**APPLICATION GUIDE**

**Support to Local Community Development on Both Banks of Nistru River [[1]](#footnote-2)**

This Guide describes the rules and procedures of selecting twelve localities from the left bank of the Nistru river and the security zone to engage community inhabitants including migrants into local development projects, as well as the methodology that will be used to define and select the community development projects, which will be supported by the UNDP/ EU-CBM VI Programme.

1. **BACKGROUND**

Globally, UNDP is working to maximize the developmental benefits of human mobility and to mitigate any negative consequences. UNDP works with partner countries to balance short-term responses to addressing the impacts of emigration with long-term sustainable development solutions.

In Moldova, UNDP project has previously helped to develop a comprehensive approach to make migration work for local development. It aimed to connect Moldovan citizens with their native localities in Moldova and to meaningfully engage them at all stages of local community development, transforming population into an opportunity.

UNDP Moldova is among the development partners with an extensive, fruitful working experience on the left bank of Nistru river and security zone, with strong knowledge/understanding of local realities and approaches/management to development projects. Thus, the overall objective of the EU-CBM 6 initiative is to maximize the impact of collectivity on socio-economic development through an enhanced institutional framework and involved locals.

EU-CBM 6 will capitalize on previous work in the field of local community development, as well as on the successful pilot implementation of Migration and Development model to the left bank in 2022, which has adjusted and expanded citizens’ engagement model to the context of the transnistrian region and worked with two left bank local communities to leverage the benefits of migration by engaging native population in the processes of developing and sustaining their local communities.

The Programme will implement a comprehensive, ***two-phased approach to local community development on both banks***, engaging men and women, community members and migrants in local development processes ranging from planning to implementation of local development projects, leveraging the financial and human potential of local population, ultimately leading to improved livelihoods on both banks of Nistru river.

Engaging communities in local development requires sustained and complemented efforts by a broad range of stakeholders. While confronted with similar consequences and challenges induced by outward migration, local communities from the left bank of the Nistru river and security zone will be further supported to initiate activities to engage native citizens into local development projects aiming at fostering knowledge sharing for better local services and improved social infrastructure.

Considering the above, the UNDP/EU-CBM (phase VI) announces a call for expressions of interest **Support to Local Community Development on Both Banks of Nistru River**

1. **OVERALL OUTCOME OF THE INTERVENTION:** Stimulate local initiative by engaging local citizens (including migrants) from selected communities to actively participate and contribute to the development of their hometowns, in line with the UNDP/EU-CBM 6 goals.
2. **IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME**

The proposed local activities should be implemented between **April 2024 – October 2025**.

1. **ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS**

**Applicants eligible to submit Participation Proposals should meet all the following criteria:**

* represent a rural locality from the left bank of the Nistru river or security zone with at least 1,500 inhabitants;
* submit only 1 (one) Participation Proposal per locality under the current Call of Proposals.
1. **DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION PACKAGE**

The Application Package shall include the following documents / materials:

* **Application Form –** Word format and scanned version of signed form (template attached to the Application Guide);
* **Declaration of Interest** (template attached to the Application Guide), signed by Applicant representatives;
* **Declaration of Partnership** (if applicable), signed by Parties;
* **Other relevant materials** to complement the Applicant’s eligibility and Project’s justification.

The complete **Application Package** shall be sent by email to UNDP at the following email: sc.md@undp.org and copy to corina.bargan@undp.org. The email title / subject shall be **„EU-CBM Local Community Development”.**

**The deadline for submission of proposals is the March 13, 2024, at 16:00**

1. **INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR APPLICANTS**

UNDP will organize 2 offline and 2 online information sessions in Romanian and Russian, for potential Applicants to inform about the initiative and address questions regarding the application procedure and/or the content of the Participation Proposals.

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| --- | --- |
| **Date/time** | **Address** |
| Tuesday, 20 February 2024.Time 14:00Language: Russian | Tiraspol |
| Wednesday, 21 February 2024.Time 10:00Language: Romanian | Chișinău |
| Wednesday, 28 February, 2024Time 10:00Language Romanian | online |
| Wednesday, 28 February, 2024Time 14:00Language Russian | online |

Time, location, and links for the online sessions will be provided later (by adding info at UNDP site and through EU CBM Implementing partners). All interested applicants will be requested to confirm their participation by registering in the provided Google Forms.

1. **EVALUATION PROCESS**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail and not exceed 20 MB in size. Applications larger than 20 MB should be split into several messages and each message subject should indicate its sequence (e.g., “part 1 of 2”).

All submissions are to be confirmed by a reply within one working day. If you do not receive a confirmation by email in this timeframe, please, contact Mrs. Corina Bargan through e-mail corina.bargan@undp.org.

*Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline shall not be examined.*

Upon the expiration of the deadline, the selection and implementation process will be initiated, as follows.

**Step I: Preliminary evaluation of Participation Proposals (short-listing)**

During this stage, the applications will be verified in regard to the administrative compliance and eligibility of the Applicants, including if:

* the Application package is complete, and the Application Form is duly filled in;
* the Applicant meets the eligibility criteria (as stipulated above in paragraph 3);
* the Participation Proposal corresponds to the required timeframe;

**Step II: Technical evaluation of Participation Proposals**

During this stage, the UNDP/EU-CBM 6 will verify the compliance of the submitted Proposals with the overall EU CBM Programme objective and the one of “Support to Local Community Development on both banks of Nistru River” initiative.

The first twelve (12: 6 from security zone and 6 from transnistrian region) applications evaluated against the evaluation criteria, indicated below, that receive the highest rankings will be recommended for final approval by the EU-CBM VI Steering Committee.

The following two ranked applications (13-14) shall be included in the reserve list.

**Criteria for the Technical Evaluation of the Proposals**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Technical evaluation criteria**  | **Points obtainable** |
| Clear and feasible ideas of local community development* The applicant's vision is clear and achievable: **8-10 pts**.
* The applicant's vision is clear and achievable, yet not fully detailed: **4-7 pts**.
* The applicant's vision is not clear and/or achievable: **1 - 3 pts**.
 | **10** |
| Previous experience of local community development projects implementation.* The applicant has a very good experience in engaging the local (at least 2 similar initiatives): **8 - 10 pts.**
* The applicant has sufficient experience in engaging the local community (1 similar initiative): **4 - 7 pts.**
* The applicant has no experience in engaging the local community: **1 - 3 pts.**
 | **10** |
| Pro-active approach in engagement of natives/migrants in local community development process* The applicant has a pro-active approach and is perceived to be ready to engage migrants into local community development processes: **8 - 10 pts.**
* The applicant has a relatively pro-active approach and/or is partially ready to engage migrants into local community development processes: **4 - 7 pts.**
* The applicant has no defined approach and/or is not perceived to be fully ready to engage migrants into local community development processes: **1 - 3 pts.**
 | **10** |
| Presence of Local civil society /initiative groups and their inclusion in development work.* The local community includes an active CSO: **8-10 pts.**
* The local community includes an active initiative group: **4-7 pts.**
* The local community has no active CSO or initiative group: **1 - 3 pts.**
 | **10** |
| Confidence Building aspect: geographical, cultural, and other linkages and interaction with communities on opposite bank: joint projects, activities, past and planned.* The application clearly demonstrates strong linkages with communities on opposite bank (past and planned) : **14 - 20 pts.**
* The application demonstrates moderate linkages with communities on opposite bank (past or planned) : **7 - 13 pts.**
* The application does not demonstrate linkages with opposite bank (neither past nor planned) : **1 - 6 pts.**
 | **20** |
| Sustainability of local community development ideas.* The proposal is perceived as having a high degree of sustainability: **11- 15 pts.**
* The proposal is perceived as having a moderate degree of sustainability: **6-10 pts.**
* The proposal is perceived as having a low degree of sustainability: **0 - 5 pts.**
 | **15** |
| What is the potential share of local co-financing?* The proposed potential share of local co-financing exceeds 16%: **8 - 10 pts.**
* The proposed potential share of local co-financing ranges between 11% and 15%: **4 - 7 pts.**
* The proposed potential share of local co-financing meets the minimum of 10%: **1 - 3 pts.**
 | **10** |
| Crowdfunding previous experience and prospects.* The applicant has a strong experience in crowdfunding from the local community (at least 2 campaigns): **3 - 5 pts.**
* The applicant has limited demonstrated experience in crowdfunding (1 campaign): **1 - 2 pts.**
* The applicant has no experience in crowdfunding: **0 pts.**
 | **5** |
| Adherence to Gender equality approach (women empowerment principles (WEP)* The applicant has a pro-active approach and is perceived to be ready to apply WEPs into local community development processes: **8 - 10 pts.**
* The applicant has a relatively pro-active approach and/or is partially ready to apply WEPs into local community development processes: **4 - 7 pts.**
* The applicant has no defined approach and/or is not perceived to be fully ready to apply WEPs into local community development processes: **1 - 3 pts.**
 | **10** |
| **Total points obtainable** | **100** |

**Stage III: Field work**

The 12 selected partner localities will receive technical assistance and on-the-ground guidance for community engagement in local development projects from local development specialized companies contracted by EU-CBM VI.

This stage may include the establishment of Hometown Associations (HTAs) / Hometown Initiative Groups (HIGs) in each partner locality.

With support of UNDP, the 12 partner localities will subsequently be invited to elaborate proposals for Local Development Infrastructure Projects (one per each locality) based on the needs and priorities of each local community and with involvement of the native citizens, as well as private sector and civil society.

**Stage IV. Selection of 6 Local Development Infrastructure Projects**

With support local development specialized companies, the 12 communities will be guided in formulation of the projects proposals, where else EU-CBM VI engineers will facilitate implementation of the infrastructure component of the 6 selected projects from the technical and thematic perspectives.

1. **ANNEXES:**
2. Application Form (English and Russian versions, in Word format);
3. Declaration of Interest (English and Russian versions, in Word format).
4. Other documents if necessary
1. The intervention is conducted in the framework of the Confidence Building Measures Programme (EU-CBM / phase VI), implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the financial support of the European Union. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)