**INTRODUCTION**

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awards **emergency grants to civil society organizations** directly assisting torture survivors to access legal, medical, psychological and social services in exceptional circumstances.

**EMERGENCY RATIONALE**

The Fund considers emergency grantapplications only if they respond to the following criteria:

* **SUDDEN CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES** that has caused an
* **EXRAORIDNARY INCREASE IN THE NEEDS** of torture victims for assistance requiring an
* **IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

Emergency grants can be awarded for:

* up to **12 months**
* a **maximum of USD 100,000**
* with **no possibility of renewal** **or** **extension**

Emergency grants **respond**, for example, to the following:

**Human rights crisis**:

* political strife or uprising
* landmark trial (victims of torture requiring additional assistance)
* detrimental policy or institutional change in places of deprivation of liberty

**Humanitarian crisis**:

* armed conflict
* sudden influx of refugees and asylum seekers

**Individual situation**:

* urgent need of assistance for individual victims of torture (the application must be submitted by an organization on behalf of, and with the consent of, the victim)

Emergency grants **do not respond**, for example, to the following situations:

* existing and systemic patterns of torture
* cash flow difficulties of the organization

**QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY**

**Sudden change in circumstances**

* What is the current crisis/situation?
* How is it different than before?

**Extraordinary increase in needs**

* What impact has this situation had on the practice of torture and on the needs of victims for assistance?
* What is the estimated number of torture victims in need of assistance?

**Immediate response**

* Why does this situation/crisis require immediate response?
* What are the existing gaps to assist torture victims and how is your organization currently responding?

**Institutional capacity and specialized expertise**

* What is the organization’s experience with identifying victims of torture and providing tailored assistance to them?
* In what ways is the existing financial and staff capacity of the organization insufficient to respond to the emergency?

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please send a brief written response (maximum 2 pages) to the above questions to the Fund’s Secretariat: [pliondjo@ohchr.org](mailto:pliondjo@ohchr.org)/[unvfvt@ohchr.org](mailto:unvfvt@ohchr.org). After a preliminary assessment, the Secretariat may invite the organization to submit a full emergency grant application.