

تکامل – TAKAMUL III

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

Call for Proposals and Guidance Document

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the BRIDGE project – “Strengthening the Capacities of the Syrian Civil Society” calls for proposals to support Syrian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Within the framework of the GIZ BRIDGE project, the TAKAMUL Fund launches this Call for Proposals, inviting civil society organizations in Germany (working on the Syrian context) and civil society organizations inside Syria to submit joint project proposals. The call aims to support projects that strengthen social cohesion, promote inclusive community engagement, and enhance the role of Syrian civil society in local recovery and community resilience. Interested organizations are encouraged to apply in accordance with the requirements outlined in this guidance document.

A. Definitions

- I. **TAKAMUL:** A GIZ-managed fund under the BRIDGE project, designed to strengthen Syrian civil society in- and outside Syria and support social cohesion. Its name, meaning “integration” in Arabic, represents the Fund’s goal to enhance collaboration between Syrian civil society organizations inside Syria and diaspora organizations.
- II. **BRIDGE Project:** A GIZ project commissioned by BMZ to strengthen the capacities, effectiveness, and resilience of civil society actors and organizations working within the Syrian context.
- III. **Tandem Approach:** A required project model based on joint collaboration between a diaspora civil society organization based in Germany working within the Syrian context (main applicant) and a local Syrian civil society organization (co-applicant). The approach ensures shared project design, joint planning, coordination and implementation inside Syria.
- IV. **Diaspora Organization / Main Applicant:** A legally registered organization in Germany whose mandate includes engagement with Syrian communities or issues. As the main applicant, it bears contractual and financial responsibility for the proposed project, submits the application, manages reporting, and ensures compliance with all donor requirements.
- V. **Local Syrian Organization / Co-Applicant:** A local NGO legally registered in Syria. As the co-applicant, it is the implementer of project activities inside Syria and receives the forwarded amount of the grant from the main applicant to execute the approved workplan.
- VI. **Local Initiative:** A community-led activity proposed by project beneficiaries that strengthens social cohesion and peaceful coexistence beyond ethnic and/or religious boundaries by promoting trust, collaboration, dialogue, and the active participation of women and youth.
- VII. **Youth (Under TAKAMUL III):** Individuals, both male and female, between 18 and 27 years of age.

B. Background: GIZ BRIDGE Project and TAKAMUL III Fund

The GIZ project BRIDGE - “Strengthening the Capacities of the Syrian Civil Society” capacitates civil society actors and organizations inside and outside of Syria. The TAKAMUL fund is one intervention instrument of the GIZ BRIDGE project and designed

to strengthen the role of Syrian NGOs in supporting social cohesion at community level beyond ethnic and/or religious barriers.

A defining feature of TAKAMUL III is the **Tandem Approach**, which promotes close cooperation between Syrian diaspora organizations registered in **Germany**, and local civil society organizations inside **Syria**. This model fosters joint planning and implementation, strengthens knowledge exchange, and enables partners to design and deliver effective social cohesion and community-driven initiatives. All project activities must be implemented **inside Syria**.

C. TAKAMUL III – Programmatic Approach and Focus

TAKAMUL III pursues a **holistic approach** to promoting **social stability** in Syria. This approach is characterized by connecting different levels of society and actors.

TAKAMUL III **fosters cohesion beyond ethnic and religious boundaries** but also between different social groups (e.g., internally displaced persons, returnees from the diaspora and the local host community). It builds a bridge between **civil society** (grassroots initiatives by women and youth) and the **local government (state)**. The aim here is to reduce mistrust and establish joint decision-making processes.

Local **women's and youth initiatives** are to be specifically supported to strengthen civic engagement and establish them as active actors of change.

Purely humanitarian measures and those aimed at infrastructure reconstruction **cannot be funded**.

D. Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for further assessment, each proposal must fully meet the eligibility requirements. All applications must clearly demonstrate the **TANDEM Approach**, meaning a joint submission by a **diaspora organization** registered in Germany as the **main applicant and grant recipient**, together with a **Syria-based non-governmental organisation (NGO)** as the **co-applicant** responsible for implementation inside Syria.

Applicants must be **formally registered**, and all required documents must be submitted **in English**, using the **official templates** without modification. The proposal package must be **complete, accurate, and within the indicated budget ceiling**.

E. Pre-Selection Criteria:

Proposals that successfully pass the eligibility screening will be assessed based on several key criteria. **First**, proposals must align with the **TAKAMUL III programmatic approach**, clearly demonstrating inclusive activities **implemented beyond ethnic and religious barriers**, with a primary focus on **women or youth**, and complementary participation of **persons with disabilities**, where relevant. **Second**, the **proposed contribution to social cohesion must be credible**, demonstrating how the intervention will strengthen relationships, trust, and cooperation at the community level. **Third**, proposals will be evaluated for their **relevance**, ensuring that the problem is well-defined, aligned with local needs, and that the proposed actions appropriately respond to community priorities and contextual constraints. **Fourth**, the **innovation** of the project will be assessed, examining whether it introduces a new approach or meaningfully adapts an existing one in a realistic and context-appropriate manner. **Fifth**, the **intervention design** must present realistic and achievable objectives, a coherent results chain, and a practical, feasible implementation plan supported by a clear timeline. **Sixth**, applicants must demonstrate robust **risk management and Do-No-Harm** practices, including comprehensive risk analysis, adequate mitigation measures, and meaningful integration of conflict-sensitive approaches. **Finally**, proposals will be reviewed for **sustainability**, ensuring the potential for lasting impact beyond the project period, including opportunities for replication, scaling, or continued use of skills and structures developed through the intervention.

F. Budget Requirements and Cost-Efficiency

Proposed budgets of **50.000 EUR to max. 80.000 EUR** must be **realistic, cost-effective**, and clearly aligned with the planned activities. All cost items should be well-justified, reasonable, and demonstrate **value for money**. Applicants must complete all required budget sheets in the official template, including the **Key Data Sheet**, the **Main Financial Budget**, and the **Forwarding of Funds Budget**.

At least **70% of the total fund** must be transferred to the **co-applicant inside Syria**, reflecting the project's local implementation focus. The main applicant may not include any implementation activities in its budget. Administrative costs may reach **up to 7%** for the main applicant and **up to 2%** for the Syrian co-applicant.

Certain expenditure types, such as **construction costs** or **staff costs not directly linked to implementation**, are **not eligible for funding**.

In addition, both the main applicant and co-applicant must include **narrative explanations in separate sheets** within the same budget template. These explanations should outline the **purpose and specifications** of each budget line.

G. 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 organizations 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.**

IMPORTANT: The main applicant will be required to submit a valid tax exemption certificate, and this document **must be available and ready** when requested.

H. Anticipated Timeline:

Date	Activity
Jan-Feb	TAKAMUL online information sessions for all interested applicants
31 st March	Deadline for submission of project proposals
April	pre-selection process
April - June	Compliance checks, clarifications, and final revisions
June	Notifications sent to finally selected applicants and start of project implementation

I. Application Guidelines and Submission Requirements

All applicants must adhere to the following guidelines when preparing and submitting their proposals. Each **TANDEM** may submit **only one proposal**, and neither organization may participate in more than one application. Projects may run for a **maximum duration of 6 to 8 months**, with a **budget of 50,000 EUR to 80,000 EUR**. Applicants are required to use the **official templates** provided in the application package link included in the **Call for Proposals**.

The **application documents** (project proposal template and budget template) can be received by sending an email to takamul@giz.de using the subject line “**TAKAMUL application templates**”.

Questions and inquiries regarding the Call for Proposal must be submitted via the following link: <https://kobo-ee.giz.de/x/oe1QTYsc>.

A complete application package must include a **Project Proposal**, a **Budget**, and the legal **registration document** of both the main applicant and the co-applicant.

Applications must be received by **31 March 2026** and submitted **exclusively by email** to takamul@giz.de, using the subject line “**TAKAMUL Proposal Submission**”. Only applications received by the **deadline, 12:00 a.m. (Damascus time)**, 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 incomplete or missing required documentation will not be considered.

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.