

## Call for Expression of Interest

The purpose of this General Call for Expression of Interest is to identify eligible Civil Society Organisations for prospective partnerships supporting the delivery of the [Government of the Republic of Moldova - UNICEF Country Program of Cooperation 2023-2027](#). Eligible Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are invited to submit proposals for partnership highlighting their relevant capacities, expertise, skills and ability to support the delivery of sought specific results for children as outlined in section 1.3 below.

Organisations that wish to participate in this Open Call for Expression of Interest are requested to send their submission (**Completed attachments I and II (ALL sections)**) by email with the Subject clearly marked “**CSO Open Call for Expression of Interest – UNICEF Moldova CPD 2023-2027**” at the following email address:

[chisinau@unicef.org](mailto:chisinau@unicef.org)

**OR** delivered in a sealed envelope clearly marked “CSO Open Call for Expression of Interest – UNICEF CPD 2023 – 2027” at the following address:

UNICEF Moldova  
131, “31 August 1989” Str.,  
Chisinau, MD 2012, Republic of Moldova

not later than **the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2023**.

Applications must be submitted in English.

Any requests for additional information should be addressed in writing before **28rd December 2022** at the same e-mail: [chisinau@unicef.org](mailto:chisinau@unicef.org). UNICEF responses to any queries or clarification requests will be made available to all online [www.unicef.md](http://www.unicef.md) on or before **5<sup>th</sup> of January 2022**.

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation committee to identify CSOs that have the mandate, capacities and comparative advantage to support the achievement of results for children using criteria outlined in section 3 below. It should be noted that participation in this Open Call for Expression of Interest does not guarantee the CSO will be ultimately selected for a partnership with UNICEF. Successful applications will be eligible for partnering with UNICEF throughout the next Country Programme period (2023-2027) depending on the needs of the programme and available resources. Accordingly, selected NGOs will be invited to review and finalise partnership agreements in accordance with criteria outlined in section 3.4 below and [applicable policy and procedures on partnership with CSOs](#).

Organizations with experience and expertise in working with one or more of the following vulnerable groups are especially encouraged to apply:

- Roma
- Women
- Persons/Children with Disabilities
- Minorities (ethnic, religious, etc.)
- Refugees and migrants
- Adolescents/Youth

Applicant CSOs will be informed of the outcome of their submissions by communication sent out to the email/postal address that is indicated in the CSO submission.

## Section 1: Background

1.1 UNICEF mandate	<p>UNICEF is the agency of the United Nations, mandated to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.</p> <p>In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF works within the framework of the Government of the Republic of Moldova-UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2018-2022, aimed at ensuring that by 2022 all children in Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, enjoy their right to education, health, an adequate standard of living, and participation within a child-friendly legal environment, and are protected from abandonment, neglect, discrimination, exploitation and violence.</p> <p>The new <a href="#">Republic of Moldova/UNICEF Country Programme for 2023-2027</a> supports the achievement of the priorities established by national strategies, policies and programmes related to the realization of child rights and especially related also to the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16) and targets, and it complements the <a href="#">Republic of Moldova–United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027</a> that continues with a delivering-as-one approach, and to <a href="#">UNICEF’s Strategic Plan for 2022-2025</a>.</p>
1.2 UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2023 - 2027	<p>The Country Programme 2023 – 2027 divides the results to be achieved across three programme outcomes, with ten (10) corresponding outputs. These can be found in the results and resources framework Annex available at the following link: <a href="#">Annex I of the Country Programme of Cooperation 2023-27</a>.</p> <p>The results framework is closely aligned to the 5 Goal Areas defined in UNICEF’S Strategic Plan, namely:</p> <p><b>Goal Area 1:</b> Every child, including adolescents, survives and thrives with access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies</p> <p><b>Goal Area 2:</b> Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future</p> <p><b>Goal Area 3:</b> Every child, including adolescents is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices</p> <p><b>Goal Area 4:</b> Every child, including adolescents has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment</p> <p><b>Goal Area 5:</b> Every child, including adolescents has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty</p> <p>To achieve the planned results in each of these goal areas UNICEF adopts a variety of strategies, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming,</li><li>✓ programming for gender equality in a transformative way,</li><li>✓ partnerships and engagement with public, private and civil society stakeholders, including women and youth associations</li><li>✓ evidence driven advocacy and communication,</li><li>✓ system strengthening to leave no one behind,</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ community engagement and social behavioral change</li> <li>✓ child rights monitoring, data, research, evaluation and knowledge management</li> <li>✓ Innovation focusing on creating new and improve solutions addressing the most pressing problems facing children</li> </ul>
<p>1.3 Specific Results and required experience and expertise for interested partners</p>	<p>Interested national and international Civil Society Organizations with active programmes in the Republic of Moldova are invited to submit their applications for partnership with UNICEF in achieving the specific objectives under the five goal areas as elaborated in the Country Programme. CSOs can apply for one or more Goal Areas, and are requested to demonstrate their expertise and experience in the specific objectives under each goal area. There are no limitations as to the number of areas that a CSO can apply for.</p> <p><b>Goal Area 1:</b> Every child, including adolescent survives and thrives with access to nutritious diets, quality health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies</p> <p>Applicants should demonstrate experience in delivering programs focused on at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of health-care policies and standards that prioritize good-quality service delivery to pregnant women, mothers and young children in vulnerable situations, particularly those who are: a) in remote rural areas; b) from Roma communities; c) impoverished; d) uninsured; e) with developmental risks and disabilities; f) refugees and asylum-seekers.</li> <li>- Building competencies and capacity in expansion of universal- progressive home-visiting by primary health-care workers, strengthening of parenting skills, improving of prove It is also expected to contribute to continuing care for young children, from a woman’s pregnancy throughout the following first three years of a child’s life. Capacity building of family doctors and nurses to communicate effectively with caregivers about child growth and development, including on: a) addressing misconceptions about immunization; b) encouraging breastfeeding; c) preventing risks of childhood illnesses or injuries; d) early detection of developmental delays.</li> <li>- Enhancing early identification services to reach more families of children with developmental risks or disabilities with professional counselling, gender-responsive health-care interventions and support.</li> <li>- Strengthening Youth Friendly Health Services, especially reaching those most at risk and vulnerable adolescents by encouraging the participation of adolescent girls, including those who are mothers. Capacity building on addressing challenge of young people’s psycho-emotional well-being with a customized, age-appropriate response in line with the country’s commitment to strengthening its mental health agenda, GBV, HIV/STI prevention and nutritional issues.</li> <li>- Development and implementing of social behaviour change (SBC) initiatives to promote vaccination, health nutrition gender responsive practices and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)</li> <li>- Strengthening continuity of health-care services during crises or emergencies informed by lessons learned from dealing with COVID-19 and Ukraine refugee crises.</li> <li>- Strengthen availability and use of data and information to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one , to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of child health, nutrition, immunization etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Goal Area 2:</b> Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future</p>

Applicants should demonstrate experience in delivering programs focused on at least one of the following:

- Developing quality programmes and improving access to quality education programmes for all children, including refugees, through provision of teaching resources, implementation of child-centered methodologies, development and alignment of curricula to the demands of the labour market, inclusive education, access to safe WASH services including to effective and dignified Menstrual health and Hygiene Management, improving teachers' skills and competencies, participation of boys and girls in education, with a special focus on the most vulnerable, Roma children and CWDs and the promotion of girl secondary education and skills
- Strengthening the quality of education sector through digital transformation of the education sector involving improvement of internet connectivity and implementation of digital pedagogy, development of digital educational standards, e-learning resources, curricula review, elaboration of digital didactic materials and provision of assistive technologies to the most vulnerable
- Strengthening the resilience of the education system to crises through improving the data governance ecosystem in education, development of gender sensitive learning materials and teaching/ learning strategies, generation and use of disaggregated education-related data in planning and monitoring, Public Finance Management (PFM), building resilience and social cohesion skills, prevention of violence, including GBV, bullying and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS)
- Mobilizing and engaging large networks of adolescents and promoting their participation in decision making in education and school life, local and national settings. Experience in supporting stakeholders, especially at the local level in advancing the implementation of national and local youth policies
- Working with national and local level stakeholders in advocating for and advancing adolescents and youth rights, including experience in working on and supporting the development and /or revision of policy and regulatory framework, build capacities on budgeting for adolescents' services and experience in implementing innovative models for youth participation in decision making
- Working with and building capacities of Youth Centres, business incubators to deliver comprehensive services to adolescent boys and girls as per national legislation, including building capacities of adolescents and youth for school to labour market transition, including provision of skill training, support entrepreneurship initiatives and alike.
- Strengthen availability and use of data and information to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one, to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of education.

**Goal Area 3:** Every child, including adolescents is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

Applicants should demonstrate experience in delivering programs focused on at least one of the following:

Prevention and response to violence against children (VAC):

- Undertake case management and or referral to appropriate child protection services (including for unaccompanied and separated children)

- Deliver Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (group and individual support through mobile and/or fixed spaces)
- Implement prevention activities of VAC including through child protection awareness, promotion of positive behavioral change, parenting education programme
- Promote family separation prevention activities – including through parenting education and access to appropriate services
- Strengthen foster care services and de-institutionalisation process
- Strengthen protection environment and specific services for children with disabilities
- Strengthen the capacity of the national and local protection system through trainings and technical support to services providers
- Strengthen availability and use of data and information to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one , to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of VAC, children with disability etc.

Prevention and response to Gender Based Violence for women, girls and boys:

- Delivery of comprehensive care and survivors center approach case management for GBV survivors including child survivors. Services need to prioritize medical care, MHPSS, legal services, safety options for survivors (as placement in shelters, set up of women and girls' safe spaces)
- Strengthen the capacity of national and local services (to ensure quality and a survivor centered approach. This includes trainings and technical support on GBV case management, including clinical medical of rape and caring for child survivors, increase support to women associations and networks etc
- Prevention GBV by addressing it underlining and conditions and drivers: engagement with men and boys as well as community decision leaders, support girls and women empowerment economically and socially
- Carry out GBV risk mitigation measures including safety audits, trainings on GBV guidelines and GBV pocket guide, distribution of hygiene and dignity kits;
- Strengthen availability and use of data and information to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one , to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of GBV.
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Justice for Children:

- Strengthen the system and tools for preventing and protecting children from online violence and sexual exploitation
- Develop integrated services for children victims and witnesses of crimes (Barnahus type Service)
- Increase children's access to more friendly, effective, gender-equitable justice and child protection systems in the Transnistrian region
- Strengthen the normative framework, tools, and services for Children under the minimum age of criminal responsibility (CUMACR), including prevention programmes
- Promote diversion measures, alternatives to detention, resocialization, and rehabilitation services for children in conflict with the Law;
- Strengthen availability and use of data and information to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one , to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of justice for children.

**Goal Area 4:** Every child, including adolescents has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment

*(N.B. UNICEF's approach aims to provide, sustain and improve WASH services quality, and minimise the risk of WASH-related diseases among the refugees and host communities, including Blue Dots, Refugees Accommodation Centers (RACs), camps, and Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and refugee transit points.. Additionally, deliver WASH services in other critical areas not being served by other humanitarian/development actors, including Schools and host communities.)*

Applicants should demonstrate experience in delivering programs focused on at least one of the following:

- **Assess the WASH needs** of the Refugees, host communities and schools
- Ensure the WASH services **are gender-responsive**, mitigate the GBV risk and address all gender needs, including elderly and disabled people, as well as meet national emergency and/or SPHERE standards, climate, energy, environment, and disaster risk reduction in its operations with a no-harm approach
- **Provision and sustained access to safe drinking water** to the refugee at the BCPs, RACs, Blue Dots, transit points, schools and host communities with no harm approach
- **Provision and sustained access to gender-segregated sanitation** facilities to the refugee at the BCPs, RACs, Blue Dots, transit points, schools and host communities with no harm approach
- **Provision of hygiene supplies and services** to the refugees, host communities and schools
- **Build the institutional capacity**, including teachers, pupils, and parents, on climate change adaptation, environment, efficient energy and disaster risk reduction and menstrual hygiene management
- **Strengthen availability and use of data and information** to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one, to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of climate change, environment, WASH etc.
- **Design and implementation of innovative projects** and initiatives to be scaled up at national level to ensure sustainable development and to address children's' vulnerability to climate change and other environmental degradation, including a lack of access to safe housing, WASH, healthcare, adequate nutrition and education

**Goal Area 5:** Every child, including adolescents has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

Applicants should demonstrate experience in delivering programs focused on at least one of the following:

- Undertakes budget analysis and provides technical assistance to Ministries of Finance, planning commissions and social sector ministries to improve equitable allocations for essential services for children; build capacity to undertake costing and cost effectiveness analysis on priority interventions to help inform policy decisions on child-focused investments.
- Builds capacity of partners for improved monitoring and tracking of public expenditure to support transparency, accountability and effective financial flows for essential service delivery, including through support to district level planning,

	<p>budgeting and public financial management as well as facilitating community participation in the budget process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen the integration of the social protection systems, by supporting the development of social protection policies, legislation and programmes to increase coverage of children, with a special attention to the most marginalized. Provide support to identify, generate and present evidence to further inform this process.</li> <li>- Cooperate with central and local authorities to improve policies, planning, budgeting, consultation and accountability processes so that decisions and child-focused service delivery more closely respond to the needs of local communities.</li> <li>- Strengthen capacity at the local level on quality data collection, analysis for policy development, planning, implementation, coordination, and monitoring of essential social services, with an emphasis on community and youth participation, as well as accountability.</li> <li>- Strengthen availability and use of data and information to monitor the situation of children, especially the most vulnerable one, to ensure commitment to overall Child Rights monitoring in the area of social policy, poverty etc.</li> </ul>
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Section 2: Application requirements and timelines		
2.1 Documentation required for the submission	<p>The expression of interest shall include the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of CSO registration in country of origin</li> <li>• Copy of CSO registration in Moldova</li> <li>• Attachment I - Partner declaration and due diligence profile in the new CSO Procedure signed by authorised official</li> </ul>	
2.1 Indicative timelines	Call for Expression of Interest issue date	19 December 2022
	Deadline for requests of additional information/ clarifications	28 December 2022
	Responses to the questions from applicants posted on UNICEF Moldova website	5 January 2022
	Deadline for submissions of CSO proposals	29 January 2023
	End period for review of CSO submissions	10 February 2023
	Notification of results communicated to CSO	13 February 2023

Section 3: Process and timelines	
3.1 Review & evaluation of CSO submissions	<p>Eligible CSOs are invited to submit applications for partnership with UNICEF by either online or via the post as per the instructions on the first page of this CEI. Interested applicants can submit questions linked to the CIE by December 28<sup>th</sup>. Responses to these questions will be provided by January 5<sup>th</sup> and posted on the UNICEF Country Office Website.</p> <p>After the closure of the CEI, CSO submissions are assessed by a UNICEF Partnership Review Committee in consultation with technical specialists, using criteria outlined in section 3.2 and 3.3 below.</p> <p>Only CSO submissions that comply with the requirements of the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be eligible for further evaluation.</p> <p>It should be emphasized that <b>participation in this Call for Expression of Interest does not guarantee that CSOs will be ultimately selected to sign a partnership agreement with UNICEF</b>. UNICEF reserves the right to invite selected partners to review and finalise proposals for partnerships in line with the criteria outlined in section</p>

	3.4 below and in accordance with applicable policy and procedures on the partnership with CSOs.	
3.2 Eligibility & exclusion criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility criteria: CSO must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be registered in the Republic of Moldova, or local branches of International NGOs;</li> <li>b) not be an entity named on any of the UN Security Council targeted <a href="https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list">sanction list</a> (<a href="https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list">https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list</a>).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusion criteria CSO submissions which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) are not sent by email <b>OR</b> to the UNICEF Moldova address in a sealed envelope before the specified deadline;</li> <li>b) do not include all required documents duly completed and signed or do not comply with specifications set in this Call for Expression of Interest;</li> <li>c) are not submitted in English;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>will be excluded</b> from the selection process.</p>	
3.3 General Selection criteria <b>See Attachment I, Sections 2 and 3 where this information should be provided)</b>	UNICEF Moldova Country Office will review the evidence provided by the CSO submission and assess applications based on the following general criteria:	
	Institutional capacity and sustainability <b>(See Attachment I; Section 2)</b> (50%)	Includes a review of the CSO:  Goal Area Specific (to be submitted for each Goal Area): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific expertise and experience in the sector/result area(s), demonstrated by past and ongoing programmes, technical staff and experts, partnerships and networks</li> <li>• Local experience, presence and community relations;</li> <li>• Evidence of implementing Innovative approaches to address social challenges affecting children;</li> </ul> General: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management ability, including financial management;</li> <li>• Capacity and experience in working in humanitarian/emergency contexts</li> <li>• Experience working with UN/UNICEF and other international development partners</li> <li>• Experience in working with government at central and local levels</li> </ul>
	Cross-cutting (20%).	Includes a review of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proven record of delivering programs for children, adolescents, and women including capacity building</li> <li>• Replicability/scalability of past and current programmes;</li> <li>• Access/security considerations, especially in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine emergency.</li> <li>• PSEA internal mechanisms and risks mitigation</li> <li>• Environmental considerations in programme design and implementation</li> </ul>

	<p>Quality of a sample technical proposal <b>(See Attachment II; Programme Proposal, section 1-3)</b> (30%)</p>	<p>Includes review of the proposed interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevance of the proposal to achieving expected results in one or more selected sectors/Goal Areas;</li> <li>• Clarity of activities and expected results;</li> <li>• Innovative approaches;</li> <li>• Sustainability of interventions</li> <li>• How the interventions take into account gender and equity considerations</li> <li>• Consideration of cross sectoral elements (<i>e.g. data and monitoring, communication and visibility, Social and Behaviour Change and Communication, environment/climate change, humanitarian-development-peace nexus, Accountability to Affected Populations etc.</i>)</li> <li>• Clarity, accuracy and viability of the workplan and budget</li> </ul>
<p>3.4 Prospective partnership agreement</p>	<p>All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their submissions by communication sent out to the email/postal address that is indicated in the CSO submission. Applicants whose proposals are assessed as having a specific comparative advantage to achieve results for children outlined in 1.3 above may be invited to jointly review and finalise a partnership agreement based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritisation of proposed intervention in line with the Country Programme of Cooperation 2023-2027</li> <li>• Availability of funding;</li> <li>• Complementarity of proposed action with ongoing interventions</li> </ul> <p>Partnership agreements (referred to as <i>Programme Cooperation Agreements</i>) are signed in accordance with the UNICEF Procedure on CSO partnerships. It is strongly advised that interested CSOs carefully review the <a href="#">partnership procedures</a> before engaging in partnership discussions with UNICEF.</p>	