

Call for Proposals

“From Barriers to Bridges”

Cross-border cooperation for female empowerment, human rights, conflict prevention and resolution at the Horn, in East and Southern Africa

Cross-Border Cooperation for Stabilization

APPLY NOW

Introduction

With the establishment of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) in 2007¹, and the adoption of the African Convention on Cross Border Cooperation in 2014², African leaders have emphasized their conviction that borders must be transformed “*from barriers to bridges*” in order to maintain peace and security and to make progress toward the continental integration. African states, societies and communities should therefore embark on cross border cooperation (CBC). CBC is defined as any act, policy or practice aimed at developing and strengthening good-neighbourly relations between two or more border communities, territorial administrations or other stakeholders. CBC can comprise various initiatives at local, national and regional levels starting from a policy, a development plan, a joint problem analysis or just arising from local or regional practices or a common cultural background. CBC, to name but a few examples, could involve promoting joint management of international borders, cross-border trade, establishing joint border security measures, joint management of shared border resources, socio-economic and political projects to develop border areas including reconciling border communities, or promoting peace through other forms of cooperation.

Peaceful coexistence and cooperation between nations and communities is both an underlining condition and a driver for Africa’s integration. This is also true for Eastern and Southern African States where fortunately less and less inter States conflicts are recorded. However, it remains that border disputes between States (e.g Lake Malawi-Nyasa) and ultimately between communities (e.g. along Songwe River) arise, dividing communities instead of integrating them. Such conflicts mostly occur at the local level, between border communities and often triggered by disputes over natural resources (e.g. land, farms across borders, river

¹ The AUBP was launched by the first Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa, on 7 June 2007. More information about the AUBP: <https://www.peaceau.org/en/page/85-au-border-programme-aubp-2>.

² Adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 26 and 27 June 2014.

boundary, clashes with neighbouring States officers etc), usage of infrastructure (e.g. schools, health facilities etc) located near the international border. Cross border cooperation projects with a focus on stabilisation of the border region can bring about solutions for peaceful coexistence and good neighbourly relations. Such projects connect the nexus peace and development. This call for proposal supports the implementation of AUBP's strategy for CSO engagement and its action plan.

Objective of the project

CBC for stabilization aims to encourage local governments, civil society organisations, youth, women groups, non-governmental organisations and any other stakeholders active in border areas to identify and implement cross border cooperation projects that result in or strengthen existing good neighbourly relations between border communities. Priority will be given to projects addressing a specific conflictual or tension prone situation of a given border community with the aim to build trust and good neighbouring relations as well as prevent further conflicts or escalation of existing tensions. Any project that aims at achieving the above at a border between two countries can be selected and supported (see admissibility section).

What kind of project proposals are we looking for?

Project proposals should present a specific challenge at a given international border hindering good relations between the local communities of the two neighboring countries. Concerned communities should be consulted. Project proposals shall further present how the project plans to solve the challenge via cross border cooperation in agreement with concerned communities. The identified cross border initiative would solve the volatile or conflictual situation, sustainably diffuse tensions, sensitize border populations on human rights and / or strengthen women. The project proposal must describe in detail how the CBC project will be implemented, which stakeholders will be involved, how the impact of the project in stabilising the area will be measured, what are the foreseen challenges and what is the sustainability plan. These proposals are to be reviewed and if successful granted a technical and financial support to implement the project.



Eligibility criteria

Eligible proposals **must**:

- identify and target a specific challenge in a border area (between two countries) in the Horn of Africa, East or Southern Africa (Member or Partner States of the following Regional Economic Communities - RECs: East African Community – EAC, Intergovernmental Authority for Development - IGAD, Southern Africa Development Community - SADC);
- present a detailed specific Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) project for that area engaging and benefiting communities from both sides of the international border or strengthening women from the border communities;
- possibly have been done in consultation with concerned communities and their buy in acquired (especially the leaders of the concerned communities);
- submitted by an institution or group (e.g. local government constituencies, public or private (cross) border committee or a Civil Society Organisations CSO, etc...);
- include a methodology or implementation plan, identified needed support, a timetable of work and deliverables, reporting schedule, the structure of the implementing team (please note that no salary will be paid to particular individuals from the implementing team);
- include a hygiene concept and an overview of Covid-19 precaution measures that will be taken to implement the activities;
- include a detailed, comprehensive budget plan comprising also costs for communication work (photographers, printing, promotion material etc) and cost of Covid-19 precaution measures;
- be implementable and finalized within 6 months.

Selection process and what do you get if selected?

The proposals are to be reviewed and if successful granted a technical and, if eligible, financial support to implement the project. Selection of projects will be done by a selection committee composed of GIZ and African Union representatives.

Research proposals will be judged based on (1) relevance, (2) originality and clarity, (3) buy in of concerned communities, (4) conflict vulnerability of the proposed border (5) feasibility of implementation or plan of work, and (6) budget and justification.

Short listed candidates will be contacted for further detailed information in an interview.

Approximately 10 projects will be selected for support in 2021. Each successful project will be supported with up to EUR 15.000 in technical support, procurement of required equipment, facilitation of needed activities and where eligible financial support. Implementation of the project will be conducted in cooperation with the GIZ office of the countries where project will

be implemented. Selected activities can be showcased in GIZ publications and a Newsletter published by the AUBP unit at the African Union Commission.

Selected projects are kindly requested to submit a mid-term report and a final report including pictures at the end of the implementation period. Please assure that all persons visible on pictures have agreed to have their picture taken. In addition, short updates after individual activities are highly welcome. They will help us to amplify and showcase your activities.

Application process

Interested parties must submit all below mentioned documents by latest May 10th, 2021 to ariane.stoehr@giz.de and CC abraham.tekelye@giz.de.

- A CBC project proposal using the attached template (max. 5 pages);
- An introduction letter of max. 1 page (with contact details), stating how the project fits within the frame of the AUBP and CBC for stabilization and why the project is worth being supported by GIZ;
- A national identification document of team leader (national ID, Passport);
- For NGOs, CSOs a registration certificate if applicable.

Only complete folders will be considered.

A virtual Q&A session will be held in mid-April to discuss open questions about the application process, kindly send an email to ariane.stoehr@giz.de and CC abraham.tekelye@giz.de to register for the virtual Q&A session and to receive the link.

Timeframe

Applications in form of project proposals will be accepted until 10 May 2021. Review and selection of successful projects will be completed in early June 2021, and the implementation is foreseen to be completed between July 2021 and January 2022 (tentatively based on the evolution of the situation relating to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic).