

Call for Expression of Interest for multi-annual partnership with The Netherlands Refugee Foundation (*Stichting Vluchteling*) for in-country partners, as part of the ASPIRE direct funding and capacity strengthening program.

Purpose of the call

The purpose of this call for expressions of interest is to invite in-country based national and local organizations with relevant experience in protection and improved access to services for refugees, and host communities in Türkiye, with specific focus on 11 SET provinces which include Adana, Aydıman Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Mersin, Şanlıurfa and Osmaniye to submit their interest for participating in cohort 2 of the ASPIRE program through a potential multi-annual partnership with the Netherlands Refugee Foundation.

About The Netherlands Refugee Foundation

The Netherlands Refugee Foundation (*Stichting Vluchteling*) is an emergency relief organization that supports partner organizations globally to assist displaced populations. In case of acute need, the Netherlands Refugee Foundation provides funding to international and national partners in order to provide direct assistance, such as shelter, medical care, clean drinking water and sanitation. In the Netherlands, the Refugee Foundation provides information to the Dutch public about the situation of refugees and internally displaced as well as about emergency aid in general.

In recent years, following its commitments on advancing localization, the Netherlands Refugee Foundation has been growing its direct funding and organizational capacity strengthening support to over 50 local and national partners in over 20 countries.

Read more on <https://www.vluchteling.nl/en/about-us/collaborations/aspire>

Background of the Expression of Interest

ASPIRE: Advancing Sustainable Partnerships to Improve Resilience and Empowerment.

The Netherlands Refugee Foundation is implementing its ASPIRE program which aims to advance the leadership of in-country partners in Iraq, Lebanon, and Türkiye, through equitable, multi-annual partnerships that focus on the priorities and aspirations of these organizations by integrating streams of organizational capacity strengthening and direct funding. ASPIRE has the following two objectives:

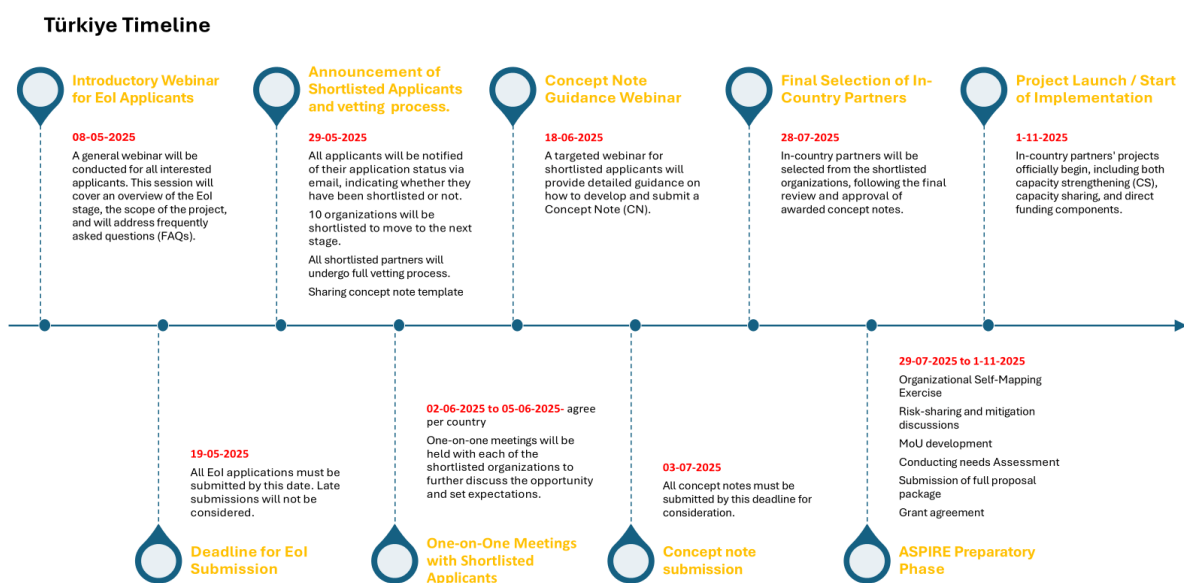
1. Protection of refugees and internally displaced persons by in-country partners: By stating protection we aim to sustainably improve the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons in host countries by providing access to basic human rights. This may include freedom of movement, access to basic socio-economic rights, improving access to legal documentation, access to justice and/or civil documents, and countering violence (including gender-related violence), exploitation and discrimination.

2. Access to improved services, facilities and information systems for displaced persons and host communities: By stating access to services, we aim to sustainably improve the living conditions of refugee communities, vulnerable host communities and internally displaced persons in host countries by providing access to improved services, facilities and information systems (=essential infrastructure). This may include access to improved safe drinking water systems, sanitation and/or waste management.

Please click [here](#) to access accepted and rejected objectives (Annex 1). Kindly note that the accepted objectives list is a non-exhaustive one. Applicants that have a track record in thematic areas outside of the suggested list are also welcome to apply.

The program is being implemented in the three countries simultaneously during a period of five years with two cohorts of partners to be selected. The first cohort selection took place in the second quarter of 2024, while a second cohort will be selected during the second quarter of 2025 (please see the visual below for the rough timeline).

Eol application timeline



ASPIRE is targeting organizations often excluded from international funding streams due to lack of access to the standard INGO funding channels, their size precluding them from INGO or donor awareness, and/or the age of the organization and potential lack of a long enough track record for many INGO or donor eligibility requirements. As such, ASPIRE will prioritise, but not be limited to, Refugee Led Organizations, Women Led Organizations, Youth Led Organizations, Volunteer Led Organizations, Community based organizations (not being country offices or sister organizations of northern/international NGOs). For the selection of partners, the Netherlands Refugee Foundation will be focusing on the lower quartile (according to annual income) of the initial shortlisting.

Following partner selection, selected partners will develop projects aligning with the two above-mentioned objectives and community priorities for a funding amount ranging from

40,000 to 100,000 euros per year. Each partner will be part of ASPIRE for a period of three years.

ASPIRE is funded through the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of the “Migration & Displacement 2023-2028 subsidy framework”.

This call is published in parallel in Türkiye, Lebanon and Iraq, where a number of partners will be selected to participate in each country.

Selection Criteria for Cohort 2 In-country Partners

Criteria	Supporting Document – vetting process
Annual budget of the applying organization for 2024 shouldn't exceed 500,000 Euro	Declaration statement Organizational audit
Annual budget of the applying organization for 2024 should amount to more than 20,000 Euro	Declaration statement Organizational audit
Experience in at least one of the objectives: Protection and Access to improved services	Letters of recommendations will be requested at a later stage in the selection process (from local authorities, partners, stakeholders, academic institutions etc.)
Experience in working with refugees Have the ability to reach 70% refugees and 30% host communities (optional) throughout project implementation.	Letters of recommendations will be requested at a later stage in the selection process (from local authorities, partners, stakeholders, academic institutions etc.)
Target locations/Operational presence	Adana, Ayıdaman Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Mersin, Şanlıurfa and Osmaniye
All leadership body of the organization should be residing in area of intervention	Official registration document
Complete application process through the English or Turkish MS Application Form or Email with full requested documentation	Link for Application Form
Organizational status: should be NGO, local initiative, local youth and women's collectives, local trade unions, research organizations.	
Organization should be at least one of the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee Led Organizations • Women Led Organizations • Youth Led Organizations • Volunteer Led Organizations • Community based organizations 	

Prioritization for short-listing :

- Organizations that fit more than 1 of the below criteria:
 - Refugee Led Organizations
 - Women Led Organizations
 - Youth Led Organizations
 - Volunteer Led Organizations
 - Organizations that are community based
- Location Preferences, with operational presence and available human resource no less than one year:
 - Kilis, Urfa, Mardin, Hatay and Gaziantep

Required documents:

- If available, a valid certificate of registration in Türkiye
- (Audited) financial statements for at least the last one year (please share up to three years, in case available). If not available, we kindly ask for elaboration in the application form.
- Organogram of the organization.

How to apply

- Please carefully read the eligibility criteria and submit the completed form, including the upload of the supporting documents, no later than **19 May 2025**.
- The Netherlands Refugee Foundation will conduct a screening process to verify all submitted documents after submission.
- Applications can be submitted in Turkish or English and will be assessed by a Technical Review Panel to identify organizations that have the mandate, capacities and expertise to support the achievement of 1. Protection of refugees and internally displaced persons by in-country partners; and 2. Access to improved services, facilities and information systems for displaced persons and host communities.

Budget envelope calculations:

ASPIRE's budget envelope will stretch between 40.000 EUR and 100.000 EUR per year, per partner. It should also be noted that within the ASPIRE program, the funding allocation per organization will be calculated as follows: Selected ASPIRE partners will be entitled to a budget envelope amounting to a maximum of 80% of their 2024 annual turnover without exciding 100.000 € annually.

For example, organizations with an annual turnover of 150.000 EUR will be entitled to a maximum of 100.000 EUR a year (300.000 EUR over three years).

However, organizations whose annual turnover is below 50.000 EUR (the threshold for an 80% allocation equalling 40.000 EUR) will still be entitled to a minimum funding allocation of 40.000 EUR annually to ensure equitable participation and program viability.

If you would like to estimate the projected annual budget your organization may receive under the ASPIRE project, please feel free to use the formula provided [here](#). Simply enter your 2024 annual budget, and the projected amount will be calculated automatically.

For the English and Turkish version of the application form, please visit: [\[Kobo Link\]](#)

Important Notice:

In case you are not able to access the Kobo link above, kindly click [here](#) to download the word version of the application form (which can be filled out in Turkish or English) and send it via email to aspire@vluchteling.nl, along with any relevant documents. Kindly note that to ensure a fair, competitive, and transparent selection process, applications exceeding the word limit will not be considered.

For assistance, our team is available and can be contacted via phone calls from Monday to Friday, between 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM.

Please ensure that your organization only submits one application. For any questions in the meantime, please send us an email at aspire@vluchteling.nl or contact us on +905354840055

All applicants will be notified of the results of their Expression of Interest via email. Expressions of Interest submitted after the deadline **(19 May 2025)** will not be considered. It should be noted that the participation in this Call for Expression of Interest does not guarantee the organization will be selected for a partnership with the Netherlands Refugee Foundation.

The Netherlands Refugee Foundation does not charge any fee at any stage of the selection process. For any complaints, feedback or suggestion please send us an email at supportcare@vluchteling.nl