



Cross-border Community Resilience (CBCR) Activity

Request for Concept Notes No. CBCR-CN-010-2024.

Issuance Date: 7th November 2024

Questions due by: **05:00 PM EAT** on **12th November 2024**, submitted through email grants@cbcrresilience.com

CBCR will respond to the questions by **05:00 PM EAT**, on **14th November 2024**.

Concept Notes must be submitted no later than **05:00 PM EAT**, on 21st November 2024.

Dear Applicant:

The Cross-border Community Resilience (CBCR) Activity, implemented by Chemonics International and ACDI-VOCA, is seeking Concept Notes for implementation of activities to enhance resilience capacities of Donkey-dependent communities in the cross-border regions of Karamoja and Moyale Clusters only. The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and CBCR's internal grant management policies.

Project and Chemonics employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from a project employee should be reported to the chief of party or BusinessConduct@chemonics.com.

Annexes included with this Concept Note:

- **Annex A** – Grant Concept Note Template
- **Annex B** – Grant Application Budget (excel version attached)
- **Annex C** – Implementation Timeline
- **Annex D** – Mandatory and Required As Applicable Standard Provisions
 - Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mat.pdf>
 - Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf>

SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IA. BACKGROUND

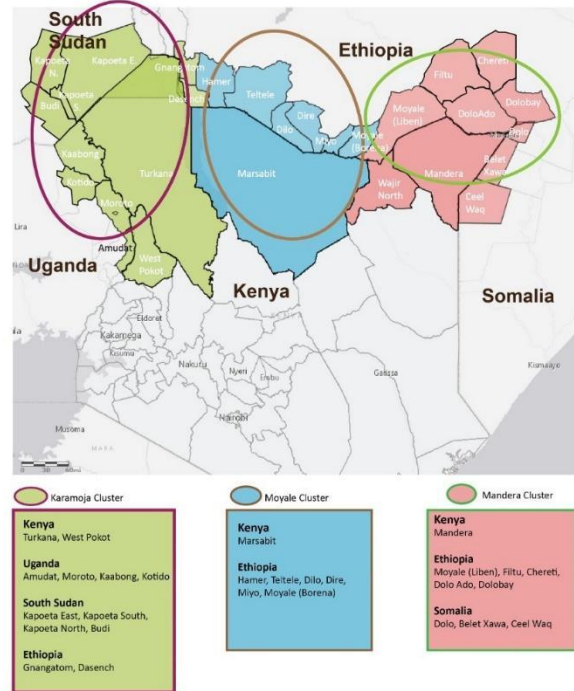
CBCR is a five-year activity financed by USAID and implemented by Chemonics International and ACDI-VOCA in collaboration with the local organizations. The Activity is designed to enhance resilience and thus reduce the need for humanitarian assistance among communities in the cross-border clusters of Karamoja, Moyale and Mandera. Focusing on communities that live across the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Somalia, the Activity aims to empower local entities, including communities, civil society, private sector, and governments, to chart their own pathways for addressing conflict, improving livelihoods, and/or reducing the risks of shocks and stresses. CBCR is working to foster local ownership of development investments by supporting local leadership in work planning, implementation, and monitoring. CBCR's approach focuses on five integrated components:



- Sub-purpose 1: Build capacity for locally led and managed programming
- Sub-purpose 2: Strengthen social cohesion as a foundation for resilience programming
- Sub-purpose 3: Expand conflict-sensitive and inclusive livelihood & employment opportunities in cross-border areas
- Sub-purpose 4: Improve conflict-sensitive management and equitable sharing of natural resources in cross-border areas
- Sub-purpose 5: Enhance collaboration and learning across all activities and investments inclusive of cluster stakeholders

CBCR is focusing on the following countries:

- Karamoja Cluster 1 includes Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya;
- Moyale Cluster 2 includes: Kenya, Ethiopia; and
- Mandera Cluster includes Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya



IB. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Donkeys hold a pivotal role in the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in the cross-border region, particularly within rural communities where they are integral to the fabric of daily life. Their significance extends far beyond that of mere beasts of burden; they are considered partners who enhance and sustain livelihoods. This partnership is especially evident in agricultural regions, where donkeys prove indispensable by contributing to essential farming activities such as plowing, planting, and harvesting, drastically reducing the manual labor burden on farmers, allowing more efficient use of human resources. This contribution not only elevates agricultural productivity but also ensures that more produce can be brought onto the market, thus enhancing food security. For pastoralist communities, who rely heavily on livestock and natural resources, the ability to adapt and respond to these climatic adversities is crucial. In such an environment, donkeys are indispensable. Their robust and durable nature makes them perfectly suited to the demands of such inhospitable terrain. Donkeys provide a vital lifeline by enabling access to distant water sources and pastures. As water becomes increasingly scarce during droughts, pastoralists must travel further to find this essential resource not only for their domestic needs but also for their livestock, which are central to their economy and sustenance.

Whilst the consumption of donkey meat and milk is increasing, it is the demand for donkey skins, which is the driving factor in the increasing slaughter of donkeys globally. This illegal trade directly undermines the livelihoods of the cross-border communities, who rely heavily on donkeys for their multifaceted contributions to household economies. Most of donkeys slaughtered for skin are procured through transnational and internal animal theft and raiding from homes and families that are heavily dependent on the support of donkeys for their livelihood.

The loss of donkeys to illicit trade disrupts household dynamics in profound ways. Families find themselves severed from one of their primary sources of labor and income. Without donkeys, the burden of daily tasks becomes significantly heavier, often falling on women and children, who struggle to fill the void. This increased burden can lead to a decline in productivity and economic output, exacerbating poverty levels and reducing the overall quality of life in these already vulnerable

communities hence affecting community's cohesion and resilience. Additionally, the treatment of donkeys during illegal transport raises severe animal welfare concerns. These animals are frequently subjected to neglect and abuse, enduring arduous journeys without adequate food, water, or rest. Such conditions are not only inhumane but have significant repercussions for the donkey's health and productivity. Their compromised health diminishes their capacity and longevity, further straining the resources and resilience of their human companions.

The convergence of these issues—economic, emotional, cultural, and welfare-related—demands urgent attention and action. Addressing the illicit trade of donkey skin involves not only securing the animals against theft but also ensuring their welfare throughout their lives. Protective measures must be implemented to safeguard animal rights and maintain their health and productivity, thereby preserving the crucial support they provide to pastoralist communities. Recognizing the intrinsic value of donkeys beyond their commercial worth is key to developing sustainable and ethical solutions that protect both the animals and the cultural and economic systems they uphold.

IC. OBJECTIVE

CBCR is awarding grants to local organizations in Karamoja and Moyale clusters. The objective of the grants is to build the resilience of the cross-border population by raising awareness and strengthening governance and management of donkey resources based on the African Union adoption of the 15 years moratorium on the ban of donkey skin trade in Africa.

ID. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CBCR is seeking Local Development Organizations (LDOs) that work intensively across borders in these target clusters to identify and implement activities that will promote sustainable conservation and utilization of the donkey for improved livelihoods of donkey-dependent communities.

CBCR is issuing this Concept Note targeting LDOs that have the capacity and capabilities to implement activities and interventions that will:

- i. increase access to knowledge, information and influence behavioral change for efficient utilization and management of donkey resources;
- ii. Improve investments in the development of the donkey resource by the governments and other agencies.
- iii. Enhance resilience and mitigation against community conflicts and threatened livelihoods.

LDOs are encouraged to be creative and responsive to the community's needs in formulating grant program ideas in response to the concept note. See below an illustrative list of activities. CBCR is encouraging LDOs to present other related activities that suit their respective context and mandate and that also fit under this Concept Note broad program goals as detailed below:

1. Conduct community sensitization and awareness campaigns to emphasize the importance of donkeys and the consequences of donkey skin trade. This activity focuses on expanding the community's understanding of the importance of donkeys in their local economies and livelihoods. The LDOs should intensify these efforts through public talks, workshops, and informational campaigns, focusing not only on the dangers posed by illegal trade but also on the economic and cultural benefits of protecting donkeys. Tailoring these campaigns to specific communities and leveraging local leaders and influencers to maximize impact. CBCR will also collaborate with law enforcement agencies to strengthen legal frameworks and law enforcement to enhance surveillance.
2. Promote alternative income sources for communities negatively affected by donkey skin trade (e.g., agribusiness, handicrafts etc.) and provide vocational training and micro-enterprise support. This initiative is geared towards addressing the root causes of illegal trade. This could



involve creating alternative livelihood opportunities for those involved in the trade, such as training programs in other sustainable industries.

3. Promote animal welfare management and husbandry through enforcing standards before any trade processes are initiated, including better community animal health care provision and access to cross-border veterinary care for donkeys. This will have to go along with policies on handling and transport/movement.
4. Support cross-border cooperation for research and advocacy. CBCR will work with cross-border counterparts to harmonize regulations and enforcement efforts while lobbying and advocacy for best practices. The activity will also support frequent and inclusive stakeholder forums to bring together key actors, such as government officials, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and NGOs to share information, identify challenges, and develop coordinated strategies. This collaboration will foster a deeper understanding of the problem and promote a collective, action-oriented response. Increased efforts should also be made to establish clear roles for each actor involved, ensuring accountability and ongoing communication.
5. Facilitate international cooperation to curb illegal donkey hide trade. Given the cross-border nature of the donkey hide trade, international cooperation is vital. Governments of affected countries will be supported to work together to harmonize regulations, improve border control, and share intelligence to prevent the illicit movement of donkeys. Bilateral and multilateral agreements to be established to enable collaborative monitoring of donkey populations and to prosecute those involved in illegal trade across borders.

IE. AUTHORITY/GOVERNING REGULATIONS

CBCR grant awards are made under the authority of the U.S. Foreign Affairs Act and USAID's Advanced Directive System (ADS) 302.3.5.6, "Grants Under Contracts." Awards will adhere to guidance provided under [ADS Chapter 303](#), "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations" and will be within the terms of the USAID Standard Provisions as linked in the annexes, as well as the CBCR grants procedures.

ADS 303 references two additional regulatory documents issued by the U.S. Government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development:

Full text of 2 CFR 200 can be found at http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl and 2 CFR 700 at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=531ffcc47b660d86ca8bbc5a64eed128&mc=true&node=pt2.1.700&rgn=div5>. CBCR is required to ensure that all organizations receiving USAID grant funds comply with the guidance found in the regulations referenced above, as applicable to the respective terms and conditions of their grant awards.

Under the CBCR grant program, USAID retains the right to terminate, in whole or in part, CBCR grant-making authorities.

SECTION II. AWARD INFORMATION

CBCR anticipates that each grant award may range between USD 80,000 and USD 100,000 for Moyale and Karamoja Clusters, equivalent to the local currency, but the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities and final negotiation and may be lower or higher than that range. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than one year. The estimated start date of grants awarded under this solicitation is February 2025.



SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be from either Karamoja or Moyale clusters only.
- Applicants must be a legally registered from the following countries within Karamoja and Moyale clusters; Kenyan, Ethiopian, Ugandan, or South Sudanese entity and formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.
- Applicants may only submit *one* application per organization under this Concept Note.
- Applicants must specify the Cluster or area of focus in the concept note within the five corridors of Karamoja (*Amudat-Kacheliba, Moroto-Loima-North Pokot, Nyagatom-Dassanech-Turkana, Oropoi-Kaboong-Kotido, and Kapoeta, Lokichoggio*) and four corridors of Moyale cluster (*Dukana-Dilo, Forolle-Dirre, Sololo-Miyo, And Moyale-Moyale*) under this Concept Note.
- Applicants must demonstrate successful past performance in implementing integrated development programs related to CBCR priority areas.
- Applicants must have established outreach capabilities with links to the beneficiary group(s) identified in the program description. This should be reflected by the incorporation of the beneficiary perspective in the application.
- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. CBCR will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- Applicants must sign certain required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications will be shared as part of the agreement and CBCR will review them with applicants.
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated subawards, grantees will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. CBCR will assist successful applicants with this process.
- The project will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.
- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.

SECTION IV – CONCEPT NOTES AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

IVA. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Applicants must propose strategies for implementing the program described above, introducing innovations appropriate to their organizational strengths, focusing on Karamoja and Moyale clusters only.

IVA.1. GRANT CONCEPT NOTES

Templates to be utilized when developing Concept Notes are provided in Annex A. Applicants shall present their technical Concept Notes in the formats provided and shall follow the instructions and guidelines listed in these annexes.

All grant activity costs must be within the normal operating practices of the Applicant and in accordance with its written policies and procedures. For applicants without an audited indirect cost rate, the budget may include direct costs that will be incurred by the Applicant to provide identifiable



administrative and management costs that can be directly attributable to supporting the grant objective.

The Concept Notes must be signed by an authorized agent of the Applicant.

IVA2. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

CBCR grant funds may not be utilized for the following:

- Construction or infrastructure activities of any kind.
- Ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or “representation” expenses.
- Purchases of restricted goods, such as: restricted agricultural commodities, motor vehicles including motorcycles, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, contraceptive products, used equipment; without the previous approval of CBCR, or prohibited goods, prohibited goods under USAID regulations, including but not limited to the following: abortion equipment and services, luxury goods, etc.
- Covered telecommunication and video surveillance equipment or services – per ADS 303.3.35.2 and as further explained in 2 CFR 200.216 for U.S. organizations and the standard provision entitled, “Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment” applicable to non U.S. organizations, grant funds including direct and indirect costs, cost share and program income may not be used to purchase covered telecommunications equipment and services produced by or provided by the companies listed in the referenced provisions. The definition of “covered telecommunication equipment or services” is provided in the referenced provisions. Note that there is a temporary waiver in place that allows for the purchase of covered internet and phone service through September 30, 2022.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/nationality (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria).
- Any purchase or activity which has already been made.
- Purchases or activities are unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by CBCR.
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Grantee.
- Creation of endowments.

IVB. CONCEPT NOTES AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Concept Notes shall be submitted in **English** and may not be more than **10 pages**. Concept Notes (including the budget and supporting documentation) should be submitted in electronic form to CBCR at the address below and should reference Concept Note No. **CBCR-CN-010-2024**. Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation by no later than **5:00 PM EAT on 12th November 2024**, to the attention of CBCR, via email to grants@cbcrresilience.com. Concept Notes must be submitted no later than **05:00 PM EAT, on 21st November 2024**. Late or unresponsive Concepts will only be considered at the discretion of CBCR.

In addition to the Concept Notes, applicants should submit the following to CBCR:

- Implementation Plan
- Detailed budget
- A copy of the Applicant’s valid legal registration,
- A copy of their latest audited financial statements.



SECTION V. CONCEPT NOTES MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

All Concept Notes will be reviewed by an internal review panel comprised of CBCR technical implementation staff, and recommendations may be vetted by a larger group. Concept Notes will be evaluated against the criteria below.

- Does the organization meet the eligibility requirements?
- Does the organization's Concept Notes highlight relevant past performance in this area?
- Does the proposed activity fit within the CBCR objectives described in the Concept Note?
- Is the request for funding commensurate with the potential impact?
- Is the product or service sustainable?

If the above terms are met, Concept Notes will be evaluated against the merit review criteria in the table below.

| Merit Review Category | Rating (Points) |
|--|-----------------|
| A. Technical Approach | 50 |
| B. Management & Programmatic Capacity | 20 |
| C. Impact on Target Groups and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) | 15 |
| D. Past Performance | 15 |
| Overall Rating (out of 100 points) | 100 |

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

- A. *Technical Approach*. This element will evaluate the alignment with stated priorities and complementarity with existing USAID and non-USAID funded projects and activities. Additionally, the innovation, scientific quality, experimental design, and soundness of the approach will also be evaluated. Lastly, the feasibility and likelihood of scaling, widespread adoption, and sustainability to ensure lasting impact will be evaluated. **50 points**
- B. *Management and Programmatic Capacity*. Evidence of the capability to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities and positively strengthen the environment for social cohesion and resilience programming. The application should demonstrate the organization's effectiveness in terms of internal structure, technical capacity, and proposed personnel, in meeting resilience goals. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability. The evaluation will be based principally on the background, qualifications, reputation, appropriateness, and skills of its proposed personnel; and the "track record," reputation, and achievements (including development of self-sufficient, sustainable activities) of the organization. The other element assessed here is monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL). **20 points**
- C. *Impact on Target Group*. The extent to which the proposed activity corresponds to the needs of target groups and will directly benefit them. Also, the degree to which it will directly or indirectly stimulate and leverage other organizations and resources to replicate, develop, or implement activities supporting the objectives of CBCR. This criterion measures an organization's current level of engagement with the community and how sustainable the activities are for long-term resilience. In this criterion, we will also evaluate *Gender Equity and Social Inclusion*. The extent to which the proposed activity includes a gender and social inclusion component or represents a strong commitment to women and vulnerable groups including young people as beneficiaries. See *ADS 303.3.6.2.c., Gender Issues, for additional information*. **15 points**
- D. *Past Performance*. Previous or ongoing experience implementing similar activities particularly in the target clusters. This examines an Applicant's references and experience, which is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the organization to implement the activity. **15 points**



Additionally, *CBCR* will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation as required by 22 CFR 216.

SECTION VI. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

All grants will be negotiated, denominated, and funded in local currency. All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable.

Issuance of this Concept Note and assistance with application development do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of *CBCR*, nor does it commit *CBCR* to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, *CBCR* reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the offerors. Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision made regarding their application.



Annex A. Grant Concept Note Template

1. Organization name:

2. Date organization was founded and registration status:

3. Contact information:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Key contact person(s) and title: | |
| Office address: | Office phone: |
| Mobile: | |
| Email: | Website: |
| | |

4. Briefly describe the organization, its purpose, and past related experience:

5. List contact information for three (3) references from previous donors or organizations (U.S. and other) that your organization has collaborated with in the last two years:

| Donor Agency or Organization | Nature of Relationship or Title of Project, Location | Start & End Dates of Collaboration | Contact Person |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Name & Position: Email: Tel: |
| | | | Name & Position: Email: Tel: |
| | | | Name & Position: Email: Tel: |

6. Have any of the key personnel or leadership of this NGO been terminated or resigned in lieu of termination for any misconduct, including fraud or sexual harassment? If yes, please list the name and title.

7. Title of the proposed grant activity and which specific activity it corresponds with under IC of the scope of work:



8. Background: What is the issue or problem that the activity will address? Why is it critical to address this issue? Who are the actors and what are the gaps in implementation for example.

9. Objective of the proposed grant activity:

10. Describe the proposed activity and expected results in detail, considering the merit review criteria in the solicitation.

11. Identify beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender, if possible. Additionally, detail how the grant activities will reach the intended beneficiaries, and how they will benefit from the grant:

12. Describe the main approach for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL). What indicators will be used to measure the success of the activities?

13. Anticipated duration of activity from start to finish:

| | |
|---|--|
| Overall length (total number of months) | |
| Start and end date (day, month, and year) | |

14. Approximate cost of this activity (including cash, in-kind i.e., donated goods or services], and third-party sources):

| Budget Category | Budget requested to be provided by CBCR | Applicant Resources (in local currency) | Third Party Resources (identify source) (in local currency) | Total Resources Needed (in local currency) |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Salaries: | | | | |
| Other Direct Costs: | | | | |
| Training: | | | | |
| Travel and Transportation: | | | | |
| Goods and Materials: | | | | |
| <i>[Add more rows as needed.]</i> | | | | |
| Total Estimated Costs (in local currency) | | | | |
| Name of Currency: | | | | |

By affixing my signature below, I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is accurate and correct:

Submitted by _____ (Name and Title): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR PROJECT USE ONLY

Date received _____ Grant Reference No. _____

The undersigned hereby certifies that: (a) the prospective grantee has received an official delivery receipt for its *Grant Concept*, (b) a copy of that receipt has been filed, (c) a reference number has been assigned, and (d) a grant application file has been opened. In addition, the prospective grantee has been advised as to the review and appraisal process, and its primary project point of contact.

Name, Director of Operations and Grants _____ Date _____

ANNEX B – Grant Application Budget (Excel budget template attached).



CBCR-CN-010-2024
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ANNEX C - Implementation Plan Timeline



CBCR-CN-010-2024
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Annex D – Mandatory and Required as Applicable Standard Provisions (required by ADS 303.3.8)

- Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mat.pdf>
- Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303maa.pdf>
- Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mab.pdf>