



**Nabni Building for Peace Facility (B4PF)**

# **Syria Call for Concept Notes (CfCN)**

## **(Q&A)**

*This document serves as a resource for applicants. Nabni – Building for Peace Facility (B4PF) will compile and answer frequently asked questions (FAQs) submitted through the eCFP system in this Q&A document. The Q&A will be updated twice weekly, every Monday and Thursday on the Nabni Website: <https://www.nabni-facility.org/>*

- **Week (1) 29 June – 3 July 2025**

**Q1. Nabni requests that Consortium Lead Applicants provide organisational annual turnover figures in EUR for 2022, 2023 and 2024, but our official audit reports are in a different currency (for example, USD or others). Please advise which exchange rate should be used to provide the most accurate information when completing the Organisational Questionnaires for Nabni.**

**A:** You can use the official European Central Bank foreign exchange rate used on the date of your annual audit report. Historical Euro exchange rates can be obtained via <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/>

**Q2. Nabni requires organisational information for Consortium Lead and Sub Applicants that refers to the past three years of operations. However, our organisation(s) has only obtained a registration in Syria since December 2024. We wish to apply through our newly registered entity(ies) in Syria but our organisational experience of the past three years is related to the affiliated entity(ies) previously registered abroad. Can we include our current organisational information along with our organisational experience of our previously registered affiliated entity(ies)? Will this be accepted by Nabni?**

**A:** We will highlight two elements here:

- As stated in the CfCN: Nabni acknowledges the significant and evolving legal and operational changes in the Syrian context since December 2024. We recognise these developments have required adaptations by some Syrian civil society actors in their legal status (e.g. registration) and operational modalities. Organisations for whom this is applicable have the chance to provide further information in their Concept Notes. Our due diligence process will evaluate the operational setup against relevant legal and compliance requirements.
- Our Core Information and Organisational Questionnaires (Annex II in the CfCN document – to be answered on the e-CFP when submitting the Concept Note) allow applicants to submit their answers based on: (1) The legal entity under which the application is being submitted and (2) For organisations newly registered in Syria: the current legal entity or, where applicable, under the entity through which your documented past experience was obtained, including any registration abroad.

**Q3. Can Lead Applicant submit a Concept Note for governorate 1 while sub applicant submit Concept Note for Governorate 2?**

**A:** As per the Syria Call for Concept Notes, CFCN/SY/25/01, “Each Concept Note should be focused on a maximum of one Governorate.”: the Consortium Lead Applicant and Sub-Applicant must share the Concept Note as one consortium. In other words, a Concept Note submitted by one Consortium focused on two different Governorates will be ineligible.

**Q4. Can Lead Applicant and sub applicant submit Concept Note for Governorate1 but in three different locations?**

**A:** As per the Syria Call for Concept Notes, CFCN/SY/25/01, "Each Concept Note should be focused on a maximum of one Governorate." Consortium members are free to choose location(s) of implementation within that one Governorate.

**Q5. Can Lead and the sub-grantee/s apply in the same location but for different types of activities?**

**A:** Consortium Lead Applicants and Sub-Applicant(s) are free to divide the set of activities they each want to implement in the selected location, in a way that demonstrates complementarity and integration of activities. However, as per the Syria Call for Concept Notes, CFCN/SY/25/01: "for contractual reasons, the infrastructure component of the projects (where relevant) will be fully managed by the Consortium Lead Grantee. Consortium Sub-Grantee organisations are expected to co-implement components of the project which may include different non-infrastructure activities, such as livelihood, dialogue, facilitation, etc."

**Q6. Is it allowed for any civil society organization to apply for this call without a partnership with NABNI?**

**A:** Applicants don't need to have a partnership or any pre-existing relationship with the Nabni Facility to be eligible to apply. This CfCN, CFCN/SY/25/001, is open to Syrian non-profit organisations; including those operating as diaspora-based non-profit organisations; or operating as cross-border non-profit organisations. Please refer to the CfCN Eligibility Criteria for further details.

**Q7. Are international organisations operating in Syria through local partners are eligible to apply?**

**A:** "International organisations" are not eligible to apply for this CfCN, CFCN/SY/25/001. This CfCN is open to Syrian non-profit organisations; organisations operating as diaspora-based non-profit organisations; or organisations operating as cross-border non-profit organisations. Please refer to the CfCN Eligibility Criteria for further details.

- **Week (2) 6-10 July 2025**

**Q8. I'm interested in attending the information online session but couldn't find the meetings links.**

**A:** To find the meeting links for the Virtual Orientation Sessions, please: Download the CFCN package; navigate to the Call for Concept Notes document (CFP/CFCN-SY-25-001/files/CFCN\_1\_Syria\_CFCN\_EN & AR Final.pdf); go to page 4 under the section “Virtual Orientation Sessions” to find information on the date, the time and the hyperlinks.

**Q9. Our NGO is registered in both Türkiye and Syria, we would like to kindly inquire whether we are eligible to submit a Concept Note for both countries under this call? Or if the application should be limited to only one country, and what is the best approach to apply for Syria or Türkiye?**

**A:** As stated in CFCN/SY/25/001, this is a Call for Concept Notes for project ideas to be implemented in the Syrian Arab Republic only.

**Q10. Is the grant amount (1.5–1.7 million EUR) allocated per governorate (e.g., Homs alone) or shared across the entire Lot (Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idlib)?**

**A:** As per CFCN/SY/25/001, “One grant is expected to be awarded under each Lot”; “The minimum and maximum amounts per grant are 1.5–1.7 million EUR”. This means that the indicative grant amount is allocated per the whole Lot. As a reminder, each Concept Note should be focused on a maximum of one Governorate within one Lot.

**Q11. Can the Lead Applicant freely choose its Sub-Applicant, or will Nabni provide a list of suggested partners?**

**A:** The Consortium Lead Applicant is free to choose its partners to be Consortium Sub-Applicants. A maximum of two Consortium Sub-Applicants is allowed per Concept Note.

**Q12. Are pages 1, 2, and 17 – which are basically the cover page and instructions related to the concept note and budget—counted within the 15 pages, or should we delete them?**

**A:** We kindly ask applicants not to delete any pages. There are word limits which are clearly indicated per sub-section of the Concept Note template. There is no “page limit” per se: as stated in the Concept Note Template: “*Please note that the Facility reserves the right to stop reviewing the Concept Note after 15 pages (excluding Project References).*” The Facility Reserves the right to stop reviewing Concept Notes after 15 pages, starting from Section 1 to Section 3.

**Q13. Does 15-page limit include the budget (Section 3)?**

**A:** Kindly refer to the Answer to Question 12. Section 3, Budget, is included.

**Q14. Does 15-page limit include the project references (Section 4)?**

**A:** Kindly refer to the Answer to Question 12. Project References, as mentioned in the Concept Note Template, are excluded.

**Q15. Does 15-page limit include the Background Information section, even though it is mentioned that this section will not be scored?**

**A:** Kindly refer to the Answer to Question 12. The Background Information Section is excluded.

**Q16. Some questions are marked with the condition "if applicable." Can we delete them if they are not applicable?**

**A:** We kindly ask applicants not to delete any questions. If questions are not applicable to you, please write "N/A" or "Not Applicable" in the answer field.

**Q17. Our organisation is facing a problem with the registration form. When we enter the core information on the first page, an error appears (Core Information - Please select individual or consortium). This item does not exist. Could you please check this problem?**

**A:** As per the Syria Call for Concept Notes (CFCN), all technical issues related to the e-CFP system should be communicated to Nabni's technical support team. If you are facing an error on the registration form, please share a description of the issue along with a screenshot (if possible) by email to: [ecfp.technicalissue@nabni-facility.org](mailto:ecfp.technicalissue@nabni-facility.org) ; this is the designated channel to raise any technical issues related to the e-CFP system.

**Q18. What is a diaspora-based non-profit organisations and a cross-border non-profit organisations? What is the definition?**

**A:** A diaspora-based non-profit organisation refers to an organisation that is registered outside of Syria but operates with a clear link to the Syrian context in terms of mission, governance and operational footprint. These are often founded or managed by members of the Syrian diaspora. Cross-border non-profit organisations are organisations that may be (or have been) registered outside Syria but are specifically focused on implementing projects within Syria, often from neighbouring countries. Both operate with a localised mission, are Syrian-led or Syria-focused, and maintain direct programmatic engagement inside Syria.

**Q19. Could the lead NGO receive less than a ⅓ of the Grant and restrict its work to administering the funds?**

**A:** No. As per the CFCN, the Consortium Lead Applicant must actively participate in project implementation and is contractually required to fully manage the infrastructure component of the project (where relevant). The role of the Lead Applicant cannot be limited to fund administration. The Consortium Lead is expected to play a central role in delivery and oversight of the overall project, in addition to meeting all minimum eligibility and grant management standards.

**Q20. Can you advise on the workload regarding the 6-month co-design phase? We know there will be a local peace and conflict analysis conducted jointly but is there any indication regarding what type of human and other resources we need to allocate for this phase? What are costs to be included? Assessment costs? Only in Syria, or also in the diaspora?**

**A:** The 6-month Co-Design phase will be the beginning of the implementation, with field activities and programmatic and operational preparations culminating in the full project design. The workload and costs will be related to field assessments (especially the Local Peace and Conflict Analysis and feasibility assessments), relevant staffing from the Consortium members (as needed this may include in diaspora organisation), support costs and overhead costs. However, for the purposes of this CFCN, no details on the budget for the Co-Design Phase will be needed.

**Q21. After Action Reviews and other evaluation schemes need to be budgeted and designed by the applicant?**

**A:** Indeed, yes. However, this is a preliminary budget that will be significantly revised during the Co-Design Phase; not many details are needed at this stage.

**Q22. Can the lead partner be registered outside Syria? For example, Netherlands or Germany and the sub-grantees be local NGOs in Syria?**

**A:** This is allowed. However, please note that the Consortium Lead must have at least three years of operational experience in Syria. In addition, the Facility's due diligence process with shortlisted Consortia will evaluate the operational setup against relevant legal and compliance requirements as those continue to evolve.

**Q23. Are INGOs implementing solely through local partners eligible?**

**A:** No.

**Q24. It is mentioned that INGOs are not eligible but cross-border NGOs are. I feel confused. What does this mean?**

**A:** International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), meaning organisations that are internationally based, often with a global mandate and operating in multiple countries, are not eligible to apply under this CFCN. In contrast, cross-border non-profit organisations are eligible. These are organisations that may be (or have been) registered outside Syria but are specifically focused on implementing projects within Syria, often from neighbouring countries. They typically operated with a localised mission, are Syrian-led or Syria-focused, and maintain direct programmatic engagement inside Syria.

**Q25. If the NGO is in a grant from BMZ, can they apply for this call also?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q26. Can organisations in Northeast Syria participate? Or can a local organisation and a cross-border organisation participate?**

**A:** Organisations in North-East Syria are eligible to apply. Consortia formed by a “cross-border” organisation with a locally based organisation are also eligible.

**Q27. Can an applicant be a social enterprise working in a humanitarian context in NW Syria and is planning to register in Syria?**

**A:** As per the Syria Call for Concept Notes, CFCN/SY/25/001, eligible applicants must be non-profit organisations. If the applicant is currently functioning as a social enterprise, it must clearly demonstrate that it operates on a non-profit basis, as well as demonstrate that it meets all the Minimum Eligibility Criteria outlined in Section 6, 7 and 8 of the CFCN.

**Q28. The question about international NGOs isn't clear. Can the lead partner be registered in Europe and the two sub grantees in Syria?**

**A:** This is allowed if the organisation is a diaspora-based organisation. However, please note that Consortium Lead must have at least three years of operational experience in Syria. In addition, the Facility's due diligence process with shortlisted Consortia will evaluate the operational setup against relevant legal and compliance requirements as those continue to evolve.

**Q29. We are registered with the authorities in NES and in the process of registration in Damascus. Is our organisation eligible?**

**A:** Yes. Registration in NES and with the AANES is eligible under this CFCN for activities in NES. To note: the Facility's due diligence process with shortlisted Consortia will evaluate the operational setup against relevant legal and compliance requirements as those continue to evolve.

**Q30. Our organisation has been operating in NES since 2015. When applying for registration in Damascus we had to change the name as there was already another organisation with a similar name. Is there an issue with that?**

**A:** As noted in the CFCN, Nabni acknowledges the significant and evolving legal and operational changes in Syria since December 2024. It is understood that organisations may have had to adjust their legal identity during new registration processes. When completing the Core Information and Organisational Questionnaires on the e-CFP system, please ensure that you clearly indicate: the current legal name of the entity under which the application is being submitted, the organisational history and operational continuity from the earlier entity (including the previous name, if applicable). You may also use the Concept Note narrative to briefly explain this transition to ensure clarity during the eligibility review. The Facility's due diligence process with shortlisted Consortia will evaluate the operational setup against relevant legal and compliance requirements as those continue to evolve.

**Q31. For diaspora organisations who were working on human rights but without physical presence in Syria: do you discourage them from applying?**

**A:** Unfortunately, an organisation (diaspora or other) that does not have physical and/or operational presence in Syria is not eligible to apply under this CFCN.

**Q32. Should all Consortia members be based in Syria?**

**A:** Because of the complexity of the operational and legal requirements for operations in Syria over the past years, there is no current specific requirement on the "base" of the Consortium members. However, Consortium Lead Applicants and Consortium Sub-Applicants must have had physical and/or operational presence in Syria for the past three years.

**Q33. Are newly established organisations eligible?**

**A:** Consortium Lead Applicants and Consortium Sub-Applicants must have had physical and/or operational presence in Syria for the past three years. Newly established organisations with no prior experience in Syria will not be eligible.



**Q34. For organisations that did not operate inside Syria before December 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, but engaged on Syria and with Syrian partners in Syria. Can they apply?**

**A:** No. Consortium Lead Applicants and Consortium Sub-Applicants must have had physical and/or operational presence in Syria for the past three years.

**Q35. If the co-applicant does not have previous experience in the proposed location, but another partner in the consortium does, will this be accepted?**

**A:** Consortium Lead Applicants and Consortium Sub-Applicants must have had physical and/or operational presence in Syria for the past three years. At least one of the Consortium members must have had experience in the proposed project location.

**Q36. Our organisation has been active in Idleb for over 3 years but now we are registered in Syria and are operating in Damascus; but there is no way that we have been active in Damascus for the past 3 years. Is it OK to apply for Damascus?**

**A:** If you are applying as a Consortium Lead with operational experience in Syria (in this case: Idleb) but not in the proposed project location (in this case: Damascus), you must partner with one or two Consortium Sub-Applicant(s) that have had experience working in Damascus at some time in the last three years.

**Q37. In case of a consortium, must all partners have had operational activities in the last 3 years in Syria?**

**A:** Yes, Consortium Lead Applicants and Consortium Sub-Applicants must have had operational activities in Syria in the last three years. Please refer to the detailed Eligibility Criteria in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the CFCN. As a reminder, Consortia are mandatory with one Lead Applicant and a maximum of two Sub-Applicants.

**Q38. You mentioned in the eligibility criteria for the lead applicant that it must annual financial statements of the organisation regularly audited by a certified professional external auditor. Since for the local NGOs this was not always feasible, is there a possibility of relying on a sworn financial auditor?**

**A:** As per the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 6 of the CfCN, Consortium Lead Applicants must have annual financial statements regularly audited by a certified professional external auditor. Organisations unable to meet this criteria will not be considered eligible as Lead or Sub-Applicants.

**Q39. We have a financial statement prepared by an external company, but it is not audited. My question is: are we qualified to submit our concept note? Will a concept note be accepted if the organisation isn't audited by an external auditor?**

**A:** No. The CFCN criteria specify that the financial statements must be audited for Lead Applicants and Sub-Applicants.

**Q40. What is the difference between main and co applicant?**

**A:** In Nabni's CFCN, the "main applicant" is the Consortium Lead Applicant, which would be the Nabni grant holder and ultimately accountable and responsible for overall management, compliance and for managing the infrastructure component of the project (if applicable). "Co-applicants" refer to the Consortium Sub-Applicants, who co-implement the project under the lead's coordination and contribute to non-infrastructure activities. There can be a maximum of two Sub-Applicants. There are a set of Eligibility Criteria that apply to Consortium Lead Applicants and a slightly different set of criteria, which are less stringent, for Consortium Sub-Applicants.

**Q41. Is it allowed to submit a proposal from a single organisation, or is forming a consortium mandatory?**

**A:** Consortia are mandatory. Concept Notes submitted by one individual organisation will be ineligible.

**Q42. Can an organisation be the lead in one application and a sub applicant in another?**

**A:** No.

**Q43. Evaluation criteria for coalitions: beyond meeting the minimum requirements, how will the strength of coalitions be evaluated? If an existing consortium applies as the lead applicant, without sub-applicants, will this work against the applicant? E.g. are sub-applicants considered a strength for this proposal?**

**A:** Consortia are mandatory, i.e.: Sub-Applicants are not just a strength for the proposal, they are mandatory. Existing Consortia can apply through a Lead Applicant (individual organisation) and a maximum of two Sub-Applicants.

**Q44. We are a Coalition of associations. Can we consider one of the members of the coalition as the Lead Applicant and the Coalition as a Sub-Applicant?**

**A:** Yes. In the Concept Note, you will need to clarify the roles, operational modalities and added value of this set up.

**Q45. Since Damascus and Rural Damascus are two interlinked Governorates, can we apply for a project idea in both? Is it really possible to focus activities on a single governorate? Or is it OK to include some (perhaps overarching) activities on a cross-governorate basis (according to the areas)?**

**A:** As mentioned in the CFCN Document, “Applications covering specific cross-border geographic areas between Governorates may be considered on a case-by-case basis, with a designated ‘primary’ Governorate as point of reference.”. Please include your rationale and justification in the Concept Note.

**Q46. In the lots shared: each lot contains 3 or more governorates, but in the instructions, it says one city should be targeted. Can you make it clear just to confirm it.**

**A:** Each Concept Note should be focused on a maximum of one Governorate (not city) within one geographic Lot (e.g. Aleppo Governorate from Lot number 1).

**Q47. Geographic lots versus governorates. The restriction on programming to single governorates, within larger lots, feels counter to the broader goal of peacebuilding and social cohesion. Can you please explain the logic behind this decision?**

**A:** The restriction to a single governorate within larger lots is intended to ensure feasibility and focus. It allows organisations to design interventions that are highly context-specific and feasible with the limited resources available. As mentioned in the CFCN document, however: “Applications covering specific cross-border geographic areas between Governorates may be considered on a case-by-case basis, with a designated ‘primary’ Governorate as point of reference”.

**Q48. Can we submit more than one CN with different partners?**

**A:** No. As per the CFCN, “Consortium Lead Applicants are allowed to submit maximum one Concept Note under maximum one Lot.”. Moreover, the Facility strongly encourages Consortium Sub-Applicants to take part in no more than one single Consortium to ensure quality submissions and strong partnerships.

**Q49. Can more than one proposal be submitted by the same organisation?**

**A:** No. As per the CFCN, “Consortium Lead Applicants are allowed to submit maximum one Concept Note under maximum one Lot.”. In case of multiple submissions from the same Consortium Lead Applicant, the e-CFP system will only consider the last submission registered on the system.

**Q50. Is there a standardized template for submitting the proposal that must be strictly followed?**

**A:** Yes. It is the Concept Note Template provided in the Call for Concept Note package. Please adhere strictly to instructions therein.

**Q51. Is the proposal submission limited to the upload link only, or is submission via email also permitted?**

**A:** Submission via email is not permitted. Concept Notes must be submitted through the Nabni Electronic Call for Proposals system (e-CFP). It is not possible to submit your Concept Notes outside the Nabni e-CFP system.

**Q52. Can we add annexes with additional information to the CN?**

**A:** No. These will not be considered.

**Q53. Are administrative expenses and human resources allowed to be included in the budget?**

**A:** Yes. Please refer to budgeting instructions in Section 3 of the Concept Note Template. As a reminder, this is a preliminary budget that will be significantly revised during the Co-Design Phase.

**Q54. Is there any financial contribution from the consortia during the implementation period? Any co-financing/match funding required?**

**A:** This is not required and also not disallowed.

**Q55. Are there any restrictions related to the availability of the organisation's bank account? As you may know at the moment there are restrictions preventing us from opening a bank account.**

**A:** Consortium Lead Applicants and Consortium Sub-Applicants must have organisational bank accounts to be eligible for this CFCN. There are no restrictions on the location. Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria in the Call for Concept Notes document for further information.

**Q56. Will the Co-Design Phase be budgeted and covered?**

**A:** Yes. As per the CFCN document, Section 11: "A Co-Design Activity Plan and Budget will be discussed, and a Co-Design Accountable Grant Agreement will be signed. During the

Co-Design Phase, a Local Peace and Conflict Analysis (LPCA) will be carried out to inform the detailed project design. This is expected to last 6 months.”

**Q57. Will project design change a lot during the Co-Design Phase?**

**A:** This is possible. As stated in the CFCN and as per Nabni’s Grant Allocation Manual, the results of the Local Peace and Conflict Analysis (LPCA), participatory and feasibility assessments during the Co-Design Phase will inform the full design of the project. As such, the initial project idea might be subject to significant changes during the Co-Design Phase.

**Q58. The co-design phase will only be with the max 3 selected partner Consortia and not all preselected partners?**

**A:** The Co-Design Phase will take place only with the selected Consortia under this CFCN. Not with all pre-selected.

**Q59. Will the Co-Design Phase be led by Nabni?**

**A:** No. The Co-Design Phase will be led by the selected Consortium with input and support from Nabni. “Co”-Design means there will be close collaboration between the Consortium and Nabni on the full project design.

**Q60. Will the Co-Design Phase include organisational development activities?**

**A:** It might, depending on need and requests. The Co-Design Phase will also include an in-depth Organisational Capacity Assessment that will inform the Technical Assistance Plan to implement during the full implementation period. Please refer to Nabni’s Website for more information on the Technical Assistance Pillar of the Facility and our Equitable Partnership commitments.

**Q61. Will the evaluation of Consortium Lead Applicants and Sub-Applicants be done at the same level?**

**A:** No. As per the CFCN Document Sections 6, 7 and 8 the Eligibility Criteria for Consortium Lead Applicants are more stringent than for Sub-Applicants. On the other hand, the Concept Notes submitted will be evaluated as a whole for the entire Consortium.

**Q62. Will we be provided with the questions and answers that will be raised during the virtual information sessions?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q63. The recording of the session will be shared with the participants?**

**A:** Yes. It is on Nabni's Website, under Funding Opportunities – Syria. It is also on Nabni's Facebook page.

**Q64. Do both virtual information sessions have the same content or are they different?**

**A:** The two sessions will broadly cover the same core information about the CFCN; the content may vary slightly depending on the types of questions submitted on the Q&A. The first session (9 July) is intended to help applicants understand the CFCN and key requirements, while the second session (24 July) may respond to more detailed questions as applicants prepare their submissions. Interested organisations are welcome to attend one or both sessions.

**Q65. Will there be an Arabic session?**

**A:** The virtual information sessions will be conducted in English, as all submissions must be completed in English. This ensures that key requirements and questions are addressed using the language of submission. Questions may be asked in Arabic during the virtual information sessions.

**Q66. We are working with non-registered groups from marginalized communities that have active community track records - what is the best way to include unregistered groups in the proposal?**

**A:** Unfortunately, non-registered groups are not eligible to apply as either Consortium Lead Applicants or Consortium Sub-Applicants. However, Consortia can design projects that involve informal groups in other ways – as project stakeholders, participants, etc. This can be included in the Concept Note and further refined during the Co-Design Phase as needed.

**Q67. Do we need to submit and upload organisational policies when submitting our application?**

**A:** No.

**Q68. Can you re-phrase what you said (in the virtual orientation session) about "networking" with other NGOs?**

**A:** We simply encourage organisations to connect with each other to find suitable partners with complementary strengths for forming a strong Consortium and submit a Concept Note under this CFCN.

**Q69. Can we choose one of the pathways of the Theory of Change, or do we have to select all of them to implement?**

**A:** The three Pathways of Change of the Nabni Theory of Change must be integrated in the project design. As per the CFCN Document, "Concept Notes must clearly define the ways in which activities are integrated across the three Pathways of the Nabni Theory of Change and contribute to one overall objective."

**Q70. Can you explain better this information from the manual "For each grant to be awarded through the call, the FMU shortlists a minimum of 3 concept notes and applicant organisations or consortia." E.g., if the FMU is planning to award 2 grants, then 6 applicants would be shortlisted." According to the call, we understand you will contract 3 projects, one per lot, thus would you pre-select 9 concept notes?**

**A:** Yes, Nabni plans to shortlist a minimum of 9 Concept Notes for this CFCN.

**Q71. Before 8 December 2024, there was no way to operate in all Syria as we work on the Caesar file. However, we had a team in Idleb that worked in documentation and other activities, we did not have a centre, but we used to operate there through our documentation staff. If we want to apply now, we should stick to Idleb? We are now registered in Syria and have an office in Damascus but before there was no way to directly implement in Damascus.**

**A:** If you are applying as a Consortium Lead with operational experience in Syria (in this case: Idleb) but not in the proposed project location (in this case: Damascus), you must partner with one or two Consortium Sub-Applicant(s) that have had experience working in Damascus at some time in the last three years. As a reminder, the Consortium Lead must have at least three years of operational experience in Syria, including offices/staff etc.

- **Week (3) 13 – 17 July 2025**

**Q72. We were initially established as a unit within a larger parent organization. Currently, we are an independent structure with separate legal registration, while still maintaining an affiliation with the parent organization. We would like to know if it is eligible for our entity to apply as a co-applicant in one consortium, while the parent organization submits a separate application as a lead applicant in a different consortium under this call.**

**A:** Yes, your entity may be eligible to apply as a Sub-Applicant in one consortium while the parent organisation submits a separate application as a Consortium Lead Applicant in a different consortium, provided that both entities are separately registered legal entities and each application clearly demonstrates independent operational and governance structures and experiences.

**Q73. We would like to seek clarification on location, the CfCN uses governorates and "locations" interchangeably. Could you clarify at which administrative level our experience should exist? For example, we are present in Azaz for around 10 years, and we want to implement activities in Tal Rifaat, which is a sub-district in Azaz district, and which has only recently become accessible. Is this doable? Or should we only focus on district/sub-district/communities that we have previous experience and presence?**

**A:** For the purposes of this CFCN, "location" generally refers to the district or sub-district level rather than the broader Governorate. In your example, yes this is doable. It will be particularly relevant to demonstrate your Consortium's operational knowledge and prior engagement at the district level. The CFCN requires that one of the members of the Consortium have operational and prior engagement in the Governorate, district or sub-district you select.

**Q74. Is the 6-month Co-Design Phase expected to be included within the overall project budget and implementation timeline?**

**A:** Yes, it is. Please refer to Answers to questions 20, 56 and 59 in this Q&A (on the Co-Design phase), among others.

**Q75. For income-generating activities, is it permissible to target individuals directly, or should interventions be exclusively group-based? Could you please provide an example of a livelihoods activity that aligns with the community-level focus of the Facility?**

**A:** For income-generating activities, we encourage a community-based approach to targeting; whilst activities may be delivered with individuals as relevant and feasible. As reminders: a) the project logic must adopt the Nabni Theory of Change and b) as per the CFCN document, Section 11: "During the Co-Design Phase, a Local Peace and Conflict Analysis (LPCA) will be carried out to inform the detailed project design". The LPCA may indicate specific approaches for income-generating activities that contribute to social cohesion. We are not able to provide examples of activities at this stage.

**Q76. Would the rehabilitation or construction of community gardens and water stations be considered eligible interventions under the scope of this Call, particularly in relation to promoting social cohesion?**

**A:** These activities are eligible, yes. As reminders: a) the project logic must adopt the Nabni Theory of Change and b) as per the CFCN document, Section 11: "During the Co-Design Phase, a Local Peace and Conflict Analysis (LPCA) will be carried out to inform the detailed project design".



**Q77. Does the scope of eligible activities include the construction or rehabilitation of community-based centres (e.g., social, educational, or health centers)?**

**A:** These activities are eligible, yes. As reminders: a) the project logic must adopt the Nabni Theory of Change and b) as per the CFCN document, Section 11: “During the Co-Design Phase, a Local Peace and Conflict Analysis (LPCA) will be carried out to inform the detailed project design”.

**Q78. Are project locations expected to be selected based on a community-level focus within a single governorate, and are multi-location interventions within that governorate permissible?**

**A:** Project locations can be selected based on a community-level focus within a single governorate or can be multi-location interventions within that one governorate. There is no restriction on selecting locations beyond the requirement to focus on maximum one Governorate within one Geographic Lot.

**Q79. In relation to the geographic eligibility criteria: Is it mandatory for the Consortium Lead Applicant to demonstrate at least three years of operational presence in the specific governorate proposed in the Concept Note, or can this requirement be met by one or more Consortium Sub-Applicants instead?**

**A:** The Consortium Lead Applicant must demonstrate three years of operational presence in Syria (in general). Consortium Sub-Applicants must demonstrate operational presence in the specific location (Governorate) proposed in the Concept Note.

**Q80. Could you kindly confirm whether a formal needs assessment is required at the Concept Note stage, or will all such assessments—including conflict and feasibility analyses—be conducted during the Co-Design Phase after partner selection?**

**A:** There is no specific requirement to conduct a formal needs assessment at Concept Note stage. Consortia can rely on needs assessments conducted previously or specifically for this Concept Note should they wish to conduct one. The Co-Design Phase will include a Local Peace and Conflict Analysis and Feasibility Assessments after partner selection.

**Q81. We have recently registered inside Syria as a new local organization. And to apply for this opportunity there is one eligibility criteria indicating that 3 years of operational experience in Syria is required, our international organization has been implementing projects in Syria for over 7 years. Can our newly registered local organization apply as the Lead Applicant, using the 7 years of experience of the international organisation to meet the eligibility requirement?**

**A:** The answer depends on what you mean by “international organisation”:

- If you mean your organisations is/was registered as a cross-border organisation or diaspora-based organisation (for more details on the definitions, refer to the answers to Questions 7, 24 and 28 – among others – in this document), the answer is yes: please refer to the answer to Question 2 in this document.
- If you mean your organisation is/was an “international organisation” with a global mandate, the answer to your question is no: refer to the answers to Questions 7, 24 and 28 – among others – in this document.