



GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SOCIAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY

SECOND GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2013 – JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

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The following list of questions and answers is updated weekly and contains the questions received from CSOs (civil society organizations) interested in applying for GPSA grant funding. You may contact the GPSA Helpdesk if you have any question or send an email to [gpsa@worldbank.org](mailto:gpsa@worldbank.org)

- A. Application Requirements and E-Application Platform
- B. CSOs Eligibility and Partnership Arrangements
- C. GPSA Grant Funding Amounts
- D. Focus Areas of GPSA Grants
- E. Selection Criteria Questions

#### A. Application Requirements and E-Application Platform

- 1) Does the application platform offer the chance to edit your application, or is it a “one time enter + submit”?**

Yes, you will be able to save your application as a draft and to submit it only when you’re ready. Please visit [www.worldbank.org/gpsa](http://www.worldbank.org/gpsa) and click on the link to the Second Global Call for Proposals. From there, click on the link to the GPSA E-Platform, which contains all the information required to prepare your proposal.

**Please note: the E-Platform will be activated starting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. In the meantime, you may download the Application templates from the GPSA website and start working on your application.**

- 2) What are the administrative documents required for this project application?**

Please visit [www.worldbank.org/gpsa](http://www.worldbank.org/gpsa) and download the Application Guidelines. You can also find a list of the required documents by downloading Part 1 of the Application: Proposal Basic Information.

- 3) Would CSOs be disqualified for sending proposals only in the [name of country] language?**

All applications, without exception, must be submitted in English. We do not have the capacity to translate proposals from many different languages to English, as would be needed to allow the Roster of Experts to

review them. Organizations can work off-line in their local language and get their own proposals translated before uploading them into the competition platform.

## B. CSOs Eligibility and Partnership Arrangements

### **4) *My country is not listed among the 'opted-in' countries. Is my country eligible? Can I submit a proposal?***

No, only CSOs from opted-in countries are eligible to submit proposals for this Call. Several countries in all regions across the world are in the process of opting in. Those countries that have opted in by the time of the next Call for Proposals will be included at that time.

### **5) *Can more than one organization pair up in a joint proposal?***

Proposals should be submitted by ONE organization (the applicant CSO). The partnership/coalition scheme can be described in the proposal, but for operational reasons it is only the applicant which would be the recipient of GPSA grant funding and thus the one fiduciary responsible for the proposal's funds, should it be selected. The GPSA allows on-granting between the main applicant and partner/mentee CSO(s).

More information about partnership arrangements can be found in the Application Guidelines, in Parts 2 and 3 of the Application Form available at the GPSA website.

### **6) *In the case of a CSO legally established in one of the eligible countries could an international CSO participate as a partner (not being the main applicant)?***

Yes, international CSOs may partner with the applicant CSO, but it is the latter, legally established in one of the participating countries which submits the proposal as the executing organization, and which will be the recipient of GPSA grant funding should the proposal be selected.

More information about partnership arrangements can be found in the Application Guidelines, in Parts 2 and 3 of the Application Form available at the GPSA website.

### **7) *What entities and from what regions/countries can be the partners of the main applicant? What I understood is that they must be from the same countries that have opted in. Given the context of civil society in our country, it is doubtful that one local organization can partner only with other local organization for capacity building activities or mentoring activities. So, please clarify the eligibility of the partners.***

While the main applicant must be a legal entity in one of the GPSA participating countries, partner(s) may be from other regions/countries. Please refer to the guidance included in the Proposal Budget for more information about partnership schemes and other allowable budget categories (e.g. consultants).

### **8) *Would the GPSA allow a project in which the project management structure is composed of a consortium of international non-governmental organizations; or various stakeholders who have***

***decided that together the project would be more effective which in turn will work with grassroots organizations in the country. This set up would be led by one clearly identified and registered organization in the country which has opted-in. Would the GPSA allow/authorize a project based on such a project management structure?***

The GPSA encourages applicants to partner with one or more partner or mentee CSOs; as such, the consortium arrangement would be acceptable. Only the main applicant CSO would be the potential recipient of grant funding. The GPSA allows on-granting between the main applicant and partner/mentee CSO(s).

More information about partnership arrangements can be found in the Application Guidelines, in Parts 2 and 3 of the Application Form available at the GPSA website.

**9) *Can one organization be both an applicant and a partner in a different project?***

Yes.

**10) *Is there a limit of participating partners in a certain project?***

No.

**11) *The call for proposals states, 'CSO networks based and operating in'. Can an organization apply if the organization operates in one of the designated participating countries, but has legal status in the United States?***

Only CSOs with legal status in one of the participating countries can apply to the GPSA. In addition, the applicant CSO must comply with the following requirements related to management autonomy:

- (i)** Prepare the Proposal Budget on the basis of the organization's local budget only.
- (ii)** Confirm that the organization manages its budget with autonomy (financial autonomy). The use of GPSA funds is restricted to the activities included in the proposal budget, should the proposal be selected.
- (iii)** The organization has a local bank account in the GPSA "opted-in" country in which it has legal status, and is authorized to receive grant funding directly from the World Bank, should the proposal be selected.
- (iv)** The main applicant has a representative that is authorized to sign a grant agreement on its behalf with the World Bank, should the proposal be selected.

**12) *It does not seem to indicate in the guidelines that we need to be a 501(C) 3 organisation. Can you confirm if this is the case?***

Applicant CSOs do not need to be US-registered nonprofit organizations. They are required to be legal entities in any of GPSA's participating countries.

**13) *Are international NGOs which are registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau, that is, which have an approved FD1, eligible to apply for the GPSA?***

Only NGOs registered as legal entities in the opted-in countries are eligible to apply. Please note that the applicant would be the recipient of GPSA funding should the proposal be selected, and therefore, GPSA's counterpart for the purposes of the grant legal agreement, including fiduciary arrangements.

**14) We [an International NGO] are considering applying for the GPSA in a number of countries. My understanding is that this [International NGO] would be entitled to apply for the GPSA in more than one country. Can you confirm this?**

International NGO affiliates in the participating countries would be eligible to apply, insofar as they are legal entities in those countries. A multi-country proposal would be eligible as long as the main applicant is registered as a legal entity in any of those countries; in addition, the proposed activities must be aligned with the priority areas indicated in each one of the country call for proposals.

**15) Does the application, in the above instance (International NGO with national affiliates) come from the International NGO or from the national affiliate?**

The national affiliate. The applicant CSO must be a legal entity in any of GPSA's participating countries, as such organization is the one considered to be the recipient of GPSA grant funding, and thus subject to fulfilling fiduciary requirements should the proposal result selected.

In addition, the applicant CSO must comply with the following requirements related to management autonomy:

- (i) Prepare the Proposal Budget on the basis of the organization's local budget only.
- (ii) Confirm that the organization manages its budget with autonomy (financial autonomy). The use of GPSA funds is restricted to the activities included in the proposal budget, should the proposal be selected.
- (iii) The organization has a local bank account in the GPSA "opted-in" country in which it has legal status, and is authorized to receive grant funding directly from the World Bank, should the proposal be selected.
- (iv) The main applicant has a representative that is authorized to sign a grant agreement on its behalf with the World Bank, should the proposal be selected.

**16) Can a similar project be implemented simultaneously in two countries (for example Bangladesh and Moldova)? Can an organization submit more than one proposal for different countries?**

Yes, as long as each project is aligned with the priorities defined in each country call for proposals. A CSO may submit more than one proposal for different countries as long as it complies with the eligibility requirements set out by the GPSA. The applicant CSO must be a legal entity in any of the GPSA's participating countries.

**17) In the case of an international non-governmental organization which is operating in a country that has opted in but is currently in the process of being registered with the official authorities: (a) Would you allow this international non-governmental organization to respond to the call? And (b) Would it be possible for this international non-governmental organization to apply through another international organization which is being officially registered?**

The response is no, as the applicant organization must be a legal entity at the time of applying. (b) The recipient of GPSA funding must be the executing organization who will actually implement the project. Therefore, the INGO cannot apply through another organization, as it is the latter that is legally responsible before the GPSA and considered to be the executing organization.

**18) Are universities considered as professional organizations or research institutions?**

Universities are considered research or academic institutions as long as they qualify as non-governmental or not-for-profit organizations.

**19) As Joint Stock Company acting in the field of [name of field], can we submit an application for the GPSA grant?**

The call for proposals is open to civil society organizations (CSOs) only, which are legal entities in GPSA's participating countries. CSOs include legal entities that fall outside the public or for profit sector, such as non-government organizations, not-for-profit media organizations, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional organizations, labor unions, workers' organizations, associations of elected local representatives, foundations and policy development and research institutes.

**20) Regarding the 'proven track record in Social Accountability: how many years does this mean exactly?**

The organization should have at least 3 to 5 years of experience in this field. The Application Package includes a question in Part 1 about Track Record which refers to the projects or programs on social accountability implemented by the organization in the past 3 to 5 years; the applicant may also include up to 2 optional attachments in the e-application that provide evidence of the organization's track record on social accountability. In addition, Part 1 requires the applicant to include at least 3 contact persons that can provide references about the organization's institutional capacity and track record.

**21) Could you please indicate in which form an international CSO not being legally established in one of the priority countries, could apply for a GPSA grant for "off-cycle capacity building and knowledge grants"?**

The Second Call for Proposals is open to proposals that fall under the definition of GPSA's "Grants for Social Accountability Window" as defined in the Application Guidelines, and does not cover "off-cycle capacity-building and knowledge grants". CSOs from GPSA participating countries may include capacity-building activities in their proposals. All grant applications must include a Knowledge and Learning (K&L) component.

Please refer to the Application Guidelines.

## C. GPSA Grant Funding Amounts

**22) Could you please explain if there is a ceiling for the grant amount that can be requested to the GPSA in relation to the organization's budget?**

Indicative grant funding range is between US\$500,000 and US\$1,000,000. Requests below this range will also be considered. **Please refer to the Proposal Budget guidance for more information.**

In addition to the above indicative range, the requested amount broken down by year must be equal to or below the average annual budget of the last three years. The average amount requested by year will be taken as reference to check the proposal's compliance with this criterion.

The rationale of this funding cap is to encourage CSOs to broaden their funding base and to avoid situations where GPSA funding becomes the organization's main source of funding. For example:

- ✓ An organization with an average budget of \$100,000 may request up to \$100,000 per year or 50% of the projected average annual budget for the proposal's duration, adding to \$200,000 for the organization's total projected annual budget [= average total funding from other sources + GPSA funding] .
- ✓ An organization with an annual budget average of \$150,000 may request up to \$150,000 per year or 50% of the projected annual budget average, adding to \$300,000 for the organization's total projected annual budget.

For smaller CSOs lacking the fiduciary capacity to manage large grant amounts, GPSA also offers the possibility of putting forth a proposal under a "mentoring" arrangement. In this case, a smaller CSO (the "Mentee") would partner with a larger, well-established CSO (the "Mentor"), whereby the latter would be the main applicant and the recipient of GPSA funding. On-granting arrangements with the Mentee(s) CSO(s) in such a case are allowable and encouraged. However, the Mentor organization should be a registered legal entity in one of GPSA participating countries.

If your organization is a nascent organization with limited experience on social accountability, and has an idea or project that is aligned with the priority areas defined in one of the country calls for proposals, we suggest that you contact the World Bank Office in your country in order to seek assistance in looking for a Mentor-partner CSO that could be a good match with your organization. Alternatively, you could seek for partners outside your country that would complement in some way what your organization would like to implement. You should also check the list of GPSA Global Partners available at the GPSA website: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org) to look for a potential mentor.

**23) What percentage of the project is covered by the World Bank (what are the criteria)?**

The GPSA may cover 100% of the project cost. However, requested amounts' breakdown by year should not exceed 50% of the organization's projected annual budget for the project's duration. You should also check the guidance included in the Proposal Budget template which includes the criteria used to assess the proposal budget. See also answer provided to question above.

**24) Funding amounts: Does the funding range represent the total envelop for [name of country] or what one CSO can get?**

The funding range refers to available funding for CSOs' projects, not to the total envelope for each country.

**25) From your guidelines it is clear that the applying organization must be a legal entity based in one of the opted-in countries, but we could not find (financial) guidelines related to possible consortium partners from outside these countries or the percentage of the project budget that could be spent on non-opted-in country staff costs. Is it allowed to include NGO's or consultants from outside the opted-in countries in the project budget?**

Please refer to the Proposal Budget guidance for an explanation of the allowable budget categories, including for operating costs (staff, etc), consulting, training, goods and on-grants. Funding for international staff, other NGOs and consultants is allowable under the provisions included in the Proposal Budget guidance.

**26) Can we subcontract work? Should we readily indicate this in the proposal?**

Yes. Allowable expense categories include international and national-based consultants (individuals or firms). Please refer to the guidance included in the Proposal Budget template for more information.

**27) Will you be expecting us to do only this work in order for you to cover 50% of our organization budget? Can we actually hire more staff to manage this program?**

GPSA grant funding is intended to support an organization's specific project and not the overall organization's budget, although institutional strengthening activities (which would benefit the organization as a whole, may also be included, as long as they are duly justified and linked to the organization's capacity on social accountability. If your proposal requires hiring additional staff you may include this in the Proposal Budget.

**28) Will we be expected to report to Government what we are doing and account to them on financial expenditures?**

Recipients of GPSA funding will be responsible for reporting on grants' activity and financial progress to the World Bank only.

**29) Can a CSO hire government officials or pay public institutions for service provision?**

No. GPSA grants follow World Bank fiduciary guidelines; procurement guidelines do not allow grant funds benefitting civil society organizations to be used for the purposes of hiring public officials or public institutions.

## **D. Focus Areas of GPSA Grants**

**30) Would it be acceptable for one organization to present two independent proposals on two different areas? For example, one project proposal on the topic of Institutional Development and another smaller project proposal on the topic of Quality of Education.**

There is no limit to the number of proposals that individual CSOs may submit. However, please keep in mind that this is an international competitive call for proposals, and as such country proposals enter in a competition with proposals received from other countries as well.

**31) If a certain project idea is not in partnership with the Ministry of [name of sector Ministry], and not related to [name of sector prioritized in the country call for proposals], is it eligible? Could we cover other areas/sectors, such as social assistance, justice, human rights?**

The project should be aligned with at least one or more of the issues or sectors prioritized in the country call for proposals. Any other issues or sectors would be ineligible.

**32) Is it feasible to explore alternatives offered by the GPSA to work in a province of a country?**

CSOs from GPSA participating countries may propose to implement social accountability initiatives or programs at a national or sub-national level. Irrespective of the scope, activities must be aligned with the priorities defined in each participating country call for proposals. Please note that the GPSA supports efforts by CSOs to scale-up or replicate existing social accountability processes. If the proposal targets a specific sub-national area, you must explain why this area is targeted, and how the project would be replicated at a larger scale.

## E. Selection Criteria Questions

**33) How does GPSA define Social Accountability?**

Social accountability has received increasing attention across the development community in recent years. This includes a growing emphasis on beneficiary engagement in monitoring and assessing government performance—particularly in providing feedback on, and voicing demand for, improved service delivery—and thus contributing to greater development effectiveness. This kind of engagement—also referred to as social accountability—enables beneficiaries and civil society groups to engage with policymakers and service providers to bring about greater accountability and responsiveness to beneficiary needs. **Please visit the GPSA website and click on “Social Accountability” and on “Resources” to find out more about the GPSA’s approach to social accountability.**

**34) Would collaboration with policy-makers (ie. government) be an important consideration in the selection process?**

Yes. For the GPSA it is critical that the information generated through social accountability mechanisms be used by public institutions as a basis for improving specific public services, programs and management processes. You will see that there are very concrete questions about this in the application template. We want to support social accountability mechanisms that work with autonomy but not in isolation from what public sector institutions are already doing to address governance and development problems. We consider this to be critical to foster

change. Please note that public institutions can go beyond the Government or Executive branch. They may include Parliaments, Supreme Audit Institutions, Regulatory Agencies, Ombudsman, etc.

***35) Will the project assessment/evaluation be conducted on the experience of the leader or of all the participants?***

Proposals are assessed on the basis of several criteria and not just on the experience of the project's "leader" or of other participants. Please refer to the Application Guidelines for more information on the selection criteria. Part 2 of the Application also includes information about "partnerships" within the grant proposals.

***36) What is the maximum number of proposals that you will fund from each country?***

There is no country allocation. Proposals from the 33 participating countries will compete on the basis of their technical quality.

***37) Will Government have veto power on the proposals?***

No. They will have 10 days to make no-binding comments after proposals have undergone the technical review stage and a list of pre-selected proposals has been approved by the GPSA Steering Committee.

***38) Who will evaluate the proposals?***

The first screening will be carried out by World Bank Country Offices to check applications' alignment with country's priority areas and applicants' eligibility. Eligible applications will then undergo a technical review that will be carried out by a Global Roster of Experts. Please see the Application Guidelines for more information on the applications' review process.