

EMERGENCY GRANTS PROCEDURE

Introduction

The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture assists torture survivors to access legal, medical, psychological and social services through grants to civil society organizations. The Fund receives project applications through an annual call (open from January to March each year) and through an emergency grants procedure. The Fund responds to human rights and humanitarian crises in order to provide flexible and timely support to organizations faced with an unforeseen increase in the number of torture victims requiring their assistance. An emergency grant application can be submitted at any time throughout the year, for projects lasting up to 12 months and for a maximum amount of USD 100,000. An emergency grant cannot be renewed or prolonged; organizations may thereafter submit applications through the regular annual project cycle.

Emergencies considered under this procedure

Organizations are required to provide **a clear justification of the emergency context**, as related to:

Human rights situation – stemming from human rights monitoring activity, such as findings of torture victims in state-run institutions, initiation of a landmark trial, sudden increase in detainees, the mass release of political prisoners, etc.

Humanitarian situation – such as armed conflict, the sudden influx of refugees and asylum seekers, political strife or uprising, natural disasters, etc.

Individual situation – a torture victim's urgent need of assistance (the application must be submitted by an organization on behalf of, and with the consent of, the victim).

The emergency justification should address the complexity of the environment, the urgency of the situation, the lack of State capacity to respond and the unforeseen nature of the situation. Emergency assistance will not be granted as a response to cash flow difficulties that organizations awarded a grant under the regular annual cycle may be experiencing during the inter-sessional period.

Special Calls

In response to the needs of torture survivors that have arisen due to specific crises, the Fund has also issued Special Calls for emergency grant applications, including in the aftermath of the Arab Spring (2012), the crisis in Mali (2013) and the civil war in Syria (2015). The most recent (2018) was the [Special Call in support of Rohingya torture victims in Cox's Bazar](#).

How to apply

- Organizations should refer to the Guidelines of the Fund (Section X on Emergency Grants) https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Torture/UNVFVT/UNVFTGuidelines_en.pdf
- Send an e-mail to the Fund's Secretariat (Mr. Philippe Liondjo pliondjo@ohchr.org and Mr. Philippe Tissier ptissier@ohchr.org) indicating the emergency context and objectives of the project proposal.
- Following a preliminary exchange with the Secretariat and technical assistance as required, the organization may submit its application through the online Grants Management System.