



COMMUNIQUE

Covid-19 Post-Lockdown Support to NGOs

The National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF), established by Government in December 2016, is the Central Body for receiving and allocating public funds to NGOs. The Foundation operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NSIF is finalising its post-lockdown response to the financial and operational challenges NGOs are likely to face in the delivery of their programmes and projects, including National Programmes.

Improved Funding Support to NGOs

The Foundation reviewed its funding framework last year in order to harmonise the disbursement of Government grants and allocation of funds to NGOs. Funding support provided to NGOs has been improved and adapted, taking into consideration the types of intervention, organisational capacities and funding needs.

Ongoing Programmes

The NSIF is, thus, supporting the ongoing programmes of some 170 NGOs through Programme Grants under its Funding Instrument *F1: Partnering with Non-Government Service Providers*. Disbursements of funds are made in instalments and are followed by monitoring to ensure effective implementation of programmes. As at March 2020, an amount exceeding Rs215 million had already been paid to NGOs.

Small-Scale Initiatives

Following a Call for Proposals under the Funding Instrument *F4: Supporting Small Scale Initiatives*, the Foundation received applications for funding from around 80 small scale NGOs. The outcome of the Call will be announced soon after the lockdown.

FLE National Programme

The Foundation also called for Expressions of Interest from NGOs to participate in its Fortified Learning Environment (FLE) National Programme. The activities of the FLE National Programme will be readapted in line with the post-lockdown Government measures to be implemented in the Education sector.

Maintaining services and support to the vulnerable

The Covid-19 crisis will have unprecedented economic ramifications. Nonetheless, the NSIF reiterates its commitment to support NGOs in the implementation of their programmes/projects and of National Programmes such as to maintain the much-needed services and support to poor and vulnerable groups.

Engaging with partners and stakeholders

The Foundation has started a consultation exercise with NGOs in order to better understand and respond to emerging needs, problems and challenges in the aftermath of the national lockdown and Covid-19 crisis. It will engage in dialogue, as necessary, with its partners and stakeholders to plan its post-lockdown support to poor and vulnerable groups.