Australian Government

GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

GRANT OPPORTUNITY GUIDELINES

MEKONG NETWORK TO COUNTER TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (MNET-CTC)

GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (GI-TOC)

2026

GRANT AMOUNT AND GRANT PERIOD

The maximum grant period is one year (12 months). Grant applications may also propose programmes with shorter periods of performance.

The period of performance for the grant opportunities will run from 15 February 2027 to 15 February 2028.

- It is anticipated that most grants will be between AUD 30 000 - AUD 65 000, depending on the scope of the grant activity, its complexity, and whether the collaborative grant is implemented as a coalition. Funding ceilings should consider the length and complexity of proposed activities.
- MNET-CTC will aim to proportionally allocate funding among the four Mekong countries (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam). MNET-CTC may also allocate funding to Myanmar-focused programming.

If an applicant has other funding sources to contribute to their project, GI-TOC encourages them to outline the proportion of funding from other sources in the budget. There is no minimum or maximum amount of funding required from other sources to be eligible to apply.

This grant is for a non-ongoing programme and the grant will terminate at the end of the grant period.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

GI-TOC cannot consider applications from a state, territory or government agency or body. To be eligible organizations and/or individuals must:

- Be a legal entity, or hold a legal identification document, with the capacity to enter into a legally binding agreement or contract;
- Demonstrate prior experience implementing activities directly addressing issues related to organized crime in the Mekong on thematic topics such as illegal drugs, financial crimes, child sexual exploitation, and/or cross-cutting drivers and enablers of illicit economies; and
- Speak English and/or at least one regional Mekong languages.

WHAT THE GRANT MONEY CAN BE USED FOR

Eligible grant activities

The MNET-CTC collaboration grant opportunity is looking for project activities that increase resilience at the community level. Proposed activities may take any form but should advance resilience objectives at the community level and do so in a collaborative manner. This means that activities should produce results that build resilience to illegal drugs, financial crimes, child sexual exploitation, and/or the drivers and enablers of these crimes and that these activities should be implemented by two or three organizations working together.

- What is a resilience approach to organized crime? Projects applying a resilience to organized crime approach can clearly link their proposed activities and outcomes to crime trends. This can take many shapes and forms, but the proposal should demonstrate a clear understanding of criminality, its harmful impacts, and the levers that can be employed to change systems. This approach considers how actors organize to commit serious and organized crime and the enablers that allow these actors to exchange illicit goods and services.

  Resilience is the ability to withstand, adapt to, and disrupt organized crime. The GI-TOC's Organized Crime Index has defined 12 dimensions of resilience, building blocks of responses in the political, legal, economic and social spheres that when taken together, have the potential to provide holistic and effective responses to organized crime. Resilience activities are any activities that embrace these building blocks as levers to change complex systems that disrupt crime.

  A resilience approach to organized crime therefore is broader than any activities, deliverables or outputs. The idea is that activities make incremental changes to systems such that illicit goods and services are not produced, transported, stored or exchanged. When implemented successfully, a resilience approach bears results towards these 12 dimensions such that political, legal, economic and social systems operate holistically. For more information, see < www.ocindex.net >.

- What is a community approach? There is no single community-based approach as interventions can be as unique as the contexts they address. However, the community-level refers to smaller-scale interventions – addressing flows and stocks of illicit markets, increasing buffer capacity to absorb shocks, and improving knowledge, attitudes, and practices – at a local level. These smaller-scale interventions result in larger national and regional-level impacts.

  Community-based approaches seek to work not only *in* communities but *with* them, encouraging active participation of community members in resilience-building processes. Community participation describes the involvement of people in activities who are not necessarily experts, practitioners, or authority figures in a particular field to cooperate with service providers, schools, faith groups and community associations within a locality.

- What is collaboration? Collaboration broadly refers to two or more organizations working together towards a shared goal, both contributing their knowledge, skills and capacity. It requires mutual trust and open communication and goes beyond simple cooperation as it produces shared ownership of decisions and outcomes.

Strong applicants will demonstrate a clear link between resilience to organized crime, collaboration and their core work and mission.

Eligible locations

Activities should be implemented in one or more space(s) and location(s) in one or more of the Mekong countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar[1], Thailand, and/or Vietnam. Proposed activities can be in only one of these countries or in more than one country.

THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The applicant's proposal will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1) Organized crime criterion (20% weight)
    a. Criminal actor(s) – extent to which the proposal evidences the type(s) of organized criminal actor(s) impacting their community (10% weight)
    b. Criminal market(s) – extent to which the proposal evidences the scale and scope of criminal market(s) impacting their community (10% weight)
2) Community criterion (20% weight)
    a. Beneficiary justification – extent to which applicant provides justification for beneficiaries impacted by, or able to impact, criminal ecosystems (5% weight)
    b. Spatial justification – extent to which activity space(s) and location(s) correspond to organized crime and beneficiary justifications (5% weight)
    c. Embeddedness – extent to which the applicant demonstrates embeddedness with project beneficiaries (as verified by persons with lived experience, contacts, connections, networks) and activity space(s) and location(s) (as verified by previous or current programming) (10% weight)
3) Resilience criterion (50% weight)
    a. Resilience approach – extent to which the applicant's proposed activities embrace resilience levers to withstand, adapt to, and/or disrupt organized crime systems (15% weight)
    b. Results focus – extent to which the form and method of the applicant's proposed activities are likely to bear results (10% weight)
    c. Collaboration – extent to which activities are implemented collaboratively among applicant organizations and actor(s) in their community (25% weight)
4) Value-for-money criterion (10% weight)
    a. Value-for-money – extent to which the proposal is governed by value for money principals of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and ethics (5% weight)
    b. Sustainability – extent to which the proposed activities embrace community-level systems to build local ownership and capacity likely to remain after funding ends (5% weight)

[1] Myanmar engagement will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, should operating context allow.

HOW TO APPLY

There are two application stages. Applicants that are assessed highly will be invited to the second stage.

To apply you must:

1) First stage:
    - Complete the **pre-application questionnaire**;
2) Second stage:
    - Complete a **full proposal**; and
    - An **activity-based budget**.

Following the second stage assessment, high scoring applicants will be invited to submit accompanying documentation on an as requested basis for GI-TOC to conduct due diligence. No accompanying documentation should be submitted before receiving an invite from GI-TOC.

High scoring second stage applicants will be advanced to the GI-TOC grants committee for final approval.

Submit a pre-application to mnet-ctc-resilience@globalinitiative.net by 7 December 2026, 23:59 CET.

GI-TOC will accept only one application per applicant. If an applicant submits more than one application for the same activity, only the latest application will be considered.

Timing of grant opportunity processes

The applicant must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. GI-TOC will not accept late applications.

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Duration of grant opportunity	15 February 2027 to 15 February 2028
Assessment of pre-applications High-scoring applicants will be invited to submit a full application	4 weeks
Assessment of full applications High-scoring applicants will be invited to submit accompanying documentation Final approval will be granted by the grant committee	6 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	15 February 2027
Latest end date of grant activity or agreement	15 February 2028
Opening and closing dates	1 November 2026 – 7 December 2026

Questions, enquires, and feedback during the application process

If the applicant has any questions, enquires, or feedback about their application or about the application process, contact < mnet-ctc-resilience@globalinitiative.net >.

Applicants may request more detailed information or additional clarification about the process by sending an email to the address above.

Language requirements

Application documents, including the pre-application questionnaire, full proposal, activity-based budget and all accompanying documentation may be submitted in English or one the major Mekong languages (Khmer, Lao, Thai or Vietnamese). Applications documents in these languages can be found at MNET-CTC Collaboration Grants webpage.

THE GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

Who will assess applications

An assessment committee will assess each application on its merits. The assessment committee is comprised of GI-TOC staff serving in a range of programmatic and functional roles. The assessment committee will review each proposal and budget and provide a score based on the assessment criteria.

The assessment committee presents to DFAT a synopsis of applicants' proposals it seeks to approve. Following DFAT's sign off, applications are advanced to the GI-TOC's grants committee for final approval. The grants committee is comprised of senior GI-TOC leadership at the global level responsible for overall programmatic direction and management. GI-TOC's grants committee will issue the final decision.

Who will approve grants

The GI-TOC grants committee decides which grants to approve considering the recommendations of the assessment committee, the donor (the Australian Government) and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program. The committee may request modifications or updates to an applicant's submitted application package.

The GI-TOC grants 'management committee's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant; and
- the grant funding amount to be awarded.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

The GI-TOC's grant committee will not approve funding if they reasonably consider the program funding available will not accommodate the funding offer, and/or the application does not represent value with money. The GI-TOC reserves the right to offer less funding than that sought by the applicant.

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION OUTCOMES

GI-TOC will advise the applicant of the outcome in writing. If the applicant is successful, GI-TOC will advise the applicant of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

An unsuccessful application does not prevent applicants from applying for any future funding opportunities.