nd instalment 50% shall be made

- c. Submit to UNESCO by 30 November 2024, final activity report with recommendations from various beneficiaries, with high-resolution photos, press articles/human interest, recorded programmes and financial report accounting for project funds upon which final payment of 17% shall be made.

Admission Requirement

- Proposals and Budget must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in the document.
- Proposal must be submitted in writing, submitted in English.
- Eligible project proposals and workplan may be submitted for the activities described in the Terms of Reference. Proposals should match the specific description of the action.
- Budget should be clearly developed and broken down per location areas indicated above.
- Grant applications are eligible if submitted by: - A non-profit organization/CSO.

Failure to comply with the above requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

Exclusion from participation:

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals if they are in any of the following situations:

- They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, and Ministry of Labour.
- They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, or have suspended business activities.

- They or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority which has the force of res judicata.

Eligibility/ Award Criteria

Only proposals that meet the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria will be further assessed based on the below award criteria.

Criteria	Mark Maximum Point)
Relevance of application in relation to the activities in part a) and expected outputs	25 points
Experience carrying out similar activities with regards to working with journalists/media sector, Women and youth listener clubs and community radios	25 points
Presentation of expected results, expected impact and sustainability of the action	15 points
Time schedule of the action (work plan); management arrangements	15 points
Coherence, relevance, and proportionality of the estimated budget in relation with the proposed action	20 points
Maximum total score	100 points

Implementation period: The estimated duration of the action is 8 months. Activities shall start on the day both parties sign an agreement.

How to Submit

<p>Submit your proposal and budget to implement stated activities. via. procurement.juba@unesco.org by 12 April 2024, 4:00 PM (CAT)</p> <p>Note: Indicate in the Subject line title of the proposal for which you are applying</p>
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UNESCO accords priority to gender equality in all fields of competence. Therefore, the contractor shall ensure equal opportunities are given to the participating women and men during the training.

Annex 1

Training Materials

- Media + Elections: An Electoral reporting handbook:
[media elections an elections reporting handbook en.pdf](#)
- Coaching Manual for Media Support during elections
https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/coaching_manual_for_media_support_during_elections_en.pdf
- Social Media and Elections
- Elections reporting and peace journalism Manual.
- Community Listener's Clubs: A stepping Stone for Action