



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

B - NEIGHBOURHOOD SOUTH

Information session on the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund, Brussels, 26 March 2015

Summary and first Q&A with additional information for partners

In order to raise awareness on the part of European implementing organisations and NGOs, the Commission invited relevant networks to an information session on working modalities, priorities and initial orientation of the Madad Fund in Brussels on 26 March 2015 from 14h30 to 16h30.

DG NEAR Director Michael Köhler introduced the Madad Fund's innovative nature and its focus on non-humanitarian resilience and recovery needs in the region affected by the Syrian crisis. One key objective is to give Europe not only a stronger role as a donor, but also as a 'doer' by way of better utilizing European capacities for project delivery on the ground. To this end, European agencies and NGOs active in the non-humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis are welcome to closely liaise with the Madad Fund and establish possible collaboration where there is common ground and added value. EU visibility will be a key aspect for any action to be financed by the Madad Fund. The Madad Fund currently has received €23m contributions, but aims at mobilising additional funding in 2015 from both donors and EU budget.

More detailed background on the Madad Fund was provided by way of the presentation attached to this summary. It was stressed that the Madad Fund aims at leveraging European capacities and knowledge already built up by partners over the past 2-3 years in the region. It will thus focus on feasible actions with partners who already have operations and capacities in the region. In order to keep contract management and overhead costs of the Madad Fund at acceptable minimum levels, the Fund will as a priority consider multi-partner, multi-country, multi-year actions. Partners are therefore encouraged to identify maximum scope for joint regional proposals. In the subsequent discussion many questions were asked and elaborated. The following Q&A groups and summarises these in a structured manner.

Questions asked by partners during the Madad Fund information session and received afterwards by email to the functional mailbox near-madad@ec.europa.eu

No.	Question	Answer
1.	<i>Template (full proposal, concept note + which annexes and do these need to be in the EU general format)?</i>	For first submissions, please use the general format for concept notes for grants (Part A of application form): http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?annexName=E3b&lang=en
2.	<i>Funding ceiling for proposals (for each individual proposal). Are there minimum and maximum amounts for actions to be proposed?</i>	As we are not in a Call for Proposals there are no fixed ceilings. However, and as noted on 26 March, due to the need to minimize contract management and to maximize coherence and synergies, we are looking for large multi-partner, multi-country, and multi-year actions. While not stipulating a minimum or maximum ceiling for actions, such actions should be conceived accordingly (with an indicative financial frame of more than EUR 5 million).
3.	<i>What would be the timeframe for actions?</i>	As noted on 26 March, the timeframe for actions financed under the Madad Fund is only limited by the Fund's current lifetime, which has been initially set at 5 years from December 2014. Considering the resilience focus of the actions to be supported, project duration should be between 24 and 54 months.
4.	<i>I understood that the funding is accessible to NGOs as well as to government agencies, could you please explain in more detail who will be the beneficiaries and to which percentages (if such a splitting is foreseen)?</i>	There are no pre-set percentages for funding to different categories of partners. Please refer to the " <i>Detailed description of the objectives and purpose of the Trust Fund</i> " adopted with the Madad Fund agreement by the Commission on 10 December 2014 (also attached to this report). On page 7 it says: " <i>Given the Trust Fund's objective in an emergency and post-emergency situation, flexible crisis procedures as authorised by applicable Commission rules and regulations, and as appropriate to the local environment will be used to ensure that the Trust Fund is effective and responsive. To avoid duplicating structures on the ground while making the best use of donors' expertise, delegated cooperation with Member States' national agencies and other Fund donors shall be the preferred option wherever it will offer an appropriate response in terms of the cost, effectiveness and European visibility of the Trust Fund-financed actions. Equally, the capacity of international, European and local NGOs shall be leveraged to maximise the effectiveness of the response provided by the Trust Fund.</i> "
5.	<i>Could you please specify the timeframe for concept notes/ full proposals to be submitted? We understand that you expect a first round of concept notes by June 2015. Could you confirm this? Due date for submission in advance of the May board meeting?</i>	As we are not in a Call for Proposals there are no specific deadlines. However, we expect the need for in-depth discussions and negotiations to establish the desired large multi-partner, multi-country, and multi-year actions, based on initial concept notes and potentially also with the need to combine a number of proposed actions. Therefore it appears more realistic to expect the adoption of such actions by the Madad Fund board only after the summer, in its second meeting, and based on clarity of available funding by then for the year 2015. Therefore, concept notes for this scenario

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		should ideally be presented before 30 June. This does not prevent partners from submitting spontaneous applications beforehand – financing for such actions is however unlikely to be adopted by the first Madad Fund board meeting in May/June due to the above stated reasons.
6.	<i>Where and how to submit a proposal? Is there any detail available on the contact persons at local level? Do we need to engage and discuss directly with the EU Delegations in Beirut and Amman? What are the respective roles of EU Brussels and Delegations in dealing with applications for the Madad Fund?</i>	Please submit concept notes directly and at all times to the functional mailbox: near-madad@ec.europa.eu The Madad Fund team at DG NEAR will directly liaise with relevant EU Delegations for the evaluations. It is planned to reinforce certain EU Delegations in the region with additional staff for the Madad Fund towards the end of 2015.
7.	<i>Do NGOs and partners all have to be registered in PADOR?</i>	As we are not in a Call for Proposals there is no obligation for PADOR registration.
8.	<i>Beyond involving local partners as co-beneficiaries of a grant, could also sub-granting be the purpose of actions?</i>	Yes, this is possible.
9.	<i>Which countries are eligible for actions under the Madad Fund? Is it possible for example to include support to Syrian refugees and host communities in Libya?</i>	According to Art. 9 of the Madad Fund agreement, " <i>The Action must fall under the geographical scope of the Trust Fund, which is primarily Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt or any other country in the region affected by the Syrian crisis.</i> ", while according to Article 2 " <i>Assistance inside Syria will be considered taking into account, and avoiding overlap with, the action of other existing international funding instruments, and depend on agreement with the Syria Recovery Trust Fund</i> ".
10.	<i>What are the rules for co-financing and retroactivity?</i>	As the Madad Fund is a " <i>Union trust fund(s) for emergency or post- emergency action</i> " in the sense of Art. 187 of the Financial Regulation, please refer to the PRAG, Annex A11a: <i>Guidelines on contractual procedures to be used in cases of crisis situations under the EU budget and EDF</i> (in particular Section 5. <i>How are flexible procedures applied?</i>).
11.	<i>What are the priority sectors of intervention? Is housing, WASH, malnutrition, access to informal/ non-formal education for out-of-school children also eligible?</i>	Please refer to section 3. <i>Eligible sectors of activities</i> , in the " <i>Detailed description of the objectives and purpose of the Trust Fund</i> " adopted with the Madad Fund agreement by the Commission on 10 December 2014 (also attached to this report). To date, the Trust Fund has not set up more focused priority sectors.
12.	<i>How can actions in Jordan receive approval from MOPIC if the donor has not already confirmed funding?</i>	While the Madad Fund would as a priority consider actions for funding that have already received government approval in the respective neighbouring country outside Syria, we will try to elaborate a practical solution for this specific issue in Jordan together with the EU Delegation in Amman.
13.	<i>Will the Madad Fund allow for earmarking?</i>	Please refer to section 4. in the " <i>Detailed description of the objectives and purpose of the Trust Fund</i> " adopted with the Madad Fund agreement by the Commission on 10 December 2014 (also attached to this report), where it says: " <i>The Trust Fund can on request of donors and subject to</i>

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		<i>approval of its Board establish separate funding windows where and when it is deemed required, feasible and appropriate to do so. Such windows may cover assistance in a specific sector or country, or modality (e.g. budget support) and would be reported accordingly in the Trust Fund's regular reporting to donors."</i>
14.	<i>How can regional, multi-partner actions be managed in terms of the additional costs this generates?</i>	Such additional costs will have to be accordingly budgeted and negotiated with the Commission.
15.	<i>We would also like to ask if you have more details about the second info session for IOs that DG NEAR is planning to organise after Easter?</i>	We will provide IO's offices in Brussels with the same information other partners are receiving.
16.	<i>We were wondering whether different modalities, obligations, deadlines, eligibility criteria and management mode will be presented and offered to IO's than to EU agencies and NGOS's.</i>	All rules and agreements currently applicable to EU Budget external aid in relation to different categories of implementing partners also apply for the Madad Fund. Please refer to the PRAG and Companion for details.
17.	<i>Would a proposal submitted by a non-EU NGO as prime applicant be eligible for funding?</i>	Yes. Please refer to the " <i>Detailed description of the objectives and purpose of the Trust Fund</i> " adopted with the Madad Fund agreement by the Commission on 10 December 2014 (also attached to this report). On page 7 it says: " <i>the capacity of international, European and local NGOs shall be leveraged to maximise the effectiveness of the response provided by the Trust Fund.</i> ",
18.	<i>In case of approval of a project proposal, how the financing will be disbursed? With how many instalments and of which percentage of pre-financing and balance? If there are no thresholds, will it be necessary to provide a bank guarantee?</i>	The number, type and percentage of payments will depend on the value and duration of the contract and shall follow the usual provisions of the general conditions for grant contracts. Similarly, the provision of a financial guarantee under a grant contract will be subject to Art 15.8 of the general conditions. Please refer to the Grants annexes in the PRAG http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?nodeNumber=6.11). Financial guarantees are not requested under PAGODA.
19.	<i>Could you confirm that Iraqi IDPs cannot be included as target beneficiaries of the Madad Fund?</i>	Please refer to the overall objective of the Trust Fund, which is to " <i>provide a coherent, coordinated and reinforced aid response to the Syrian crisis on a regional scale, responding primarily in the first instance to the needs of refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries, as well as of the communities hosting the refugees and their administrations, in particular as regards resilience and early recovery.</i> " The primary focus is thus on addressing the needs of Syrian refugees and their host communities and not Iraqi IDPs.

Links:

Grants general description

<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/1071>

PRAG:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/>

- Annex A11a: Guidelines on contractual procedures to be used in cases of crisis situations under the EU budget and EDF (in particular Section 5.*How are flexible procedures applied?*)

Annexes and contract templates from the Companion

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/companion/document.do?isAnnexes=true>

Format for Concept Notes

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?annexName=E3b&lang=en>

Annexes:

Madad Fund presentation 26 March 2015



Presentation EUTF
info session 26 March

Madad Fund agreement and annex



EUTF Madad Final
Operational Annex 11 Agreement 11 Dec 20:



EUTF Madad Final