

The FCDO RIVA Grants Facility Launch

Call for concept notes

Background

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) Rights, Inclusion, Voice and Agency (RIVA) Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Technical Assistance (TA) and Grants Facility in Nepal seeks to empower women, girls, and marginalised groups to claim their rights, strengthen their agency, and participate meaningfully in inclusive policymaking. The programme is implemented by Social Development Direct (SDDirect) and Plan International UK and Nepal.

The programme's Grants Facility is being launched to provide one-time flexible and catalytic grants to a diverse range of civil society¹ actors, including individuals and organisations, in Nepal. The grants are aimed at advancing the rights of women, girls and marginalised groups on issues that matter to them, whilst also supporting collective action and movement building between organisations and individuals advocating for sustainable social change around GEDSI.

The grants

We are looking to provide **catalytic** grants to support individuals and organisations under the **inclusive local leadership** theme. We define 'catalytic' as being something that has the potential to yield 'big' results. It could be something that creates the space for new ideas or leaders to emerge or support an existing initiative to take the next step forward. We define 'inclusive local leadership' as a diverse and inclusive set of individuals and groups, with an intentional focus on historically marginalised groups, taking the lead on addressing and making decisions about the issues that impact their lives by building on their knowledge, skills and lived experiences while promoting equality, inclusion and justice for their communities.

- Approximately 12-15 grants from **NPR 100,000** (One hundred thousand Nepali Rupees) to **NPR 1,000,000** (One million Nepali Rupees) (with larger grant amounts for those applying as a consortium).

¹ Civil society refers to uncoerced human association or interaction by which individuals implement individual or collective action to address shared needs, ideas, interests, values, faith, and beliefs that they have identified in common, as well as the formal, semi- or non-formal forms of associations and the individuals involved in them. Civil society is distinct from states, private for-profit enterprises, and the family. (OECD definition from [DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#))

- Projects will be short in duration for **up to four months** of delivery time (all grant projects must implement activities between 15 July and 30 November and submit a final report by 15 December 2026).
- Successful applicants will receive capacity strengthening support where required as well as opportunities for peer learning through facilitated linkages with other grant partners. We will invite all grant partners to join a learning workshop once all the projects have finished implementation.
- Encouraged ideas within the 'inclusive local leadership' theme include, but are not limited to, cross-social movement² building efforts, collective actions on a specific issue, collaborating with local governments to influence and shape priorities relevant to marginalised groups, efforts led by those from marginalised groups, inclusive digital/online projects, projects that build on lived experiences and traditional knowledge/practices that support 'voice and agency' and equality and inclusion.

Who can apply

We welcome ideas (concept notes) from individuals and organisations in the Kathmandu Valley and Lumbini and Madhesh provinces, including:

- Individuals demonstrating interest and leadership in equality and inclusion and advancing the rights of women, girls and other marginalised groups (including academics, artists, community leaders, private sector, media, researchers etc)
- Smaller grassroots organisations led by or representing marginalised groups including Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual and other identities (LGBTQIA+) community, caste and ethnicity-based groups, youth groups
- Informal groups or consortiums of two or more organisations led by or representing marginalised groups
- Representatives of registered organisations (non-profits, associations, academia, etc)

The application process

There is a two-stage approach:

- **Stage One:** Submission of a concept note (using the online form, completing and emailing a downloaded template, or video application)

² Movements are broad social organising and mobilisation led by marginalised groups and their organisations that campaign for rights and justice at national, regional and international levels. They include civil society organisations and other actors including activists, academics, journalists, lawyers and trade unionists. (Adapted from Womankind Worldwide's definition of women's movement in [Standing with the changemakers: lessons from supporting women's movements.](#))

- **Stage Two:** Submission of a full proposal, including narrative and financial proposals, as well as supporting documents required for proportionate, light-touch due diligence (within two weeks of notification of concept being selected in stage one)

Those that are selected at stage one will be invited to submit a full proposal and offered accompanying technical support to develop a full proposal, should they want it. If you have interesting ideas and demonstrate strong potential to bring about change and/or influence others, but do not have prior proposal application experience, we can provide support to you to develop the full proposal. There will be a two-week window to submit the full proposal once an invitation has been sent. The proposal template and supporting information will be provided later to those that are invited to submit a full proposal in stage two.

A selection committee comprised of representatives from the RIVA GEDSI TA and Grants Facility programme team, British Embassy Kathmandu (BEK) and BEK's Inclusive Leadership Advisory Committee³, will review the concept notes and proposals. Further capacity strengthening will be offered during delivery of the grants on GEDSI, safeguarding, monitoring and reporting, finance, and other areas as required and agreed.

Our templates are accessible and simple, and available in both English and Nepali.

To apply (choose one of the following):

1. Use our online form (separate ones for individuals and organisations, in English and Nepali) –
 - For individuals: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/kpNyC165PV>
 - For organisations: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/1HP8LUDVim>

OR

2. Download the relevant template from here <https://tinyurl.com/RIVAgallery> and email the completed template to RIVAgallery@sddirect.org.uk

OR

3. You can also submit a video application by recording yourself answering all the questions in the concept note template in the above link (maximum 10 minutes). Email the link of the video to RIVAgallery@sddirect.org.uk with the subject 'Video Application'. Please ensure that we have viewing access.

Applications can be in Nepali, English, or Nepali Sign Language. Please email us if you would like to use another local language to apply; we will explore if we are able to get it translated into either Nepali or English.

³ The Committee is made up of a diverse set of members who represent different marginalised people and groups including people with lived experience and technical practitioners. The Committee provides guidance and support to BEK on GEDSI.

Due date: Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 11.59pm NPT (**please consider early submissions since we will review applications on a rolling basis!**)

The financial commitment to selected projects depends on the proposal submitted and the overall budget available.

For more information:

We will be hosting four free 90-minute workshops (two online and two in-person workshops) to discuss the grants facility in more detail and answer questions. In the workshops, we will cover: the local leadership theme, eligibility criteria, the selection process, what you can expect in terms of our support, and the reporting requirements among other things. These workshops will be accessible, with sign language interpretation provided. If you need reasonable accommodations, please email us at RIVAgiftsfacility@sddirect.org.uk and we will try our best to coordinate it. Please note that potential applicants will need to cover their own costs to attend the in-person workshops. **We will provide the same information in all workshops.**

Please come and connect with our team!

Online workshop 1: Friday, 29 May 2026, 1.00pm – 2.30pm NPT,
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/363015110512197?p=MEzDFhXzgNDnlOt9oh>

Lumbini Province: Monday, 1 June 2026, 10.00 am – 11.30 am NPT, Siddhartha Hotel, Nepalgunj, Banke ([रिभा अनुदान सुविधा शुभारम्भ कार्यशालाको लागि पूर्व-दर्ता फारम – Fill out form](#) to help us plan, walk-ins welcome)

Madhesh Province: Wednesday, 3 June 2026, 10.00am - 11.30am NPT, Mithila Yatri Niwas, Janakpur, Dhanusha ([रिभा अनुदान सुविधा शुभारम्भ कार्यशालाको लागि पूर्व-दर्ता फारम – Fill out form](#) to help us plan, walk-ins welcome)

Online workshop 2: Friday, 5 June 2026, 10.00am – 11.30am NPT,
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/311869663861675?p=7JgmfeEiUU2qGjXjnb>

Due diligence

We will ensure that the grant process is fair, in accordance with the published call for concept note, and implements safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities, and other inappropriate conduct.

Note: We reserve the right to revise the call for concept note. If this happens, the revised call will be emailed to all applicants.

We will undertake proportionate due diligence assessments of all individuals and organisations at both stage one and stage two, with supporting documents being required as part of stage two submissions only.

Non-discrimination

Grant partners (individuals and organisations) must ensure that projects or activities uphold the principle of non-discrimination, including on the basis of age, caste, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Data privacy

All concept notes will be uploaded and saved in a secure folder only accessible to the selection committee.

We are committed to ensuring that any data shared with us is handled securely and in full compliance with applicable data protection principles and legislation. We will only collect and use personal data for clearly defined and legitimate purposes, ensure it is kept confidential, and restrict access to authorised personnel on a need-to-know basis. Appropriate technical and organisational measures will be in place to safeguard any data and information provided against unauthorised access, loss, or misuse, and these will only be retained for as long as necessary before being securely disposed of.

Applicant feedback process

Given the volume of applications, we will only provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants upon receipt of a written request for feedback. Feedback will be provided within two (2) months of receiving the request.

Conflict of interest

The grant partner is required to implement the project in a professional and ethical manner. Potential or perceived conflicts of interest (Col) may arise in the course of the application, selection and implementation of the grant projects.

There may be a Col, or perceived Col, if any member of the Selection Committee and/or you or any of your personnel:

- Have any circumstances, including personal, financial and business with a party who is able to influence the application selection process.
- Has a relationship with an organisation which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently.
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain if the organisation receives funding under the grant.

It is the responsibility of all applicants and Selection Committee members to identify and declare any real, perceived or potential conflict of interest arising in the course of the grant project application, selection and implementation process.

We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to a grant application, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Selection committee members must also declare any conflicts of interest before participating in any grant evaluation or selection process.

Complaints

All complaints about the grant process must be lodged in writing to Emma Haegeman, Programme Director at EmmaHaegeman@sddirect.org.uk.

Please contact us at RIVAgrantsfacility@sddirect.org.uk for further information/assistance.