CALL FOR PROPOSALS

« Human rights in food systems »

15.06.2020
BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Although today’s global food system produces sufficient food to feed everyone, 820 million people are still suffering from undernutrition, as they do not have access to adequate and nutritious food on a daily basis. Rural population groups, particularly small-scale farmers and their families, are among those most affected by poverty and hunger despite the fact that they produce 80% of the food consumed in the world. They also suffer disproportionately from the effects of conflicts and climate change. Many peasants – particularly women and young farmers - experience difficulties to access land, water and seeds of their choices although their livelihoods depend on these resources. Moreover, in many countries they are victims of different forms of discrimination and human rights violations. Given the current COVID19 pandemic and its measures to contain it, barriers that prevent people’s access to adequate food are expected to worsen and risks of food insecurity and malnutrition to further increase, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable.

In order to transform food systems towards the needs of people and the environment, there is an urgent need to rethink and change governance and food policies in order to give peasants a voice and to enable them to claim their rights as they are key to food security, to the fight against climate change and to the conservation of biodiversity. A major step towards this goal was achieved in December 2018, when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) after almost 20 years of mobilization and 6 years of negotiation at the UN Human Rights Council. In line with its long-standing human right tradition, Switzerland and SDC contributed to the successful adoption of the Declaration.

While the Declaration is touching on a broad range of aspects that are central for peasants and other people living in rural areas (wages, WASH, housing, etc.), it recognizes some specific rights such as the right to food, land, water, and seeds. The right to food has been recognized as a legally binding right in 1966 with the adoption of Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Declaration also refers to other global conventions such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which recognizes peasants’ customary rights to save, select, exchange and sell seeds as well as to use and reuse them. Moreover, it is linked to most of the non-binding principles and guidelines adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In particular, it makes reference to the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (2004) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of National Food Security (2012). The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Foods Systems for Nutrition with its human rights perspective also aligns well with the UNDROP.

In spite of the numerous international instruments on the right to food and other human rights in the context of food systems, there is still a wide gap in the awareness and implementation of these standards, a lack of accountability and a lack of policy coherence at national and global levels. The UNDROP, therefore, provides a unique opportunity to address the right to food and other relevant human rights in a more concerted way within food systems - for the benefit of peasants.

In line with Switzerland’s human rights tradition, SDC’s partnership with the Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) as the leading UN entity for human rights, and based on SDC’s previous long-standing engagement on human rights and the right to food, SDC is looking for a programme in order to contribute making the UNDROP a “reality” at local, national and global level and to protecting the rights of millions of family farmers and small-scale peasants in rural areas in low and middle income countries. The UNDROP claims that states shall formulate, in partnership with peasants and other people working in rural areas, public policies at the local, national, regional and international level to advance and protect the right to adequate food, food security and food sovereignty and sustainable and equitable food systems that promote and protect the rights of peasants and other people working in

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1 Yet, they are still being negotiated and adoption is expected for autumn 2020 or for 2021.
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rural areas. By making the UNDROP known to the “right-holders” – in particular also to women and youth – and in strengthening them in their capacities and political power to claim their rights, SDC aims at contributing to enhance governance and accountability on the right to food and other related human rights that are relevant to SDC’s Global Programmes Food Security (GPFS) work (such as land, agrobiodiversity, agro-ecology and seeds), and consequently to improved human rights, livelihoods, food security and safety and nutrition for all.

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROJECT

1.1 Goal and objectives

The Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) launches an open call for proposals to identify a programme by an organization, a consortium or an alliance of institutions willing to build on and systematize existing innovative initiatives to strengthen human rights in food systems.

The overall goal of the programme SDC/GPFS is looking for is to contribute to the realization of the UNDROP. This includes the strengthening of the right to food and other human rights in food systems, thereby enhancing sustainable access to healthy, safe and nutritious food for the most marginalized and excluded groups affected by hunger and malnutrition. Hence, SDC/GPFS is looking for programme proposals that focus on enhancing the awareness, capacities, governance, monitoring and accountability for relevant human rights in food systems at national, regional and international level.

The proposed theory of change is as follows: IF global frameworks and norm/standard setting processes are coherent with the right to food and other rights of peasants and rural food workers, and IF these global frameworks translate into the development, implementation and monitoring of laws, public policies and legislation at national level that promote and protect the right to food and other rights of peasants and people working in rural areas, THEN food security and malnutrition in all its forms will be improved, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, such as women and youth, who will be empowered to claim their rights and to participate in decisions that affect them.

The proposed overall goal and theory of change shall serve as a strategic framing reference to be refined by the participants in the call for proposals. They should also develop programme outcomes alongside the following strategic objectives:

1. to strengthen information, training and capacity building of right holders on the UNDROP;
2. to strengthen national legal and policy frameworks on human rights in food systems in selected countries through civil society mobilization, participation and advocacy work;
3. to strengthen human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms for food systems at national, regional and international level, including the “watch-dog” function of CSOs;
4. to improve policy coherence of global norm setting processes for food systems with the right to food and claims of the UNDROP.

Taking into account that the UNDROP is touching on a broad range of aspects that are central for peasants and other people living in rural areas, SDC is looking for a programme that focuses on human rights in food systems. Particularly issues of land tenure, agrobiodiversity, seeds, agro-ecology and the right to food shall be addressed as SDC’s GPFS has a special interest in these fields. This “light earmarking” will, however, not prohibit the programme from responding to other relevant demand-driven human rights issues relevant for peasants and other people living in rural areas.

By strengthening relevant human rights in food systems through the promotion of governance, monitoring and accountability mechanisms (the “sticks”), it complements other future GPFS supported projects on the topics of land tenure, agrobiodiversity, and nutrition that will be concurrently searched for through the joint GPFS call and that will focus rather on incentivizing and rewarding behaviour change (“the carrot approach”). Synergies with these other new
GPFS supported initiatives shall, therefore, actively be sought in this programme under the umbrella of the UNDROP. Building potential synergies with other SDC supported projects related to human rights in food systems is also highly encouraged (see Annex 2).

1.2 Strategic linkages

The programme shall align itself and contribute to achieving GPFS development goals related to the thematic priorities 1.3. “Sustainable use of agrobiodiversity”, 2.1 “Global governance for food security and nutrition”, 2.2. “Secure tenure and access to land” and 2.4 “Improved nutrition for all” of the current GPFS Strategy 2017-2020. The GPFS Strategy 2017-2020 states that “[t]he GPFS is committed to the realization of the human right to food. It supports selected civil society organizations and cooperates with the UN with the objective to reinforce the justificability of the right to adequate food. The GPFS supports the integration of a human rights perspective in the Agenda 2030 and the CFS”. The programme shall also fit with the Amendment to the GPFS Strategy 2017-2020 focusing on sustainable food systems and nutrition as the main future goals of the GPFS and with the new SDC Guidance on Human Rights. It shall also align with the Swiss dispatch on international cooperation for the period 2021-2024 which explicitly mentions SDC’s support towards the right to food and other rights of peasants. It shall contribute to the Dispatch’s four main objectives i.e. to contribute to create decent jobs, address climate change and sustainable natural resources management, reduce the causes of migration and promote the rule of law. Finally, the programme is expected to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular to SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, and 16, and to leaving no one behind.

While the intervention strategy shall be developed by the participants of the call for proposals, the consideration of the following strategic guiding principles – in addition to the above mentioned strategic linkages – will be of importance for the selection of the proposal:

- The programme shall pursue a human rights based approach relevant at global, regional and national level. A clear link to relevant policy frameworks at regional/global level is required.

- The programme shall address the right to food and other relevant human rights for food systems in concerted way. Taking into account GPFS priorities, the project shall, therefore, promote linkages between agro-ecological approaches, land tenure, seeds, agrobiodiversity and the realization of the right to food and other human rights in food systems;

- The programme shall address equity and gender equality. It shall particularly engage and empower women and youth in terms of right to food and other human rights in food systems. At least 50% of the proposed activities should, therefore, directly combat gender inequalities, putting systemic improvements for women and youth at the centre.

- The programme shall convince through its comprehensiveness and consistency of the chosen modalities and approaches. Its implementation shall allow for replication and up scaling at global level with tangible results in the next 4 years.

- The programme shall capture and disseminate experiences and best practices from the local and national level for policy influencing, advocacy and knowledge sharing at regional and global level through advocacy and knowledge sharing.

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2 For French see https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/deza/fr/documents/aktuell/dossiers/Botschaft-IZA-2021-2024_FR.pdf
No English version is available yet.
1.3 Geographic focus
SDC is looking for a multi-country programme with a global focus, addressing low- and middle income countries. A targeting of SDC priority countries and, in particular, countries in which SDC already supports interventions related to human rights issues is welcome.

2. APPLICATION DETAILS

2.1 Who can apply
The call for proposals welcomes applications from single organizations, organizations with subcontractors, consortia or alliances of different stakeholder groups. SDC/GPFS is looking for partners with proven experiences and competences in the mentioned fields, demonstrated capacity to develop and implement projects of similar volume and complexity and a good anchoring in and context knowledge on the focus countries. In case of a consortium, the composition of the applicants should ensure complementarity, coherence and competence in all related field.

2.2 What kind of project can be funded
- Contributions to new projects, programmes or initiatives together with other donors and/or contributions to ongoing projects are eligible.
- Project or initiative implemented in multiple countries are welcome. Projects or initiatives with a focus on less than four countries are not considered.
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation is welcome.
- Synergies and complementarities to existing SDC financed programmes are welcome.
- Exclusive research projects are not considered.

2.3 Duration
The period foreseen to support financially a potential programme is set at 10 years to take into account the complexity and the long-term nature of the project’s development objectives. Contractually and conceptually, the project should be divided into three successive phases. SDC intends to sign a contribution contract for each phase. The first phase of the project should last 4 years (June 2021 - May 2025), followed by a possible second phase of 4 years (June 2025 - May 2029), and a possible shorter third phase (until May 2031).

‘Preparatory steps’ for the rollout, the implementation of activities, and the setup of the scaling strategy to achieve the intended project outcomes might be more prominent for the first project phase including adjustments where appropriate. The subsequent phases (maximum two), however, should focus predominantly on scaling-up and scaling-out of the project achievements. In these two last phases policy influencing at national, regional and/or global levels should also become an important component. The possible second and third phases will depend on both satisfactory performance achieved in the previous phases and on confirmed funding availability.

2.4 Funding
In the framework of this call, SDC may choose one single proposal for funding. SDC’s contribution for the first phase will be a maximum of CHF 900’000.-- per year. The annual contribution will decrease in the possible third phase.

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1 See Annex 2: Indicative list of SDC country programmes related to human rights in food systems with which the new programme could develop synergies.
2 including stakeholders civil society, food consumer and producer organisations, local and national governments, research organisations, extension services or intergovernmental organisations

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SDC’s contribution will cover a maximum of 50% of the total cost of the project. The presented budget shall include the full cost of the project and show all costs and all sources of finance. There is no remuneration for the submission of a proposal in this call.

2.5 Contractual aspects

The Swiss Federal Act on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, the Swiss Federal Subsidy Act and the conditions of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs regarding contributions are applicable.

The following standard contracts will be signed with the selected applicants:

- For an organization registered in Switzerland: Contract for Federal contribution to projects within Switzerland (see SDC website https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals)
- For an organization registered outside of Switzerland: Contract for contribution to projects outside Switzerland (see SDC website https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals)

3. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

3.1 Contact and information

- All information about this call for proposal is publicly available on SDC’s website: https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals
- Questions related to the call for proposals shall be submitted by email to the following address gpfscallforproposals@eda.admin.ch with the subject: “Human Rights in Food Systems” – Question until July 6 2020. All questions and relative answers will be anonymously, continuously and openly available on SDC’s website (https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals), and will be updated twice (June 29 and July 17 2020).
- The proposals have to be submitted by August 28 2020, 24:00 CET latest to the following email address: gpfscallforproposals@eda.admin.ch with the subject: “Human Rights in Food Systems”.
- Validity of proposals: 180 days after deadline for submission of complete proposals.

3.2 Documents to be submitted

The following documents have to be sent directly to SDC’s Global Programme Food Security per email:

1. Cover letter with signatures of the contributing party or parties (1 page)
2. Technical proposal (max. 6 pages):
   a. Description of the proposal, approach, geographical outreach (included countries), strategy of intervention, impact hypothesis or theory of change and sustainability of the project outcomes.
   b. Expected results (outcomes and impact) to be achieved within 4 years, and - if applicable - of the results achieved so far.
   c. Description of direct and indirect partners and beneficiaries.
   d. Assessment indicating opportunities and risks and the means identified for addressing them.
   e. Institutional arrangement and its organizational structure (consortium, organization with subcontractors, single organization).
   f. Description of institutional profile, experience in the thematic fields of the project, national anchoring in the selected countries and track record of the capacity to develop and implement projects of the volume and complexity requested for this
g. Description of personal resources.

3. Financial proposal (max. 3 pages):
   h. Budget specifying all costs of the project, including key personnel, material, and travel as well as any other costs related to the full implementation. The budget specifies an allocation of the funds to the various lines of action.
   i. Confirmation of co-financing and share of co-financing.
   j. The financial proposal is in line with the stipulations in 2.4.

Additional annexes or links to further documents are not allowed.
Language for offers: English and French

3.3 Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date / Deadline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.06.2020</td>
<td>Call for proposals opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.06.2020</td>
<td>Deadline submission of questions by email / round 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.06.2020</td>
<td>Publication responses to questions / round 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.07.2020</td>
<td>Deadline submission of questions by email / round 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.07.2020</td>
<td>Publication responses to questions / round 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.08.2020, 24:00 CET</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of complete proposals by email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Evaluation of submitted proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-16.10.2020</td>
<td>Oral presentations and negotiations (remain reserved)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-30.10.2020</td>
<td>Evaluation decision and communication on decision to all applicants and publication of decision on SDC’s website <a href="https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals">https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2020 – March 2021</td>
<td>Development of a full proposal to be considered for funding by SDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>Signing of Contract between SDC and implementing organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>June or July 2021</td>
<td>Start of phase 1</td>
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3.4 Evaluation

The evaluation is carried out in accordance with the procedure described in chapter 4.

3.5 Oral presentation and negotiation (remain reserved)

In case of high quality proposals with similar scoring, SDC reserves the right to invite the concerned applicants (maximum of 5 proposals) for an oral presentation (phone or video conference) to a selection committee of SDC. The oral presentation will tentatively take place in October 2020.

3.6 Evaluation decision

Following the evaluation procedure described in chapter 4, SDC will take a final decision and may select one proposal.
4. SELECTION OF PROJECTS; EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1 Eligibility check

An evaluation committee set up by SDC will check whether the proposals meet the formal criteria as described in the chap 3.1 and 3.2. Proposals that do not meet the formal criteria will not be evaluated. The committee will then evaluate all the eligible proposals according to the criteria described in the chap. 4.2.

4.2 Evaluation

The proposals will be reviewed according to international peer review standard procedures. The following table provides an overview of the evaluated criteria and the corresponding weighting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EC</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</table>
| EC1 | Capacities:  
  - Demonstrated thematic expertise and competencies  
  - Relevant achieved results  
  - Relevant institutional network as well as local/national/regional anchorage  
  - Programme management and implementation competencies | 30% |
| EC2 | Approach:  
  - Global relevance, consistency and credibility  
  - Probability of success and scalability (systemic changes)  
  - Taking into account impact on agro-ecology, gender and youth, food system, nutrition and food security as well as poverty reduction | 40% |
| EC3 | Other:  
  - Synergies and complementarities with other SDC programmes (see Annex 2)  
  - Clarity and self-explanatory character of the proposal | 10% |
| EC4 | Financial Proposal  
  - Clarity of the proposition, full character of the cost structure (personnel, material, traveling and other costs) and allocation to various lines of action; realistic estimation of the costs in relation to the expected outcomes | 10% |
| EC5 | Reliable source of co-financing and % of co-financing | 10% |

Each evaluation criterion (EC) will be evaluated according to the following score table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Fulfilment and quality of the criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 0     | Cannot be established  
  - Information has no significance. |
| 1     | Very bad fulfilment  
  - Information is insufficient.  
  - Data quality is very poor. |
| 2     | Bad fulfilment  
  - Information relates inadequately to the requirements.  
  - Data quality is poor. |
Score | Fulfilment and quality of the criteria
--- | ---
3 | Average fulfilment
• Information globally responds inadequately to the requirements.
• Data quality is adequate.
4 | Good fulfilment
• Information focuses well on requirements
• Data quality is good.
5 | Very good fulfilment
• Information clearly relates to the achievement of outputs
• Data quality is excellent.

5. **Communication on SDC decision and next steps**

5.1 **SDC decision**

After the evaluation of all eligible proposals, SDC will officially communicate its decision in October 2020.

5.2 **Full project proposal development**

The project should start on 1 June or 1 July 2021. The winning institution or consortium will in the meantime elaborate the full project document. SDC will support the elaboration of the full project document. The size and the content of this elaboration (preparation phase) will be negotiated between both parties and its duration will depend on the maturity of the submitted proposal but will not be longer than 5 months. The full project document will be the official document for the first phase of the programme and will have to be approved by SDC directorate before signing the contract.

6. **List of annexes**

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<th>Annexes</th>
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<td>Indicative list of SDC supported projects for potential collaboration and synergies</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Federal contribution for project, see <a href="https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals">https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Contribution outside Switzerland, see <a href="https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals">https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>General conditions for contracts concerning federal contributions for projects, see <a href="https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals">https://www.eda.admin.ch/call-for-proposals</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex 1: Indicative list of SDC funded programmes for potential collaboration and synergies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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</table>
| Tanzania | Social Accountability Programme 2019-2022  
Against the backdrop of shrinking civic space in Tanzania, the Social Accountability Program supports four key accountability Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the country. It aims to enhance transparency and accountability of public resource management at national and local level and to empower citizens – including youth and women - and local organizations to engage effectively in public oversight, decision making and advocacy on social issues of concern. |
| Regional Programme  
Southern Africa | Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture  
While governments have translated regional policies on Food Security and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) into national policies, these are poorly implemented and the public lacks capacities to act effectively upon them. The project will improve the accountability and gender responsiveness of public resource management and complement the ongoing Swiss funded projects in ensuring that policy/advocacy work developed at national, regional and global levels is disseminated and implemented by relevant SADC and governmental institutions. |
| Regional Programme  
Southern Africa | Strengthening Agrobiodiversity in Southern Africa  
The project’s goal is to strengthen food security in Southern Africa by promoting seed diversity and agro-ecological practices through an inclusive, evidence-based dialogue with governments at regional and country levels by empowered farmer’s and farmer support organizations. |