

UNHCR Grant Agreements with Organisations led by Persons of Concern (PoC) – Briefing Note



Preschool in the Makpandu refugee settlement in South Sudan, launched and run by the Youth Association for Peace and Development (YAPD), a refugee-run community group. © UNHCR/Elizabeth Marie Stuart

BACKGROUND

The new UNHCR Grant Agreement for Persons of Concern (PoC)-led organisations seeks to ensure that displaced and host communities are treated as equal and active partners. It provides grant funding to organisations led by refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, internally displaced people (IDPs), woman, youth and other Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in order to empower them to realize their own projects and build their capacity. It also allows UNHCR to work directly with the people it serves without having to use intermediaries. The project is currently being piloted in selected UNHCR operations and is expected to be mainstreamed from 2022 across the organization.

POC-Led

- Organisation entirely established and led by refugees, asylum-seekers, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), returnees or others of concern to UNHCR, or:
- Organisation has more than 50% of such populations in positions of leadership and decision-making

CBO

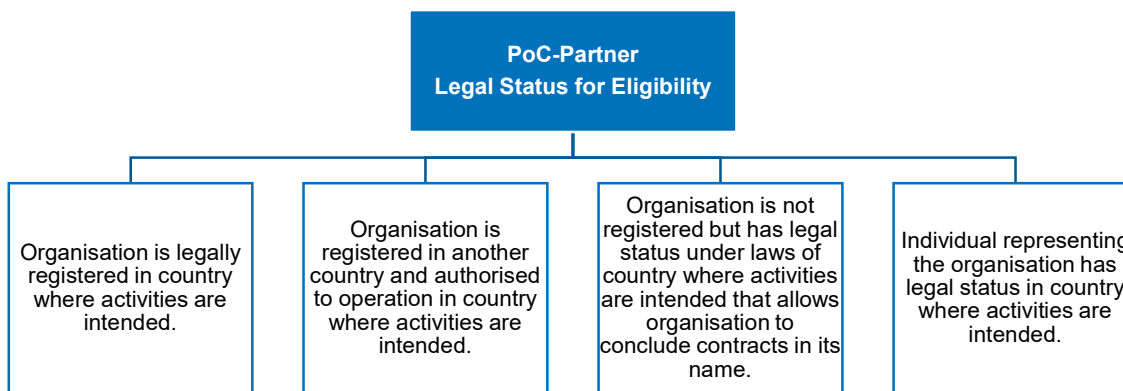
- Group of people who gather to accomplish a common goal that provides services at community level
- Non-profit, grassroots organisation whose activities are based mostly on volunteer efforts

GENERAL INFORMATION

Grant Agreements serve as Partnership Agreements between UNHCR and these organisations, referred to as “PoC-Partners”. They provide **up to USD 4,000 per grant/project** and no more than USD 12,000 in total funding per PoC-Partner per year for three separate grants/projects. They require a description of the activities envisaged during the grant period, a commitment to using funds solely for the purpose of related activities and capacity building, and lighter performance reporting requirements.

Selection of PoC-Partners

The selection of PoC-Partners and the determination of their leadership structure are tied to the eligibility criteria and standardized minimum selection process. The process requires PoC-Partners to file an application that sets out the name of the grantee and its members and includes copies of organization documents, such as its registration in country (if applicable), and bank account details. Similar to other organizational partners, PoC-Partners may be required to register on the UN Partner Portal as community-based organisations.



Reporting

At the end of a project, the submission only of a performance report is required. No in-depth financial verification by UNHCR needs to be conducted. An interim monitoring template will help operations assess progress of agreed deliverables.

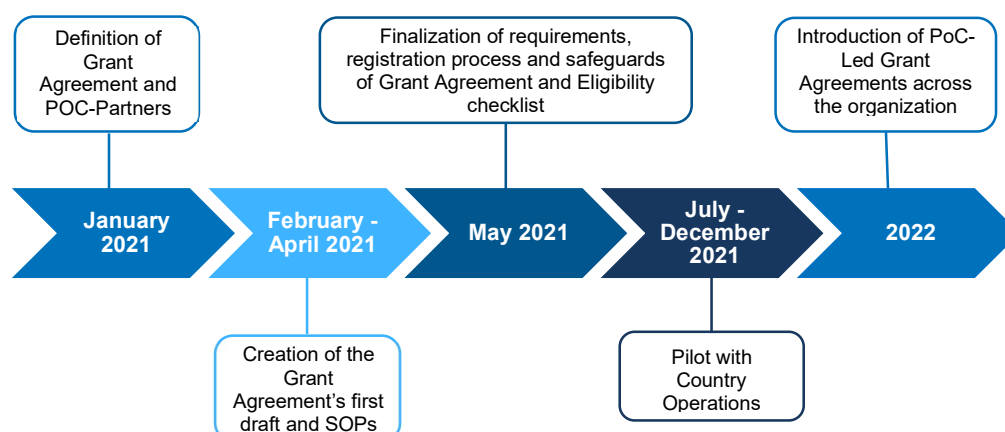
CURRENT STATUS

The Grant Agreement tool and the Standard Operating Procedures have been created and finalized. They include:

- The Grant Agreement template with the general and specific conditions of the contract and instalment payment

- The Annexes to the Grant Agreement template, which include the project description, budget and code of conduct
- The eligibility checklist
- The partner registration process, including the partner code creation form
- The templates for reporting and amendments.

Headquarters has held information sessions with the Regional Bureaux and country operations who are interested in participating in the Grant Agreement pilot project. **10 country operations** have expressed strong interest to sign up to 15 individual Grant Agreements with PoC-led organisations in 2021 as part of the pilot.



NEXT STEPS

The interested UNHCR operations will implement the Grant Agreement pilot project and report on the outcomes. Lessons learned will be compiled and reviewed as the Grant Agreement is mainstream as a tool for all UNHCR operations from 2022.

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