**European Union funded/ Call for Proposal (CFP)**

**To strengthen the quality of the services for women survivors of gender-based violence**

**in Cahul and Ungheni.**

**Section 1**

**CFP No. UNW-ECA-MDA-CFP-2021-006/** **EoI21/02373**

1. **CFP letter for Responsible Parties**

UN WOMEN plans to engage Responsible Parties as defined in accordance with these documents. UN WOMEN now invites sealed proposals from qualified proponents for providing the requirements as defined in the UN WOMEN Terms of Reference.

Proposals must be received by UN WOMEN at the address specified not later than 6:00 pm, Moldova time on **October 28, 2021.**

**The budget range for this proposal should fall between a minimum indicative amount of USD 160 000.00.** **The total budget available for this call for proposal is of up to USD 160000.00.**

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| **This UN Women Call for Proposals consists of Two sections:** | **Annexes to be completed by proponents and returned with their proposal (mandatory)** |
| **Section 1**  | **Annex B-1** Mandatory requirements/pre-qualification criteria |
| 1. CFP letter for Responsible Parties
2. Proposal data sheet for Responsible Parties
3. UN Women Terms of Reference

**Annex B-1** Mandatory requirements/pre-qualification criteria | **Annex B-2** Template for proposal submission**Annex B-3** Format of resume for proposed staff**Annex B-4** Capacity Assessment minimum Documents |
| **Section 2** |  |
| 1. Instructions to proponents
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|  **Annex B-2** Template for proposal submission |  |
|  **Annex B-3** Format of resume for proposed staff **Annex B-4** Capacity Assessment minimum Documents |  |

Interested proponents may obtain further information by contacting this email address: polina.panainte@unwomen.org

1. **Proposal data sheet for Responsible Parties**

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| **Program/Project:** Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts | **Requests for clarifications due:** October 22, 2021, Time: 14:00 pm, Moldova time, via email polina.panainte@unwomen.org |
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| **Program official’s name:** Polina Panainte |
|  |
| **Email:** polina.panainte@unwomen.org |
|  | **UNWOMEN clarifications to proponents due:** October **22**, 2021; Time: 6 pm, Moldova time |
| **Issue date:** October 05, 2021 |  |
|  | **Proposal due: October** **28,** 2021, Time: 6 pm, Moldova time |
|  |  |
|  | **Planned award date: November** 20, 2021 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Planned contract start-date:** November 20, 2021 |
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**Terms of Reference**

**European Union funded /TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**To strengthen the quality of the services for women survivors of gender-based violence**

**in Cahul and Ungheni.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**a) Background**

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, the empowerment of women and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the center of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates the United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world.

The work of UN Women in Moldova is guided by its [Country Strategic Note for 2018-2022](http://moldova.unwomen.org/en/biblioteca-digitala/publicatii/2018/03/strategic-note-summary), aligned with [the Republic of Moldova–United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018–2022](http://md.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/moldova/docs/pub/strateg/UNDAF%20Moldova%20EN.pdf), [the Global Strategic Plan of UN Women for 2018-2021](http://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/strategic-plan-2018-2021), the [National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2017-2021 (NSGE)](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr16_85.pdf), the National Strategy for prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence for 2018-2023 elaborated in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). [UN Women Strategy for Moldova 2018-2022](https://moldova.unwomen.org/en/biblioteca-digitala/publicatii/2018/03/strategic-note-summary) focuses on three main areas: 1) strengthening women’s participation in politics and decision making, 2) economic empowerment of women and 3) ending violence against women and girls.

Based on the European Commission Decision ENI/2018/041-302 regarding the Annual Action Programme 2018 in favor of the Republic of Moldova for support for the implementations of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, UN Women Moldova CO is implementing a three-year project (January 2020 – December 2022) under the name “Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts” (hereinafter EVA). The project is implemented in line with and in contribution to the Gender Action Plan II (GAP II) of European Commission “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the lives of girls and women through externa relations 2016-2020”, adopted in September 2015.

The project started in January 2020, funded by the European Union, co-founded and implemented by UN Women Moldova Country Office and in partnership with UNICEF. The overall purposes of the EVA is to promote gender equality, women’s empowerment through strengthened implementation of gender mainstreaming in local policies and combating gender-based and domestic violence affecting women and children in two focal regions: Ungheni and Cahul.

The principles of gender equality and women empowerment are central to the EVA Project, as women in Moldova continue to face gender inequalities when it comes to the decision making, labor market, the gender pay gap - as the regulatory framework still impedes women to participate in certain occupations and allows for discrimination based on age, disability, marital status, etc.

One of the expected results under the EVA project is that gender equality is promoted and mainstreamed in local policy making and decision-making. The project supports Cahul and Ungheni localities to integrate gender equality in their policies and budgets through training elected and appointed representatives of the LPAs on gender equality and gender mainstreaming and its implications for decisions taken by the LPAs; coaching LPAs to adhere to the principles of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life; raising the capacities and knowledge on women’s rights of local CSOs; raising awareness of local population on gender equality and empowering women to actively participate in local decision-making processes. Another set of expected results under EVA project refers to a greater access to effective survivor - focused multidisciplinary services for the victims of domestic violence, including sexual violence; and violence prevention programmes piloted in local schools and communities. In this sense, UN Women EVA project supports strengthening the capacities of the multidisciplinary teams for an effective protection of women and children’s victims of domestic violence, empowering domestic violence survivors, and the usage of innovative tools to raise the capacities of local civil society to change attitudes and behaviors on violence against women and gender-based violence.

The provision of quality psychosocial services represents an essential component of a coordinated multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence. Social services comprise a range of services that are critical in supporting the rights, safety and wellbeing of women and girls experiencing violence including crisis information and help lines, safe accommodation, legal and rights information, and psychosocial support and counseling. The specialized services for GBV victims/survivors might be provided by governmental/public/state institutions (public services); by non-profit/non-governmental or for profit/commercial organizations (private services). The official data reveal that 64,4%[[1]](#footnote-1) of women in Moldova experienced at least one form of violence from husband/partner during their lifetime. Domestic violence against women remains a burning issue for the whole society but also for the specialists who are mandated to identify such cases and offer immediate and adequate assistance and protection.

According to national legislation[[2]](#footnote-2), the State shall provide several services to support the victims of violence, including victims of sexual violence: legal counselling; psychological counselling; free legal aid assistance; financial compensation.

Despite progress towards the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), serious concerns remain regarding the ensure effective prevention and combating of violence against women and rehabilitation of victims. Main challenges still persist, including underreporting of violence against women; owing to fear of stigmatization and re-victimization; the limited enforcement of the legislative framework to combat gender-based violence due to insufficient resource allocations; lack of shelters and support services for victims of gender-based violence, including counselling, legal assistance, and rehabilitation programmes, particularly in the rural areas.

According to NGOs, 60 percent of social services are covered by civil society organizations. Victims’ contributions to covering attorney’s fees exceed by four times the state’s contributions. Over 30 percent of the essential services which should be made available to victims of domestic violence either do not exist or are reportedly not effective. The main gaps are in the provision of social assistance for victims of domestic violence; economic empowerment and social housing; mental health and long-term psycho-social support; and access to state-funded legal counselling and representation in court[[3]](#footnote-3).

According to the Council of Europe minimum standards for support services, there should be one specialist violence against women counselling service in every regional city per 50,000 women. This can include existing specialist violence against women groups such as shelters, rape crisis centers, and women’s counselling centers, if they offer long term counselling/group work[[4]](#footnote-4).

Despite local commitment to prevent and combat GBV in both Cahul and Ungheni districts, most of the women survivors of domestic violence still lack access to services that would protect and support them or that would offer security and assistance in tackling the short- and long-term consequences deriving from diverse types of violence they were subjected to. In both districts there are social and psychological services for different vulnerable groups, but these are very rudimentary when it comes to victims of domestic violence and need to be expanded, adjusted to satisfy the demand for such services and to fulfill the standards Moldova subscribed under.

 A recent study on [Assessment of the functionality of multidisciplinary teams in Cahul and Ungheni](https://www.unicef.org/moldova/rapoarte/evaluarea-func%C8%9Bionalit%C4%83%C8%9Bii-echipelor-multidisciplinare-pe-cazurile-de-violen%C8%9B%C4%83-%C3%AEn-familie) shows that at the local level the women survivors of domestic violence are not always provided with the necessary services, due to limited number of service providers for VDV at the local level (1 center in Ungheni and 2 in Cahul)[[5]](#footnote-5). LPAs noted that services provided by existing centers from Ungheni and Cahul, such as social aid, psychological support, legal advice/aid, accommodation, medical care, are most often needed by women survivors of violence but are not always provided due to the insufficient capacity of these centers to assist victims of domestic violence.

UN Women Moldova continuously supports the Government and civil society organizations in strengthening the capacities of service providers in delivering efficient multi sectoral and survivors-focused response and services to victims of violence. Although a lot of positive actions were taken, there is still room for further improvement.

**b) General Objective**

UN Women intends to engage a national non-governmental organization with extensive experience and knowledge on supporting the development and provision of essential services for victims/survivors of domestic violence as part of multi-disciplinary teams’ response for piloting in Cahul and Ungheni district effective social services for survivors of GBV, ensuring a comprehensive mechanism comprising of psychosocial counseling, access to information during the crisis, secure sheltering, legal services. The proposed intervention will build on the provision of the national legal framework taking into account best international standards and local practices for multidisciplinary services for victims of domestic violence (VDV).

**2. DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED SERVICES/RESULTS**

UN Women, within EU funded EVA project, will initiate a Partnership Agreement with a non-governmental organization from Moldova to increase the access to coordinated essential multidisciplinary services for VDV in Cahul and Ungheni district trough a comprehensive program which consists of mentoring, capacity building, sharing of experiences trough study visits and joint co-creation sessions and thematic meetings. The Responsible Party (RP) will guide and support local authorities/civil society organizations in expanding the social services offered to VDV based on the good experience registered in Drochia district/ other districts, in line with the [Essential services package](https://moldova.unwomen.org/en/biblioteca-digitala/publicatii/2019/03/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence).

The Responsible Party will contribute to the fulfilling of the below outputs, with the respect for leaving no one behind approach and for the principles of planned interventions:

1. Develop the working methodology and timeline for Cahul and Ungheni district for enabling local stakeholders in strengthening the quality of the services provided for VDV. This should be based on desk research on the existent mechanisms in Cahul and Ungheni districts for providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and a mapping of the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders interested in taking an active role in expanding the services for VDV.
2. Sub-partner with two (2) local CSOs to develop a tailored intervention package for VDV in Cahul and Ungheni. District authorities will be largely consulted and involved in the process. In result, the new format for services for VDV should be endorsed by district and/or local authorities for piloting.
3. Guidance and mentoring for service providers from Cahul and Ungheni (the sub-partners) for piloting the newly available services of psychosocial counseling, access to information during the crisis, secure sheltering and legal services. The RP will provide guidance and mentorship in the framework of the sub-partnerships with the two local CSOs.

In line with the UN Women Strategic Note, the results under this output will be measured by a number of minimum indicators, **including but not limited to:**

* Improved the access to psychosocial counseling, legal support services, and sheltering provided to VDV in Cahul and Ungheni districts though expanding existent services in up to two (up to 2) locations;
* Increased the capacity of up to two CSOs from Cahul and Ungheni on providing specialist social services to VDV;
* Increase to up to 25% the share of women, from identified cases in Cahul and Ungheni districts, who benefited from specialist services.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS TO THE PROPOSAL**

1. The proponent is expected to sub-partner with civil society organizations for the delivery of psychological, legal, and social assistance services to the victims of GBV in Cahul and Ungheni districts.
2. The proposed intervention size and budget request is for up to USD 160,000. All currency exchanges will be calculated using the UN Operational Exchange Rate as per the date of submission of proposal.

The budget of the proposal shall include also communication and visibility actions. The proponent shall follow the [Communication and Visibility Requirements for EU External Actions](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/comm-visibility-requirements_en) and the [UN Women Branding Guidelines and Identity Standards](https://www.ungm.org/UNUser/Documents/DownloadPublicDocument?docId=340359) throughout the implementation process. Examples of communication and visibility actions may be but not limited to success stories, video spots, informative sessions, online campaigns, awareness campaigns, etc.

1. **TIME FRAME**

The proposals are expected to start on November 20, 2021 and last till December 30, 2022.

**4. COMPETENCIES:**

Proponents must meet all mandatory requirements/pre-qualification criteria as set out in Annex B-1.

 Proponents will receive a pass/fail rating on this section. UN WOMEN reserves the right to verify any information contained in proponent’s response or to request additional information after the proposal is received. Incomplete or inadequate responses, lack of response or misrepresentation in responding to any questions will result in disqualification.

The following competences are considered an asset in proponents’ performance:

* Documented successful track record in the area of work contained in this Terms of Reference;
* Proven in-house expertise and credibility in working towards on prevention and combating gender-based violence against women, as well as delivering results in it;
* Expertise and knowledge in development and providing services for victims/survivors of domestic violence as part of multi-disciplinary teams’ response;
* Experience in establishing and nurturing partnerships with central and local public authorities (including governmental social assistance departments), non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders towards the achieving of set goals;
* Organization has sufficient staff resources and technical expertise to implement the proposed actions;
* Record and evidence of organizational culture of accountability and governance, financial and administrative capacity.
1. https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=6934 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Law No. 45 of 01.03.2007 on preventing and combating domestic violence](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=14122&lang=ro); [Law No. 137 of 29.07.2016 on the recovery of victims of crimes](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105870&lang=ro). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe - DUNJA MIJATOVIĆ- [Report (CommDH(2020)10, Strasbourg, 25 June 2020) following her visit to the Republic of Moldova from 9 to 13 March 2020](https://rm.coe.int/report-on-the-visit-to-moldova-from-9-to-13-march-2020-by-dunja-mijato/16809ed0e4); [Prevention, Protection and Prosecution of the Gender-Based Violence in EaP countries](https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/2/413237_0.pdf), Report of the findings of Research of Legal Framework on Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence in the Republic of Moldova, Gender Network of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Chisinau, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Council of Europe, [Combating violence against women: minimum standards for support services](https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/EG-VAW-CONF%282007%29Study%20rev.en.pdf), p. 38. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Cahul Maternal Center is a public institution that provides placement services for mother-child and victims of domestic violence with a capacity of 24 beds; and the Health Center for Women “Virginia,” a municipal institution. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)