CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No.: IRQ_KRI_CEI_2017/8

Tertiary Education - KRI

The UNHCR KRI would like to invite Concepts Notes for 2017 partner projects relating to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and IDPs. The purpose of the Call for Expression of Interest is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to participate in a UNHCR operation and contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge, funds, in-kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment) to achieving common objectives as agreed in a Project Partnership Agreement. Concept Notes\(^1\) should be in line with prioritized objectives and outputs stipulated in this call. The Concept Note should be concise, contain clear and complete information on funding requirements and not exceed three pages.

The Concept Notes will be reviewed by the UNHCR KRI Multi-Functional Implementing Partnership Management Committee that is responsible for the selection and retention of IPs in accordance with the criteria stipulated in the present Call for Expression of Interest. UNHCR's decision should be communicated to you about two to three weeks after the end of the deadline for the submission of concept notes. If a Concept Note is retained a full-fledged partner project agreement (PPA) will be agreed jointly to be signed by the end of 2016. In case an agency submits concepts notes for several projects/subjects, retained ones might be combined into one PPA related to Refugees.

Cost efficiency and value for money considerations will be important aspects. Furthermore, UNHCR is keen on opportunities to deepen national ownership and associated sustainability and resilience aspects. Partners' contributions and expertise are also evaluated in this context. Concept notes are further expected to take note of all applicable protocols as well as local/national laws and regulations as stipulated in UNHCR’s PPA, Article 11. Last but not least, 2017 PPAs may be signed in USD, IQD or both currencies, depending on the prospective partner’s preferences.

Interested organizations are kindly requested to indicate in their Concept Notes what activities and areas they are in a position to cover.

Prospective partners that have not previously worked with UNHCR and are not yet registered with UNHCR Headquarters are required to submit the Partner Declaration form\(^2\) with the submission of Concept Notes.

Your Concept Notes should be submitted to the following email address: IRQERCT@unhcr.org

The deadline for submitting your Concept Notes is two weeks after the publication of this call for expression of interest.

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\(^1\) Annex D: Format for a Concept Note

\(^2\) Annex A: Partner Declaration form
We remain at your disposal in case there are any questions or assistance required for preparation of the above documents. In this respect, please contact UNHCR Programme Section: Ola Khalil, Associate Programme Officer KRI, khalilo@ unhcr.org

The respective custodian for Tertiary Education is:
Askal Tilahun, Protection Officer KRI, tilahuna@ unhcr.org

ANNEX C: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No.:
IRQ_KRI_CE1_2017/8_Tertiary Education provided and supported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title and Identification:</th>
<th>Project Location (please specify):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary Education for Refugees, Asylum seekers and Internally Displaced Persons in KRI</td>
<td>Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)</td>
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</table>

Brief Background of the Project:
UNHCR’s mandate is to provide international protection to Persons of Concern (POC) through promoting access to their rights and provision of protection and assistance.

As part of UNHCR education strategy, UNHCR supports access to quality education for POC. UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and Partners currently supports tertiary education opportunities through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship. DAFI helps young refugees and students access universities in their country of asylum. Higher education contributes to durable solution and post conflict reconstruction, promotes social, economic and gender equity and provides hope and empowerment to refugees communities. The Programme supports students to become role models in their communities, advocating for continued education. The DAFI scholarship is operated by UNHCR with the financial support from the government of Germany to provide scholarships for Syrian Refugees and it is expected that the programme will be extended to IDPs in 2017.

In 2016 in KRI, UNHCR in collaboration with MoHE and other operational partners is implementing DAFI programme for selected refugees and asylum seekers from Syria. The programme preparation is underway and the first group of scholarship beneficiaries will commence their study in the new academic year expected to start in December 2016. The number of students benefiting from DAFI scholarship will be 120, with possibilities of additional slots. The students’ tuition fee will be covered and students will be provided with an allowance that is aimed at covering, transportation and pocket money to purchase books and stationary.

Furthermore, UNHCR will aim at increasing access to tertiary education for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in KRI through strategic advocacy to open opportunities with other local private and/or public universities.

There are currently 230,530 refugees and asylum seekers in KRI according to UNHCR portal dated September 2016. Of this figure, 64,944 are between the ages of 17 to 29 who have mainly completed secondary school, and 3,322,410 IDP in Iraq of which 1,226,568 resides in KRI.
UNHCR in KRI is looking for organizations capable of managing day to day implementation of the programme, processing applications as well as direct follow up and counselling of the students. It’s expected that the organizations bring together experienced and qualified staff in the education sector, will work in partnership with UNHCR and other stakeholder to support evidence based advocacy.

The IDP programme covers the whole Iraq, organisations interested in covering IDPs in areas outside of KRI can use this CEI as a reference but should respond to the CEI issued by the Baghdad office.

**Goal / Objectives/ Expected outcome and Main Activities**

**Goal**: Protection and Mixed Solutions

**Objectives**: Refugees and asylum seekers have access to tertiary education

**Output**: Access to tertiary education provided and supported

**Expected outcome:**

1. Timely DAFI scholarship application process initiated and coordination with Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, Universities and partners is maintained.
2. At least 120 Syrian students are supported during their study with tuition costs, provision of monthly living allowance in a timely manner, continuous monitoring and counselling.
3. At least 120 IDPs of which 80 will be in KRI are supported during their study with tuition costs, provision of monthly living allowance in a timely manner, continuous monitoring and counselling.
4. Periodical report on the scholarship process is provided, and close coordination with UNHCR in advocacy and lobbying for additional funding ensured.
5. Facilitate and coordinate DAFI club meetings with the scholars at least twice a year.
6. Flexibility to deliver if other tertiary education opportunities are identified and opened to POC

**Main activities**

DAFI project implementation activities include but are not limited to:

1. **Selection Process**: Call for applications, collection of applications, screening of applicants, selection of degree programmes, interviews and final selection, communication on the final decision, and enrolment.
2. **Programming and implementation**:  
   - **Jan-Mar**: Distribution of allowances for students enrolled in 2016, regular monitoring to the universities, updating of student database.  
   - **Apr-Jun**: Distribution of allowances, guidance and counseling, seminars for students, visits to universities, maintaining student database.  
   - **July-September**: Obtaining scholars academic results, initiating of applications' screening process, organizing seminars for prospective scholars, distribution of allowances.  
   - **Oct-Dec**: Submission of updated student reporting sheets to reflect continuing, graduated, and new scholars. Payment of tuition fees, regular visits to universities and organization of
seminars for scholars.

3. **Reporting and Evaluation**: periodic narrative and financial reports to UNHCR, indicator reporting on Activity Info, and maintaining student database on RAIS (UNHCR Information system).

4. **Coordination**: The partner is expected to establish closer links with secondary education and girls’ education, organize common meetings among current and alumni students, UNHCR donors, universities and the private sector representatives in support of social and professional activities.

5. **Counseling**: The partner is expected to ensure provision of academic and orientation counselling to current students as well as supporting students’ initiatives and voluntary involvement in their community.

The partner needs to have an internal operational structure conducive to making diverse financial transactions in a timely manner and the ability to use information systems to maintain student information.

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**Intended Population of Concern:**

Asylum seekers, a refugees and IDPs in KRI

**Project Period:**

01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017

**Submission Deadline:**

two weeks after the publication of this CEI

**Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:**

Three weeks after the submission deadline

**Selection Criteria**

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<tr>
<th>Choose relevant criteria</th>
<th>Criteria Description</th>
<th>Assigned Weighting (optional)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><strong>Sector expertise and experience</strong>: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td><strong>Project management</strong>: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners’ financial statements, where applicable.</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td><strong>Local experience and presence</strong>: on-going programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging Syrian and non-Syrian refugees and</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cost effectiveness: level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Other information (optional)

Issuing UNHCR Office
Contact Address
Signature, Head of Office
Full name and title, Head of Office
Name of UNHCR Office
Date

UNHCR Erbil
UN Compound, UNHCR Office, Erbil-Iraq
Bruno Geddo, Representative, Iraq
UNHCR Sub-Office in Erbil, Iraq
29th Sept. 2016