



## RDPP III: Call for concept notes for new partnerships (2024/02)

Deadline: 12:00 noon on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2024

### **I. Introduction:**

With a humanitarian-development nexus approach to programming, the [European Regional Development and Protection Program \(RDPP\)](#) aims at supporting civil society, host governments, donors and other stakeholders in understanding and mitigating the impact of protracted forced displacement from Syria and the compounded crises in Jordan and Lebanon. Through partnerships with national and international actors, the RDPP seeks to enhance protection and support socio-economic development for refugees and local communities with a view to support opportunities for increased self-reliance and resilience of various groups of populations and a specific emphasis on women and youth. The RDPP phase III program strategy is set out in the [program document available here<sup>1</sup>](#). The overall objective of RDPP is *vulnerable refugees and local communities in Lebanon and Jordan access rights, and enjoy increased safety and enhanced self-reliance towards durable and sustainable solutions*, which it aims to achieve through partnerships working in **four specific objectives**, further described in the program document:

- 1. Livelihoods Support**
- 2. Gender Equality and Prevention of Child Labour**
- 3. Advocacy and Policy Dialogue**
- 4. Localisation**

### **II. Call for concept notes:**

In January 2023, RDPP III launched its first call for concept notes based on which 15 partnerships have been selected in Jordan, Lebanon or regionally contributing to one or more of the four programmatic objectives. Within this call, RDPP is inviting interested parties to submit concept notes under the following objectives:

- 1. Livelihoods Support** with a specific focus on localised responses and integrated market systems development programming for **Jordan** only
- 2. Gender Equality** with a specific focus on supporting national capacities in **Jordan** only
- 3. Prevention and Response to Child Labour** – concept notes will be accepted for **Lebanon** only

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<sup>1</sup><http://rdpp-me.org/RDPPfiles/files/Programme-Document.pdf>

As per RDPP's commitment to localisation expressed through the crosscutting objective 4, preference will be given to applications with a clear and strong involvement from national and sub-national actors.

Further details regarding the RDPP objectives, theory of change and results framework can be found in the RDPP III Program Document (see especially pages 20-25 and 31-38 and Annex 3 Results Framework). Successful concept notes will outline how the project will address relevant needs and contribute to the pathways to change, rather than focus on outputs.

Specifically for **Livelihoods Support**, selected partnership(s) will have demonstrated thorough understanding of the small business and employability realities in **Jordan** in particular where markets fail to provide adequate opportunities for marginalised and chronically poor population groups. Quality concept notes will be rooted in sound analysis and diagnostics as well as recognition of markets as complex, integrated and interdependent supply-demand systems prone to internal and external influences, and comprised of formal and informal rules, relationships and constraints. The understanding of the root causes of the dysfunctions and distortions of the market systems will transform in inclusive market level approaches (integrated market system development, making markets work for the poor etc.) with specific focus on refugee and women economic participation. It is expected that all RDPP partnerships have also pronounced advocacy and policy dialogue ambition and applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed solutions build on, develop and/or innovate existing approaches and how they contribute to lasting systemic change. Projects that include environmental sustainability elements will be prioritised.

*Number of expected partnership contracts for this component: 1, maximum 2*

*Available maximum budget for the component: Euro 3.1 millions*

*RDPP results framework indicators, which the proposed project should consider (but not be limited to only addressing these):*

Specific Objective 1	<b>1. Vulnerable refugees and local communities are more self-reliant and resilient</b>
Indicators	<b>1.1</b> % of target beneficiaries reporting improved economic self-reliance
	<b>1.2</b> % of target beneficiaries reporting improved resilience against future shocks
	<b>1.3</b> % of implemented initiatives resulting in normative change addressing operational environment for private sector and its ability to create new and decent work opportunities
Intermediate Objective	Private sector supported to create additional decent job opportunities
Outcome indicators	<b>1.1.1</b> # of decent jobs created (NL 1.3.2.a)
AND/OR	
Intermediate Objective	Most vulnerable households are able to generate alternative or complementary income
Outcome indicators	<b>1.3.1</b> # of individuals supported reporting 10% additional income 3 months after end of support
Output 1.1.2	Engagement with market- and private sector actors and national and/or sub-national entities to promote change within the private sector operational modalities and environment
Output Indicator 1.1.2	<b>1.1.2.1</b> # of systemic or normative initiatives facilitating creation of decent and sustainable work opportunities
	<b>1.1.2.2</b> # of national and/or sub-national entities engaged with in order to improve private sector operational environment
	<b>1.1.2.3</b> # of IMSD/M4P initiatives implemented

Specifically for **Gender Equality**, selected partnership(s) will have demonstrated thorough understanding of key challenges related to female social and economic empowerment in **Jordan** and proposed specific actions to address some of the root causes of continued inequalities through a mix of direct engagements with men, women, boys and girls, and, equally importantly, with national and sub-national institutions mandated to safeguard equal access for women to social and economic rights. Preference will be given to innovative, outcome- and impact-driven approaches to addressing specific elements of gender inequalities and/or GBV that focus on support to and close collaboration with such national and sub-national institutions in line with existing regional and national strategies and priorities such as the National Strategy for Women in Jordan and its Action Plan, Women’s Economic Empowerment Plan under the Economic Modernisation Vision, Jordan’s National Action to Activate SC Resolution 1325, Jordan 2025 Vision, the Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights, the Arab Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Combat All Forms of Violence in Asylum Context and others. It is expected that all RDPP partnerships have also pronounced advocacy and policy dialogue ambition and applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed solutions build on, develop and/or innovate existing approaches and how they contribute to lasting systemic change.

*Number of expected partnership contracts for this component: 1, maximum 2*

*Available budget for the component: Euro 1.7 millions*

*RDPP results framework indicators, which the proposed project should consider (but not be limited to only addressing these):*

Specific Objective 2	Women and children at risk of exploitation and abuse are enabled to increasingly enjoy their rights, safety and quality services
	<i>2.1 % of women and girls reporting improved sense of safety and well-being and agency</i>
	<i>2.4 # of legislative/ administrative/ normative measures adopted and implemented by duty bearers aimed to address gender inequalities or child labour</i>
Intermediate Objective	Women and girls benefit from improved protective and enabling environment
Outcome indicators	<i>2.1.1 % of targeted community members with changed perception or practices toward gender equality and masculinity concepts</i>
	<i>2.1.2 % of women and girls reporting improved agency and control of their lives and financial resources</i>
	<i>2.1.3 % of gender equality beneficiaries who have benefited from livelihood support</i>
Output 2.1.1	Supporting women and girls in equitable access to social and economic rights
Output indicator 2.1.1	<i>2.1.1.1 # of initiatives focusing on improved gender equality and enhanced agency</i>
	<i>2.1.1.2 # of women supported to increase their socio-economic agency and independence</i>
Output 2.1.2	Implementation of initiatives addressing prevalent social norms and stereotypes around gender roles and GBV
Output indicator 2.1.2	<i>2.1.2.1 # of initiatives implemented</i>
	<i>2.1.2.2 # of governmental and non-governmental actors engaged in the initiatives</i>

Specifically for **Prevention and Response to Child Labour**, selected partnerships will have demonstrated thorough understanding of root causes of child labour in **Lebanon** and identified comprehensive approaches at an individual, household and community level to ensure sustainable removal of children from work. Such approaches will have to combine humanitarian and developmental interventions, where RDPP measures success of child labour projects not by number of services provided, but by the sustainability of outcomes and increased self-reliance and resilience of supported children and their households. RDPP supported child labour partnerships will include emphasis on removal and prevention of children from work, as well as it could include improved working conditions for children of working legal age (16-18 in Lebanon) in line with international norms and existing national legislation, with the emphasis on targeting children below legal working age. Engagements with national and sub-national institutions are expected as part of the strategy as are innovative solutions that may serve as pilot case studies to inform broader national and international engagements and dialogue to address the worst forms of child labour. It is expected that all RDPP partnerships have pronounced advocacy and policy dialogue ambition and applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed solutions build on, develop and/or innovate existing approaches and how they contribute to lasting systemic change.

*Number of expected partnership contracts for this component: 1, maximum 2*

*Available budget for the component: Euro 3.3 millions*

*RDPP results framework indicators, which the proposed project should consider (but not be limited to only addressing these):*

Specific Objective 2	Women and children at risk of exploitation and abuse are enabled to increasingly enjoy their rights, safety and quality services
	<i>2.2 % of children disengaged from child labour 6 months after end of support</i>
	<i>2.3 % of identified children as being at risk of child labour who remain out of child labour 6 months after the end of support</i>
	<i>2.4 # of legislative/ administrative/ normative measures adopted and implemented by duty bearers aimed to address gender inequalities or child labour</i>
Intermediate Objective	Children are sustainably protected from child labour through holistic and long-term intervention strategies.
Outcome indicator	<i>2.2.1 % of supported working children above legal working age reporting improved working conditions in line with existing normative frameworks</i>
	<i>2.2.2 # of children prevented from child labour</i>
	<i>2.2.3 # of children removed from child labour</i>
	<i>2.2.4 % of CL beneficiaries who have benefited from livelihood support</i>
	<i>2.2.5 % of supported entities reports ability to implement holistic child labour sustainable plans as a result of the capacity building initiatives.</i>
Output 2.2.1	Implementation of household level intervention strategies removing children from child labour
Output Indicator 2.2.1	<i>2.2.1.1 # of assisted households with identified child labour cases</i>
	<i>2.2.1.2 # of finalized household-level interventions</i>
	<i>2.2.1.3 % of assisted households who have benefited from livelihoods support facilitated by RDPP partners</i>
	<i>2.2.1.4 # of working children above legal working age assisted to improve their working conditions</i>
Output 2.2.2	Supporting national and sub-national entities to address child labour
Output indicators 2.2.2	<i>2.2.2.1 # of operational partnerships with local and/ or national institutions established</i>
	<i>2.2.2.2 # of CL specific capacity building initiatives implemented by RDPP partners</i>

To formulate a successful concept note it is essential to read the full descriptions of the program objectives in the **Program Document (sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 in particular) and Results Framework (Annex 3)** and demonstrate how the concept note contributes to the overall RDPP III objectives and change pathways, as well as how it relates to specific RDPP outcome and output level indicators. It is not expected that each proposed project will address all indicators included in the RDPP Results Framework. Still, each project needs to present logical, ambitious and achievable change pathways from input/activities through outcomes to impact with clear references to selected RDPP indicators. The targets included in the RDPP results framework are indicative of the whole program and are to be reviewed based on selected partnerships. Each applicant is to submit their own target estimates based on their capacities, expected realistic outcomes and budgets.

Each project needs to clearly define the specific need(s)/issue(s) it plans to address and specific pathways of change that will lead to addressing the need(s)/issue(s) with direct references to the RDPP overall theory of change and results framework.

The evaluation of the submitted concept notes will consider how the project aligns and contributes to RDPP's objectives and intended results; how the project relates to the specific focus for the thematic area/s; and how the project reflects and integrates one or more of the strategic considerations. Annex 2 of the Program Document contains the scoring sheet, which will be used for the scoring of concept notes. It further contains an outline of the selection process, including an outline of the co-creation process, which selected partners will be invited to engage in.

#### **i. Geographical coverage:**

Within this call, Livelihoods concept notes and Gender Equality concept notes will be accepted only for Jordan, and Prevention of Child Labour concept notes only for Lebanon.

#### **ii. Targeting:**

Concept notes should respond to the needs of Syrian refugees and local communities and may include refugees from other countries than Syria, where relevant and within the same geographical or sectoral areas of intervention. In Jordan, concept notes should focus on supporting out-of-camp refugees unless in-camp assistance is strongly justified by the applicant in the concept note.

All concept notes and projects have to align with regional and country-specific development and response plans, as well as national strategies, frameworks, guidelines and policies. All projects are also expected to coordinate with other interventions, partners and institutions working within the sector and/or geographical area.

Beneficiary selection and targeting should be clearly justified and explained. The concept note evaluation weight attributed to beneficiary selection will vary depending on the specific RDPP objective with overall RDPP focus being on supporting women and youth and targeting strategic stakeholders to influence change and contribute to sustainability.

#### **iii. Duration:**

Projects are expected to start in the second quarter of 2024 and may run until December 31, 2026. Longer partnerships are preferred.

#### **iv. Partnership management:**

Partnerships will be managed under the Danida financial guidelines, which are available here: [General Guidelines for Financial management \(um.dk\)](#)

#### **v. Monitoring, evaluation and audit**

It is expected that, as a minimum, all projects will undergo a mid-term review and external final evaluation as well as an annual financial, compliance and performance audit, all of which need to be duly reflected in the budget.

#### **vi. Budget information:**

Projects covering longer implementation periods will be prioritised. Projects should have a minimum budget of 2 million DKK (ca. 270 thousand EUR). RDPP withholds the right not to allocate the maximum available funding. The submitted budget should be output-based as indicated in the below template.

There is no requirement for co-funding. If the proposed project has multiple sources of funding, the concept note must describe the entire project and reflect the total budget. The budget format has to specify the RDPP funding contribution as a percentage of the total budget.

Overhead costs may be a maximum of 7% of the RDPP direct costs, unless otherwise previously negotiated through a global agreement between the applicant and the Ministry of Affairs of Denmark. Audit costs are not to be included in the direct cost calculations.

Subject to further negotiations, only once a concept note has been approved, direct partnerships with national and local organisations will include specific budget allocation and results framework references related to the partner's organisational capacity development and support. National and local organisation applicants are not expected to include any such costs in the concept note. The content, scope and budget of partner capacity development will be negotiated with selected partnerships as a top-up to their proposed concept-note budgets based on specifically agreed organisational development outcomes and capacity development plans.

#### **vii. Eligibility criteria:**

International, national or local entities, that do not act as economic actors in the specific context of the engagement and are eligible to receive development aid grants can apply. The proposed projects have to be aligned with the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA)<sup>2</sup>, as the funding provided by RDPP is development aid. The applicant/s has/ve to have demonstrated expertise in the sector of operation and the geographical area of intervention.

Regardless the registration of their head office, whether within the EU or outside of the EU, all applicants and co-applicants applying for specific objectives 1 and 2 have to be registered as legal entities with the relevant national authorities in the Lebanon (for Prevention of Child Labour) or Jordan (for Livelihoods and Gender Equality).

One entity can only submit one concept note per country, whether as a main applicant or co-applicant. Partners who have already signed or are in negotiations for signing partnership agreements with RDPP within the RDPP III are eligible to apply. **RDPP is interested in building up a diverse project and partner portfolio and encourages civil society actors with different organisational capacities to**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/official-development-assistance.htm>



**apply.** As such, multi-agency partnerships that clearly demonstrate knowledge exchange, complementary added value and capacitation are welcome.

Applicants listed as ineligible to receive funds from EU (as listed in section 2.6.10.1 of EU's practical guide<sup>3</sup>) will be disqualified.

#### **viii. Selection and co-creation process:**

More details on the selection criteria including the scoring matrix used to review concept notes are included out in Annex 2 to the Program Document. Selected applicants will be informed latest by 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 and invited to present their concept notes to a selection committee comprised of RDPP staff and consultants. If relevant this will tentatively take place between 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. Following the presentations, short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full project proposal. The invitation to submit a full proposal will not constitute any form of financial commitment from RDPP.

As outlined in Annex 2, co-creation might be used for the project development process for selected applicants.

RDPP reserves the right not to select any partner in any of the thematic areas or countries through this call. RDPP is not obliged to fully support concept notes submitted. RDPP assesses concept notes according to unified criteria but may choose to only support parts of a submitted concept note. RDPP reserves the right not to allocate all available funds through the present call.

It is not expected for any partnership agreements to be signed before the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024.

All budgets and disbursements are made in Danish kroner (DKK). Concept notes not including DKK amounts will be considered incomplete and as such disqualified.

#### **ix. How to apply:**

Applications must be submitted in the annexed concept note format. The maximum length of the application is 8 pages + 3 pages results framework in attached template + maximum 2 pages Lead applicant background information (format annexed). The completed concept note template which includes an overview budget (in DKK), results framework and lead applicant background information sheet annexed to this document and available for download here ([RDPP REPORTS \(rdpp-me.org\)](https://rdpp-me.org)) should be submitted by email to [rdppme@um.dk](mailto:rdppme@um.dk) by 12 noon Beirut time on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2024. The subject line has to be titled "RDPP Call for concept notes 2024/02", indicate the country/-ies, which the concept note covers (please use 'Lebanon', 'Jordan') and the name of the lead applicant as stated on page 1 of the concept note (example "RDPP Call for concept notes 2024, Jordan, name of your entity").

Applications not submitted in the concept note format, not following the format requirements or exceeding the maximum length will not be considered eligible. Concept notes submitted after the deadline or incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Each applicant will receive an auto reply message confirming receipt of the concept note. Please retain it for your records as a proof of submission.

Questions related to the call for concept notes but not concerning any particular concept note content may be submitted to [rdppme@um.dk](mailto:rdppme@um.dk) until 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. All questions and answers will be

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<sup>3</sup> <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/2.+Basic+rules#id-2.Basicrules-2.6.10.1.Exclusioncriteria>

posted on the RDPP website ([www.rdpp-me.dk](http://www.rdpp-me.dk)). The final questions and answers will be posted by 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

#### **x. Annexes**

1. RDPP concept note template
2. Template for results framework
3. Lead applicant background information