Darfur Community Peace & Stability Fund

**UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION PILOT PROJECT DOCUMENT – APPLICATION UNDER window 1**

Section A: Information about your Organization

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| Organization Information | | | |
| A1 | Organization Name | | Nonviolent Peaceforce |
| A2 | Nature of Organization (INGO, UN Agency, National NGO, IO) | | INGO |
| A3 | Organization Main Address (Sudan) | | NA |
| A4 | Legal Status of Organization | | Registered in Switzerland, USA, South Sudan |
| A5 | Registration Status of Organization in Sudan | | Application for INGO registration in Sudan has commenced but not finalized. |
| A6 | Year Established | | 2002 |
| A7 | Organization Website | | [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) |
| A8 | Have you previously delivered DCPSF project(s)? | | NO  YES: If yes, please list date, title, location (state) |
| Contact Information | | | |
| A9 | Contact Person for Concept Note | | Gay Rosenblum-Kumar |
| A10 | Job Title/Position | | UN Representative, Nonviolent Peaceforce |
| A11 | Phone | | 1-646-724-4616 |
| A12 | E-mail | | gay.rosenblumkumar@gmail.com |
| A13 | Country Director Name | | Tiffany Easthom |
| A14 | Job Title/Position | | Executive Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce |
| A15 | Phone | | +41 (0) 22 552 66 10 |
| A16 | E-mail | | teasthom@nonviolentpeaceforce.org |
| Organization Mission and Activities | | | |
| A17 | Description of the Organization’s mission and activities (Max 150 Words) | | |
| Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) is a global civilian protection agency based in humanitarian and international human rights law. NP’s mission is to protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies, build peace side by side with local communities, and advocate for the wider adoption of these approaches to safeguard human lives and dignity. Currently operating in South Sudan, Iraq, Myanmar, the Philippines and the US, NP’s primary method of intervention is Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP). UCP refers to the use of unarmed civilians protecting civilians. Activities range from entering active conflict zones to remove civilians in crossfires to protective accompaniment of threatened human rights defenders and providing opposing tribes a safe space to negotiate. In Sudan UNAMID has funded NP in 2020 to conduct two 8-week online UCP courses for a total of 70-80 participants from all five states of Darfur. | | |
| A18 | Applicant Development | I have read the Call for Concept Notes Guidance and used it for the development of this concept note. | |

Section B: Project Information

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| Project details | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B1 | Project Title | Enhancing local capacities for violence prevention and civilian protection (TBC in consultation) | | | | | | | | | |
| B2 | Project Location - State | North Darfur | | South Darfur | | | | | | West Darfur | |
|  |  | Central Darfur | | East Darfur | | | | | |  | |
| B3 | Project Location – Locality and community\*These locations are proposed based on the list and criteria in **Annex 2** (p. 9 below) | Locality | Kalma, South Darfur | | | | Village(s) | | Kalma IDP site | | |
| Locality | El Geneina, West Darfur | | | | Village(s) | | Krinding IDP site | | |
| Locality | El Fasher, North Darfur | | | | Village(s) | | Zam Zam IDP site | | |
| B4 | Project Duration *(Number of Months – all projects should be between 18 – 24 months)* | 4 months – (1 July – 30 October 2021) | | | | | | | | | |
| B5 | Does your organization currently have a field office in the state where the project will be implemented? | YES  NO | | | | | | | | | |
| Address of Field Office | NA | | | | | | | | |
| When established? | NA | | | Number of Staff: | | | | | 4 |
| B6 | Estimated Project Budget | $120,000 | | | | | | | | | |
| B7 | National Partner *(only complete if already confirmed)* | Name |  | | | | | | | | |
| Registration |  | | | | | | | | |
| B8 | Results: Which of the DCPSF Results Framework Outputs will your Project Proposal address? | Output 1 | Output 2 | | Output 3 | | | Output 4 | | | OTHER (please list) |
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| Summary of Concept Note | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B9 | Executive Summary of the Concept Note (Max 250 Words) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Despite promising reforms, incidents of violence and violent conflict remain an everyday reality for many communities in Darfur. As UNAMID is withdrawing its presence and both UNITAM’s and the Government of Sudan’s capacity to protect civilians is limited, there is a significant protection gap that requires an urgent response by local and international actors. Unarmed Civilian Protection is one way in which civil society can contribute to closing this protection gap. It is an approach recommended in UNSCR 2425 (2020) on the establishment of UNITAMS in Sudan and requested by many of the 80 Darfuri young men and women that Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) trained online in 2020 with the support of UNAMID. A number of these course graduates have already begun to implement UCP skills in responding to conflicts within their lives and communities.  Building on this initial step of online training, NP proposes a second step in the form of 3-month pilot project that moves the implementation of UCP to communities in Darfur. The project exists of 3 levels of intervention. The first level exists of a series of in-person 5-6-day training and coaching sessions and to support the refinement of the online graduates’ strategies and action plans. The second level of intervention involves consultation and relationship building to strengthen networks and identify, together with conflict-affected communities, appropriate entry points for longer-term protection programming. The third level exists of orientation workshops about UCP for women, youth or marginalised communities that explore how UCP can strengthen existing community self-protection efforts. | | | | | | | | | | |

Section C: Project details

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| Project Analysis | |
| C1 | **Relevance:** |
| 1. Relevance: Context (Max 350 words)   What is the analysis of the situation or context in the communities where your proposal will function? |
| Sudan’s 2019 nonviolent revolution initiated promising reforms nationally, but demands for responsible governance, justice, and security have yet to be realized. As an already thinned out UNAMID is set to withdraw its presence entirely, seasonal migration disputes, inter-ethnic tensions, and gender-based violence continue unabated. Proliferation of weapons among the population and a lack of capacity of police further contribute to insecurity, while significant military forces continue to operate outside of Sudan’s national peace process.  While UN and other humanitarian agencies operate across Darfur, a lot of protection needs remain unaddressed. Moreover, none of these actors provides direct physical protection. The new UN Special Political Mission in Sudan, UNITAMS, will not have the mandate or capacity to address Protection of Civilians and will have a primarily Khartoum-based presence. UNITAMS’ proposed 'Office of Civilian Protection and Rule of Law' requested under fifty staff to cover human rights, child protection, Woman Peace and Security, and protection for the entire country. The Government of Sudan has established an office and produced a national plan for the protection of civilians, but it doesn’t contain concrete benchmarks. Observers also point out that the GoS does not have the resources, nor the trust of the citizens, to meet protection needs for the almost two million people in IDP camps and the entire population of 9+ million in Darfur alone.  NP’s interlocutors in Darfur, including training course participants, UNAMID staff, UNCT members, and counterpart NGOs have indicated the need for additional and stronger modalities for protecting civilians and enhanced skills among civilians in de-escalating tensions and protecting vulnerable individuals and groups in their communities. Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) have been cited in the UNITAMS mandate and strongly recommended by local actors as a method that can contribute to closing the identified protection gap. |
| 1. Relevance: Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Mechanisms (Max 250 words)   Provide analysis of the conflict resolution, reconciliation, and justice mechanisms in the target communities. |
| Consultations with NP training participants in target communities affirmed DCPSF’s conclusion about an overall weakening of traditional dispute-resolution mechanisms and a general lack of trust among communities in the formal security and justice system. As one participant commented: “many people in my community now believe that everyone who works in any government institution is their enemy.” While traditional community leaders have had some success in resolving disputes, they are not always trusted either. Moreover, they are faced with a situation in which violence is commonplace and proliferation of weapons in the hands of armed militias and criminals is rampant. The resulting power imbalance puts a strain on traditional dispute-resolution mechanisms and reconciliation efforts.  While rebuilding reconciliation and justice mechanisms is an important objective, more immediate measures are equally needed. Unarmed Civilian Protection is an appropriate response that could facilitate the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, as it focuses on responding to immediate security threats, without reinforcing the reliance on weapons. In South Sudan NP has frequently provided a protective presence during conflict mitigation processes and protective accompaniment to local mediators. It also connected women protection teams across divided communities, combining direct protection with trust building and reconciliation. Participants from Jabal Mara mentioned that many of the small-scale attacks in their areas could be contained by youth groups trained in early response and rumour control to de-escalate tensions and prevent retaliation. Such interventions could help build an environment more conducive to justice and reconciliation. |
| 1. Gender & Inclusion (Max 200 words)   How does your project promote inclusion of different groups (ethic, age, gender, economic, etc.)? What measures will you take to counter potential exclusion and to encourage inclusion throughout the project? |
| The online trainings NP conducted in 2020 included 52 men and 34 women from North, West, Central and East Darfur, 53% of them younger than 35. The proposed project will continue to enhance the capacity of this group as its first level of intervention. In-person training and coaching is an important part of our work, as it is based on experiential learning methods and allows us to engender an inclusive environment. This increases our ability to insist on diversity. Specific attention will be provided to the inclusion of youth and women.  A key aspect of our approach includes drawing women, youth and other marginalised groups into security processes that are dominated by men and modeled around toxic notions of masculinity. By validating the informal protection efforts of women and youth and connecting them to formal processes, we draw on the potential of these groups to be active providers of security. The formation of women or youth protection teams promotes collective action and individual agency, which can enhance the participation and decision-making power of women and girls to challenge discriminative norms and policies. It also challenges toxic notions of masculinity and the association of security with threats of physical force and weapons. |
| C2 | **Results:** |
| 1. Results: Intervention (Max 600 words)   How will your project address the peacebuilding gaps and triggers of conflict identified in Section C1 and lead to change? |
| The proposed pilot-project is a second step of a longer-term project that responds to the situation of insecurity, described in section C1 by enhancing self-protection capacities, providing direct protection, and connecting informal and formal protection or peace infrastructures. The goal of the longer-term project is to interrupt cycles of violence and enhance nonviolent responses to conflict. The goal of the project is to expand protection capacity among front-line communities, strengthen the impact of emerging community protection initiatives, and build the foundation for a longer-term project together with the people leading these initiatives.  The pilot-project includes three levels of intervention:  **1. The first level aims to build or enhance skills of community actors that are in a position to directly apply UCP methods** in an immediate and structured manner. We will prioritize people that either already have a basic understanding of UCP or networks that are already providing some form of peace work in their communities. Among the first group are participants who completed the online courses on Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP), provided by NP in 2020 and funded by UNAMID. A number of them have already begun to apply UCP methods or initiated their own UCP trainings but need further (in-person) training and support. The second group includes already existing groups such as the CBRM reconciliation groups or youth networks and women groups. It is realized by in-person five-to-six-day applied training sessions and refinement of the students’ or networks’ current strategies and action plans. These trainings are also used as an entry point for levels 2 and 3 of project intervention. Some of these actors will be drawn into the second and third step process in order to enhance their capacity as trainers, mentors and community mobilisers. Efforts will be made to utilize the skills of former UCP course participants when they are located near the selected sites or to engage with other peace and conflict resolution networks. Outreach will conscientiously be done to obtain and ensure diversity and inclusiveness in the selection of participants as one of the preconditions of this initiative.  **2. The second level of intervention aims to build a conducive environment for UCP efforts to be applied** and a foundation for a longer-term project, together with communities that will drive the project. It involves consultation activities in identified hotspots to further contextualize UCP to the specific needs of communities through preparatory bilateral meetings with diverse community leaders; informal focus groups with representative community members (taking into account, gender, ethnicity, age, occupation) and facilitated community roundtable discussions (informed by the work done previously by the UN and other actors in these areas). More than gathering information, it is about building relationships and trust with and between communities and authorities, and the strengthening of nonpartisanship of protection groups. These are essential components of a long-term community-driven protection process.  **3. The third level aims to expand the base for UCP intervention**. If focuses on groups that have an interest and potential to be involved in UCP work, but first need to gain a basic understanding about the practice. These may be groups identified by participants of intervention levels 1 and 2, for example IDP leadership or village elders. Extensive skill-building for these groups may be premature (people may first need to explore if and how it applies to their situation) or not needed (village elders may wish to understand the practice in order to support it, without needing the skills to be an implementer). This intervention is carried out through a series of 1-2-day orientation workshops that provide basic information about UCP, connects these methods to existing self-protection methods already applied by communities, and identifies opportunities for synergy or refinement of existing efforts.  The online courses have already led to personal transformation, shifted perspectives about the potential of nonviolent responses to insecurity, and the application of UCP methods in everyday conflicts. It is anticipated that the proposed project will deepen, repeat, and expand these impacts. |
| 1. Results: Innovation (Max 150 words)   In what ways is your project innovative? |
| The project is innovative as it introduces a means for direct protection without the use of weapons or physical force, in the form of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP). Within UCP, protection and social cohesion are mutually reinforcing strategies. Efforts to foster social cohesion are often postponed until environments are conducive for people to (re-)connect, though disconnection often perpetuate cycles of violence. UCP allows it to start this process sooner. It seeks to reduce threats by bringing conflicting parties together and opening channels of communication, humanizing conflicting parties, and widen options for response. It opens the door for women and youth to participate in security processes and challenges the notion that weapons or physical force are a prerequisite for providing safety and security. Previous online training courses prioritized youth and women which constituted the majority of the participants. Its use of nonviolent methods shows communities that strengthening social relations, trust, and social responsibility can be both a method *and* outcome. |
| 1. Results: Monitoring and Evaluation (Max 150 words).   How will you measure change in your project? What are your plans to monitor and evaluate your project? |
| The identified trainings and workshops will be evaluated together with participants as well as with actors within the area of implementation. At the closure of the project NP will assess progress with these same actors, both in terms of capacity as in protection initiatives undertaken as a result of the project. The project will be embedded in NP’s global strategic framework, which includes quarterly and annual reporting against indicators that are to a large extent overlapping with the projected outcomes of the project. |
| 1. Results: Sustainability (Max 150 words)   How will your proposed project achieve sustainable change for communities beyond the lifetime of the funding? |
| After completion of the pilot project, efforts to enhance civilian protection capacities will be scaled up and out. In addition, NP envisions to strengthen these indigenous protection efforts by employing its own protection teams to provide a nonpartisan protective presence and patrols in insecure areas, rumor control, and shuttle diplomacy between conflicting parties. Thirdly, NP envisions to build horizontal and vertical linkages between community protection teams and armed actors, national level leaders, UN and humanitarian agencies to advocate for specific interventions, coordinate relief efforts, facilitate dialogue and create opportunities for communities to directly influence formal and informal peace and decision-making processes. Together these efforts will reduce incidents of violence, enhance community security, restore trust among government and communities, and increase access of marginalised individuals and groups to basic services. |
| C3 | **Organizational Positioning:** |
|  | 1. What experience does your organization have in implementing peacebuilding projects or initiatives in Darfur? (Max 200 words) Please also fill out Annex 1. |
|  | Since mid-2020, UNAMID funded NP to conduct two 8-week online Unarmed Civilian Protection courses for a total of 70-80 participants from all five states of Darfur. The courses are building a base of knowledge and skills in a first cadre of trained practitioners who have already started to apply these methods in Darfur. Their feedback indicates that civilian-led protection methods could be key, especially as UNAMID withdraws, to protecting IDPs, generating security, and reconciling grievances to build trust and create conditions for longer term peace. At the completion of the courses, UNAMID requested NP to further collaborate on in-country training as well as a pilot project.  NP is the largest protection agency in South Sudan where it has applied the proposed actions in a context similar to Darfur. NP’s application of UCP in South Sudan was instrumental to the conclusion by the Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2015) that “Unarmed civilian protection (UCP) is a methodology for the direct protection of civilians and violence reduction that has grown in practice and recognition. In the last few years, it has especially proven its effectiveness to protect women and girls.” (p.153). |
|  | 1. Technical positioning of your organization related to peacebuilding. Why is your organization suited to deliver a peacebuilding project? What in-house, partner, personnel, and other technical resources do you have available specific to peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and reconciliation? (Max 200 words) |
|  | NP has extensive peacebuilding experience, embedding immediate protection responses into longer-term efforts to interrupt cycles of violence, both inside and outside of displacement settings – often combining the two. Projects focus on strengthening local peace infrastructure through the formation of women and youth protection teams, community-driven ceasefire monitoring, participatory action research on resilience, and strengthening women’s participation in peace processes in countries such as South Sudan, Iraq, Myanmar and the Philippines. In South Sudan NP has worked together with community mediators to mitigate inter-communal conflicts and de-escalated tensions between cattle keepers and farmers. In Iraq NP supported locally brokered peace pacts through community engagement, monitoring and capacity building. NP has often assisted in building trust between IDPs and host communities or military actors and mitigated tensions between aid agencies and communities.  Finally, NP is the world’s largest implementer of UCP. It is an approach recommended in UNSCR 2425 (2020) on the establishment of UNITAMS in Sudan and requested by many of the Darfuri young men and women we already trained. As one of them wrote: “I call on Nonviolent Peaceforce and other organizations working in the field of unarmed civilian protection, to come to Darfur to build sustainable peace.” |
| C4 | **Value for Money** |
| 1. Summarize your approach to value for money (Max 150 words) |
| The project covers a lot of ground at minimum cost within a short time frame. We are able to bring in people with high levels of expertise and modest remuneration rates. As an organization that provides protection through physical presence and engagement as well as technical expertise, our expenses are for a large part contained within staffing and travel expenses. While this may translate as a relatively high ratio of expenses pertaining to human resources, compared to organizations that provide material aid, our remunerations rates are below that of mainstream humanitarian INGOs and UN agencies. More importantly, we operate at a fraction of the costs that is provided by agencies that provide armed protection. Finally, protection and violence prevention efforts contribute to an environment of increased safety (actual and perceived), which is more conducive to humanitarian, peacebuilding and development efforts as well as to economic activity. |

**ANNEX 1**

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| Annex 1: Organizational Track Record in Implementing Projects of Similar Nature (Peacebuilding/Social Cohesion/Reconciliation) | | | | | | |
| # | Name of Project | Source of Funding | Amount of Funding | Project Dates | Duration | Scope of Project |
| 1 | Grant for Implementation of Online Training on Silencing the Guns in Africa and Unarmed Civilian Protection, Darfur, Sudan | UNAMID | $47,000 | May-Nov 2020 | 7 months | Conducted two online UCP training courses for 80 Darfuri peacebuilders |
| 2 | Strengthening community leadership in violence prevention, resilience, gender equality and integrated peacebuilding in hubs of stability, South Sudan | Netherlands |  | 2020-2024 | 5 years | Reducing violence against women through women protection teams, direct protection, GBV prevention and peacebuilding. |
| 3 | NPI, Improving the Safety and Security of IDPs and Returnees in Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Kirkuk Governorates, Iraq | USAID/  OFDA | $1,494,026 | 01 September 2017 – 31 October 2018 | 14 months | Direct protection of displaced people as they return to areas of origins and mitigating tensions at return areas.  Reduce immediate risks of violence to IDPs and returnees, with focus on vulnerable populations  Facilitate safe access to life-saving aid  Improve the responsiveness and efficacy of security duty bearers to protect civilians  Improve referral pathways and response to humanitarian needs by duty-bearing actors |
| 4 | Supporting the Cohesion of Communities and Inclusive Ceasefire Monitoring Mechanisms in South Sudan | EU |  |  |  | Combining monitoring of ceasefire agreement with community based social cohesion efforts. |
| 5 | Monitoring and Supporting the Implementation of the Peaceful Coexistence Pact of Honor for the Tribes in Al-Ayadiyah Sub-district and the Tel Afar City Peace Agreement, Iraq | GIZ | 1,573,551EURO | December 2018 – 30 April 2020 | 16 months | Supporting community leaders in the implementation of local peace agreements to facilitate dignified return and re-integration of displaced people. |
| 6 | Supporting the displaced population of Tel Afar towards voluntary, safe and dignified return and their inclusion in the implementation of the Tel Afar Peace Agreements | Swiss FDFA/SDC Office-Amman | $197,777 /  199,994 CHF | 01 July – 31 December 2019 | 6 months | To support voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of internally displaced persons to the Tel Afar District.  Improve safe access of civilians to their rights to dignity and security of person and support voluntary, safe and dignified return of IDPs  Improve the ability of IDPs to engage in the monitoring and implementation of the Tel Afar peace agreements to promote sustainable return and reconciliation |
| 7 | Improving protection to the displaced population in South Mosul camps, Ba’aj and Tal Afar and support IDPs towards voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return, Iraq | 625,000 CHF | 15 November 2019 - 14 December 2020 | 13 months | Responding to the protection gap as result of South Mosul camp closure and consolidation and support voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of internally displaced persons to Northern Ninewa |
| 8 | Strengthen civilian capacities for peace (and social cohesion), Myanmar | Peace Support Fund | $955,913 | 2016-2018 | 24 months | Building and supporting community-driven local protection and ceasefire networks across Myanmar and fostering connection between formal and informal peace infrastructures |
| 9 | Strengthening civilian protection towards sustaining peace and promoting community resilience and social cohesion in Mindanao, Philippines | EU | Euro 3,500,000 | 01 July 2018 –  30 June 2020 | 24 months | Supporting the implementation of peace process through monitoring, capacity building of at-risk communities, consolidation of community based Early Warning Early Response. |

**ANNEX 2:**

**Pilot site location selection**

DCPSF and NP discussed potential site locations for this proposed pilot in North, South and West Darfur. Based on the discussion the following sites are proposed according to the criteria indicated below.

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| **State** | **Location** | **Characteristics** |
| South Darfur | Kalma IDP camp | Large IDP camp, 15 km Nyala, majority Fur, supporting SLM/AW |
| West Darfur | Krinding IDP camps | 4 km from Geneina; major violence in Jan 2021; camp burned, IDPs dispersed in town. Reconciliation and confidence-building needed |
| North Darfur | Zam Zam IDP Camp | 14 km El Fasher |
| **Alternative sites** (if the above are not approved or need to be changed) | | |
| North Darfur | Kasab IDP Camp | Kutum 160 km N of El Fasher; large IDP camp; many existing grass roots mechanisms  Need to clarify logistics/transport |
| West Darfur | Murnei | 80 km SE El Geneina; located on main road to Zalingei |

**Criteria for selection:**

* + Existence of current foundation of support, i.e. course graduates, women’s team, DCPSF Implementing Partners (see below) and Community Building and Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs)
  + Stage and nature of the conflict – high intensity conflicts are prioritized.
  + Logistical consideration of the location-proximity to towns, reliable means of transport.
  + Ability to communicate/interact with all major stakeholders/communities/parties to the conflict.
  + Legal access
  + Location facilitates outreach for training and protection that can ensure inclusivity of ethnic, cultural, tribal and other diversity within communities.