

Request for Concept Notes: Migrant Labor and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Kenya and Uganda

Response to Questions | Updated April 28, 2020

Concept Note Requirements	1
General Questions	2
Consortia	3
Concerns with COVID-19	4
Prevalence Reduction	5
Opportunities	6
Opportunity 1.1: Strengthen Kenyan government efforts to protect migrants from TIP, prosecute traffickers, and ensure victim-friendly processes [May include activities in Uganda] [UPDATED]	6
Opportunity 1.2 & 2.2: Foster recruitment agency ethical practices and accountability, and migrant demand for safe migration, to prevent TIP (Kenya and Uganda)	7
Opportunity 2.1: Strengthen Ugandan government efforts to protect migrants from TIP, prosecute traffickers, and ensure victim-friendly processes	7
Category 3: Reduce CSE in Kenya through stronger justice responses, victim protection, and community engagement (all opportunities)	8
Opportunity 3.1: Improve criminal justice responses to combat CSE and coordination with related social services	8
Opportunity 4.2: Strengthen prevention and community engagement to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in source areas in Uganda	8

Concept Note Requirements

1. ***Are we supposed to fill in the questionnaire in a separate word document then turn it to PDF before submitting, or is your team going to provide us with a word document questionnaire?***

The template is not meant to be a fillable questionnaire--please feel free to create your own eight-page word document/ concept note following the structure laid out in the template. You do not need to include the prompt language from the template in your concept note, although you should address the questions it asks you to address.

2. **Does the requirement on p. 4 that organizations submit separate concept notes for each opportunity refer to the broader Opportunities 1, 2 ,3 and 4 or does this include sub-opportunities as well? For example, would it be appropriate for an organization to submit a single concept note that covers both Objectives 2.1 and 2.3? Related to**

the question above, are concept notes expected to touch on each of the sub-opportunities within a given opportunity? For example, should a concept note oriented around Opportunity 1 include each of sub-opportunities 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3? Or can a competitive concept note focus on two of these sub-opportunities while omitting the third?

As per pg. 8 of the [request for concept notes](#), “Opportunity” refers to the two-digit numbers. So 2.1 and 2.3 are not considered objectives, but distinct opportunities requiring their own concept notes. A concept note for an opportunity does not need to address all of the lettered “activities” included under the opportunity. Please only address one opportunity per concept note; there is no limit to the number of opportunities to which you may apply.

- 3. *Regarding the structure of the categories. Should a proposal include all the different proposed activities under each category? Moreover, if we want to apply for a grant covering multiple categories, e.g. 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, should we submit one or several concept notes?***

As per page 8 of the request for concept notes, each two-digit number (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) denotes an opportunity, and applicants should submit one concept note per opportunity they wish to address.

- 4. *One of the submission requirements is for applicants to attach the most recent two-years audited financial statements, does this apply to UN agencies as well?***

Yes, this is required of UN agencies as well.

General Questions

- 5. *A substantial portion of [our] activities in Uganda are currently (partially) funded by a J/TIP Grant, which ends in January 2022. What affect, if any, would our current grant with J/TIP have on our ability to apply for/receive this GFEMS grant opportunity?***

Current grants with J/TIP will not hurt your competitiveness for GFEMS grant opportunities. GFEMS generally looks favorably on USG grants experience.

- 6. *The guidance mentions an intervention period of performance of 24 months – is it possible to submit projects that require a longer timeframe (e.g. 3 or 5 years)? Especially if projects need longer to monitor certain aspects such as behavioural change etc.?***

GFEMS can only consider funding 24-months of implementation through this request for concept notes. The Fund looks favorably on sustainable projects (as per the evaluation criteria) and applicants who need a longer timeline should offer realistic sustainability plans for their projects.

- 7. *Is GFEMS looking to partner only with organisations whose central mission is focused on modern slavery/human trafficking? Human trafficking is one of a number of issues [we cover], but it is not the sole focus.***

GFEMS is open to concept notes from a variety of organizations, but applicants will be evaluated on their capacity to implement the project they propose. An organization without a strong modern slavery focus and track record is unlikely to score well on the organizational capacity evaluation criterion.

- 8. *Is GFEMS looking only for proposals in the areas of activity outlined in the RFP? One area which I do not see referenced, for example, is focusing on the demand side and particularly the role, responsibility and influence clients play, as they ultimately drive the market by paying for the services of trafficked persons, in our case, private security guards.***

Yes, only the opportunities laid out in the request for concept notes are available for funding at this time. Check gfems.org/rfp for future funding opportunities.

- 9. *If awarded, does the GFEMS grant provide funds for the grantee to hire an individual grant manager/monitor for their project?***

Subrecipients may hire staff with subaward funds, and often have a grant manager. Please note, however, that the exact positions to be funded will be determined in co-creation.

- 10. *At this time, we do not have two years of external financial audits for our organization. Does this disqualify [us] from the GFEMS application process?***

GFEMS requires a minimum of 2 years of audited financials. An internal audit does not meet this requirement. However, if you feel you have documentation that meets this standard or demonstrates your financial capacity to manage subawards, please submit a concept note--GFEMS will review and determine how best to proceed.

- 11. *If a concept note is successful, are proposed third-level subrecipients permitted to participate in the co-creation process?***

Yes, GFEMS encourages third-level subrecipients to participate in co-creation.

- 12. *In regards to the eligibility requirements, it mentions "managing official development assistance funding from a government or multilateral organization." Is it possible for you to expand on that please? For instance, can organizations that have handled smaller grants in the past apply for grants that are bigger or should there be some kind of correlation to past amounts managed? should the annual turnover also be reflected in this?***

GFEMS expects applicants to have the administrative and technical capacity to manage the funding for which they are applying. The audited financial statements should reflect that the funding amount requested is not an unreasonable amount of the applicant's total revenue. The applicant should have experience with similar donors, and while GFEMS is open to issuing larger awards than applicants have managed in the past, the proposed funding amount should reflect the organization's administrative and technical capacity to implement the project.

Consortia

13. *Will consortium capacity will be evaluated based on individual members or collectively?*

A consortium is evaluated collectively and must meet the eligibility requirements.

14. *We noted that during the co-creation process, GFEMS might recommend the formation of consortia between organizations including groups with strong local capacity but no successful concept notes. We have strong local capacity but cannot yet meet the audit requirements. We would like to partner with an organization which could act as a lead partner and meets all of the requirements outlined in the Call. Our question is whether similar organizations should submit an expression of interest or a formal Concept Note? If so, in what format and what information should these expressions include?*

GFEMS is only open to concept notes at this time. Organizations that cannot meet the eligibility requirements on their own should seek partners to form a consortium, without GFEMS involvement, and submit a joint concept note.

15. *Can Government agencies be part of a consortium?*

Government agencies cannot be members of a consortium or receive GFEMS funding. Government agencies may be beneficiaries/recipients of services, provided GFEMS funds are not used to pay government salaries, as stipends to government officials, or for other direct costs to local and national governments.

16. *We are a young organization that does not have two years of audited financial statements and/or have not managed funding on this level before. Can we still apply?*

GFEMS requires that individual applicants with which it will have a direct contractual relationship have two years of audited financials and a track record of managing projects of similar size and complexity. This requirement is in place to ensure applicants can meet the financial and regulatory requirements of a subaward. If organizations that do not yet have two years of audited financial statements wish to apply, they should form a consortium with organizations that do. In these consortia, the partner with the necessary experience (indicated in part by audits) will act as the lead organization and serve as the Fund's direct subrecipient.

Concerns with COVID-19

17. *It is clear that Covid-19 will have a major impact on communities in Uganda, if the virus spreads significantly. If programme activities are affected by the response to Covid-19, how flexible and responsive will the fund be to the need to pivot activities to this response?*

The Fund plans to address the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on activities as best we can during co-creation. However, the impact of COVID-19 throughout the implementation period remains to be seen. GFEMS and its donor will work to provide implementers the flexibility they need to stay

relevant, but ultimately projects must remain focused on the anti-modern slavery goals they set in co-creation.

- 18. *At this trying time (of Covid-19 pandemic), our institutions are currently closed and we can only be able to attain support letters forwarding the concept in form of email. Can an email suffice until such a time when a letter on headed paper can be attained?***

Letters of support are not a formal requirement although they do strengthen an application -- email letters are fine for this purpose.

- 19. *The fund anticipates contracting to begin in August 2020. Would it be possible that this date may change (based on the impact of Covid-19), and if so, when does the fund anticipate contracting to begin?***

While it is possible contracting could be delayed due to COVID-19, the Fund cannot speculate on a new schedule for the process at this time. GFEMS has offered what it sees as a realistic timeline for this process, and will keep applicants abreast of any changes.

Prevalence Reduction

- 20. *Does GFEMS expect one of the 3-5 key performance metrics/indicators in projects to be focused on prevalence, or is prevalence reduction not expected to be achieved within the 24 month project period?***

While GFEMS welcomes any novel attempts to measure prevalence in an effective, attributable, and cost-conscious way, we understand that prevalence is typically costly to measure and difficult to directly attribute to project activities. We suggest that the key performance indicators focus on direct and tangible results of project activities, particularly those that reduce the drivers of modern slavery or the vulnerabilities of target populations.

- 21. *If prevalence is a metric of interest, does GFEMS have expectations on what data sources should be?***

As noted above, GFEMS does not expect subrecipients to directly measure prevalence.

- 22. *Is it correct to assume that major baseline and endline studies (on prevalence and other factors) should not be commissioned as part of projects, given the length of time they take to complete?***

Direct measurement of prevalence should not be a focus for applicants, and major baseline and endline studies should not be commissioned with this as a goal. We see no reason why applicants should not conduct baseline or endline studies of their participants or relevant stakeholders to measure program outcomes. However, the scope and associated cost of baseline and endline studies should be commensurate with the project.

- 23. *Does GFEMS have expectations of how the 'Kenya CSEC - Prevalence & KAP Study' which GFEMS plans to have completed by July 2022 should be utilized as a data source (reference to RFP S-SJTIP-18-CA-0014 issued on September 23, 2019)?***

These studies will be implemented in tandem with program activities. They will be used to measure the change in prevalence of CSEC and forced labor in the program's target populations as well as the change in their knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding CSEC and forced labor. Where appropriate, we intend to align the KAP questionnaire with program activities. These studies will draw broad conclusions about changes to the target population over time and, to some degree, the effectiveness of the PEMS 2 program as a whole. They will not be used to assess the effectiveness of individual projects.

Opportunities

Opportunity 1.1: Strengthen Kenyan government efforts to protect migrants from TIP, prosecute traffickers, and ensure victim-friendly processes [May include activities in Uganda] [UPDATED]

24. UPDATE: We are engaged in establishing a regional approach to MSHT, particularly focusing on a dialogue in the wider MENA region between source countries in Africa and host countries in the Gulf. Would such a wider regional approach and efforts to establish a source and host dialogue be seen to add value to a concept for this project?

GFEMS welcomes a regional approach that includes Kenya and Uganda. While GFEMS is supportive of the overall approach, the Fund is limited to operations in Kenya and Uganda. Given a successful concept note, GFEMS is open to exploring regional approaches within the bounds of the funding during co-creation.

25. Noting the parenthetical on p. 13 “[May include activities in Uganda],” what types of activities in Uganda would be permitted in a concept note for Opportunity 1.1?

All activities suggested in opportunity 1.1 can be implemented in Uganda and included in a concept note that proposes working in Kenya and Uganda. We also encourage respondents to review Opportunity 2.1 which lists specific activities in Uganda with the same objective.

26. Do you encourage research that is done across borders for example a collaboration between academic institutions in Kenya and Uganda?

Yes, we welcome cross-border collaboration on research activities.

27. Would GFEMS consider proposals that focus on one particular sector only? We know that the private security industry is an important actor in the human trafficking story in Kenya, with guards recruited for service in the Middle East and private security companies themselves playing an active role in the trafficking of persons, not just for private security positions.

GFEMS is open to concept notes that address the challenges laid out in the opportunities. If this can be done by dealing with a single sector, GFEMS will consider those concept notes.

28. Can 1.1 be divided between two country offices? Kenya and Uganda country offices are considering submitting one concept note to include activities in both countries.

Is this acceptable to GFEMS, and can staff and office costs be covered for both missions?

Concept notes for 1.1 can be divided across two country offices of the same organization as described in the question. Alternatively, your organization's country offices can submit two separate concept notes; one for opportunity 1.1 (Kenya) and another for opportunity 2.1 (Uganda).

Opportunity 1.2 & 2.2: Foster recruitment agency ethical practices and accountability, and migrant demand for safe migration, to prevent TIP (Kenya and Uganda)

29. Does GFEMS encourage the integration of technology solutions in support of 'interim watchdog mechanisms'?

The Fund is open to proposals that include technology solutions.

30. To promote accountability and coordination for the recruitment industry (within and across regions), does GFEMS welcome technology-based interventions that can demonstrate interoperability with existing technology platforms focused on capacity building of recruitment agencies in line with international ethical recruitment standards?

GFEMS welcomes proposals that include technology interventions where appropriate and useful.

31. Under 2.2, our offices in Kenya and Uganda would like to partner and submit a joint concept note. Is this acceptable?

Yes, we welcome concept notes for activities in Kenya and Uganda under opportunity 2.2, particularly where there are demonstrable merits of cross-border implementation.

Opportunity 2.1: Strengthen Ugandan government efforts to protect migrants from TIP, prosecute traffickers, and ensure victim-friendly processes

32. Opportunity 2.1 appears to be primarily focused on *international* migration. Beyond training and working with prosecutors and investigators on trans-national trafficking, [our organization] is also currently focused on domestic CSEC and forced labor/begging. [We are] also in year one of a Kampala regional prevalence study for domestic child CSEC and child forced begging. Based on partnerships and experiences in Uganda since 2016, [We] believe expanding anti-trafficking training and support to increase trafficking prosecutions and convictions for both *international* and *domestic* trafficking is imperative. Is it possible to expand Opportunity 2.1 (Activities 1 and 2) to include *domestic* trafficking (training and support) as well?

The scope of Opportunity 2.1 is exclusively on international migration.

Category 3: Reduce CSE in Kenya through stronger justice responses, victim protection, and community engagement (all opportunities)

- 33. The call indicates that the area is limited to select counties. Is it fixed or can the same be extended to other areas? In particular, we are currently implementing a 3 year project in Kakamega County mainly informed by the high number of child sexual violation cases in the area. In addition, it being a county neighboring border towns (Busia and Malaba), it is a hotspot for trafficking. Can the project be extended to Kakamega county?**

Unfortunately, activities under these opportunities are restricted to Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale. While we recognize that Kakamega county is a hotspot as well, we cannot currently fund implementation there. Please keep an eye on gfems.org/rfp for future funding opportunities that may address other geographies.

- 34. The call is majorly on sex trafficking, can you fund activities that are incidences arising out of sexual violence of children without the element of exploitation?**

The Fund's focus is combating trafficking, thus, activities should be linked to reducing the commercial sexual exploitation of children and other vulnerable populations.

Opportunity 3.1: Improve criminal justice responses to combat CSE and coordination with related social services

- 35. In 3.1 it mentions “ lower level staff operating at community levels”, what does lower level staff refer to?**

Lower level staff refers to magistrates and judicial officers in subordinate courts in Kenya and to county prosecutors.

Opportunity 4.2: Strengthen prevention and community engagement to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in source areas in Uganda

- 36. Please can you confirm whether all activities under 4.2 should be restricted to Kampala and Karamoja? Or can activities be implemented in other source areas (based on evidence)?**

Unfortunately activities under these opportunities are restricted to Kampala and Karmoja. While we recognize the need in other source areas, we cannot implement anywhere else under this program. Please keep an eye on gfems.org/rfp for future funding opportunities that may address other geographies.