

# FAQs

## 1. Who is eligible to apply?

Only organizations led by people who have lived experience of forced displacement are eligible to apply. This includes refugees, asylum-seekers, the internally displaced, returnees, and stateless people. We accept applications from existing organizations, both registered and unregistered, that are recognized within their communities thanks to their meaningful contributions.

## 2. How do you define a 'refugee-led organization'?

A refugee-led organization is an organization that is either:

- Primarily led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons: This means that more than half of the leadership roles within the organization, including decision-making positions, are held by individuals who are refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced, returnees, or stateless.
- Or jointly/equally led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons and host communities: This means that the organization has an equal distribution of leadership and decision-making roles between members of forcibly displaced or stateless communities and individuals from host communities.

Organizations meeting either of the criteria listed above are eligible to apply.

## 3. Is there a preferred language for submissions, or are various languages accepted?

The preferred language for submissions is English.

## 4. Are there any geographical restrictions on where the project can be implemented?

Priority locations for this project will be Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape, however submissions from all provinces will be reviewed.

## 5. How will you select projects?

Organizations that pass the vetting and due diligence process will develop more detailed proposals about their projects. These full proposals will be reviewed by a UNHCR technical committee.

## 6. Will the funding come directly from UNHCR?

UNHCR South Africa Multi-Country Office will be funding this project through our existing implementing partners (a sub-contract agreement will be established between the partner and the

RLO). This will allow UNHCR to have flexibility both in terms of implementation and financing. UNHCR will oversee the projects and work with implementing partners to provide the needed support to the RLOs.

#### **7. How much funding is each organization eligible to receive?**

The maximum financial support applicants can receive is 40 000 USD over a maximum period of 11 months. The disbursement of these funds will be completed in instalments. The disbursement of instalments are contingent upon the verification that project milestones have been achieved, ensuring that the project is progressing as planned before further funds are released. Applications are encouraged to plan for the amount needed to ensure impact rather than trying to maximize the project amounts. To the greatest extent, projects should ensure sustainability after the funding is finished.

#### **8. What costs are covered by the Fund?**

All costs related to project activities can be covered by the funds, including procurement of goods and services as well as personnel/staffing costs needed to advance the aims of the project. Office costs and overhead costs, if they can clearly be linked to the project, can also be covered. The funding cannot be used for purchasing goods or services for personal use.

#### **9. What is the project implementation period?**

Selected organizations will have the opportunity to commence their projects as early as February 2025, for a support period of up to 11 months.

#### **10. Our organization does not have a bank account, can we still apply?**

Yes, you can still apply even if your organization does not have a bank account. This project is committed to empowering communities with groundbreaking ideas, regardless of their current operational capabilities. We will explore programmatic modalities together with UNHCR teams locally to ensure the funds reach your organization, enabling you to implement the project.

If you are currently working with a registered South African organization to implement your project, the registered organization can also be a financial intermediary.

#### **11. Can individuals apply for the project?**

No. Applicants must apply as a team, usually as part of an existing grassroots, community-based or refugee-led organization.

#### **12. Can private sector companies apply for the project?**

No, this Fund opportunity is exclusively open to organizations led by persons with lived experience of forced displacement.

**13. Does the project accept joint applications from two or more organizations?**

The project welcomes and encourages multi-stakeholder proposals. We recommended one organization take responsibility for submitting the joint expression of interest and the full proposal, ensuring to include the names of the partner organizations in the application. The maximum funding available for any project – whether led by one organization or several – is 40,000 USD.

**14. What are the reporting requirements for funded project?**

Grantees are required to report on a quarterly basis, using a light monitoring framework developed by the UNHCR. This framework serves as the basis for assessing the achievement of project milestones, which is mandatory for the release of subsequent funding instalments.

**15. When can applicants expect updates during the selection process?**

Organizations who are not selected during the EOI phase will be notified and provided with feedback before the end of February 2025. Organisations selected will undergo a vetting and due diligence process; organizations that successfully pass this check will be notified in February 2025

**16. Can I use artificial intelligence (AI) to help write my application?**

There are no restrictions on the tools you use to develop your application. While AI can be a helpful assistant for tasks like research or brainstorming, the project emphasizes the importance of refugee-led, locally tailored solutions. Here are some things to consider when using AI for your application:

- Ensure the final proposal reflects the unique voice and perspective of your organization and the communities involved in the project design and implementation.
- Focus on AI as a tool to complement your proposal narrative and plans, not to create them on your behalf.

**17. I have other questions related to the Fund. Who do I contact?**

We would love to hear from you. Please contact us at : [rsaprprot@unhcr.org](mailto:rsaprprot@unhcr.org)