



**Operational Criteria for
A) Concept Notes / proposals submitted to the Madad Fund Manager, and
B) Action Documents submitted to the Madad Fund Operational Board**

A. INITIAL STAGE: CONCEPT NOTES / PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE FUND MANAGER

Potential Madad Fund partners shall submit concept notes directly and at all times to the functional mailbox: near-madad@ec.europa.eu . The Madad Fund team at DG NEAR will contact applicants in case of questions, and will directly liaise with relevant EU Delegations for the evaluations

Until a specific Madad Fund application form may be introduced, potential applicants should use the general format for concept notes for grants in order to ensure comparability (Part A of application form): <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?annexName=E3b&lang=en>

Concept notes will receive an initial screening from the TF Manager based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance of the action

- How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the Madad Fund? (*The overall objective of the Trust Fund is to provide a coherent and reinforced aid response to the Syrian crisis on a regional scale, responding primarily in the first instance to the needs of refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries, as well as of the communities hosting the refugees and their administrations, in particular as regards resilience and early recovery.*)
- How relevant is the proposal to the particular resilience needs and constraints of the target country(ies) or region(s) as expressed in the 3RP/SRP and the national response plan(s) (including synergy with other EU/ Member States initiatives and avoidance of duplication, notably with EU humanitarian assistance)?
- Priorities have been established by the Trust Fund Board on 29 May, especially:
 - The most critical needs and gaps for stabilisation and resilience aid to refugee and host communities in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt.
 - Displaced persons' needs, in particular education for children and vocational training or retraining for adults focusing on the jobs needed in a post conflict environment. Such vocational training should include

training for women in order to boost their economic and social role in post-conflict reconstruction.

- Exploring possibilities to support neighbouring countries and universities in providing higher education services to Syrian students, as well as further opportunities for Syrian students and researchers through scholarships in Europe and vocational training opportunities in the region.
- In Iraq, providing seed money in the effort to link development with humanitarian assistance. Such linkages need to build on existing support and be widened as soon as possible to support conditions of protracted displacement and in preparation for the IDPs return to their homes, in order to lay the foundations for stability and sustainable economic growth.
- In Syria, reinforced resilience / recovery assistance such as targeted EU or Member State funded activities supporting local communities and social actors (including operations managed from Gaziantep with the participation of several Member States).
- Facilitating EU support to governments of the region to pursue policies conducive to enhanced economic resilience among refugee and host communities, promote prospects for young people and respect gender equality, and high-level political dialogue both collectively and bilaterally with the countries hosting Syrian refugees ... to ensure that protection and perspectives can be offered to refugees (notably on access to education, labour market, etc.).

2. Added value elements of the action

- Does the proposed action provide for implementing partners with **specific added value elements** for the Madad Fund, especially:
 - leveraging European capacities and knowledge already built up in the region over the past 2-3 years.
 - providing or having the potential for strong EU visibility¹?
 - contributing to maximizing coherence and synergies, while reducing transaction costs of Fund interventions, notably through large multi-partner, multi-country, and multi-year actions.

¹ in line with the Fund agreement's provision that "To avoid duplicating structures on the ground while making the best use of donors' expertise, delegated cooperation with Member States' national agencies and other Fund donors shall be the preferred option wherever it will offer an appropriate response in terms of the cost, effectiveness and European visibility of the Trust Fund-financed actions. Equally, the capacity of international, European and local NGOs shall be leveraged to maximise the effectiveness of the response provided by the Trust Fund."

B. SECOND STAGE: ACTION DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE FUND MANAGER TO THE OPERATIONAL BOARD

1. Reconfirmation of overall relevance and added value elements for the Madad Fund

2. Design of the action

- How coherent is the overall design of the action? In particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved, taking into account external factors, risks and assumptions?
- Is the action feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected results?
 - Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results?
- Are the relevant stakeholders (including beneficiaries and target groups) clearly defined and strategically chosen? Have their needs been defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?
- Is the proposed timeframe realistic for the implementation of the action?
- Does the action foresee a monitoring system? Is any evaluation planned? If yes, is it consistent with the monitoring system?

3. Sustainability of the action

- Is the action engaging and strengthening local non-governmental and/or governmental capacities?
- Is the action likely to have tangible effects or a medium-term impact on its target groups?
- Is the proposal likely to have multiplier effects? (Including scope for replication, extension and information sharing.)
- Within the limits of resilience and recovery responses to the Syrian crisis, is the proposed action able to create the conditions to be socially, economically and institutionally **sustainable?**:
 - socially (*will the activities allow for social cohesion, social inclusion and social accountability?*)
 - economically (*will the relevant stakeholders have the necessary means and resources to maintain or expand the benefits obtained by the action?*)
 - institutionally (*will structures allowing the activities to continue be in place at the end of the action? Will there be local “ownership” of the results of the action?*)

4. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action

- Is the ratio between the estimated costs and expected results satisfactory?
- How do estimated costs compare with benchmarks from similar programs or activities?

5. EU visibility

- Does the action include adequate elements to ensure strong EU visibility?