

Call for Expression of Interest

Targeted Multi-purpose Cash Assistance for Vulnerable Refugees and Asylum-Seekers to access urgent essential needs

HCR/MYS/2021/005

1 Timeline

Posted	Sep 9, 2021
Clarification Request Deadline	Oct 6, 2021
Application Deadline	Oct 7, 2021
Notification of Results	Oct 29, 2021
Start Date	Jan 1, 2022
End Date	Dec 31, 2022

2 Locations

- A Malaysia
 - a Penang
 - b Kuala Lumpur
 - c Selangor
 - d Johor

3 Sector(s) and area(s) of specialization

- A Livelihoods
 - a Cash and voucher assistance

4 Issuing Agency

UNHCR

5 Project Background

Project Statement Access to basic needs facilitated for vulnerable persons of concern through the socioeconomic and vulnerability assessment and subsequent delivery of multi-purpose cash assistance to eligible households. Operational Context and Problem Statement There are 179,455 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Malaysia. Of this, 154,863 are from Myanmar, with ethnic Rohingya accounting for 57% of total population. The remaining 24,592 individuals come from other countries such as Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan and Somalia. 69% of refugees and asylum-seekers are men, 31% are women and 25% are children and youth below the age of 18. Malaysia is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its related 1967 Protocol, and the country does not have in place legal or administrative frameworks for the management of the refugee and asylum-seeker population. In lieu of a national

asylum procedure, the UNHCR Representation in Malaysia conducts under its mandate the registration and refugee status determination of refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia, in addition to working with partners and other stakeholders to ensure access to basic and essential services. The provision of support services is also aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), where UNHCR's protection and solutions strategy seeks to ease pressure on Malaysia as a refugee-hosting country while enhancing refugees' self-reliance and empowerment through community and cash-based initiatives. In concurrence with reinforcing the protection framework for refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia, UNHCR also strives to expand access to comprehensive and complementary solutions and prepare the foundations for voluntary return in safety and dignity. The lack of recognition and constrained protection space has resulted in the population experiencing key impediments in achieving self-reliance. Limited access to legal work, affordable healthcare and education combined with the lack of social protection mechanisms leave many persons of concern unable to withstand and recover from shocks and stressors that may impact socioeconomic stability. In such an environment, refugees and asylum-seekers are often forced to make difficult decisions when it comes to prioritizing basic needs such as shelter, food, and medical needs among others. With limited options to reach out for assistance, refugees may adopt negative coping strategies such as begging, minor marriage, child labour or survival sex. This would further exacerbate their vulnerability, particularly amongst those with existing heightened risks such as large or single-headed households, medical conditions or women and children at risk. UNHCR facilitates and implements cash-based interventions as a mean to provide assistance to vulnerable individuals while preserving their ability to make decisions regarding their priority needs. In Malaysia, and with the assistance of NGO partners, the cash assistance programme aims to provide short-term support to vulnerable persons of concern who are unable to meet their basic needs due to socioeconomic and heightened risk factors. Currently, support provided ranges from an average duration of one to three months.

6 **Expected Results**

Outcome: Wellbeing and Basic Needs Access to basic needs for most vulnerable asylum seekers and refugee households are facilitated through the provision of short-term multi-purpose cash grants. **Outputs and Main Activities:** - Assessments on socioeconomic and heightened risk vulnerability will be conducted to determine eligibility for multi-purpose cash grant assistance via house visit or phone call - Timely distribution of multi-purpose cash grant assistance to eligible individuals. Estimated from 500 to 2,580 vulnerable households could be provided with cash grants across Peninsular Malaysia. - Post-distribution monitoring and evaluation surveys will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the multi-purpose cash grant programme, and to inform future iteration or unaddressed needs. - Regular reporting of activities, including the provision of statistics, beneficiary trends and expenditure tracking **Intended Population of Concern:** The proposed project aims to target refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR living across Peninsular Malaysia. The beneficiary population is ethnically and geographically dispersed, composed of over 50 nationalities living in over 250 known locations in Peninsular Malaysia. Most of the persons of concern (POC) supported through the multi-purpose cash grant programme resided in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, followed by Penang, Kedah and Johor. A significant number of POCs from Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, and Pahang also benefitted from this programme with a smaller number of POCs from Kelantan, Terengganu, Perlis and Perak also provided with support. Target beneficiaries include households or individuals who are at heightened risk such as women and children at risk, or those facing eviction risks, serious medical conditions and other vulnerabilities that meet eligibility criteria. In their expression of interest, partners are to provide information on potential areas of coverage within Peninsular Malaysia that are within their scope of coverage. Information is encouraged to be provided at state level, or at district level where relevant. Partners are also invited to include additional information on their organization's specific expertise in the management of cash-related programmes and support of specific vulnerable groups. Partners are also encouraged to include information on measures that will be taken in order to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), which would include responding and reporting such incidents.

7 **Indicative Budget**

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8 **Other Information**

For this project, UNHCR Malaysia seeks the assistance of potential existing or new partners to support the implementation of the multi-purpose cash grant programme, in one or more states of Peninsular Malaysia as indicated above in project location, which involves the overall management of case referrals from UNHCR to ensure timely assessment and cash delivery for a particular geographical area within the partner's service coverage. This includes: -

Coordinating the receipt of referrals from UNHCR and conducting eligibility assessments within an agreed timeframe - Support the flagging and identification of vulnerable persons of concern who may require protection interventions, which may include inclusion in cash assistance assessments. - Facilitate disbursement of cash assistance to eligible persons of concern (either by cash-in hand, or through a frame agreement with financial service provider) in a timely manner. This includes ensuring that appropriate controls are in place and documented sufficiently, such as tracking and recording cash assistance disbursements. - Together with UNHCR, contribute to the development and review of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide cash assistance and ensure that assistance provided affords an adequate safety net for those in need. SOPs are revised if, when and as needed - Conduct post distribution monitoring and evaluation surveys on beneficiaries to assess utilization of cash assistance and effectiveness of the programme - Conduct regular monitoring and reporting on programme implementation, including timely provision of latest information on distribution statistics and qualitative insights based on ground experience - Ensure quality of service delivery through the establishment of complaints and feedback channels to ensure that feedback and responses from persons of concern and received, addressed and incorporated into programming. - Where required, provide support in community sensitization on information related to the multi-purpose cash grants programme, or other essential services and experience in accessing refugee communities - Participate in working groups/ stakeholder networks related to basic needs and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers - Ensure robust data protection measures of persons of concern are in place and practiced. Implementation of the multi-purpose cash grant will be implemented based on cash SOPs jointly agreed with UNHCR and supported and guided by UNHCR through capacity building initiatives as well as regular operational coordination meetings, communication and guidance

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	20
Project management	Project management: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable. Efforts are made to prevent the risk of sexual exploitation (PSEA) and effectively respond to PSEA incidents.	20
Local experience and presence	Local experience and presence: ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging refugees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	15
Contribution of resource	Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	10
Cost effectiveness	Cost effectiveness: level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.	15
Experience working with UN	Experience working with UNHCR: global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	20

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Principles of Partnership	Download the document here

UNHCR Project Agreement clauses	Download the document here
Annex D: Concept Note (To be filled in and submitted by interested Organisations)	Download the document here
Annex C: Call for Expression of Interest (UNHCR) Detailed description of	Download the document here

11 **Concept Note Template**

[Download the document here](#)

12 **For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit**

[UN Partner Portal](#)