



Call for Proposal

Invitation for Sub-Delegation (s) For Creating Opportunities for Youth and Women in Africa (COYWA)

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Foreword

1. This Standard Grant Document (SGD), Call for Proposal (CFP), for selection of grantee/sub-delegate, has been prepared by The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
2. The Project Name is Creating Opportunities for Youth and Women in Africa (COYWA)
3. Before preparing a response to the Invitation for Proposal for a specific assignment, the user must be familiar with all the instructions and terms and conditions of this Invitation for Proposal.
4. To obtain further information on grants under AUDA-NEPAD-financed projects or for any questions regarding the use of this SGD, contact:

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1. About the Organization

The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), with its clearly defined mandate and legal identity, is now the first development agency of the African Union, with its new mandate being: (i) To coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063; (ii) To strengthen the capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies; advance knowledge-based advisory support, undertake the full range of resource mobilisation, and serve as the continent's technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders and development partners.

The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD is responsible for implementing the continent's major projects for regional integration, with the close collaboration of both the public and private sectors. Working towards Africa's integration, the Agency plays a fundamental role in the realisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The new AUDA-NEPAD mandate gives the organization a wider role in terms of providing knowledge-based advisory support to African Union Member States concerning development strategies and capacity development, to support them in driving their development. Moreover, the Agency plays a critical role in disseminating best practices and supporting countries' efforts in developing their capacity and leverage on regional and global partnerships.

2. Purpose/Objectives of the call

2.1. Background of the Programme

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is a pivotal state agency operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation in Spain. It is strategically positioned to promote, program, operationally coordinate, manage, and execute public policies that encompass Spanish cooperation aimed at fostering sustainable development, humanitarian action, and education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

AECID plays an instrumental role in shaping the strategic planning of Spanish Cooperation by actively participating in the definition of its priorities and developing the requisite instruments for effective implementation. Guided by the political direction of the Secretary of State for International Cooperation, AECID ensures the coherent and efficient execution of development initiatives. This is achieved through the framework of the Master Plan, which facilitates operational coordination across the Spanish cooperation system, ensuring that efforts at headquarters, regional, and country levels are aligned for maximum impact.

To address the development and gender concerns of disadvantaged women on the African continent, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with the Government of Spain through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID), launched the NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment in 2007. The overarching goal of the NEPAD Spanish Fund is to empower African women by enhancing their capacities and autonomy to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically MDG 3 on gender equality, and to support the realization of the subsequent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, the Fund aligns with SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Agenda 2063 Goal 17 (full gender equality in all spheres of life), and Agenda 2063 Goal 18 (engaged and empowered youth and children). Additionally, it supports the African Union's Gender Policy, the Africa Women Decade (2010–2020), and other regional policies and frameworks that aim for the sustainability of projects, ultimately advancing Agenda 2063.

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The fund supports women's economic empowerment, addressing issues such as business skills development, vocational training, access to microfinance, gender-based violence (GBV), and enhancing women's participation in leadership positions. It has also strengthened the capacities of governmental institutions and civil society organizations, including grassroots women's and youth organizations

2.2. Resource Requirement and Programme Way Forward

Phase two of AUDA-NEPAD Spanish Fund has since established a window for Creating Opportunities for Youth and Women in Africa (COYWA) Programme, a joint initiative between AUDA-NEPAD and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). This collaboration builds on a longstanding partnership aimed at socio-economic empowerment of African youth and women, aligning with both Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Given Africa's position as the continent with the youngest population globally, empowering its youth and women is essential to fostering innovation, economic growth, and inclusive development. The COYWA Programme focuses on addressing barriers such as limited access to education, vocational training, and financial resources through targeted, strategic interventions.

The Call for Proposals (CfP) for the AUDA- NEPAD and AECID COYWA Programme aims to support women's and youth enterprises, joint ventures, associations, communities, and cooperatives through grants. This initiative focuses on promoting socio-economic inclusion, youth and women's transformative leadership, and addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR).

The guidelines and procurement workplan ensure that the Call for Proposals under the AUC-NEPAD COYWA Programme is transparent, efficient, and aligned with the objectives of promoting socio-economic inclusion, women's leadership, and addressing GBV prevention and SRHR. By providing a clear structure for proposal submissions and evaluation, Member States and eligible entities can effectively participate in this funding opportunity.

The following guidelines outline the process for submitting proposals, evaluation criteria, and the procurement workplan for the COYWA Programme.

2.3 Objectives

The objective of the call is to invite proposals from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), women-led and youth-led enterprises, and relevant public institutions that support and promote:

- Socio-economic inclusion of women and youth.
- Transformative leadership among youth and women in politics, business, and communities.
- Gender-Based Violence prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The overall objective is to provide financial and technical support to entities working on projects that create economic opportunities and improve gender equality outcomes.

2.4 Focus Window

Grants will be allocated to projects that fall under one or more of the following categories:

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I. **Socio-Economic Inclusion:**

- Projects promoting financial independence, entrepreneurship, and economic participation for women and youth.
- Initiatives that strengthen the capacity of women-led and youth-led enterprises.

ii. **Youth and Women's Transformative Leadership:**

- Projects supporting women's leadership in political, business, and community spheres.
- Initiatives that empower women in decision-making roles and leadership training.

iii. **GBV Prevention and SRHR:**

- Projects addressing GBV and promoting the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and youth.
- Initiatives focused on awareness, education, and advocacy to prevent GBV and improve SRHR services.

2.5 Expected Outputs and Outcomes.

The expected outputs and outcomes include:

A matching grant scheme to support the incubation, promotion, and professionalization of economically viable female-led businesses, both through existing and newly established incubation centers. This will drive innovation, economic empowerment, and long-term sustainability for women entrepreneurs across Africa.

- i. **Women and youth mentored on Education and care work:** market- oriented vocational training and literacy programmes for youth and women.
- ii. **Economic empowerment and financial inclusion:** Income autonomy and social protection for youth, women and girls.
- iii. **Technology and E Inclusion:** Youth, women and girls become more active users and influencers of the technological space and gender enabling E-Tech solutions are funded.
- iv. **Health, SRH &RR, HTTP:** Women and girls achieve higher chances of survival, improved nutrition and wellness and their bodily integrity is protected.
- v. **Violence Against Women And Girls (VAWG) and Peace Processes:** All forms of violence against women and girls is reduced, criminalized and condemned by society; women participate equally in peace processes.
- vi. **Human security:** Commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action, migration and COP Plan of Action for women achieve higher levels of implementation.
- vii. **Institutional Gender Governance Systems:** Institutions and organs of the African Union, Member States Regional Economic Communities and civil society have the requisite capacity to implement existing commitments; pro-actively forecast and address new challenges and demonstrate accountability.
- viii. **Leadership:** Equal participation and demonstrated influence of youth, women and girls in all leadership and decision-making positions.
- ix. **Voice:** Youth, women and girls have equal voice and exercise agency in the home, community and public spaces

2.6 Anticipated Outcomes

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The anticipated outcome of the programme is improved capacities and autonomy of African women and youth which will lead to an improvement in the livelihoods of African women and youth.

3 The Application Process

3.1 Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the grants, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are legally registered in a Member State.
- Women-led and youth-led enterprises, associations, communities, and cooperatives.
- Institutions that support youth and women's leadership, GBV prevention, and SRHR.
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting gender equality and socio-economic development.

3.1.1 Eligible Entities (Who may apply?)

1. The Eligible beneficiaries of the COYWA Grants/Sub-delegation through a direct award process is based on the selected countries that will respond to the Invitation for Proposal.
2. In order to be eligible as the Grant Recipient, or in the case of Partners, as the leading Partner for Grant, Applicants **must**:
 - be an entity with legal personality,
 - be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with their Partners, not acting as an intermediary.
 - Legal registration in their respective countries.
 - A minimum of two years of operation in relevant areas.
 - Proven experience in implementing projects related to the CfP focus areas.
 - The ability to manage funds and deliver tangible, measurable results.
 - Commitment to gender equality and SRHR, with a focus on women and youth.
3. Potential Applicants may not participate in calls for proposals or be shortlisted for Grant if they are in any of the situations which are listed in Section 2.6.4 of grants application guidelines. In part B section VI of the Grant Application Form ("Declaration by the Applicant"), Applicants must declare that they do not fall into any of these situations listed in Section 2.6.4 of the grant's application guidelines.

3.1.2 Partnerships and eligibility of partners

Applicants may act individually or with Partners.

Partners participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the Grant Recipient. They must therefore satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the Applicant themselves.

The Applicant will act as the lead organization and, if selected, as the Grant Recipient.

The following are not partners and do not have to sign the "partnership statement":

- **Associates**
 - Other organisations may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant with the exception of per diem or travel costs. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in section 2.1.1 and under section 8 of the AUDA-NEPAD Grants Management Manual. The associates have to be mentioned in Part B section IV

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- “Associates of the Applicant, participating in the Action” of the Grant Application Form.

▪ Subcontractors

- The grant beneficiaries have the possibility to award contracts to subcontractors. Subcontractors are neither partners nor associates and are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract which is in line with the AUDA-NEPAD procurement procedures.

3.1.3 Eligible Activities/Actions

Eligibility of Actions - Actions for which an application may be made:

To be eligible under this Call for Proposals (CFP), costs must comply with the provisions of the general call for action to be expressed and indicated by respective beneficiaries of the project and agreed in the subsequent contract.

- I. Duration: The initial planned duration of an action may not exceed **24 Months**.
- II. Priority Sectors or themes: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) private sector, and public institutions
- III. Location: Actions must take place in the selected: African Union Member States
- IV. Types of action and Activity: Activities that supports and promoting youth and women programmes.

The following types of action are ineligible:

- Debts and provisions for losses or debts;
- Interest owed;
- Terms already financed in another framework;
- Purchases of land or buildings;
- Currency exchange losses;
- Taxes, including VAT, unless the Beneficiary (or, where applicable, its partners) can show it cannot reclaim and the applicable regulations authorized coverage of taxes; and
- Credits to third parties.

3.1.4 Eligible Countries

Countries in the following selected RECs (EAC, COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS and ECCAS).

3.1.5 Financial Support

The overall indicative amount made available under these invitations is **€1,800 000.00 (one million eight hundred thousand Euros)**. The estimated amount for each participating REC is up to **€360,000.00** with a **24-month** period of execution. The AUDA-NEPAD reserves the right not to award the full allocation of available funds for various reasons and outcomes of the assessed applications to be submitted.

Size of grants:

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must fall between the following amounts:

- minimum amount: Zero (0)
- maximum amount: €120,000.0 (One Hundred Twenty Thousand EURO) for each selected participant.

Number of Grants per applicant

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- An Applicant can only be awarded one grant even if the applicant submits two proposals for the two services under this Call for Proposals.
- No applicant may receive more than one grant financed by the Contracting Authority for the same action. The applicant shall immediately inform the Contracting Authority of any multiple applications and multiple grants relating to the same action or to the same work Programme.

3.1.6 Period of Implementation

The proposal's duration shall not exceed **24 months** from the date of commencement of the agreement. All budgets and workplans to be shared should be for an action that lasts up to a **24-month** period of performance.

3.2 Application Submission Requirements/Resource Requirements

- An Official signed Letter from an authorized official, expressing interest of participation in the call for proposal.
- Brief Concept Note;
- Grant Application form following the procedures as set up in the Guidelines for Applicants;
- A Detailed Workplan with clear articulation of Activities meeting the Programme Objectives;
- A Detailed Budget in line with the with the provided template;
- Applications shall be submitted in electronic format (pdf preferred); and
- A Debriefing information session will be held not later than 5 days before the deadline and upon request at least.
- Organizational registration certificates.
- Audited financial statements (last two years).
- Letters of support or endorsements from local authorities or partners (optional).

4 Submission Deadlines

Applications must be addressed and received by AUDA-NEPAD to the official emails: grants-subdelegation@nepad.org and copied to kudzaiishem@nepad.org ; angelm@nepad.org and vincentm@nepad.org not later than **30 November 2025**. Applications and modifications thereof shall be submitted in pdf (preferred) or another electronic format to AUDA-NEPAD at grants-subdelegation@nepad.org and copied to kudzaiishem@nepad.org ; angelm@nepad.org and vincentm@nepad.org

Applications which are submitted late or are incomplete run the risk of not being considered in the review process.

5 Further information for the Application

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 15 days before the deadline for the submission of concept notes to the address(es) below, clearly indicating the reference of the call for proposals: E-mail address: grants-subdelegation@nepad.org and copied to kudzaiishem@nepad.org; angelm@nepad.org, stellac@auda-nepad.org and vincentm@nepad.org. The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be published no later than ten (10) *days* before the deadline for submission of concept notes. To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action, or specific activities.

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6 Evaluation and Selection of applications

The Proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria as set in the Guidelines for application, with a scoring system to ensure purpose realization, transparency and consistency with the objectives of the Programme:

7 Privacy Policy from the Contracting Authority

Procurement, Grants and Sub-Delegation office collects and uses your personal information for the “Granting Process” when you intend to participate in the implementation of a program finance through the AUDA-NEPAD either individually or as a firm based on your consent. The security of your personal data is our highest priority, and data will be kept confidential for a period strictly necessary for the purpose set out. This privacy notice supplements the AUDA-NEPAD standard privacy notice and should be read in conjunction with the same, <https://www.nepad.org/personal-data-protection>

Or

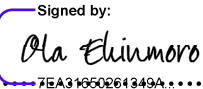
Data Protection – The Client’s Grants office collects and uses your personal information for the “Procurement Process” when you intend to complete and deliver any service or goods for the organization either individually or as a firm based on your consent. The security of your personal data is our highest priority, and data will be kept with confidentiality for a period strictly necessary for the purpose set out. This data protection notice refers to the section 3.5 of the African Union’s Procurement Manual and supplements the AUC Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection Convention (“AUC Convention”), and should be read in conjunction with the same, <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

Or

Disclaimer: The Client reserves the right to verify any information provided by prospective entities/individuals and false information will lead to disqualification. The Client reserves the right to cancel or reject any or all proposals/Applications.

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Yours Sincerely

Signed by:

7E A3 1650261349A.....

Ola Ehinmoro
Director Operations
African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
Johannesburg, South Africa.

Signed by:

3C82F031E74145E....

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