Call for Proposals – Guidance Document

IRTEQA – Enhancing the Political Transition in Syria

26 Nov 2026 – 25 Jan 2027

GIZ, through IRTEQA – Enhancing the Political Transition in Syria, will launch an open Call for Proposals supporting nonprofit civil society organisations, partnerships and consortia in three thematic areas: Transitional Justice, Information Integrity and Transparency, and Public Policy trDialogues. Applicants will submit a full proposal and budget by the published deadline in a single submission round.

Initiatives must address clearly identified transition-related needs through a coherent, feasible approach. Across all areas, they must be conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive, promote women's meaningful participation and leadership, and reflect the perspectives of underrepresented groups, including persons with disabilities.

Context

The political transition that began in Syria in December 2024 offers opportunities to advance peace, inclusion and justice. Priorities include rebuilding institutions, addressing the legacies of conflict, strengthening public trust and bringing Syrians together around shared national priorities.

The institutional landscape is being reshaped through the establishment of transitional bodies responsible for issues such as transitional justice, missing persons and electoral processes, alongside the reconstruction and reform of ministries and existing public institutions. Strengthening their capacities, coordination and cooperation with civil society can connect institutional efforts with technical expertise, local knowledge and diverse aspirations.

Key areas of transition include work toward a permanent constitutional framework, future electoral processes and arrangements for political participation and representation. Progress on transitional justice, civil peace and relations between national and local institutions will also shape the country's future. Inclusive dialogue, reliable information and meaningful public engagement can help Syrians consider options and build common ground.

The Call will support civil society contributions to these processes through its three thematic areas, promoting informed participation and cooperation between institutions and society in a nationally led political transition.

Objective

The objective of this Call for Proposals is to contribute to IRTEQA's overall goal of enhancing Syria's political transition through locally grounded, conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive civil society initiatives.

IRTEQA's results framework comprises four main outputs:

1) Institutions involved in the political transition have strengthened their capacities for effective public policy.
2) The coordination between key transitional institutions has improved.

3) Stakeholder engagement is strengthened, enabling inclusive political solutions.
4) Reliable information is made available to ensure a fact-based public discourse.

The Call will focus primarily on the last two outputs: enabling inclusive political solutions through stronger stakeholder engagement and supporting reliable information and transparent public communication. Initiatives may also contribute to institutional capacities and coordination where relevant.

Available Funding and Duration

Applicants may request grants of **up to EUR 300,000**. The requested amount should be proportionate to the proposed activities, implementation period, expected results and anticipated impact.

The implementation period of each grant **must be between 6-15 months**. Applicants should propose a duration that is appropriate to the scope, complexity and expected results of the intervention.

Thematic Areas and Priorities

Thematic Area 1: Transitional Justice

This area supports inclusive, survivor-cantered transitional justice through stronger institutional capacities and engagement among national institutions, victims, survivors and civil society. Indicative priorities include:

- Support safe participation and victim associations, and develop recommendations on reparations, victims' registries, recognition and guarantees of non-repetition that inform national institutions' work.
- Strengthen transitional justice organisations and victim-led initiatives, connect local, national, diaspora and international actors, and support policy engagement and public understanding while addressing misinformation, polarization and hate speech.
- Safeguard longstanding documentation efforts and strengthen conflict-sensitive documentation, data protection and secure archiving. Support awareness and survivor-cantered recommendations on missing persons, enforced disappearances, truth-seeking and acknowledgment.
- Strengthen legal expertise and help victims, survivors and families of missing persons understand their rights, access transitional justice mechanisms and obtain referrals.
- Facilitate exchanges with international accountability mechanisms and discussion of judicial and non-judicial approaches.
- Facilitate structured dialogue among national transitional justice institutions, victims, civil society and experts to inform policies and strategic decisions.
- Facilitate meaningful participation of Syrian women of diverse backgrounds (including survivors, family members of the missing, displaced women, and women from rural, minority, and marginalized communities) to voice their needs, contribute their perspectives, and inform national transitional justice mechanisms in line with the UN Agenda for Women, Peace and Security.

Thematic Area 2: Information Integrity and Transparency

This area strengthens reliable information, transparency and informed discourse on political processes and public institutions. It supports institutional communication, access to official information and cooperation among institutions, civil society and independent media. Interventions must focus on political and institutional processes. Eligible examples include improving a public institution's disclosure of official information or verifying claims about a transition-related policy. General community media literacy training and awareness campaigns fall outside this focus.

The following activities are indicative and non-exhaustive:

- Monitor, verify and respond to misinformation, disinformation and hate speech affecting political processes, public institutions and informed engagement on transition issues.
- Produce accessible, accurate and nonpartisan information on institutional mandates, public policies, transitional justice, constitutional arrangements, elections and participation mechanisms.
- Support cooperation among public institutions, civil society and independent media to improve public disclosure, access-to-information mechanisms and open-data systems.
- Strengthen institutional communication through official reports, public briefings, digital platforms and structured exchanges. Support access-to-information frameworks, including through engagement with the People's Assembly and other relevant institutions.

Thematic Area 3: Public Policy Dialogues

This area supports inclusive, evidence-based engagement on constitutional arrangements, citizenship, elections, political participation and party legislation, decentralization, center–local relations and institutional reform. It brings together institutions, civil society, academia, experts and affected groups to consider options and build common ground around a specific reform or a broader set of reforms.

Research must be part of a broader intervention combining practical activities and substantive collaboration with transitional bodies, ministries or other national institutions undergoing reconstruction and reform. Stand-alone research projects will not be supported; proposals must explain how findings will inform dialogue, institutional learning or policy development.

The following activities are indicative and non-exhaustive:

- Facilitate consultations, policy dialogue platforms, working groups and policy labs involving relevant institutions, civil society, experts and affected groups to identify priorities and develop reform options.
- Develop applied research, comparative analyses and policy proposals linked to dialogue, consultations or joint work with public institutions.
- Support cooperation with relevant Syrian universities and policy institutions through joint dialogue, exchanges between practitioners and academics, capacity development and applied research. Illustrative partners include the Faculty of Political Science at Damascus University and the studies center at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.
- Support institution-led civic education on public mandates, constitutional arrangements, rights and political participation by strengthening public institutions'

capacities to develop and deliver accessible materials, briefings and information programs.

- Organise parliamentary briefings, committee consultations, public hearings and evidence sessions on transition-related legislation and reform proposals.
- Create structured opportunities for women, youth, minorities, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, returnees and other underrepresented groups to inform policy design and review and connect local experiences with national reform processes through institutional consultations and policy inputs.

Any proposed technical advisory support to a public institution must respond to a clearly identified need and have the receiving institution's agreement. Applicants should describe the need, the institution's expected role, their relevant expertise, their methodology and how they will coordinate with the public institution.

Eligibility Criteria

The requirements below apply to individual applicants or to partnerships and consortia as specified. A public institution may participate as a cooperation partner. Grant recipients must meet the applicable applicant requirements below.

1. **All required documents must be submitted in English.**
2. **The official templates must be used without modification.**
3. **The proposal must be complete and accurate.**
4. **The proposed budget must remain within the indicated budget ceiling.**
5. **Only one submission per organisation is allowed.**
6. **Registration and other requirements:**

A. Applications Submitted by an Individual Organisation

The applicant must:

- Be a nonprofit civil society organisation legally registered in Syria (as an NGO or a branch of an INGO), and able to provide valid documentation demonstrating its legal status and authorization to operate. NGOs and INGOs with pending registration applications are encouraged to apply, though final selection depends on official approval.
- Have the legal and organisational capacity to enter into a grant agreement and receive, administer and report on grant funds.
- Have a bank account in the organisation's name with a Syrian bank capable of receiving international transfers.
- Have basic administrative, financial and internal control systems enabling it to comply with the grant's financial management, procurement, reporting, record-keeping and audit requirements.
- Be legally and operationally capable of implementing the proposed activities in Syria.
- Not be established, owned or controlled by a political party, armed group or government institution.

B. Applications Submitted by a Partnership or Consortium

The partnership or consortium must:

- Designate one organisation as the lead applicant, which will assume overall contractual, financial and reporting responsibility for the grant.
- Include at least one co-applicant that is a nonprofit civil society organisation legally registered in Syria and capable of implementing activities in Syria.
    - Have a bank account in the organisation's name with a Syrian bank capable of receiving international transfers.
- The lead applicant must be a nonprofit civil society organisation legally registered in its country of establishment and legally authorized to enter into a grant agreement and manage grant funds.
- The lead applicant must demonstrate substantial and documented experience in at least one of the core thematic areas covered by the Call. Such experience must be relevant to the proposed intervention and may be demonstrated through previous projects, research, policy work or publications.
- Ensure the clear definition of the roles, responsibilities and contributions of the lead applicant and each co-applicant.
- Ensure that all activities contribute directly to IRTEQA's objectives and intended results in Syria. Activities outside Syria may be included where their relevance and added value to the intervention are clearly demonstrated.

Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the criteria below, which reflect the strategic priorities and implementation principles of IRTEQA. The assessment will consider the relevance, feasibility of the proposed intervention, as well as the applicant's or consortium's capacity to deliver meaningful results. These are the key selection criteria:

- **Relevance to IRTEQA:** Assessing whether the proposal identifies a specific transition-related challenge, aligns with the selected thematic area, and clearly explains how its activities and expected results will contribute to one or more IRTEQA outputs. Relevant contributions may include:
    - Connecting civil society initiatives with national transition processes and relevant institutions, including those responsible for transitional justice.
    - Strengthening institutional capacities, coordination, inclusive participation, and the conditions for public trust.
- **Coherence of the Intervention Logic and Results:** Examining whether the proposal presents realistic and achievable objectives supported by a clear, logical results chain linking inputs, activities, outputs, and intended outcomes.
- **Feasibility of the Implementation Approach:** Assessing whether the proposed methods are appropriate to the objectives and local context, supported by a realistic workplan, clear responsibilities, and credible arrangements for access and cooperation. The proposal should identify essential dependencies and explain how it will adapt if access, institutional engagement, or other implementation conditions change.

- **Relevant Experience:** Demonstrating proven institutional capacity, technical expertise, and a strong track record in implementing similar interventions in comparable contexts, including:
  - Experience extending beyond the immediate thematic area (e.g., broader development or policy advice).
  - Proven ability in managing funds and grants from international donors.
  - Track record of implemented projects and tangible evidence of impact.
- **Cost Efficiency / Value for Money:** Ensuring that the proposed budget is realistic, well-justified, and proportionate to the planned activities and expected results, demonstrating an efficient use of resources.
- **Inclusiveness and Impartiality:** Demonstrating fair, non-discriminatory access to activities and benefits across social, ethnic, and geographic lines, ensuring the meaningful participation of marginalized groups and persons with disabilities where relevant.
  - Clear, transparent criteria and procedures for selecting participants or beneficiaries.
  - Practical measures to address participation barriers.
  - A clear rationale for the intended target groups and any restrictions on participation.
- **Risk Management and Do No Harm:** Assessing how the applicant's understanding of local tensions, divisions, power dynamics, and implementation risks informs the intervention design. The proposal should identify potential unintended harm to participants and others, provide practical mitigation measures, and explain who will monitor risks and how activities will be adapted when needed.
- **Gender Responsiveness:** Assessing whether the proposal identifies gender-specific needs, priorities, and barriers relevant to the intervention and translates that analysis into concrete activities, resources, and monitoring measures. It should promote equitable participation and benefits, with particular attention to women's safe and meaningful participation, influence, and leadership.

Compliance and Due Diligence Procedures

Following the pre-selection phase, all shortlisted applications must undergo mandatory compliance and due diligence procedures prior to contracting. During this stage, applicants may be asked to provide clarifications, submit updated documents, or respond to revision requests. As part of these procedures, all pre-selected organisations will undergo a general assessment process as well as a commercial and legal eligibility check to evaluate financial management systems, internal controls, and risk-mitigation capacities. Only applicants which pass the procedures can be contracted by GIZ.

Timeline and Selection Process

Table 1: Key Dates

Phase	Expected Date
Publication	November 25, 2026
Full proposal and budget submission,	November 25, 2026–January 25, 2027
Three public information sessions	December 10 and 15, 2026 and January 11, 2027

Phase	Expected Date
Validity screening, technical assessment and shortlisting	February-March 2027
Final eligibility checks, vetting and approvals	April–June 2027
Contract finalization, signing and implementation start	July–August 2027

Application Guidelines and Submission Requirements

A complete application package must include a project proposal, a budget, and the legal registration document.

Applicants are required to use the **official templates** for the project proposal and budget. These templates can either be downloaded directly from this website: https://www.neuanfang-syrien.de/en or requested via email by writing to IRTEQA@GIZ.de with the subject line **"IRTEQA - Call for Proposal Templates"**.

Questions & Inquiries:
All questions must be submitted via email: IRTEQA@giz.de.

Applications must be received by **25 January 2027** and submitted **exclusively by email** to **IRTEQA@GIZ.de**, using the subject line **"IRTEQA Proposal Submission"**. Only applications received by the deadline, **23:59 (Syria time, GMT +3:00)**, will be considered.

All applicant data will be processed and stored securely in compliance with data-protection standards.

- **GIZ reserves the right to modify, postpone, or cancel the call at any time and may reject submissions.**
- **Applications that are not in English, incomplete or missing required documentation will not be considered.**
- **IRTEQA seeks a portfolio that reflects the diversity of Syrian contexts and may consider geographic and contextual diversity when selecting projects.**

Best wishes are extended to all applicants, and we look forward to receiving well-developed proposals that demonstrate innovative insights and contribute to positive change in Syria.