



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Under

Livelihood Support to Resettled Communities And Affected Population

Funded By

AmRC – Community Organized Relief Effort

Issue Date:	November 09, 2023
Question/Inquiry Date:	November 15, 2023
Question Response Date:	November 17, 2023
Closing Date:	November 24, 2023
RFA Reference No:	RFA-UKR-002

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I. BACKGROUND

One and a half years after the commencement of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, approximately 5.1 million people are still internally displaced, while about 6.2 million are displaced abroad¹. According to the second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA2) released by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the United Nations one year later, the estimated cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine has risen to US \$411 billion (equivalent to €383 billion). The sectors with the highest estimated needs are transport (22 percent), housing (17 percent), energy (11 percent), social protection and livelihoods (10 percent), and agriculture (7 percent)². The consequences of the war, including the loss of lives, livelihoods, incomes, and assets, have forced 7.1 million people into poverty and undone 15 years of development progress. The war has exacerbated existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting women, children, and people with disabilities, leading to significant setbacks in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to poverty, health, education, economic growth, energy, peace, and justice.

The livelihood sector in Ukraine remains underfunded. The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023³ estimates that 11.1 million people require assistance in livelihoods and food security, including 54% women, 17% children, 15% persons with disabilities, and 25% elderly individuals. Out of these, 3 million people are expected to benefit from livelihood assistance: 75% will receive agricultural support (60% in the form of crop and livestock production, and 15% through agricultural infrastructure and supply chain support), while 25% will receive non-agricultural livelihood support, such as small grants, equipment, training, and job opportunities.

CORE's team collaborates with international and local partners to address the needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as well as the local government and the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSL Cluster) to ensure comprehensive coverage of needs and avoid duplication of efforts. CORE's commitment is to provide ongoing humanitarian and resilience support to the most vulnerable IDPs, and local populations affected by the war.

CORE invites qualified local non-governmental organizations to submit applications to implement activities within its designated operational areas. Proposed activities should aim to enhance livelihoods and build resilience among the most vulnerable women, men, girls, and boys, including IDPs, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this RFA is to:

- a. Identify potential implementing partners in **Lvivska, Ivano-Frankivska, Zakarpatska oblasts** required to meet the needs of livelihood support for resettled communities and affected population

¹ [Ukraine Refugee Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News | USA for UNHCR \(unrefugees.org\)](https://www.unrefugees.org/ukraine-refugee-crisis-aid-statistics-and-news/)

² [Ukraine: Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment | United Nations in Ukraine](https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/press/2023/02/ukraine-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment-2023.html)

³ [Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](https://ochaopt.org/humanitarian-response-plan-2023/)

- b. Ensure quality and accountability: By outlining the criteria and standards for the project or program, the RFA will help ensure that implementing partners meet the **required standards by FSL Cluster** recommendations in procurement of food/NFI and are accountable for their work.
- c. Enhance transparency and competition: CORE aims to promote transparency in the procurement process, which requires potential partners to possess clear guidelines to follow, by establishing a fair and competitive selection process.
- d. Align with strategic priorities of CORE aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to war-affected **vulnerable populations in Lvivska, Ivano-Frankivska, Zakarpatska oblasts**. The vulnerable populations will be identified by an implementing partner(s) in collaboration with CORE/local government/FSL Cluster after potential implementing partners in **Lvivska, Ivano-Frankivska, Zakarpatska oblasts** are selected.
- e. Maximize efficiency and effectiveness: By selecting the most suitable implementing partners through a competitive process, organizations can ensure that resources are allocated in the most efficient and effective way possible, and that the services or goods provided are appropriate to the specific needs of the crisis-affected population.

Anticipated period of performance: 2-3 months

III. BASIC AWARD INFORMATION

a. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Organizations that are legally registered in Ukraine and serve in locations where the project is implementing its activities;
- Organizations that have previous experience in the implementation of humanitarian aid projects (livelihood support, etc.) supported by international donors/organizations - at least 6 months;
- Organizations that have detailed procurement guidelines/standard operating procedures outlining the Organization's Procurement policies.

Ineligible organizations/individuals and/or activities

- Organizations working in non-government-controlled territories, occupied territories;
- Activities suggested to be implemented in non-government controlled territories, occupied territories;
- Organizations affiliated to political parties and/or founded by politicians.

b. AWARD SIZE AND TYPE

- Total funding available: **\$100,000**

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications for a budget range of up to \$50 000 for support of livelihood activities including **Community-Based Livelihood Spaces for War-affected Population, supporting Employment Opportunities**, community-Based Eco-Initiatives and

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Agricultural Projects, other local community integration activities for IDPs and the affected population at the discretion of the applicant (according to FSL Cluster recommendations)

- Illustrative activities (**not limited to**):
 - i. **Community-Based Livelihood Spaces for war-affected population:** Proposals are invited for the establishment and operation of public community-based spaces dedicated to enhancing the livelihoods of IDPs. It can include small/light repair activities, the procurement of essential furniture and appliances, and other related initiatives.
 - ii. **Supporting Employment Opportunities:** Activities focusing on supporting employment opportunities. These may include initiatives aimed at bolstering relocated businesses, vocational training programs, the development of specific skills tailored to local market needs, etc.
 - iii. **Community-Based Eco-Initiatives and Agricultural Projects:** Activities that promote sustainable eco-initiatives and agricultural projects within the community contributing to environmental conservation, increase agricultural productivity, and improve food security.
 - iv. **Other local community integration activities for IDPs and the affected population at the discretion of the applicant.**
- Anticipated number of grants: **2-3** (depending on the number of applications, suggested project activities and budgets)
- Note: Indirect costs may take up to 10% of the suggested budget. Indirect costs are costs not readily identified with a specific project or organizational activity but incurred for the joint benefit of all projects and other activities. Examples of indirect costs include office space rental, utilities, and administrative and managerial staff salaries.

c. EVALUATION CRITERIA

CORE will evaluate applications using the following evaluation criteria which will be reviewed by a technical evaluation committee.

Criteria	Description of Criteria	Weighting
Planning of activities and expected results	Project description and logical framework with clear targets and assumptions; description of the capacity of the staff and infrastructure; risk assessment to identify potential obstacles or challenges that may prevent the project from achieving its expected results; a monitoring and evaluation plan, etc.	35

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Cost effectiveness of proposed budget and approach to budgeting	Budget proposal should be well-structured and clearly outline the costs and expected benefits of the proposed activities; costs should be reasonable and aligned with the expected benefits, as well as the FSL Cluster recommendations.	45
Experience in implementation of humanitarian aid projects (livelihood support) supported by international donors/organizations	Organization should describe its practical experience in carrying out activities related to the provision of humanitarian aid (livelihood support) to those affected by the war in Ukraine. This experience should include direct involvement in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of humanitarian projects funded by international/local donors.	15
Recommendation/ Reference letters from previous/current donors (2)	Recommendation letters will be reviewed as a valuable asset in supporting organization's applications and highlighting experiences to potential funding.	5
Total		100

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Package of documents should be completed and submitted before deadline – **24 November 2023 (18:00 Kyiv time)** – to the e-mail: ukraine.office@coreresponse.org

Application package should be submitted in one e-mail indicating the following information in the title: *RFA UKR 002_Project name_Organization name*. The application package should include (in separate files in one e-mail):

- Full application form
- Detailed budget template containing breakdown of categories
- Recommendation/Reference letters – if available
- Organization's profile with experience in implementation of humanitarian aid projects (livelihood, etc.) supported by international donors/organizations – in form of presentation or any other convenient form
- Organization's procurement guidelines/standard operating procedures outlining the Organization's Procurement policies
- Other supporting documents if relevant

Additional questions can be submitted to the e-mail ukraine.office@coreresponse.org before **15 November 2023**. CORE will provide additional information on **17 November 2023**.

V. ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

CORE will administer grants in accordance with its Subaward/Grants Manual.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

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CORE Project application form
CORE Budget template

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Participation in this grant competition RFA-UKR-002 does not mean guaranteed receipt of funding from COMMUNITY ORGANIZED RELIEF EFFORT (CORE) but is only a necessary condition to acquaint CORE with proposals for the possible allocation of funding for the implementation of programs, projects, activities, etc. CORE, at its discretion and under its procedures, may decide on the allocation of funding, allocation of partial (reduced) funding, refusal to allocate funding for the implementation of programs, projects, activities, etc., submitted for this grant competition. CORE is not obliged to inform about the reasons, circumstances, results, and evaluation criteria as a result of which a decision was made to allocate funding, allocate partial (reduced) funding, refuse to give funding for the implementation of programs, projects, activities, etc., submitted for this grant competition. By participating in this grant competition, we confirm that we are aware of and accept the above conditions and guarantee the absence now and in the future of any claims, requests, complaints, lawsuits, etc., to CORE, regarding the procedures/conditions for decision-making in related to the allocation of funding, the allocation of partial (reduced) funding, the refusal to allocate funding for the implementation of programs, projects, activities, etc., submitted for this grant competition.

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