

GIZ Afghanistan

Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) Project

Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment Call for Proposal

The overall objectives of German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan in the governance sector are improving the capacity of state structures, fighting corruption and getting the population more involved in decision-making processes.

The [Open Policy Advisory Fund \(OPAF\)](#) has been implemented since 2009 by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). OPAF's objective is to enable state actors to implement reform steps that contribute to political and social participation and to promote civil society to take part in political decision-making. Therefore, OPAF offers expertise, advice, training courses and coaching for Afghan public institutions in the field of development and implementation of reform processes at the central level by supporting specific measures mainly through short-term to mid-term interventions.

The purpose of this Call for Proposals for the Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment is to:

- Foster leadership and organizational and advocacy capacity of women's organizations so that they can increase their participation in social and political life;
- Improve the enabling environment for women to raise their concerns as citizens of Afghanistan;
- Increase the capacity of women-led CSOs to raise concerns of female citizens in activities jointly implemented by state and non-state actors;
- Provide chances for sustainable empowerment and support to women entrepreneurs through financial literacy, training, and networking opportunities so that they may play a key role in their communities;
- Engage men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence; and
- Increase women's and girls' awareness of their rights to promote gender equality in local communities.

OPAF's Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment is particularly looking for specific project proposals by civil society organizations that **enhance the social and/or political inclusion of women**. However, project proposals can include – but are not limited to – the following activities:

- Creating mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities;
- Improving institution building and advocacy skills within the organization;
- Providing financial literacy and business management skills, as well as networking opportunities for women business owners;
- Raising awareness of micro finance and other options to access capital for women entrepreneurs;
- Addressing gender-based violence in a holistic way and addressing gender roles; and
- Promoting gender equality by increasing awareness of human rights.

OPAF's Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment encourages proposals that:

- Promote partnerships among two or more local organizations for a common goal;
- Include young women as project implementers and/or target beneficiaries; and
- Demonstrate innovative ways to address women's issues.

OPAF encourages CSOs to design their project in creative ways based on careful needs analyses and CSOs' experience, successes, and failures. Proposed projects should include innovative, targeted and localized approaches, especially those that mainstream gender or engage women, as well as encourage collaborative work among several CSOs in different regions or levels.

Funding Opportunity Title: Mini-Fund for Women's Empowerment
Deadline for Application: 15 April 2021
Length of Performance Period: 4-6 months
Amount of Funding: EUR 50,000
Funding Instrument Type: Local subsidy or finance agreement
Eligible Organizations: Non-governmental and non-profit organizations (including think tanks and civil society organizations) that are based and legally registered in Kabul, Afghanistan, are eligible to apply.
Geographical Coverage: Kabul

Selection Process

Project proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee based on the following criteria:

- **Technical Capacity:** The applicant organization demonstrates expertise and the ability to perform the proposed activities.
- **Relevance of Project:** The proposal is relevant to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposal, and the proposed project is relevant to particular needs and constraints of the target groups.
- **Quality and Feasibility of the Project Idea:** The proposal is well developed, innovative and offers creative solutions with all necessary details about how project activities will be carried out.
- **Personnel:** A sufficient number of staff, with relevant education and experience, are assigned to the project.
- **Project Budget:** The budget and narrative justification are completed and reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results.
- **Structural Capacity:** The applicant organization has a functional office.
- **Compliance with international integrity and anti-corruption standards:** The applicant describes briefly how it seeks to ensure compliance with international anti-corruption standards.

Application and Submission Information: The application should contain the following documents:

1. Completed project proposal template which is provided as an attachment to the Call for Proposal. Please be aware that only complete (and electronically submitted) proposal templates will be considered;
2. Completed checklist, which is provided as an attachment to the Call for Proposal;
3. Activity Plan;
4. Budget Plan; and
5. Registration Document/License.

Background information for applicants is also provided as an attachment to the Call for Proposal. Interested applicants should submit the completed application in English to WE-OPAF@giz.de. Please contact us if there are technical or other difficulties with submitting the application by e-mail. Incomplete or invalid applications, i.e., those that do not include all required application materials, do not respond to the Mini-Fund's objectives, or do not comply with the application guidelines, may not be reviewed.

Submission Deadline: Proposals should be submitted before 15 April 2021. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis.