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## Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)

### For the component on Social participation and empowerment of vulnerable displaced and local population in the South Caucasus

**Programme:** Economic and social participation of vulnerable displaced persons (DP) and local population in the South Caucasus - EPIC

**Duration of the component:** November 2018 up to July 2021

**Place:** Georgia

#### 1. Programme Background

The component is implemented by GIZ on behalf of German Federal Government, especially of the Ministry for Economic cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Special Initiative – Tackling the Root Causes of Displacement, Reintegrating Refugees (SI Displacement).

The programme “Economic and social participation of vulnerable displaced and local population in the South Caucasus - EPIC” has been implemented since December 2017 and has initially aimed at economic empowerment of the displaced and local populations by enhancing their employability and facilitating start-ups as well as business extension. The new component, focusing on the promotion of social participation of the target groups primarily in Azerbaijan and Georgia, will be added as of September 2018. Participation and empowerment of young people and women is one of the key cross-cutting issues of the component.

The programme serves the overall objective to improve economic and social participation of vulnerable displaced and local population in the South Caucasus. The objective is foreseen to be achieved through the following four components:

1. **Strengthening capacities of public actors to promote economic and social participation of vulnerable population, both displaced and local;**
2. **Increasing employability of target groups with a special focus on women and youth;**
3. **Improving business development opportunities to create income and employment potential**
4. **Empowering displaced and local communities to stimulate social cohesion and engagement**

#### 2. Target Group

In Georgia, the programme covers vulnerable IDPs and vulnerable members of the local population in (Zugdidi, Poti, Senaki and Tsalenjikha municipalities of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Tetrtskaro and Marneuli municipalities of Kvemo Kartli region and Tbilisi).

With regard to Component 4/Social participation activities, particularly young people as well as women are addressed. A special focus is placed on vulnerable groups, e.g. people with disabilities, single women and people with psychosocial needs, etc.:

In Georgia the number of registered IDPs is around 274,000. Most of them live in the outskirts of the capital Tbilisi (106.000 people) and the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region (87.000 people) in western Georgia. World Bank reports show that the IDPs are younger than the rest of society (16 to 24-year-olds constitute 20.3 %, the average value for the rest of the population is 16.7 %). The proportion of women in the IDP group is slightly higher (54%), however, they represent only 31% of the working IDPs. About 9% of the IDPs are physically and/or mentally impaired.

### 3. Context and Policy overview

As a result territorial conflicts in the 1990s and 2008 over 270 000 people have become displaced in Georgia leaving the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and resettling in other parts of Georgia. Through the government's durable housing program many IDPs have now improved their living conditions, however the scarcity of livelihood opportunities and social capital has not been adequately addressed. Despite recent economic growth, Georgia continues to face challenges to overcome poverty and social exclusion that affects a significant part of the population. Displaced persons are defined as a group at particular risk when it comes to their opportunities for economic and social development due to their uprooted status, inadequate housing and access to employment, assets and basic services. The governments and public actors lack resources and capacities to provide comprehensive support to tackle inequality and disengagement of these vulnerable groups.

According to the World Bank figures (2016), 45.3% of all IDP households live in poverty, having the proportion of long-term unemployed IDPs above average. The Strategy and Action Plan for IDPs 2017-2018 is increasingly focusing on improving the socio-economic situation. In June 2018, however dissolution of the designated ministry (MRA) and transfer of the IDP portfolio to the new ministry (retitled as the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs (MILHSA) creates the risk of inconsistent oversight of the IDP policy and components.

Women and youth unemployment is particularly high, reaching 36% and about a third of youth (aged 15-24) are not part of education, employment or training according to the ETF study<sup>1</sup>. The Georgian National Youth Policy Document of 2014 identifies the creation of youth participation opportunities in social, economic, cultural and political life as one of four main goals. Another relevant objective is political education, creation of a safe environment, safeguarding the rights of and providing support to disadvantaged people. Young IDPs (14-29 years) are explicitly identified in the document as such a group of people. In addition, Georgia has adopted two National Action Plans (2018-2020) to combat violence against women and implement the UN Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. In addition, the former Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia (MRA) had a Gender Equality Strategy and an Action Plan, however validity of these documents remain pending.

There is a lack of leisure opportunities and shared spaces for young people and women. Generally the IDPs, especially the abovementioned groups, lack the incentives for self-initiative and self-organization and opportunities for participation both within the IDP communities and at local and national level. The core problem therefore is that vulnerable displaced and vulnerable population in Georgia do not sufficiently participate in economic and social development.

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<sup>1</sup> The European Training Foundation report on Labour Markets and Employability, 2011

#### 4. Objective and results of the Component

The social component (4) aims to stimulate social cohesion and civic engagement of vulnerable displaced and local communities, especially young people and women, and their representative organizations, to promote local initiatives, representation and responsiveness to local needs and capacitation to promote change in the context they live in.

It translates into the **outcome** whereby 70 participants in project activities, of which 50% are women, confirm using examples that their individual and/or structural opportunities for participation in their communities have increased.

The outcome sets out 2 **output** indicators:

- 1: 8 community-based initiatives or micro-projects having a social impact are being implemented, whereof 4 reach out to young people
- 2: A local NGO platform has presented its recommendations for improved social participation of vulnerable internally displaced persons and vulnerable members of the local population to public actors.

#### 5. Scope of Activities of the Component

The component builds on competencies and aspirations of IDPs and locals, which should be strengthened in a targeted manner in order to promote their self-initiative as well as community based components. In addition, self-organization of IDPs at the level of communities is to be promoted. In Georgia, competencies of local NGOs and NGO platforms also need to be strengthened to enable them to actively bring their own concerns to public discourse.

Relevant activities may include:

- youth empowerment components, which, apart from the development of personal empowerment, comprise also the implementation of their own initiatives for the common good
- micro-projects with a social impact through community-based initiatives to introduce changes in their communities and, at the same time, promote social cohesion as well as empowerment of participants
- capacity development of local NGOs and NGO networks to advocate for improved rights and opportunities of vulnerable displaced and local populations at local and national levels

That should correspond to the thematic priorities:

- tailored approaches to reach vulnerable population
- empowerment of women and girls
- strong focus on participatory, issue-based and demand-driven approaches
- increase of self-esteem and resilience
- fostering social dialogue, social cohesion and community spirit
- stimulation of personal/voluntary engagement in communities
- fostering partnerships and synergies between grassroots initiatives, CBOs and NGOs advocating for IDPs rights and interests
- innovation and replicability

## 6. Eligible applicants/application criteria

The call for EoI invites international and local non-governmental or civil society organizations (CSOs) registered and operating in Georgia. The organizations must have a public-benefit status / non-profit status in Georgia and must be commercially and legally eligible according to GIZ rules and regulations (see eligibility check-list in the annex).

Preference will be given to a consortium of national and/or international NGOs (of which at least one organization is a local or national NGO) and whereby the grant receiver/lead organization will sub-grant the other organization(s) within the consortium.

The grant will be awarded to only one application/consortium consequent to the review of submitted expressions of interest and the assessment of pre-selected proposals.

## 7. Funding details

The overall indicative amount under this call for Expression of Interest is EUR 300 000.

## 8. Application process

The application process will cover the following two steps:

1. Expression of interest (Call for EoI)
2. Proposal (call for proposals)

Issue Call for EoI	27 September, 2018
Information session*	5 October, 2018
Submission of Expressions of Interest	9 October, 2018
Review of EoI and invitation for call for proposals of pre-selected submissions	15 October, 2018
Submission of proposal	31 October, 2018
Singing of contract and launch of the component	15 November, 2018

\*The information session will be organized on 5 October 2018 for all interested organizations. The organizations may e-mail their questions until 2 October 2018. Answers to the questions will be provided at the information session.

Please, send your questions and confirmation on the participation in the session by 2 October 2018 to [magda.gurgenidze@giz.de](mailto:magda.gurgenidze@giz.de)

The EiO should cover the following information by chapters:

- Information about an applicant organization/organizations (presence in the region, programs and priorities, beneficiaries, donors and funding)
- Overview of the proposed measures (objective, results and activities)
- Implementation strategy/methodology
- Budget (annex)

The size of the EoI with the standard font Arial/11 should not exceed 3 pages.

The selection of IoE and subsequent the proposals will be examined and evaluated by GIZ, MOLSHA<sup>2</sup>, Livelihood Agency and KfW according to the mentioned eligibility criteria (provided with the IoE) and assessment grid (provided with the call for proposals).

The EoI must be submitted in electronic format to Maia Chkhenkeli, Programme Expert at: [maia.chkhenkeli@giz.de](mailto:maia.chkhenkeli@giz.de) **and at the same time in copy to** Magda Gurgendidze, Programme Assistant, [magda.gurgendidze@giz.de](mailto:magda.gurgendidze@giz.de) by 9 October 2018.

For any questions or clarifications please, contact Maia Chkhenkeli at: [maia.chkhenkeli@giz.de](mailto:maia.chkhenkeli@giz.de)

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<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs