

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST [TO BE ISSUED BY UNHCR]

Note: The purpose of the [Call for Expression of Interest \(CFEI\)](#) is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to collaborate with UNHCR to achieve common outcomes.

UNHCR Offices are required to provide context for the partnership and selection criteria. A sample template for a Call for Expression of interest is below.

It is important that UNHCR Offices ensure that there is an alignment between the Selection Criteria below, the way in which the Concept Note is structured and subsequently technically evaluation.

UNHCR Offices should ensure that the criteria are reflective of the nature of the envisaged Partnership. In this regard:

- Some of the criteria listed below have the potential to limit opportunities for local, smaller organizations to be selected as partners. Examples include “cost effective” and “project management” which may work against local actors.
- The criteria below favour organizations with an existing presence. If there is a need to explore partnerships with organizations that are not yet present, but which have the potential to mobilize resources, then this should be reflected in the “local experience and presence” criteria with considerations around, for example, the speed and cost of mobilization.

Please note that the following template mirrors the structure of the information required on the UNPP for the CFEI. Any supplementary information should be attached as an additional document.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CFEI)

Project Details	
CFEI ID	CFEI/HCR/ALB/2024/001
Title	Monitoring and provision of support to forcibly displaced persons arriving in Albania.
Project/Programme Focal Point(s)	Senior Protection Associate
Project location	Albania: / Nationwide - focused in Korca, Gjirokastra, Permet, Saranda, Tirana, and Durres areas <i>(Locations for partnership duration to be selected from the map)</i>
Sector(s) and Area(s) of Specialization	
Sector(s)	Access to territory and asylum procedures
Area(s) of Specialization	
Issued by	UNHCR
Project background:	
<i>Provide a description of the operational environment for the partnership, including an overview of the target populations, country context and protection and solutions situation. Highlight the priority problems that the partner will address.</i>	
In 2023, UNHCR and partners recorded 4,307 arrivals. The proportion of arrivals declaring to be from countries with generally high protection recognition rates reached 52%, including 21% from Afghanistan and 20% from the Syrian Arab Republic. The proportion of women and children	

travelling as part of mixed movements slightly increased. They constituted 12% of all arrivals, including 47 self-declared unaccompanied and separated children, of which 32 were referred to asylum processing, but the child protection system in the country is still partly functional.

The recorded 4,307 arrivals in 2023 represent a drop, around 50% compared to the previous year. Despite a generally reported rise on routes across the Western Balkans, the number of refugees and migrants who arrived in Albania in 2023 was the lowest since 2018. However, the overall percentage of those referred to asylum proceedings stood at 12%, up from 2% in 2022.

UNHCR continues to be present, through two field units, in the southeastern and southern border areas, and with partners is regularly monitoring the pre-screening procedure, supporting the identification and referral of individuals who might need international protection or who have specific needs, including vulnerabilities. UNHCR and its partners are conducting advocacy and actions at the national and local levels focused on enhancing access to territory and identifying and referring people with specific needs and vulnerabilities.

The authorities generally consider Albania primarily as a country of transit for refugees and migrants on their journey to the rest of the EU. It is considered and consistently repeated by the authorities that refugees and migrants, including those who may have international protection needs, do not wish to seek protection in Albania. However, in 2023 Global Refugee Forum Albania committed to improving the quality of asylum decision-making and decentralizing asylum procedures at the local level made during the in 2023.

Even though the revised pre-screening instruction has been in place since 2022, the procedure continues to not properly implement the basic safeguards. Challenges remained in implementing referral mechanisms, neglecting individuals with specific needs.

The asylum framework and legislation in Albania are partially aligned with international standards and the EU asylum acquis, but their implementation remains challenging. In April 2024, the Government of Albania adopted the National Strategy on Migration 2024-2030 and its Action Plan. The adoption of this strategic document is an important step for Albania. This strategy is guiding the country's approach to improving the management of mixed movements, addressing various aspects such as asylum, migration, protection, and integration.

Jointly with EUAA and FRONTEX, UNHCR is contributing to the provision of training to first-line officials of the Border Migration Police. The training aimed to enhance their information on the fundamental rights of asylum-seekers and refugees, the procedural aspects of asylum, their role and responsibilities, identification of individuals in need of international protection, access to asylum procedures in Albania, and its legal framework.

Expected results:

Linked to the sectors selected above and based on the operation's multi-year results framework, include the relevant impact and outcome statements for the scope of the partnership. Describe the changes that UNHCR expects to achieve with the partner under each outcome statement. These expected results will enable partners to determine their intended activities per sector.

Directly insert the following sentence, inclusive of the hyperlink:



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

To ensure the adequate protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR requires partners to adhere to applicable sector standards outlined within [UNHCR's areas of specialization](#).

The project will have three main objectives:

1. Delivery of information on access to the asylum procedures and interpretation services during pre-screening.
2. Enhance the proactive identification, referral, and case management of individuals in need of international protection arriving in Albania to the authorities in charge.
3. Monitor, record, and report on a monthly basis, and share with UNHCR the necessary data on arrivals and information on the quality of border procedures.

Specifically, the partner will:

- Coordinate efforts at national and local levels to strengthen collaboration with the Border and Migration Police and other relevant stakeholders.
- Engage in monitoring pre-screening procedures and advocate for proper implementation of the procedures in place.
- Conduct the regional protection monitoring system (RPMS) questionnaire with arriving individuals and heads of households.
- Provide regular information on the number of arrivals in the Border Protection Monitoring (Kobo tool) and other channels of communication established by UNHCR. Provide information to persons upon arrival, either through direct communication or through other means, focused on their rights and obligations, access to the asylum procedure, etc.
- Support the Border and Migration Police by providing interpretation services in Arabic and Farsi to individuals during the pre-screening procedure.
- Identify persons with specific needs, provide counselling on current domestic legislation and available services, and facilitate their referrals to the local authorities for adequate support and service provision (including UASC).
- Conduct regular monitoring visits in the communities at border areas for information collection and analysis on mixed movements.
- Coordinate access to accommodation facilities managed by local authorities and/or CSOs.

Expected Impact by Selected Partner:

- Monitor and advocate for improving the safeguards leading to access to territory and the asylum procedure of persons seeking international protection.
- Enhance the Border and Migration Authorities' capacity to identify and refer persons in need of international protection and persons with specific needs to asylum procedures.

The number of beneficiaries for this project is estimated to be around 1500 individuals annually and will benefit from the services provided by the selected partner.

Indicative budget (optional):

Estimated budget for the duration of the partnership (partnership framework agreement).

Other information (optional):

CFEI timeline

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Request clarification deadline	for	Application deadline	Notification results	of	Estimated start date	Estimated end date
13/09/2024		16/09/2024	31/10/2024		01/01/2025	31/12/2025
Selection Criteria						
Criteria Description						Assigned Weighting
<p>Sector expertise and experience: required specific skills, sector specialists, performance, knowledge, material, and human resources. Knowledge of relevant protection, humanitarian principles, and Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM). Participation of forcibly displaced persons in the Programme Cycle.</p> <p>Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action.</p>						20%
<p>Project management: the ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide 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 and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management; adequate control over assets and inventory (if applicable).</p>						20%
<p>Local experience and presence: Previous and/or ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; participation in inter-agency coordination fora, engaging refugees and other persons of concern in the programme cycle; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; feedback and complaint mechanisms for forcibly displaced persons ; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the forcibly displaced persons and that would reduce administrative difficulties.</p>						15%
<p>Contribution of resources Global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes, as well as an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Co-contribution to the</p>						15%



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	project will be an advantage during the selection process of the partner.	
	Cost-effectiveness: Evidence of a methodology for allocating shared costs to project activities. Evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes and that resources are directed to activities that ensure project risks are being appropriately managed.	15%
	Experience with UN & UNHCR: Global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies and UN, practices, and programmes, as well as an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's and other UN Agencies' funding limitations and associated inherent risks.	10%
	Communication & visibility: Demonstrated experience in planning, implementing, and evaluating communication activities for partnerships. This includes having the necessary internal resources and tools and showing a proven ability to use them effectively across various communication channels to support partnership objectives.	5%

Issuing UNHCR Office

UNHCR Albania

Contact Address

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Signature, Head of Office

Full name and title, Head of Office

Toshitsuki Kawauchi, Representative

Name of UNHCR Office

Tirana, Albania

Date

19/08/2024

