



**Somalia Rapid Support Mechanism (RSM)
Call for Expression of Interest (CEI)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Is direct funding to national/local partners allowed?

Yes, the RSM can provide direct funding to national and local partners.

Can you apply with another partner?

Yes, organizations can apply with a partner. Partnerships with local NGOs or other organizations are allowed. Partners can apply together to show joint implementation, but grants will be provided to them separately.

Can organizations partner with local NGOs and subcontract certain components of the project?

No subcontracting will be allowed under RSM as the aim of the mechanism is to provide as much direct funding to local partners as possible.

Can consortia apply for RSM? And can INGOs apply in a partnership consortium with local agencies?

Different partners of a consortium can apply together. Each partner will be responsible for their own due diligence and receive funding directly. There will be no down-streaming of grants.

How will IOM consider minority-led organizations that may face challenges meeting selection criteria?

Minority-led organizations are encouraged to apply. Organizations should explain any gaps in documentation or capacity and how they plan to address them.

How does IOM's localization agenda relate to this call for proposals?

By engaging with and providing direct funding to national and local organizations, the RSM aims to strengthen IOM's commitment to localization. The RSM modality and its objectives, which are fully aligned with the localization agenda are as follows:

- It aims to establish a diverse pool of strong partners with sectoral expertise, operational strength and an expanded level of access.
- Provide timely support to newly identified vulnerable populations, ensuring swift and localized action during emergencies.
- Enable the provision of multi-partner and multi-sectoral integrated life-saving services across priority sectors.
- Empower the actors operating under the Area Based Coordination (ABC) structures with meaningful financial support and technical oversight to respond to identified priorities.

- Empower local organizations to take an active role in shaping the response to emergencies in Somalia.

Can organizations submit multiple expressions of interest across different sectors and geographies?

No, organizations should submit only one expression of interest covering different sectors and geographies. The Concept Note (Annex A) should indicate the sectors and locations that the Organization is applying for.

What are the pre-qualification criteria for the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI)?

Pre-qualification criteria include:

- ✓ Proof of legal registration in Somalia as a non-profit entity
- ✓ Access and operational presence
- ✓ Demonstrated Experience
- ✓ Relevant Cluster and Area-Based Coordination Group (ABC) membership
- ✓ Financial Competency (*Assessed in phase II of the CEI pre-qualification process*)
- ✓ Administrative Competency (*Assessed in phase II of the CEI pre-qualification process*)
- ✓ Commitment to IOM's internal procedures and global humanitarian standards (*Assessed in phase II of the CEI pre-qualification process*)
- ✓ Prior partnerships with IOM or other UN agencies (*considered an asset*)
- ✓ Applicant is not currently blacklisted/under investigation by any of the humanitarian actors

What are the word count limitations for concept notes and application submissions?

There are word count limits: 300 words for the project overview, 400 words for systems, and 300 words for specific sectors. It is important to adhere to these limits. Additional annexes can be provided by partners as deemed necessary.

What steps can organizations take to improve their chances of success when submitting required documents like the concept note and declaration of conformity?

Organizations should ensure that all documents are complete and accurate. Providing clear evidence of sectoral expertise, operational presence, and previous success in similar projects will improve the chances of being selected.

How many organizations will be pre-qualified, and is there a limit on how many can be selected for this Call for Expression of Interest?

There is no specific limit on the number of organizations that will be pre-qualified. Organizations that meet the selection criteria outlined in the CEI will be pre-qualified and form part of the RSM database.

Will organizations be required to submit detailed project timelines and budgets at the CEI stage?

No, detailed project timelines and budgets are not required at the CEI stage.

Will budget limits differ for projects targeting different sectors or locations?

Yes, budget limits will vary depending on the sector and the needs of the location, and the nature of the crisis.

What are the specific registration requirements for organizations operating in Somalia?

The applicant must be officially registered in Somalia as non-profit entity. Organizations must provide valid national registration documents. Organizations are also encouraged to provide legal documentation (certificate of registration, organizational permit, MoUs etc.) from local authorities (municipal, district and/or regional) or Federal Member States (FMS) authorities for all locations where they have presence. IOM will prioritize organizations that demonstrate strong presence in underserved areas in the priority districts.

Is it mandatory to be a member of relevant clusters or Area-Based Coordination Groups (ABCs)?

Organizations are recommended to be current members of the relevant Clusters, and the Area-Based Coordination Groups (ABCs) established in the priority districts where the organization has presence. A strong preference will be given to organizations that are active members of the ABC groups in the relevant locations. To confirm applicants' membership and participation, the RSM will confirm partners' membership status with the relevant clusters and Area-Based Coordination (ABC) Groups. In addition, the partner should also secure a recommendation letter or email from the district level ABC Group Lead or Co-Lead for each district that the partner is applying for confirming their active participation in ABC. We encourage organizations to provide proof of participation if available. No letter is required from the clusters.

Alternatively, organizations with demonstrably strong experience in implementing sectoral programs and a willingness to join the relevant Cluster and ABC group could also be considered.

Can organizations that are not currently Common Pipeline partners apply for the Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) thematic area?

Yes. Organizations who are not currently Shelter Cluster Common Pipeline partners can apply for the RSM CEI, but they must apply for the next round of Common Pipeline CEI to be eligible to access Shelter Cluster Common Pipeline stocks, which the RSM plans to primarily utilize for distributions.

How should organizations demonstrate past experience in specific sectors such as Health, Nutrition, WASH, SNFI, Protection, or CCCM?

Organizations should detail their past experience in relevant sectors in the Concept Note (Annex A), focusing on their operational presence and capacity, local partnerships, challenges encountered, and examples of past implementation.

Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of activities and approaches that demonstrate integration of services (at individual, household and/or site level) to address the diverse and intersecting needs of vulnerable communities. Organizations should apply for sectors that they can demonstrate expertise/ specialization in. Preference will be given to partners who are able to show experience in integrating their sectoral assistance with other partners, ensuring that affected populations benefit from a comprehensive, multi-sectoral package of services from multiple partners.

Organizations should also complete the Implementing Partner References Checklist (Annex B) to list their experience over the last three years. All projects implemented by the Organization in the past three years in the relevant locations and thematic areas can be listed. Organizations must also provide up to five project documents and budgets as documentary evidence.

Is there a minimum experience requirement for applicants. What if an organization does not have any past funded projects?

There is no minimum experience required. Partners with lesser/ no experience can also apply and may be considered should they meet other selection criteria, like strong presence and access in underserved areas and communities. Organizations should detail their proposed activities in relevant sectors in the Concept Note (Annex A), focusing on their operational presence and capacity, local partnerships and added value. Organizations can provide examples of past proposed projects (that were not funded) in the Implementing Partner References Checklist (Annex B). Organizations are recommended to also provide up to five project documents and budgets as documentary evidence.

Does an organization need to apply for all listed thematic areas?

No. Organizations are encouraged to apply only for those thematic areas that they can demonstrate specialization/ expertise in. There is no additional weightage/ preference for partners that apply for multiple or all thematic areas. In the Concept Note (Annex A), applicants should clearly indicate the thematic areas they are applying for and describe how these areas will be integrated into the proposed response. Organizations specialized in one thematic area should demonstrate commitment towards area-based coordination and integration with other partners. Non-specialized organizations can apply for multiple sectors.

Does IOM view protection as a life-saving intervention, and how are budgets allocated for protection-related activities?

IOM recognizes protection as a life-saving intervention, and RSM grants for protection-related activities will be allocated based on the nature of the crisis, and the protection needs identified.

Is Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) available as an activity/sector within this approach?

MPCA is not included as a sector for RSM's CEI.

Does an organization need to apply for all listed districts in the CEI?

No. The RSM is aiming to partner with organizations that have added value, operational capacity and strong access in each district. Organizations should therefore apply for districts where they can demonstrate their added value. They are not required to apply for all listed locations. In the Concept Note (Annex A), applicants should clearly indicate the districts they are applying for. Organizations are also encouraged to provide legal documentation (certificate of registration, organizational permit, MoUs etc.) from local authorities (municipal, district and/or regional) or FMS authorities for all locations where they have presence. These documents will help demonstrate the organization's legal standing and operational approval to conduct activities within the Country and in the specific states/regions/districts where they have an operational presence. Further, the Implementing Partner References Checklist (Annex B) can be utilized to provide evidence of past implementation experience in the locations for which the Organization is applying.

Will RSM interventions and projects be contingent upon the presence of emergencies only in the designated districts, or is there flexibility for other regions?

RSM interventions will be initiated based on emergency triggers and response gap escalations received by the OC. The current locations are selected in line with the 13 priority districts identified by the OC, which are reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis. The RSM will also update and align its priority locations with the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and/or OC every quarter. However, if crises arise in other districts, the RSM will engage with the OC and relevant actors to activate a response in the district.

Can newly accessible or areas with high-access constraints areas be included, especially if no other organizations are operating there?

Yes, newly accessible or high access constraint/ hard-to-reach areas within the 13 priority districts can be included in the expression of interest. Access to and operational presence in these areas and communities will be considered an advantage.

What is the timeline for notification of results?

All applicants will receive written notification of the outcome of the CEI within two weeks after the deadline (subject to the volume of EOIs received). Should an applicant request further clarification, IOM will provide a response explaining the transparency and integrity of the selection process undertaken.

What happens after the notification of results?

Shortlisted organizations will be invited to phase II of the CEI pre-qualification process, in which they will be requested to complete a General Information Questionnaire and submit additional documentation to undergo the RSM due diligence process. Partners will be required to submit additional supporting documentation within one week of the notification. A Selection Committee comprised of representatives from IOM will evaluate EOIs based on the selection criteria mentioned in the CEI. Pre-selected partners will then enter into a framework agreement with IOM, and form part of IOM's RSM database. This framework agreement will not require any upfront commitment from either party.

The pre-selected RSM partners will be eligible to apply for future calls for proposals to receive RSM grants. These grants will support the implementation of critical activities aligned with the HC-endorsed Integrated Response Framework and Operational Cell priorities.

Will being pre-qualified guarantee future funding?

Pre-qualification through this process does not guarantee future funding or engagement. However, it ensures that partners are well-positioned to respond rapidly when humanitarian needs escalate, and gaps are identified. The pre-qualification status will remain valid for a maximum period of 24 months, during which time pre-qualified partners will be eligible to apply for RSM funding as needs arise and RSM calls for proposals are launched.

How much funding will partners receive and for what duration? Can organizations receive an overhead?

The amount and duration of funding provided will depend on the specific needs and scope of the project proposed in alignment with the emergency response priorities of the RSM. Partners will be eligible to receive overhead, according to the policy of the partner and to the maximum of 7% (whichever is lesser). Overhead must not duplicate costs covered in other budget lines.

Are partners who have been assessed by SHF automatically eligible for RSM funding?

No, being assessed by SHF does not automatically make a partner eligible for RSM funding. Organizations must meet the specific eligibility criteria outlined in the RSM CEI, including operational presence in the priority districts and compliance with IOM's requirements.



If a partner has already completed due diligence with IOM or other UN Agencies, and is a current partner for IOM projects, is it automatically eligible to be a RSM partner?

No, completing due diligence for other IOM projects does not automatically guarantee eligibility for the RSM. Current partners must meet the specific requirements and eligibility criteria outlined in the RSM CEI. The DDA is valid for 12 months only.

Are Shelter Cluster Common Pipeline partners automatically eligible for RSM funding?

No, being a Common Pipeline partner does not automatically make an organization eligible for RSM. Each partner must meet the eligibility and operational requirements set in the CEI for RSM funding.

Are NGOs that have been termed as “high risk” by IOM or other UN partners eligible to receive funding from the RSM?

Yes, high-risk NGOs can be considered for RSM funding, as long as they are not currently blacklisted by any of the humanitarian actors (UN agencies, donors etc.). They must meet the due diligence requirements of IOM. Partners under investigation by UN or INGOs must inform IOM; blacklisted partners are ineligible. If pre-qualified, their risk level will determine the funding modalities, monitoring requirements, and other risk mitigation measures that IOM may apply.

What is the format required for submitting applications (PDF/ZIP) and file size limitations?

Applications must be submitted in PDF or ZIP format. The maximum file size per transmission is 20 MB, and files should be free of viruses and not corrupted. If the file size exceeds 20 MB, the submission should be shared via a secure OneDrive link.

What is the deadline to submit the Expression of Interest?

The application deadline is 22 October 2024. Interested organizations must submit the required documentation in PDF or ZIP format via email to ceisomgrants@iom.int by the set deadline.