



Counterpart International

Bangladesh

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Advocacy and Networking Grant 2019 Ref: EOI PAR 02/2019 (Combatting Drug Abuse)

Background

The Promoting and Advocacy Rights (PAR) is a five-year initiative that aims to strengthen the enabling environment for sustained civil society institutions advancing democratic governance and citizen participation in Bangladesh. The project will contribute to a more inclusive, resilient, and evidence-driven Bangladeshi civil society. There are five key objectives of the PAR project: 1). Increase Civil Society (CS) engagement in good governance issues; 2). Improve CS ability to monitor and raise awareness of policy issues; 3). Enhance CS capacity to operate effectively; 4). Enhance CS networks advocating for policy reforms and 5). Improve CS government platforms for dialogue.

Accurate statistics about individuals with drug addiction are hard to find in Bangladesh. Estimates place the number of addicts as high as 7.5 million or as low as 2.5 million people, and of them about 80 percent youth between 15 to 30 years. Drug abuse leads to chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences, and long-lasting changes to the brain. Drug addiction has become a social problem in Bangladesh, serving as a contributing factor to many social and criminal offences. To arrest the process of further aggravation of drug abuse concerted efforts are needed. These efforts include the government, family, civil society organizations, NGOs, CBOs, media, and other concerned citizens and institutions especially educational institutions.

Counterpart International (CPI) Bangladesh invites interested CSOs to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the opportunity to apply to receive limited grants for the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) Support for Civil Society (CS) Initiatives through Advocacy and Networking to complement Government of Bangladesh efforts to combat drug abuse and its adverse social and economic consequences through effective social mobilization. Counterpart is currently evaluating the possibility of engaging local partners who have the management and technical capacity, including innovative social mobilization strategies to provide high quality service delivery with regards to this program.

This call for Expressions of Interest is intended to lead to a pre-qualification of suitable prospective grant recipients who may be invited to submit full applications for civil society advocacy and networking initiatives to combat drug abuse and its consequences. CPI anticipates awarding one (1) grant with an anticipated implementation of up to two (2) years and estimated value of the grant will be up to BDT. 16,800,000 (sixteen million eight hundred thousand).

Scope of Work

The goal of the Advocacy Grant is to support Civil Society (CS) advocacy and networking initiatives to complement. Government of Bangladesh (GOB) efforts to combat Drug Abuse in targeted sub-national locations (districts). These are anticipated to have direct impact at the local level with ripple effects at the national level-, becoming pilot projects that may be replicated elsewhere if proven effective. The program emphasizes the need for engaging a wide range of stakeholders including political and community leaders, media, educational, cultural and religious institutions, government health-care providers and rehabilitation centers, specialized CSOs, research institutions, marginalized groups and local governments as partners. As a result, the grantee will be able to establish cross-sectoral partnerships to combat drug abuse.

The two primary objectives of the grant program are:

1. To raise the level of awareness at household and community levels about the adverse consequences of drug abuse through social mobilization and in targeted districts, and
2. To sensitize and influence local governments and sub-national level politicians to introduce effective policy measures and increase allocation of resources to combat drug abuse in targeted districts.

This Advocacy and Networking Grant is intended to conduct effective advocacy to address the drug issue within its social dimension, including health, youth, community awareness, among other issues. Massive social mobilization cross-cutting all segments and strata of the society with cross-sectoral involvement can make a difference in the fight against drug abuse. Illustrative areas where civil society advocacy through networking may bring positive results includes, but is not limited to, are: (1) evidence-based social awareness building at the family and community level about drug abuse; (2) appropriate and science-based education about the harmful effects of drugs in educational institutions and (3) functional social mechanism to monitor the enforcement of existing laws and policies.

This advocacy program needs to take measures to ensure the following: use evidence-based advocacy; engage relevant and influential stakeholders; inform the community for a strengthened understanding of the benefits of the advocacy against drug use; carefully plan the advocacy campaign activities; and that the advocacy program team has a clear vision and has cultivated good relationships with key government officials and institutions. The program should also ensure that the networks are well coordinated, and members regularly communicate

Geographic Areas

The CSO shall be required to work in at least two districts adjacent to each other from the PAR working districts and covering all Upazilas within those two districts. The PAR working districts are listed below:

SL	Name of the Divisions	Name of the Districts
1.	Dhaka	Faridpur, Rajbari and Dhaka
2.	Barishal	Barishal and Pirojpur
3.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh and Sherpur
4.	Rajshahi	Rajshahi and Natore
5.	Sylhet	Sunamganj and Sylhet
6.	Rangpur	Rangpur and Kurigram
7.	Chattogram	Chattogram and Feni
8.	Khulna	Khulna, Jashore and Jhenaidah
Total	8 Divisions	18 Districts

Eligibility

EOIs will be evaluated to determine the eligibility of organizations as per criteria below, with the possibility of inviting grant submissions for a full project proposal from selected organizations/CSOs. The minimum eligibility requirements for an organization to be considered for this program are:

- Be officially registered as a Bangladeshi CSO and working in compliance with relevant Bangladeshi laws.

- Proposes activities that contribute to two program objectives outlined above
- Describes expected outcomes and results consistent with and linked to the project’s objectives.
- Has not been debarred from receiving USG funding and or listed in the U.S.G Excluded Parties List and the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List.
- Has experience in working on projects related to combating drug abuse and its consequences
- Has experience in conducting advocacy in partnership with other CSOs.
- Ensures that the program is inclusive in nature with appropriate gender representation including gender diverse groups and representation of youth and marginalized groups including ethnic, other gender, people with disability and indigenous groups.
- Has relevant experience and organizational capacity to manage larger grants of \$200,000 or more.

Evaluation Criteria

The EOIs will be evaluated against the following criteria:

List of attributes	Score
a. Relevant past performance in managing advocacy campaign against drug abuse	20
b. Organizational network and past performance in target districts	20
c. Technical expertise in designing and implementing advocacy campaign	30
d. Past experience in addressing social inclusion issues (participation of religious, gender, ethnic minority groups and persons with disabilities) and implementing innovative projects in partnership with other CSO partners and stakeholders.	20
e. Organizational capacity and commitment in managing larger grants	10

Selected eligible organizations may be invited to participate in a proposal development workshop for the proposal submission.

Submission Instructions

Interested and qualified CSOs are requested to submit their **Expression of Interest (EOI)** by providing the following information, in line with the above-mentioned eligibility criteria:

- The registration status of the CSO;
- Geographical presence of the organization in the proposed program districts);
- Complete contact information of the organization (email, telephone number);
- One-page profile of the organization which should include the organization’s expertise (technical, administrative and financial management capacity) in the area for which it has applied, with a brief description of the envisaged project (to include monitoring, coordination, conflict management and resolution, mobilization, and gender, as appropriate)
- At least three past performance references in the specific area of focus

Please use the attached form to submit your Expressions of Interest.

Please send your Expressions of Interest to **Grants.par@counterpart.org** no later than **August 5, 2019, 17:00 Dhaka time**. All EOIs should reference the solicitation reference number listed (**EOI PAR 02/2019**) in the subject line of the email. PAR will only accept electronic submission of Expression of Interest in English.



Counterpart International will review responses as PAR receives them. All applicants must meet the minimum requirements described above. Only short-listed organizations will be contacted and invited to submit full grant application proposal.

Additional Considerations

Issuance of this EOI does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of CPI, nor does it commit CPI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the EOI. Furthermore, CPI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions received and reserves the right to ask further clarifications from the offerors.