

## Call for Expression of Interest

### Addressing the Drivers of Migration and Forced Displacement by Supporting Economic Stabilization and Strengthening Community Resilience

(Ref: AFG/2026/Call for expression of interest 1)

### Questions asked and answers provided during the online Information Session held on 12.05.2026

Questions	Answers
Q 1 Are there any geographical preference of regions in Afghanistan for this call?	Yes. As explained in the Guidelines for the Call for Expression of Inters (CfEol), actions must take place in the areas of highest return in Afghanistan, in particular <b>Kabul, Kunar, Nangarhar, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kunduz, Hilmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Zabul, Farah, Herat</b> . However, proposed actions are not expected to cover all the listed provinces. Interventions outside these areas would require specific justification. Further guidance is provided on page 5 under the heading “Key Considerations.”
Q 2 In how many Provinces applicants could propose activities?	Applicants may propose activities in one or several of the above-listed Provinces, depending on their operational presence and implementation capacity on the ground.
Q 3 Should applicants rely on OCHA data regarding areas with high levels of return in order to ensure that their proposed actions under this Call are relevant and effective?	Applicants may use OCHA data, where relevant, to help inform the design of their proposed actions and ensure that they respond effectively to areas experiencing high levels of return. However, applicants are free to rely on other relevant and credible sources of data and analysis as appropriate. It is ultimately the responsibility of the applicants to justify the relevance, targeting, and expected effectiveness of their proposed actions in line with the objectives of this Call. However, applicants should refrain from proposing actions in areas where other partners and donors are already providing enough support.
Q 4 The percentage of indirect cost to be applied for projects under this Call is not mentioned.	This percentage is specified in the Guidelines and may not exceed 7% of the total eligible cost.
Q 5 We would like to ask about indicative activities under output 1.7, namely enhancing communities early warning systems, whether this relates to strengthening of health systems?	In the context of this Call, early warning systems relate to disaster prevention, community resilience and risk management rather than to the strengthening of health systems.
Q 6 Could you please clarify whether a UN agency can be part of a consortium with NGOs	No. According to the eligibility criteria for applicants under the CfEol, as outlined on

<p>in any capacity (lead/co-lead applicant or technical member)?</p>	<p>pages 8 and 9 of the Guidelines, eligible lead applicants and co-applicants must be legal entities, non-profit-making, and non-governmental civil society organisations. UN agencies are considered international organisations and are therefore not eligible to participate as lead applicants or co-applicants under this CfEoI.</p>
<p>Q 7 How applicants ensure they comply with the principled approach that is outlined in the Guidelines?</p>	<p>Applicants should demonstrate their understanding of the principled approach and briefly describe how they intend to comply with it.</p> <p>Please be reminded of the principles that must be observed, as set out in the Guidelines: “Principles for delivery of aid that are to be followed include: 1) Women, girls and persons belonging to minorities should be able to access services in a non-discriminatory fashion; 2) Support can only be given through multilateral organisations, NGOs/CSOs or the private sector. No funds can be channelled through the Taliban DFA neither in Kabul, nor at the local level, neither directly or through other actors; 3) The Taliban DFA should not be involved in the hiring, recruitment policy, implementation or management of support mechanisms; and 4) A do-no-harm and conflict sensitive approach will be ensured.”</p>
<p>Q 8 Is the budget dependent on how many provinces and sectors are covered?</p>	<p>No. The budget is not determined by the number of Provinces or sectors covered by the proposed action.</p> <p>Applicants should design their actions based on identified needs, operational capacity, feasibility, and expected impact. The proposed budget should be proportionate, realistic, and adequately justified in relation to the activities planned and the objectives to be achieved.</p>
<p>Q 9 Could the Logical Framework be modified and adjusted to reflect the specificities of the proposed project?</p>	<p>The Logical Framework template, and in particular the results chain, cannot be modified. However, the template is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the various results and activities proposed by applicants.</p> <p>Applicants are expected to define their own specific results, indicators, baselines, sources of verification, and related elements.</p>
<p>Q 10 Some of activities provided under some of the outputs appear to be more relevant under some of the other outputs, so can the applicant change them?</p>	<p>Yes. The activities established in the Guidelines are tentative and the list provided is not exhaustive. The EU also relies on the applicants’ assessment and analysis of the beneficiaries’ needs and how best they should be addressed. If applicants consider that certain tentative</p>

	activities listed under a specific output would be more appropriately placed under another output, they are free to propose such adjustments, provided that they include a clear justification and explanation.
Q 11 Could EU provide a list of the areas where organisations applying under this Call will be proposing activities to avoid duplication?	No. The EU cannot disclose information contained in concept notes submitted under this CfEol; therefore, this will not be possible.
Q 12 Could you please clarify whether an Australian NGO legally registered and fully operational in Afghanistan would be eligible to apply as a lead applicant under Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947? Based on our review, it appears that Australian organizations may be eligible under the OECD member country provision for actions implemented in LDC countries such as Afghanistan.	Yes. Organisations registered in Australia are eligible, as per Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 and subject to the conditions set out therein ( <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947</a> ).
Q 13 Under output 1.1 the call mentions: Support skills development and vocational training ( <b>including through the use of digital/alternative technologies</b> ) particularly for youth, women and returnees/displaced people and other people in vulnerable situations. Can you explain more about what is meant by <b>digital/alternative technologies</b> ? Do you mean these technologies are used for the delivery of skills development and trainings? Or the participants in the trainings can use the technologies in the future in business/ livelihoods skills/jobs.	One of the tentative activities under Output 1.1 indeed refers to the use of digital and alternative technologies in skills development and vocational training. The primary intention is to make use of alternative approaches, such as remote mentoring and training, as well as digital tools for the delivery of training and skills development activities, given the many obstacles faced by vulnerable beneficiaries — particularly women. The specific subject areas of the vocational training and skills development activities have not been predefined. However, the inclusion of digital skills and the use of technologies relevant to future businesses, livelihoods, and employment opportunities is considered a welcome and valuable approach.
<b>Q 14 Financial support to third parties.</b> Part of the organisation approach is to provide financial support and mentoring to locally based radio stations (especially women run/led/ focused) to produce and broadcast their own content that allows audiences to gain knowledge, skills and take action. Including many of the thematic areas of this call. Are local media/ radio stations eligible as a third party under the definition provided? Radio stations are usually registered with the Ministry of Information and Culture and not the MoE as an NGO.	Yes. Local media and radio stations may be eligible as third parties to which financial support could be channelled. However, a final assessment can only be made once further information on the nature of the third parties is provided in the Concept note.
Q 15 It appears that consortiums are not strongly encouraged under this Call. At the	In line with the provisions of the Guidelines under the heading “Key Considerations,” consortia are welcome. However, they should

<p>same time, national NGOs (NNGOs) are not eligible to apply directly or receive awards, despite often having greater access and contextual experience on the ground.</p> <p>In this regard, could you please clarify the strategy for supporting the localisation agenda and strengthening the role of NNGOs within this award framework?</p> <p>It is recommended that the EU encourage partnerships between international NGOs (INGOs) and NNGOs under this grant scheme. Such partnerships could enhance access and implementation capacity, while also advancing the localisation agenda and supporting national NGOs.</p>	<p>only be formed where they add clear value, for example by leveraging existing structures or enhancing the efficiency of the proposed actions.</p> <p>Consortia that result in duplication, lack a clear rationale, or fail to demonstrate tangible benefits — such as improved outcomes for beneficiaries, cost savings, or better value for money — will not be considered positively.</p> <p>In line with Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 (<a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947</a>) legal entries effectively established in Afghanistan are eligible to participate in procurement, grant and prize award procedures. This means that Afghan NGOs are eligible to apply under the CfEol both as lead applicants and as co-applicants.</p> <p>The importance of the localisation agenda is emphasised in the Guidelines for the CfEol; however, specific models and strategies have not been predefined. It is up to the applicants to define their own approach to localisation and to propose activities that address this aspect.</p> <p>If consortia are established, it is up to their members to propose a structure and distribution of roles that ensure efficiency, add value, and demonstrate tangible benefits for the beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Q 16 Can a NNGO is allowed to apply for this grant?</p>	<p>Yes. See above answer.</p>
<p>Q 17 According to the criteria for applicant in the guideline in page 9, the applicant must "Be registered as a legal entity in Afghanistan and have a fully operational presence in the country</p> <p>We would like to clarify if, for family organizations (as defined in the Companion <a href="#">19.2.1.4</a> ) - whose organizational structure sets one operational office per country holding the registration with the authority in the country under the name of the whole family organisation, would the member of this family organisation satisfies the eligibility criteria above and able to participate in the call as lead applicant?</p>	<p>Family organisations that are not directly present and registered in the country may be eligible to apply as lead applicants, provided that they include the family organisation operational office registered in Afghanistan as affiliated entity.</p> <p>However, given the complex situation in Afghanistan, apart from the evident benefits of such approach, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully consider whether such arrangements could create operational complexities and thereby significantly limit their capacity to effectively deliver the proposed actions on the ground.</p>

<p>In this case, the family organisation's operational office registered in Afghanistan will be included as affiliated entity to the lead applicant. The structural link between the affiliated entity and its family member (as lead applicant) will be of course duly justified in the application.</p>	
<p>Q 18 Are the eligibility criteria final, i.e. the applicant must strictly be a non-governmental CSO?</p>	<p>Yes. The eligibility criteria are final. The applicants must be a non-governmental civil society organisation, established in a Member State of the EU or an eligible country as per Article 28 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947.</p>
<p>Q 19 Does project cost for i.e. program officer and logs officer who work on procurement of medicines and medicines distributed under project XY financed by donor ZX can be co-financing?</p> <p>Does the "<i>only in-cash</i>" mean that NGO needs to give XY% (XY USD of private funds) to project action?</p> <p>What is the % of co-financing needed?</p>	<p>No. Co-financing may only be provided in "cash". Work performed, including voluntary work, is considered an in-kind contribution and therefore cannot be counted as co-financing.</p> <p>Yes. That is correct. Where co-financing is provided, applicants are expected to contribute cash funding that is not already programmed and allocated to other initiatives implemented by the applicant.</p> <p>As established on page 7 of the Guidelines, the maximum co-financing (if any) for actions under this CfEol may not exceed 20% of the total eligible cost of the action.</p>
<p>Q 20 Expand community-based sustainable water systems and climate-smart solutions - can you please explain this further? Can we proceed with establishing new water systems or the previous ones can be rehabilitated only?</p>	<p>The Contracting Authority is not in a position to prescribe the exact activities to be carried out under specific actions. The activities indicated in the Guidelines are only tentative. It is up to the applicants to propose the most suitable activities to achieve the objectives established under the CfEol.</p>
<p>Q 21 Could you please clarify if organizations are required to apply under all 7 outputs, or if proposals can focus on selected outputs based on each organization's specialization and comparative advantage?</p>	<p>As explained in the Guidelines, actions proposed under this CfEol are not expected to cover all the outputs listed. Applicants should select the outputs on which their proposed actions will deliver, based on their capacity and expertise.</p>
<p>Q 22 The guidelines are clear that applicants are not expected to touch on all seven outputs. Are applicants expected and encouraged to address more than one output? That is, will applications that touch on multiple outputs be looked on more favourably?</p> <p>Is there a minimum number of outputs that a proposal should cover?</p>	<p>It is up to applicants to determine how many outputs they are able to deliver, depending on their expertise and implementation capacity. There is no minimum number of outputs that a proposal is required to cover. As such, applicants proposing to cover a larger number of outputs will not receive any additional advantage during the evaluation process only based on the number. Please refer</p>

<p>Can we apply for only one activity under one output, or it is mandatory applying for all seven outputs?</p>	<p>to the Guidelines and the Evaluation Grid provided therein for further information on the evaluation criteria that will be applied.</p>
<p>Q 23 Is there any limitation on the number of third parties involved in one proposal? Also, are there any specific criteria or eligibility conditions for third parties under this call?</p>	<p>No. There is no such limitation. Applicants are free to propose the activities and tools they believe will respond most effectively to the needs of the beneficiaries and the objectives of this CfEol.</p> <p>As indicated on page 14 of the Guidelines, third parties eligible for financial support include: local partner organisations, non-governmental organisations and/or community service centres tasked with specific activities, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), farmers and farmers’ groups, producers and producer groups, individuals — particularly women — in the process of establishing a business, medical, educational and training institutes, and similar entities.</p> <p>Please refer to the additional information provided in the Guidelines regarding financial support to third parties.</p>
<p>Q 24 Could you please confirm whether an organization can apply as a lead applicant under one application while also participating as a consortium member/co-applicant in another application under the Call?</p>	<p>Yes. Please refer to the information provided in the Guidelines on page 15 under the heading “Number of Applications and Grants per Applicant / Affiliated Entity.”</p>
<p>Q 25 As EU ideally is looking for fewer bigger projects, how would this work in terms of localization support of NGOs? This would be excluding those NGOs which are part of consortia.</p>	<p>The size of the grants has been established in a manner intended to ensure the efficient delivery of activities in a context where needs are immense and available resources are limited.</p> <p>As indicated in the Guidelines, the localisation agenda can be promoted through a variety of approaches.</p>
<p>Q 26 How many organizations in each Province will receive funding?</p>	<p>There are no predefined quotas for organisations to be funded per Province. This will depend entirely on the number of high-quality proposals received and the grants awarded as a result of the evaluation process.</p>
<p>Q 27 Could an NGO that is registered both in Afghanistan and the United States apply for this call as an international organization? We would appreciate clarification on whether such registration would meet the eligibility criteria for international applicants.</p>	<p>Please refer to the information provided in the Guidelines regarding the eligibility of applicants, which clearly establishes the applicable eligibility criteria.</p>
<p>Q 28 In terms of the community resilience and women and youth participations elements, would protection and PSS activities that are</p>	<p>Such types of activities may be considered to the extent that they are deemed necessary for the attainment of the objectives established</p>

integrated across livelihood interventions be well received/considered?	under the CfEol. However, please note that this is not the main focus of this CfEol.
Q 29 I have a question regarding the eligibility of applicants and co-applicants. Should both of them be officially registered in Afghanistan?	Yes. The Guidelines indicate on page 9 that co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant himself.
Q 30 Are there any restrictions on the type of actors/registration/legal status of local partners (co-applicants) engaged? For example, is it acceptable for lead applicants to propose partnerships with private sector entities?	All restrictions regarding engagement with specific types of actors are clearly outlined in the Guidelines. Private for-profit companies are not eligible to participate as applicants or co-applicants; however, MSMEs may be eligible as beneficiaries, given the focus on resilient livelihood opportunities under this CfEol.
Q 31 As a European company working in cooperation with local NGOs in Afghanistan, I would like to ask whether a European company can apply jointly with a local Afghan NGO?	Private for-profit companies are not eligible to participate as lead applicants or co-applicants, as clearly established in the Guidelines. Where the proposed activities require the services of private companies, this is governed by Annex IV: Contract Award Rules, which is included in the documentation published on the EEAS Afghanistan webpage. Similarly, NGOs that are not registered in Afghanistan and do not have an operational presence in the country are not eligible to apply as lead applicants or co-applicants, as clearly stipulated in the Guidelines. However, as already indicated, other forms of cooperation remain possible, including through the involvement of individual experts.
Q 32 Any preference in terms of Rural/ Urban areas or any restriction to avoid Urban areas?	No. There is no such preference. It is up to the applicants to select the areas in which the action will be implemented and to justify their choice in line with the objectives and priorities of this CfEol.
Q 33 In terms of submission, on the call it says <b>via email only</b> - can you please confirm that this is correct and no submission on platform/system is required?	Yes. Concept notes must be submitted by e-mail only at <a href="mailto:delegation-afghanistan-CfEol-1-2026@eeas.europa.eu">delegation-afghanistan-CfEol-1-2026@eeas.europa.eu</a>
Q 34 There is a question about PADOR, our organisation has already been registered, but only we have one page, could you please explain a bit how PADOR works and what is required form NGOs?	Please consult the information provided on <a href="#">PADOR homepage</a> .
Q 35 The Guidelines state that priority will be given to actions with co-financing, and that this must be in-cash and fresh. Is there an indicative threshold percentage above which co-financing meaningfully changes evaluation scoring — to	No. There is no such threshold percentage.

<p>help applicants calibrate against the real value-added of mobilising co-financing versus other elements of the proposal?</p> <p>Is there any impact if a national NGO applies for 100% funding, and could this affect the evaluation of the proposal?</p>	<p>Please consult the Guidelines for further information on the concept note evaluation process.</p>
<p>Q 36 For applicants new to direct-award EU calls in Afghanistan, can the EU give a sense — in general terms — of what proportion of concept notes have typically progressed to the full-application stage in similar calls?</p>	<p>The Contracting Authority is not in a position to provide such information. This proportion may vary depending on the available funds, as well as the number and quality of the proposals received.</p>
<p>Q 37 Can a list of ongoing EU interventions be provided?</p>	<p>At this stage, the EU is not in a position to provide such information.</p> <p>Potential applicants are expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the sectors and geographic areas in which they operate, including existing interventions, service providers, coordination mechanisms, and operational gaps. This is essential to ensure that proposed actions are relevant, complementary, and avoid duplication. Such contextual awareness should extend not only to EU-funded initiatives, but also to programmes supported by other donors — including humanitarian assistance — as well as activities and services delivered by the DFA and other relevant actors. Applicants are therefore expected to conduct their own assessments and mapping of the operational environment when preparing their proposals and coordinate with potential existing local/regional working groups.</p>
<p>Q 38 The Guidelines refer to 'negotiated procedures' that the Contracting Authority will start with shortlisted Lead Applicants after concept-note evaluation. Can the EU describe what this negotiation typically involves — primarily scope adjustment, budget refinement, or both?</p>	<p>As indicated in the Guidelines, the Contracting Authority will initiate negotiated procedures with the lead applicants whose concept notes receive the highest rankings, by inviting them to submit full applications.</p> <p>The negotiation process may concern a wide range of elements, including those referred to in the question.</p>
<p>Q 39 On the eligibility criteria: Is there a limitation for NGOs having less than 1m USD annual budget to apply for the grant?</p>	<p>There is no such limitation included in the eligibility criteria.</p>
<p>Q 40 Does the EU have a localization plan that allows NNGOs to apply directly for EU Expressions of Interest?</p>	<p>The EU Delegation to Afghanistan does not have a specific localisation plan; national NGOs are eligible to apply under this CfEol.</p>

<p>Q 41 The call states a priority for 'by-women-for-women' initiatives. Can the EU give a sense of what this looks like in practice — for example, what thresholds of women-led delivery, female staffing, or female beneficiary share would meet the bar, versus what would be considered insufficient?</p>	<p>The Contracting Authority is not in a position to provide further information beyond what is already set out in the Guidelines. It is up to the applicants to design their activities in such a way as to ensure that this priority is adequately addressed.</p>
<p>Q 42 Given the Call's strong emphasis on sustainable livelihoods, private sector development, and climate-resilient agro-value chains, would the EU Delegation consider integrated poultry and dairy value-chain models — combining MSME support, women-led enterprises, vocational training, and returnee reintegration — as a high-priority intervention approach under Output 1.3 and 1.4?</p>	<p>This approach falls within the general focus of this CfEol. However, the final assessment of any specific activity can only be made in the context of the Concept note evaluation.</p>
<p>Q 43 Kindly clarify how flexible EU can be to support cost coverage with regards to engaging line ministries related to intern/apprenticeship activities w/c might require human resources involvement from line ministries?</p> <p>Can partners engage with local DFA departments and authorities to ensure community resilience and sustainability?</p>	<p>This type of activities cannot be supported; please refer to information provided in the Guidelines: “This Call for Expression of Interest is guided by the European Commission’s objectives and priorities, as well as Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on Afghanistan of 21 September 2021 and 20 March 2023. Principles for delivery of aid that are to be followed include: 1) Women, girls and persons belonging to minorities should be able to access services in a non-discriminatory fashion; 2) <b>Support can only be given through multilateral organisations, NGOs/CSOs or the private sector. No funds can be channelled through the Taliban DFA neither in Kabul, nor at the local level, neither directly or through other actors;</b> 3) The Taliban DFA should not be involved in the hiring, recruitment policy, implementation or management of support mechanisms; and 4) A do-no-harm and conflict sensitive approach will be ensured.”</p> <p>Implementing partners will need to engage with the DFA and conclude the necessary MoUs to enable project implementation on the ground. However, in line with the principles outlined above, partners may not involve the DFA in the implementation of project activities, provide any form of support to them, or transfer or hand over project assets to the DFA.</p>
<p>Q 44 Can an NGO without a registered office in Afghanistan, based outside the country, participate as a non-lead consortium member under this call?</p>	<p>No. Please check the eligibility criteria provided in the Guidelines.</p>

<p>We work in Afghanistan since 2003 jointly with AFG partner organisations. We are not registered in AFG itself. We work with our partners to implement project and programmes. Some of our experts work onsite in AFG with our partners implementing projects. Are eligible to apply?</p>	<p>The involvement of organisations that are not formally registered or operationally present on the ground is still possible beyond formal participation as co-applicants. For example, such organisations could contribute through the sharing of expertise and experience by engaging individual experts.</p>
<p>Q 45 Our organization is legally registered in both Afghanistan and the USA, and we maintain operational presence and activities in Afghanistan while also having an established legal structure in the US. Although our projects have primarily been implemented in Afghanistan, they have been supported through international donor funding and partnerships. Could you kindly confirm whether an organization with this structure would be considered eligible to apply as an international NGO/applicant under this call?</p>	<p>The Contracting Authority is not in a position to determine the eligibility of specific entities without reviewing all supporting documentation. The Guidelines provide only general guidance, while eligibility is assessed as part of the evaluation process. Please refer to the information provided on pages 24 and 25 of the Guidelines.</p>
<p>Q 46 Can you clarify what “fully operational presence in the country” means?</p> <p>It will be helpful if operational presence is clarified in writing more specifically for instance if an organisation does not directly implement activities but is funding and working in partnership with local organisations, are they eligible to be lead applicants with national organisations as co-applicants?</p>	<p>“Fully operational presence in the country” generally refers to an organisation having an established and functioning presence in Afghanistan that enables it to effectively implement and manage activities on the ground.</p> <p>In the context of an NGO operating in Afghanistan, this would typically include elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• legal registration or authorisation to operate in Afghanistan;</li> <li>• an operational office or established physical presence in the country;</li> <li>• staff and management structures in place;</li> <li>• the capacity to implement, monitor, and manage activities directly in Afghanistan; and</li> <li>• the ability to comply with applicable legal, administrative, financial, and security requirements.</li> </ul> <p>The assessment of whether an organisation meets this requirement would ultimately be made by the Contracting Authority during the</p>

	evaluation process, based on the supporting documentation provided by the applicant.
Q 47 There are agencies like CERV and Engagement Global for helping and consulting with applying for certain EU programs. Are there any EU agencies in Germany assisting us with comprising your application and documents necessary?	The Contracting Authority is not in a position to recommend any agencies providing consultancy services for applications under this CfEol. Applicants are solely responsible for the preparation and submission of their applications.
Q 48 Could the applicant only describe the impact without indicating the number of beneficiaries that will be reached?	Applicants are expected to indicate not only the expected impact of the action, but also the estimated number of beneficiaries to be reached. Past experience has shown that proposals with strong activities and sound approaches may ultimately target a limited number of beneficiaries, sometimes at a relatively high cost. To avoid such situations, it is important to provide an estimate of the number of beneficiaries, as well as the approximate cost per beneficiary, in order to assess the potential impact and cost-efficiency of the proposed action in light of the scale of needs and the limited resources available.
Q 49 Is there any guidance on the administrative costs?	No. There is no specific guidance establishing a fixed percentage for administrative costs. However, applicants are expected to ensure that such costs remain appropriate, proportionate, and duly justified in relation to the overall scope and nature of the proposed action. Administrative costs should reflect the actual requirements for effective project management and implementation, while demonstrating overall cost-efficiency and value for money. Excessive or disproportionate administrative costs may negatively affect the assessment of the proposal, particularly where they reduce the resources allocated to direct programme activities and beneficiaries. Applicants are therefore encouraged to maintain a balanced budget structure, ensuring that the largest possible share of resources contributes directly to the achievement of the action's objectives and intended results.
Q 50 Could kindly clarify whether to fill and submit all the ANNEXES as part of the concept note?	Please refer to Section 2.2.1, "Concept Note Content," of the Guidelines. At the concept note stage, only Annex A1: Grant Application Form – Concept Note must be submitted.
Q 51 Currently, women are banned from economic and social gatherings. Is EU using their leverage to advocate with DFA, including	Despite the numerous restrictions currently affecting women in Afghanistan, women are not officially prohibited from participating in

<p>on MoUs, in view of allowing women to participate in economic activities?</p>	<p>economic activities. Within this challenging context, the EU continues to support implementing partners in engaging with the relevant authorities and facilitating the conclusion of MoUs with the DFA, which are necessary conditions for project implementation on the ground.</p>
<p>Q 52 What is your position regarding to mahram policies as it is demanded by the DFAs? Are the mahram costs covered by the project?</p>	<p>The EU - where necessary and when duly justified - covers the costs related to mahram involvement. We however do not accept full time mahram positions in the budgets.</p>
<p>Q 53 We have a model under which the mahram is involved as an actual participant in the project, beyond his role as a female chaperone, thereby enabling women to work and participate in project activities. Would such an approach be considered eligible?</p>	<p>This could potentially be considered possible; however, such matters would be discussed at the second stage of the process, during the submission and assessment of the Full application. At the Concept note stage, applicants are not expected to address this level of operational detail. The focus at this stage should remain on the overall relevance, objectives, and proposed approach of the action.</p>
<p>Q 54 In case of a consortium approach for the application, the consortium lead would serve as the Lead Applicant. What would the other consortium members be called? Can they be referred to as Co-applicants?</p>	<p>That is correct. Please refer to the information provided in the Guidelines.</p>
<p>Q 55 How many CN do you expect to approve and once approved how many proposals do you expect to approve?</p>	<p>This cannot be determined at this stage. It will depend on the number of high-quality proposals submitted and the availability of funds. Please also note that a reserve list of concept notes may be established in order to potentially finance additional proposals in the future should further funding become available.</p>
<p>Q 56 It would be appreciated if you would provide the definition and or description of size of different market actors and exclusion based on that definition.</p>	<p>This type of analysis and information falls outside the mandate of the Contracting Authority and, if deemed necessary, should be carried out by the applicants themselves.</p>