



GUIDELINE FOR APPLICANTS

GRANTS COMPETITION

Women- and girls-led community initiatives for crisis management, intergroup dialogue, and social cohesion (grants), implemented by UNDP

October 2026

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I. CONTEXT

The "Enhancing Social Cohesion in Moldova through Dialogue and Community Empowerment" Project (SCPI-II, 2026–2030) is a Joint Project implemented by UNDP and UNFPA, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland. The project aims to strengthen social cohesion, resilience and sustainable peace in the Republic of Moldova through two outcomes:

Outcome 1: "Vertical Social Cohesion. Public institutions in target communities are more responsive and inclusive in promoting social cohesion and participatory democratic governance"

Outcome 2: "Horizontal Social Cohesion. Targeted population, including marginalized groups, and community structures actively contribute to improved intergroup relations and interregional cooperation, and participate in building dialogue, cohesion and peace"

The second outcome entails strengthening the leadership and crisis management capacities of women and girls and supporting the community initiatives they lead. Women and women-led organizations have proven to be the closest to their communities in times of crisis, yet they face limited resources, professional burnout and restricted access to professional development.

To this end, UNDP organized the Women's Community Action Accelerator from 12 to 16 October 2026, aiming to empower women and girls from target communities to address local tensions and strengthen social cohesion, by building their leadership and crisis-management capacities and supporting them to design and lead community-level initiatives that advance women's participation in local decision-making and intergroup dialogue.

UNDP intends to support initiatives led by women and girls who have graduated from the Accelerator, aimed at strengthening women's leadership, crisis management, intergroup dialogue and social cohesion in target localities. These localities are Taraclia, Basarabeasca, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Orhei, Ocnița, Dondușeni, Briceni, Soroca and Edineț.

Goal: strengthening women and girls' leadership skills for crisis management, intergroup dialogue and cross-community cooperation, and empowering them to design and lead community-level social cohesion initiatives.

Objective: 5 initiatives led by women and girls implemented in target localities, aimed at strengthening women's leadership, crisis management, intergroup dialogue and social cohesion, with the involvement of Accelerator graduates in the implementation teams.

II. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE PROJECT

The project will be implemented through the award of 5 grants not exceeding 10,000 US dollars each. The project completion deadline is 31 May 2027. Grants will be awarded only to non-governmental organizations registered in accordance with the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

Applicants must have a bank account in MDL dedicated to this project. The grant will be disbursed in MDL at the UN operational rate of exchange (UNORE) in effect on the date of signature of the grant agreement.

In case of discrepancies between translations, the English version shall prevail.

Project proposals meeting the following criteria will be considered eligible:

- I. The applicant is a non-governmental organization (NGO) or civil society organization (CSO) legally registered in accordance with the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

- II. The applicant is not included on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List, the UNDP Ineligibility List, or any other applicable UNDP debarment or sanctions list, and has not been found to have committed fraud, corruption, misconduct, or other serious violations in connection with UNDP or other UN-funded activities.
- III. The applicant is either an NGO/CSO registered in one of the localities listed above, or has actively implemented at least three project interventions in those localities within the past three years.
- IV. The project implementation team includes at least one graduate of the Women's Community Action Accelerator organized by UNDP between 12-16 October 2026, and the proposed initiative builds on the knowledge acquired during the programme.
- V. The proposed initiative is in line with the overall objective of the Project.
- VI. The applicant's cumulative funding from UNDP grants under the current Country Programme Document (CPD) 2023–2027 must not exceed USD 300,000 during this programming period.
- VII. The applicant must not have any overlapping or conflicting prior or ongoing funding provided through UNDP HACT/Grant mechanisms. Eligibility for a new grant is conditional upon successful completion and delivery of results under any previous grant agreement with UNDP.

III. THE BUDGET

1. The project proposal shall include a budget expressed in US dollars (VAT-0%), with detailed information on each cost line, as per the template in Annex 2.
2. Cost estimates will cover the full project implementation duration of 6 months.
3. Cost estimates will be realistic and follow the action plan described in the project proposal.
4. The maximum budget limit is 10,000 US dollars.
5. The budget must be justifiable and optimized for cost-effectiveness.
6. All goods and services purchased will be included at the value excluding VAT.
7. The estimated costs must consider the level of effort of staff involvement as well as the cost-share from other programs and/or projects, if any.

Eligible costs:

1. Project administrative expenditure (administrative staff: project manager, accountant, project assistant, telecommunication services, rent and utilities, bank charges, etc.).
2. Expenditure for suppliers of services and goods, as needed).
3. Expenses for the purchase of consumables and other materials necessary for the implementation of the project.
4. Other expenses, which are necessary for the effective implementation of the project, well justified.

Non-eligible costs:

1. Costs incurred before the signature of the grant agreement (including costs related to the submission of the project proposal).
2. Fines, penalties, and exchange rate losses.
3. Activities covered 100% by other programs/projects.
4. Individual sponsorship for attending workshops, seminars, conferences, or scholarships.
5. Current costs of the organization that are not related to the project objectives.
6. Expenditure on the purchase or production of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, munitions, luxury goods and other goods prohibited under UN regulations, including those related to the organization of gambling.

IV. PROJECT PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee established by UNDP, who will present the results to the Project Steering Committee for endorsement.

The evaluation and selection of the proposals will be performed based on Evaluation Criteria set out below. The applicants who obtain the highest score will be announced winners. Each sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 10, where 10 will be the maximum score. Each criterion shall be given a weight in relation to the total evaluation score. Each sub-criterion shall be assigned a weight in relation to the score of the criterion of which it is part of.

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Weight
1. Relevance to Social Cohesion Goal		20%
	1.1 Alignment with Project Objectives	50%
	1.2 Target Groups	50%
2. Innovation and Creativity		15%
	2.1 Innovative Approach	40%
	2.2 Creativity	60%
3. Feasibility and Sustainability		10%
	3.1 Practical Implementation Plan	70%
	3.2 Sustainability	30%
4. Impact and Measurability		10%
	4.1 Expected Impact	50%
	4.2 Measurable Outcomes	50%
5. Collaboration and Partnerships		15%
	5.1 Local Partnerships	60%
	5.2 Cross-Community Cooperation	40%
6. Resource Allocation and Budget		5%
	6.1 Budget Justification	50%
	6.2 Cost-effectiveness	50%
7. Gender Equality and Inclusion		10%
	7.1 Gender-sensitive Approach	50%
	7.2 Inclusive Participation	50%
8. Monitoring and Evaluation		5%
	8.1 Monitoring Plan	60%
	8.2 Evaluation Framework	40%
9. Risk Assessment		10%
	9.1 Risk Identification	50%
	9.2 Mitigation Actions	50%
TOTAL		100%

The Selection Committee will review each application received against the established criteria endorsed by the Project Steering Committee, ensuring a fair and transparent process. Upon the completion of the evaluation and selection process, the Selection Committee will propose a list of five recommended organizations for grant allocation (and a reserve list). These lists will then be presented to the Steering Committee for final review and endorsement.

The selection process consists of two stages:

Stage I: Checking the eligibility of the application. This stage involves but is not limited to: (a) verification that the eligibility of the project complies with the above-mentioned criteria; (b) complete submission of the application; (c) the veracity of the information provided in the application. Applications that are incomplete, erroneous or do not meet the eligibility criteria will be excluded from the competition. At the end a list will be drawn up of the organizations passing to the second stage and those eliminated will be announced.

Stage II: Evaluation of project proposals that have passed Stage I. The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the evaluation criteria, awarding the appropriate score. The applicants with the highest score will be announced as the winners.

As part of the evaluation, UNDP reserves the right to request written clarifications on the submitted proposals and to schedule online discussions with shortlisted applicants. Such discussions will be held with the proposed project manager and, where relevant, other key members of the implementation team, and will serve to clarify the proposed activities, the implementation arrangements and the budget.

At the end, the winning organizations will be informed about the decision of the Selection Committee.

V. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested organizations shall submit an application package including:

1. The application form, signed by the applicant's representative (Annex 1).
2. The budget, in accordance with the template (Annex 2).
3. Track-record of donor-funded projects (Annex 3).
4. A copy of the applicant's registration certificate. The application form and annexes are available on the UNDP Moldova website (<https://sc.undp.md/viewtenders2/>). These documents may also be obtained by submitting a request to Mariana Aricova at the following e-mail address: mariana.aricova@undp.org.

The application package shall be submitted electronically by e-mail to mariana.aricova@undp.org. The application deadline is **30 October 2026**. The subject line of the message shall read: "Women and girls led initiatives grants - name of the organization". The documents included in the application package must be in PDF format, with the exception of the budget, which must be in .xlsx (Excel) format.

Applications submitted by any other means will be rejected. Incomplete applications, or those submitted after the established deadline, will not be considered. Applications sent by e-mail must not exceed 20 MB. Applications larger than 20 MB shall be split into several messages, and the subject line of each message must indicate, in addition to "Women and girls led initiatives grants - name of the organization", "part x of y". For example, if the application package is sent through three e-mails, the subject line of the first message will be "Women and girls led initiatives grants - name of the organization - part 1 of 3", and that of the last message "Women and girls led initiatives grants - name of the organization - part 3 of 3".

Requests for clarification regarding the application may be sent to: mariana.aricova@undp.org.