

# Open Call for Project Proposals

## TAKAMUL – تكامل

### **Fund for Capacitating and Strengthening the Syrian Civil Society and Supporting Social Cohesion**

**Funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ, the BRIDGE project – “Strengthening the Capacities of the Syrian Civil Society” seeks to support Syrian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community-based-Organisations (CBOs) in their engagement for the Syrian population.**

After the fall of the Assad regime, Syria is in a crucial period of transition. Syrian civil society demands a crucial role in the transition to shape the future of the country. The TAKAMUL fund seeks to support Syrian civil society in its engagement in Syria. It allows for applications with a broad range of activities, e.g. from support to basic services and livelihoods to capacity-building and strengthening civil society.

In order to strengthen the role of civil society in the transition in Syria, TAKAMUL puts an emphasis on social cohesion, women and youth as well as the relationship between civil actors and public authorities. Social cohesion in Syria remains fragile after years of conflict. Many communities find themselves divided along social, ethnic and sectarian lines, with unequal access to resources and opportunities. Displacement has strained trust between groups and hampered the ability of communities to cooperate and plan their (economic) recovery together, leaving women and youth without avenues for meaningful civic and economic engagement.

The exclusion of women and youth from decision-making processes has led to further fragmentation in the country. Women and youth have been disproportionately affected by the conflict, facing increased vulnerability to violence, displacement, and economic marginalisation. They are often lacking opportunities to engage in community-led initiatives that could help bridge these divides.

**In the selection process, applications will be favoured that address at least one of the following criteria:**

1. **Strengthening social cohesion:** Local communities with particular focus on women and youth will be engaged directly in identifying priorities and designing smaller-scale local initiatives. These local initiatives should focus on economic rehabilitation and development response. Such community-driven activities and dialogues should not only strengthen trust and cooperation but also contribute to social cohesion considering the ethnical and religious diversity in Syria.
  
2. **Improving the relationship between civil actors and public authorities:** Where cooperation with local state actors is possible, improving relations between local populations and local authorities is key to ensure more stable and enduring social cohesion. Activities with particular focus on women and youth that promote transparency, accountability and inclusive governance - such as promoting participatory governance processes or creating inclusive economic dialogues between communities and local authorities - help bridge the gap between citizens and decision-makers.
  
3. **Empowering women:** Women will be strengthened as civil society actors and in their active participation in decision-making processes. Building the capacity of local organisations and initiatives that campaign for women's rights and connecting them with each other will be supported. The development of women's centers in which female residents can find a safe space to exchange ideas and receive further training is another focus of the field of action.
  
4. **Supporting youth and youth-led initiatives:** Youth-led initiatives hold immense potential to strengthen social cohesion and build peace across divided communities. Youth can play a critical role in community resilience and social cohesion efforts, with youth-led initiatives offering a vital platform for them to contribute their voices and leadership to rebuilding Syria's social fabric. By equipping youth with the tools to organise and participate in community governance, social cohesion and resilience within communities will be strengthened.

## Guideline for submitting proposals

### ***What is the geographical scope?***

It must be substantiated that projects will benefit directly Syrians / Syrian civil society inside Syria. It is required that all activities are physically implemented inside Syria.

### ***Who are the target groups of TAKAMUL?***

Women and youth are the main target groups of *TAKAMUL*. Children are not part of the target group.

### ***Who is meant with youth?***

“Youth” refers to young people from 15 to 27 years of age.

### ***What is the duration of funded projects?***

The proposed projects can last from 12 to 15 months.

It is foreseen that selected projects start between 1<sup>st</sup> of August and 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2025.

### ***In which language should the project proposals be submitted?***

Project Proposals must be submitted in English language.

### ***What is the max. budget of a project proposal?***

The size of the grants shall be between 130.000 EUR (min.) and 150.000 EUR (max.).

The size of a grant can be increased to 250.000 EUR, when at least two of the criteria for a prioritized selection are being addressed.

### ***Who can apply for a grant?***

Only TANDEM projects consisting of one Syrian Diaspora Non-Governmental-Organisation (NGO) and at least one registered Community-based-Organisation (CBO) and/or NGO inside Syria will be accepted.

The Syrian diaspora organisation will be the main applicant and grant beneficiary who then will forward funds to the partner CBO(s)/NGO(s) inside Syria.

Each TANDEM can submit only one project proposal.

The main applicant (Syrian Diaspora NGO) must provide proof of profound experience with GIZ funding and/or any other international funding in the past.

### ***Which templates must be used?***

All proposals must use the standard GIZ BRIDGE templates. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please request the project proposal template and the budget template from [TAKAMUL@giz.de](mailto:TAKAMUL@giz.de) by stating “TAKAMUL request” under subject of the email.

***What is the deadline for submitting project proposals?***

The deadline for the submission of project proposals is 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025.

Proposals must be sent by email as soft copy to [TAKAMUL@giz.de](mailto:TAKAMUL@giz.de)

***Which documents must be submitted until the deadline, 31<sup>st</sup> of March?***

Only the following two documents must be submitted: (1) project proposal and (2) budget, by using the GIZ BRIDGE templates.

***Who will select the proposals for funding?***

The selection committee will consist of GIZ BRIDGE technical staff who will review and select the project proposals for funding.

***What are the pre-selection criteria?***

Proposals will be pre-selected based on the following criteria:

- TANDEM approach
- English language
- Profound experience of the main applicant with GIZ funding and/or any other international funding in the past
- Using the GIZ templates for project description and budget
- Templates are filled correctly and in a comprehensive way
- Staying within the budget limits
- Submitted project proposal to GIZ BRIDGE latest by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025

Only those proposals fulfilling the pre-selection criteria will be forwarded to the selection committee.

***What are the selection criteria?***

Applications will be favoured that address at least one of the following criteria:

1. Strengthening social cohesion
2. Improving the relationship between civil actors and public authorities
3. Empowering women
4. Supporting youth and youth-led initiatives

The full project proposals will be also examined regarding the following aspects:

<b>Relevance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well is the problem framed that the intervention seeks to address?</li> <li>• How well does the proposed intervention correspond to the needs and contextual constraints of the target group?</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent is the project idea innovative? (e.g. applying a new approach, or scaling up to reach a larger target group)</li> </ul>
<b>Design of Intervention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the objectives of the intervention realistic?</li> <li>• How coherent is the design of the intervention in terms of consistency of proposed activities with envisaged results?</li> <li>• How feasible is the implementation of activities? Is the envisaged timeframe realistic?</li> </ul>
<b>Risk Management and Do-No-Harm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How complete are risk analysis and mitigation plan?</li> <li>• Are Do-No-Harm principles being applied?</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent will the proposed intervention likely have a lasting impact beyond the duration of the project?</li> <li>• Will the proposed intervention have any multiplier effects?</li> </ul>
<b>Budget and cost-effectiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a plausible and transparent allocation of costs to relevant budget lines, reflecting proposed activities?</li> <li>• What is the overall cost-efficiency / value for money?</li> </ul>

***How will applicants be informed about the state of their submitted proposals?***

All applicants will be informed regularly and updated about their submitted proposals.

***Which costs will not be funded?***

- unreasonably high procurement and/or construction costs;
- staff costs not related to project implementation;

***How will Data Protection be ensured?***

All information collected from recipients for the processed project proposals will be stored securely using GIZ data management systems, and only for as long as necessary.

***What are the prerequisites for contract-signing?***

- **Vetting**

Selected organisations based inside Syria as well as proposed project intervention locations inside Syria will be vetted through a third-party monitor commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office. Positive vetting results are a prerequisite for contract-signing.

- **Basic financial and risk management capacity**

Selected organisations will be asked to provide relevant information to GIZ for a review of their accounting and risk management systems, procedures and capacities. Positive assessment results are a prerequisite for contract-signing.

**What is the timeline?**

<b>26.02.2025</b>	TAKAMUL information event (on-line) for all interested applicants
<b>31.03.2025</b>	Deadline for the submission of project proposals
<b>30.04.2025</b>	Selection of proposals finalized, information to selected applicants will be sent
<b>31.05.2025</b>	Non- selected applicants will be informed
<b>01.08.2025</b>	Start of funding of first projects

**Who can I approach in case of any questions?**

In case of any questions please send an email to [TAKAMUL@giz.de](mailto:TAKAMUL@giz.de) by stating “TAKAMUL question” under subject of the email. Your questions will be collected, and a Q&A document will be presented and shared at the TAKAMUL information event on 26.02.2025 (online event).

**Where can I register for the TAKAMUL information event on 26.02.2025?**

Please register for the information event by sending an email to [TAKAMUL@giz.de](mailto:TAKAMUL@giz.de) by stating “TAKAMUL information event” under subject of the email.

**Important Note:**

GIZ BRIDGE reserves the right to change or cancel the invitation at any time and has the right to reject projects submitted without informing applicants of the reasons.

Proposals failing to provide the requested information and evidence will be disregarded.