

Call for applications for grants: Supporting access to justice for migrants in West Africa

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is pleased to announce that it is offering grants to promote and protect the human rights of migrants in West Africa by improving their access to justice. Under PROMIS, the joint OHCHR-UNODC project funded by the Netherlands, these grants will be awarded to eligible civil society organisations (CSOs), legal firms and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) that provide legal assistance to migrants in one of the five countries of the project (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Mali, Niger or Senegal). A maximum of one or two grants will be awarded per country, each for an amount of less than USD 20,000.

1. Context

West Africa is characterized by an intensive population mixing, due in particular to the high number of people moving within the region. Migrants often work in the informal sector, attracted by the demand for labour. Although they participate in the development of the region, they tend to be particularly vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and marginalization. Thus, even when faced with the worst abuses and deprivation of their fundamental rights and freedoms, migrants often fear filing a complaint and choose to keep a low profile.

Human rights violations suffered, in particular by irregular migrants, may include the denial of civil and political rights (arbitrary detention, torture, lack of due administrative or judicial process, etc.) as well as economic, social and cultural rights (such as the rights to health, housing and education). Most of the time, these violations are closely linked to discriminatory laws or attitudes marked by prejudice or xenophobia.

Migrants, however, hold rights on an equal footing with all human beings. They are entitled to fair procedures, to assert their rights and to obtain redress for violations of their rights, under national and international law that recognizes access to justice as a human right. Nevertheless, migrants often lack the necessary knowledge and resources. Hence, legal assistance by legal professionals is essential for migrants to ensure the respect of their rights.

2. Objectives

The objective of this grant offer is to contribute to the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants in West Africa by improving their access to justice. In particular, this involves raising migrants' awareness of their rights and improving their access to legal remedies by strengthening their ability to claim their rights. Thanks to the grants, beneficiary organisations will be better able to identify human rights violations suffered by migrants, inform them of their rights and provide them with legal assistance if necessary, as well as accompany the submission of complaints and carry out visits of detained migrants. Mobile legal assistance services may also be provided to migrants, including women, children and LGBTI persons, as well as psychosocial assistance for migrants who are victims of violations. Importantly, applicants are encouraged to submit sustainable projects that have a multiplier effect, a potential for replication, or lay foundations for change.

3. Project implementation

Projects must be carried out within a maximum period of 12 months from the date of award of the grant. Once a decision to award a grant has been taken, a grant agreement is concluded with the head of the organisation. This person acts as a contact point for OHCHR throughout the project.

N.B.: Eligible organisations may, if they so wish, propose in their application to partner with international organisations to assist them in the implementation of the planned activities. These international organisations must demonstrate their capacity and experience in the field of legal assistance to migrants.

4. Funding

A maximum of one or two grants will be awarded per country, each for an amount of less than USD 20,000. This sum can be allocated to the following expenses:

- Expenses related to the organisation of meetings;
- Costs related to legal proceedings, including legal fees and the filing of complaints or other procedural acts;
- Costs related to the provision of psychosocial assistance to migrants who are victims of human rights violations;
- Costs related to data collection activities (transport, daily subsistence allowance, including accommodation for staff carrying out field visits);
- Fees for staff members involved in the implementation of activities, at a reasonable rate;
- Additional humanitarian aid for migrants (for those who receive legal support by the organisation).

Cost sharing

For each of these categories, it is possible to share the costs between the grant and other sources of funding, and such an effort would be viewed positively.

N.B.:

- The budget document included in the grant application must clearly define all costs. In particular, it is necessary to indicate whether these are expenses to be financed by the grant or by sharing costs with other sources of funding.
- Staff training and general operating costs may be subsidised only if they are shared between the grant and other sources of funding.

General operating costs

General operating costs may not exceed 13 percent of the total budget submitted.

Equipment

Equipment costs must be pro-rated if the life span of the equipment extends beyond the end of the project.

5. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, organisations applying for the grant must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be a civil society organisation, legal firm or national human rights institution and be legally constituted and registered for one year or more;
- 2) Work and be based in the country;
- 3) Have as mandate the assistance to migrants in the country concerned and be already engaged in one or more activities covered by this call for applications.

6. Content and format of applications

All applications must be written in English or French and include the following elements:

- 1) A project proposal, by filling the dedicated Word document (maximum 10 pages)
- 2) A budget, by filling the dedicated Excel table, which clearly indicates the costs and cost sharing between the grant and other sources of funding
- 3) CVs of staff members whose salary will be paid (in whole or in part) by the grant
- 4) Proof of official registration in the country where the organisation is based
- 5) The most recent financial report, if such a report exists

7. Review of applications

Each application will be evaluated by a panel appointed by OHCHR and may also be shown to external reviewers. Based on the panel's recommendations, the OHCHR Grants Committee will have the final say on the funding decision. In assessing applications, the panel will take into account, among others, the following criteria:

- Does the application follow all the instructions contained in the previous section ("Content and format of applications")? If it does not follow all of them, it will not be subject to further evaluation and will not receive funding. This includes ensuring the length of the proposal, providing the required signatures and attaching the various documents.
- Is the project clearly described, the problem well defined and the objectives clearly stated?
- Are the results, impact and deliverables specifically identified?
- Is the project designed in such a way that it can be completed within 12 months?
- Are the different documents sent sufficient to adequately evaluate the proposal?
- Is there mention of the number of victims proposed to be supported and their characteristics (gender, age, nationality, etc.)?
- Are the resources and expertise available in the organisation sufficient?
- Is there a strong institutional commitment to this project, as would be demonstrated by the sharing of some costs?

8. Applying

Only applications from organisations that meet the **three eligibility criteria** (see point 5) and that have an **adequate content and format** (see point 6) will be considered.

Applications must be sent by email to mgomesneto@ohchr.org and iacher@ohchr.org, no later than Monday, 20 May 2019, at 12:00 noon (Dakar time). After this deadline, applications will no longer be considered. It is therefore advisable to allow sufficient time to prepare the application before the deadline. Decisions will be made in due course after validation by the OHCHR Grants Committee.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the above-mentioned email addresses before Wednesday, May 15, 2019.