

**FORTIFIED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (FLE)**

**NATIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Expanding Access to** **Quality Crèches (day-care centres) Services for Vulnerable Groups at the Community-Based Level**

**SPECIAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO NGOs/NPOs**

**August 2022**

1. **Background and Objectives**

Children from low-income families often find themselves trapped in a cycle of intergenerational poverty. They tend to lag behind their peers starting from their early years.

Evidence indicates that countries that spend more on child-care have the greatest success in tackling poverty. Quality early childhood care services improve school readiness and performance and has long-term benefits for the cognitive and social development of children. Additionally, access of vulnerable children to these services enables poor families to improve their social and economic status, especially if female family members can enter the labour market.

Our research indicates that only 19 percent of children aged 3 months to 3 years from low-income families living in deprived regions currently attend day care centres. However, one out of two low-income households would be willing to send their children to crèches if access to free and quality creche services was available in their locality.

In this regard, the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) is inviting proposals from qualifying NGOs/NPOs through a Special Call for Proposals under the Fortified Learning Environment (FLE) National Programme. The Special Call titled **“Expanding Access to** **crèches (day-care centres) services for Vulnerable Groups at Community-Based Level”** has the following objectives:

* To set up and run new crèches (day-care centres) for children aged 3 months to 3 years from low-income families in deprived localities where there is a demand for such services.
* To enhance access of vulnerable children to quality crèches (day-care centres) services at the community level.
* To promote holistic and innovative pedagogical approaches in new crèches (day-care centres) that improve the cognitive, emotional and psycho-social outcomes of vulnerable children.
1. **Eligibility Criteria**
* The Call for Proposals is open to NGOs/NPOs registered with the National Social Inclusion Foundation and having the proven experience and capabilities (including adequate technical human resources, pedagogical, management, governance and community development capabilities) for setting up, and managing new crèches projects.
* Collaborative partnerships between CBOs/NGOs/NPOs and other civil society organisations to reach out to disadvantaged localities, sharing or transfer of knowledge and skills and cost optimisation are encouraged, and eligible to apply provided the lead applicant is an NGO registered with the National Social Inclusion Foundation. The lead organisation will bear accountability for the stewardship of funds awarded by the National Social Inclusion Foundation.
1. **Funding**

Funding shall be considered for setting up and running of the selected early childhood care facility and the facilitation of access to community-based early childhood care as well as developmental services in compliance with the ‘Institutions for Welfare and Protection of Children (Regulations 2000) under the Child Protection Act’.

Proposals should abide by staff ratio and space requirements as provided for in the regulations and explained in the FLE Creche Guidelines.

Proposals may include planned activity components aiming at providing parental involvement and empowerment.

Priority of consideration will be given to localities where a demand (list of target beneficiaries available for submission) for new crèches (day-care centres) for vulnerable children has been identified.

1. **Financial Allocation and Assessment**

Awards of funds will be subject to an assessment exercise including a thorough due diligence process of the organisational capacity, governance, track record of the NGO/NPO, detailed analysis of the budget, in-depth interviews and discussions with applicants and field assessments.

1. **Exclusions**

Any expenditure not directly associated with the proposed intervention will not be eligible for funding. Other exclusions include:

* Expenditures incurred prior to the date of signature of a Funding Contract Agreement with the National Social Inclusion Foundation.
* Items used by an organisation from its existing stock.
* Participation to conferences and workshops overseas.
* Construction works such as additional rooms or buildings. However, refurbishment to accommodate the facility will be considered.
* Purchase of vehicles.
1. **Beneficiaries**

Target beneficiaries should be children aged 3 months to 3 years from vulnerable families.

1. **Application**

**Deadline for submission is Monday 5 September 2022 at 15:00 hrs.**

* Applications should be made on the prescribed Application Pack and Templates. All applications must be submitted **by email** at r.peerbux@nsif.mu and clearly marked FLE – National Programme: Expanding Access to Quality Crèches (day-care centres) Services for Vulnerable Groups at Community-Based Level.
* Late and/or incomplete applications, and applications not submitted on the prescribed Application Pack will not be considered.
1. **Documentation**

Applicants may access the following resources from the National Social Inclusion Foundation website [www.nsif.mu](http://www.nsif.mu) .

* Application Pack for Funding.
* Templates for Budget Estimates, HR Data and List of Beneficiaries
* FLE Crèche Guidelines.
1. **Information and Guidance**

For any further information and guidance, please contact the Help Desk by email at r.peerbux@nsif.mu or phone on 463 7737.

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**Date : 02 August 2022**