**Challenging Stereotypes, Providing Services, Convening, and Advocating: A multi-layer approach to promote LGBTQ rights in Lebanon**

* **Call for Proposals -**

Background information

Oxfam in partnership with Qorras is implementing a project funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, entitled “Challenging Stereotypes, Providing Services, Convening, and Advocating: A multi-layer approach to promote LGBTQ rights in Lebanon.” The project aims to support civil society efforts at protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in Lebanon, specifically supporting the enjoyment of all human rights by the LGBTQ persons and protecting them against discrimination.

The project aims to meet three outputs:

1. Output 1: Stereotypes of LGBTI individuals are challenged through different forms of “creative knowledge”
2. Output 2: Access to safe legal, health, and MHPSS services for LGBTI individuals is facilitated
3. Output 3: Rights of LGBTI individuals are advocated for through evidence-production and convening events

Objectives of the call for proposals

As part of the project’s second output, Oxfam is launching a call for proposals to provide financial support for CSOs that work on service provision activities for the LGBTQ persons in Lebanon. The main objective of this sub-granting component is to respond to the gaps in services available to the LGBTQ community in Lebanon

Financial allocation

Four grants in total will be awarded. The overall indicative amount made available under this call for each grant/proposal is a maximum of **EUR 60,000.**

Selected CSOs will receive parts of these funds over several tranches in USD or L.L which will proceed through bank transfers from Lebanon.

Eligibility criteria

***Specific to the applicants:***

* The call for proposals is open only to registered Lebanese CSOs with experience working on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issues.
* CSOs can apply individually or jointly as a consortium with other CSOs to this call for proposals.

***Specific to the proposal***

This sub-granting component is part of a larger project to promote LGBTQ rights in Lebanon, implemented by Oxfam in partnership with Qorras. Following a multi-layered approach, supporting the work of CSOs that provide services to the community is complemented by research, policy work and other activities aiming to effect long-term change. As a result, we highly encourage applications with the following characteristics / considerations and areas of priority:

* Legal services including legal representation, legal counselling, etc.
* MHPSS services include psychosocial counselling, psychosocial support, harm reduction services, group therapy, individual therapy, etc.
* Services that address the need for general health for people with trans experiences.
* Health needs for individuals who have sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and need treatment and currently don’t have access, people with trans experiences who are on hormone treatment or have an urgent medical or non-optional operation, survivors of hard drugs who require medicine provided by the government or NGOs.
* Services for mental and substance use [ especially with the current crisis)
* Mental health and psychosocial support services for organization’s staff
* Building the capacity and political awareness of organizations and its members for a comprehensive understanding of LGBTQ needs in the context of service provision
* Sexual and reproductive health services including access to contraception and protection from STIs

***General considerations affecting the selection of winning grants***

* Projects and activities that are defined in relation to long-term vision and strategies
* Projects and activities that build on existing evidence, findings and expertise
* Holistic approaches that are led by cross-sectoral / inter-disciplinary partnerships or collaborations
* Projects and activities that have the potential to bear impact beyond the duration of the sub-grant

***Specific to requirements and supporting documents***

* Proposals must include details on how the applicant will reach beneficiaries residing outside the greater Beirut area
* Beneficiaries of the service provision activities must be members of the LGBTQ community, aged above 18, and residing in Lebanon, irrespective of their nationality;
* Proposals need to be submitted with the supporting documents using the attached templates (budget, workplan, logframe, and contingency plan) or will not be considered
* Time frame for the suggested project is **12 months** starting mid to end of **October 2020** *(to be confirmed in due time)*
* The workplan and monitoring plan needs to show how the activities will be planned and monitored over **12 months**

***Specific to the cost:***

* Total budget will cover all cost planned **per proposal**
* In case two CSOs are applying together, the total budget (a maximum of EUR 60,000) must be broken down in one proposal covering all cost planned by both CSOs
* The breakdown of the total budget needs to be as such:
	+ Human Resource cost (ex: % of the salaries): up to **15%** of the total budget
	+ Support cost (ex: % for transportation and communication): up to **10%** of the total budget
	+ Activity cost (ex: legal representation fees, STI kits, counsellor fees, printing): at least **75%** of the total budget

How to apply and the procedures to follow

* Deadline for submission of the proposals and all supporting documents is September 14, 2020.
* Oxfam will organize a virtual open house on September 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM to present the project and answer questions asked by potential applicants. Those who wish to be part of the call are asked to request access by emailing Nizar Aouad: naouad@oxfam.org.uk by August 31, 2020 COB at the latest.
* Proposals and all supporting documents will be sent to Nizar Aouad: naouad@oxfam.org.uk and

LebanonJobs@oxfam.org.uk

Consideration of supporting documents for provisionally selected proposals

The following documents need to be submitted:

* Proposal
* Budget
* Workplan
* Logframe
* Contingency plan

Proposal content

* Template for the proposal and the supporting document are attached

Evaluation and selection of proposals

* Each of the proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of Oxfam staff and Qorras
* Each of the proposals will be evaluated using the below evaluation grid

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| --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Maximum Score** |
| **1. Relevance of the action** | **20** |
| 1.1. How relevant is the proposal to the needs and priorities of the LGBTQ community?  | 10 |
| 1.2 Do the proposed actions match the technical expertise of the applicant CSOs?  | 10 |
| **2. Design of the action** | **20** |
| 2.1. How coherent is the overall design of the proposal? In particular, does it reflect the needs of the LGBTQ community in light of the current economic crisis and pandemic? Does it take into account socio-legal structural factors specific to Lebanon? | 10 |
| 2.2. How does the action respond to the gaps in services available for the LGBTQ community in Lebanon? Does the action improve access to services for LGBTQ members who live in and outside Beirut? | 10 |
| **3. Feasibility of Implementation** | **30** |
| 3.1. Is the implementation of the activities doable within the time frame of the project (12 months from end of September 2020 till September 2021)? | 10 |
| 3.2. Is the explanation of the main activities and expected results clearly outlined? | 10 |
| * 1. Is the budgeting cost-effective and aligned with the budget instructions

mentioned above? | 10 |
| **4. Continuity and sustainability** | **20** |
| 4.1. Does the proposal explain the sustainability of the proposed action:- If it is not a new idea: how does it build on previous work?- If it is a new idea: what are the prospects for its sustainability? | **10** |
| 4.2. Does the proposal clearly describe expected risks, mitigation and contingency measures? Does the proposal have a clear plan that accounts for disruptions of service delivery (for example in cases of a complete lockdown or partial access) | **10** |
| **5. Ingenuity** | **10** |
| 5.1. Is the proposal designed in a creative and innovative approach? | **10** |
| **Total Score** | **100** |

* Proposals with a score lower than **70 will be rejected**
* Proposals with a score of 70 and above will be prioritized starting from the **highest score and based on their cost effectiveness and their alignment with the budget instructions mentioned above.**
* A maximum of **4 projects** will be selected, or up to the total allocation of funding

Notification of the decision

* The decision will be communicated to the applicants by **October 5, 2020** the latest.
* Prior to signing the contract, selected CSOs will undergo a partnership assessment by Oxfam which includes a strategic fit assessment, due diligence assessment, capacity assessment and integrity assessment
* Selected CSOs will be invited for an induction meeting(s) where winning proposals will be presented and finalized, and where Oxfam will present all compliance and grants requirements, finance and logistics requirements, in addition to setting the reporting dates and mechanisms and the ways of working.
* First payment will be transferred upon signature of the contract.