Expression of Interest for Partnership

AAWAZ II: INCLUSION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING EXPLOITATION PROGRAMME

# OVERVIEW

Aawaz II aims to create a more protective and enabling environment for girls, boys, women, youth, religious minorities, the differently abled and those at risk of exclusion and exploitation.

The programme has prioritised: child protection; child and forced marriages; gender-based violence (GBV); and discrimination and intolerance to which marginalised groups are extremely vulnerable. By March 2024, Aawaz II aims to benefit at least 7 million people in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The programme is funded by FCDO.

Aawaz II has two implementation levels: institutional development delivered through the United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP), and community engagement delivered through British Council. At the policy level, the programme seeks to support the government for improving laws, policies and strategies, and strengthen related systems that ensure protection of marginalised and vulnerable groups. At community level, it works directly with marginalised people for their awareness, empowerment and behaviour change so that they could articulate their demands, engage constructively with the state for accessing services and rights, and reduce acceptance of harmful and exploitative practices. Aawaz II will be implemented in 45 districts of Punjab and KP over the life of the programme. The programme model focuses on bringing onboard local CSOs at district level to deliver programme interventions with local communities in KP and Punjab under the supervision of British Council. Since 2020, Aawaz II has been working with 19 civil society organisations to implement the community-based interventions in 22 districts of KP[[1]](#footnote-1) and Punjab[[2]](#footnote-2). The programme is now expanding to 23 additional districts of the two provinces.

# British Council

The British Council is the UK's foremost cultural relations organization dedicated to building trust and understanding between people from all cultures. We operate in over 110 countries and Pakistan is one of the British Council’s highest priorities focusing on education, skills for employability, English, creativity and active citizenship.

# Aawaz II focus

Aawaz II will support the capacity building of 450 Aagahi Centers across 45 selected districts in KP and Punjab to provide a safe space for marginalised members of the community to demand improvements to state services, getting information on their rights and preventing community conflict by encouraging community members to address potential triggers of conflict and to promote tolerance particularly towards religious minorities.

The premise of the programme is that marginalised groups lack access to services, a voice in local decision making, an awareness of their rights leading to vulnerability to exclusion and exploitation and that cultural/social norms sustain and perpetuate intolerance particularly towards religious minorities.

Through a chain of community fora from village forums to Aagahi Centres at community and district and provincial forums, the programme seeks to raise awareness of rights, generate demand, facilitate access to state services which promote the rights of vulnerable people, identify and address related social issues. The programme will also organise communities to pre-empt potential conflict triggers through dialogue, peace initiatives and collective action with young change agents from vulnerable groups at the forefront of social mobilisation and demand based advocacy and action.

# Expression of Interest for Downstream Partners under Aawaz II

British Council is implementing Aawaz II in partnership with a range of strategic, provincial and downstream partners and 22 selected districts of KP and Punjab and is now aims to work in additional 23 districts of Punjab and KP (except the newly merged districts). This EOI seeks applications from local/national CSOs/NGOs with 5 to 10 years’ experience working in districts of KP and Punjab, to support the programme implementation as downstream partners across the two provinces. Applicants are advised to propose districts where they have a presence and are implementing their existing interventions; however, finalization of districts for selected downstream partners will be agreed with them at the contract signing stage.

The downstream partners are expected to host and manage an agreed number of Aawaz Aagahi Centers and Community Aagahi Centers as safe spaces for communities in their respective districts with a core methodology led by Aawaz II Programme Management Unit (PMU) for delivering activities in local communities to achieve the programme results. The Aawaz Aagahi Centres will be staffed with a small team to facilitate community outreach, access to knowledge, awareness and information on social services. Downstream partners will be responsible for identifying and mobilising local communities particularly marginalised groups who are vulnerable to forms of exploitation & discrimination (women, girls, youth, religious minorities, persons with disabilities, transgenders). The downstream partners will also be responsible for setting up Village and District Forums. The downstream partners will ensure that Aagahi Centers and forums work together to build capacity and leadership particularly of young women and men from diverse vulnerable groups to voice demand for change, participate in decision making, promote citizen-state interaction, support collective action to promote inclusion and social cohesion and show ability to find solutions and pre-empt community based conflicts.

# Offer for Civil Society Organisations

Aawaz II: Inclusion, accountability and reducing exploitation programme offers opportunities for civil society organizations to join a large programme implemented in 45 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab and contribute towards a more peaceful, inclusive and tolerant Pakistan. The programme expected outcome is reduced vulnerability to exploitation, reduced discrimination and violence against marginalized communities and reduction in intolerance. The selected downstream partners will be offered:

* Capacity building on addressing social issues as a result of exclusion and exploitation (i.e. early & forced marriages, gender based violence, child protection, community conflicts, intolerance towards marginalised groups and religious minorities)
* Capacity building to deliver a gender sensitive, inclusive content with local communities focusing on long term behaviour change
* Organisational development to manage programme delivery, strengthening of organisational systems including finance, compliance, internal control systems, human resource, M&E and reporting
* Capacity building on safe programming to ensure marginalised / vulnerable groups are protected during programme engagement and safeguarding standards are setup that are integral to programme delivery
* Opportunity to lead Aawaz II in the district and engage with all key stakeholders including the concerned government departments

# Programme Targets[[3]](#footnote-3)

* 450 Aagahi Centers in 45 districts in KP and Punjab
* Over 12000 youth trained in 23 districts
* Number of marginalised people supported into leadership positions in district fora, local government and any other community initiative
* Increased awareness in target communities of laws and rights associated with social issues including child marriage, gender based violence, rights of marginalised and minorities.
* Increased engagement between district and village forums and local government officials to raise demands for services.
* Minority/excluded groups report improved tolerance in target communities.
* Number of women/excluded group members participating in local level community and social cohesion initiatives.
* Number of women and other vulnerable groups supported to either: access services from govt. depts, apply for civil documentation (birth registration CNICs, register as voters etc.), , and receive other related services.

# Expected Roles and Responsibilities of Downstream Partner Organisations:

Each Partner will be responsible for the following deliverables to develop and implement Aawaz II interventions in the target district(s):

* **Recruitment:** Recruitment of agreed number of staff for programme delivery and Aagahi Center teams
* **Operational Management of Aawaz Aagahi Centres:** manage an appropriate allocated number of Aagahi Centres in their respective districts. All centres will implement the same set of activities as approved by PMU targeting a minimum allocated number of community beneficiaries as agreed with the PMU
* **Social Mobilisation**: Expertise in community mobilisation for social issues
* **Formation of Village and District Forums:** identifying members of village and district forums, manage regular meetings and follow ups
* **Capacity building:** Expertise in capacity building – designing, developing, managing and delivery of quality assured trainings.
* **Behaviour Change Campaigns & Advocacy:** Creating awareness about the Aawaz II focus areas and launching specific campaigns through the forums and AACs in the targeted districts as agreed with the PMU.
* Networking and coalition building: Be a member of, activate, support, initiate district networks on Aawaz II thematic areas for advocacy and sustainability
* **Linkages:** Develop linkages for the village and district forums with concerned stakeholders and government departments at the local and district level such as the Social Welfare and Women Development Department, Local Government and Rural Development Department, Child Protection Unit, District Committees on the Status of Women (DCSW), District Bar Association, Police, and District Administration including the Deputy Commissioner, etc.
* **Monitoring and Reporting:** Monitoring of all activities around the Aagahi Centers, village and district forums and youth change agents to monitor their progress, seek regular updates and develop success stories. Maintain programme database of all interventions (including members, participants and beneficiaries), regular progress reporting to Provincial lead partner and PMU (progress reporting will cover programme targets, financial reporting, risks and challenges affecting delivery, success stories/achievements and lessons learnt)
* **Maintain the Programme and financial record** as per the contract and programme policies.

# Assessment criteria

* Legal status as registered non-profit CSO
* Proven experience of 5-10 years working with local communities in KP and Punjab
* Proven experience in social mobilisation with communities, especially women, youth, marginalised groups
* Proven experience of working with Aawaz II target groups and audiences including children, youth, women, people with disabilities and religious minorities
* Proven experience of working on social issues resulting in intolerance, exclusion and exploitation of vulnerable groups in communities
* Demonstrate capacity in grant implementation, training, community mobilization, campaigning, awareness raising and advocacy
* Organization’s values and principles are clearly established through policies on gender equality, equal opportunity and inclusion, child and adult safeguarding. Safeguarding is defined as the actions taken by an organisation to protect children and adults from abuse in all activities including online engagement; the protection of people in the environment from harm, abuse and exploitation; avoiding harm to people or the environment; protecting people and the environment from unintended harm. Safeguarding is integral to the design, development and delivery of the Aawaz II project with established processes and systems to promote and mainstream prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) occurrences such as safe recruitment, safeguarding reporting and response mechanism etc.
* Organizational systems are clearly established (financial management, compliance, control checks, human resource management, monitoring and evaluation, procurement and systems for the prevention of fraud and corruption)

# Application Submission Deadline

Please submit the following as part of your Partnership Proposal by 31st May **2022 by email to Kashif Hanif <**[Kashif.Hanif@britishcouncil.org.pk](mailto:Kashif.Hanif@britishcouncil.org.pk)>

***(the size of the email along with the attachments should not exceed limit of 8 MB)***

**Application Submission Process**

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| **Activity** | **Date** |
| Call for Applications announced | 5th May 2022 |
| Registration for Early Market Engagement meetings  *(for registration confirmation to be sent to Zeeshan Jadoon at Zeeshan.jadoon@britishcouncil.org.pk)*  *(please note only one slot for one organisation available)* | 13th May 2022 |
| Virtual Early Market Engagement meetings  Khyber Pakhtunkhwa  Punjab | 19th May 2022  20th May 2022 |
| Deadline to submit questions  (Submit questions on the EoI, application form to Kashif.hanif@britishcouncil.org.pk) | 24th May 2022 |
| Response to questions published on British Council website | 26th May 2022 |
| Deadline to submit Application with required documents  (Submit full application pack to [Kashif.hanif@britishcouncil.org.pk](mailto:Kashif.hanif@britishcouncil.org.pk))  *(please note that late applications i.e. after 12 midnight, will not be considered, all submissions to be made on email, applications sent by hand/post/courier will not be considered, individual CVs will not be considered as applications)* | 31st May 2022 |

**Your Email should include all the following attachments:**

1. Complete Application Form
2. Organisational Registration Documents (Scanned copies)
3. Governing Documents (Charter/Bylaws/Memorandum & Articles of Association etc.) including Resolution of Governing Body to Apply for Partnership
4. Organizational registration certificate with relevant authority
5. Audit Reports for the past two years (or one if applicable)
6. Certified Bank Statement *(Last six months)*
7. Details of Organisation’s board of directors and management structure with copies of CNICs’.
8. List of existing/current projects/programmes and donors (past five years)
9. List of offices and sub-offices with locations and address
10. **MoU with EAD and NOC for the proposed district(s)** as part of EOI, where you are implementing existing programmes.
11. Brief profiles of programme management staff

1. Peshawar, Kohat, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Haripur, Mansehra, Battagram and Swat [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bahawalpur, Lodhran, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Layyah, Jhang, Faisalabad, Khushab, Nankana Sahib, Narowal, Pakpattan and Kasur [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Targets will be finalised in the annual workplans with contracted partners. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)