

Inclusion First Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Nigeria

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES (CFCN)

Cooperation Agreement Number: **NG011-2692**

Call Reference Number: **202107001**

Issuance Date: **July 27, 2021**

Closing Date: **August 20, 2021**

Closing Time: **11:59 pm WAT**

Subject: Call for Concept Notes - Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Nigeria (Inclusion First) Programme

Dear Prospective Applicants,

The Leprosy Mission Nigeria (TLMN) as the Strategic Partner Organization (SPO) of Liliane Foundation (LF) in Nigeria is seeking Concept Notes from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria, including registered Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Disabled People's Organization (DPOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating at local, State and national levels as implementing Partner Organizations (POs) to support ongoing efforts in strengthening disability inclusion in Nigeria.

This CFCN consists of this cover letter and the following sections:

Section 1 – Purpose of Funding Opportunity

Section 2 – Programme Description & Objectives of this Call

Section 3 – Award Information

Section 4 – Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Section 5 – Cost Sharing and Matching:

Section 6 – Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA)

Section 7 – Application Process

Section 8 – Stage one – Concept note Technical Evaluation Criteria

Section 9 – Submission Information

Section 10 – Other information

Section 11 - Annexes

Funding Consideration

SECTION I. Purpose of Funding

The Leprosy Mission Nigeria (TLMN) as the Strategic Partner Organization (SPO) of Liliane Foundation (LF) in Nigeria is seeking Concept Notes from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria, including registered Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Disabled People's Organization (DPOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating at local, State and national levels as implementing Partner Organizations (POs) to support ongoing efforts in strengthening disability inclusion in Nigeria.

The Project seeks Concept Notes from potential POs containing brief descriptions of project ideas and objectives for the implementation of grant activities focused on advancing the strategic objectives of the "Inclusion First Programme" in Nigeria. The concept notes will enable the project to determine whether the proposed interventions align with the priorities of the "Inclusion First Programme" prior to requesting a full proposal document.

The project aims to support POs, that demonstrate capacity, to effectively deliver on their proposed disability interventions. POs must have a track record in addressing disability issues, have strong ties to their target populations, are committed to disability networks and are well prepared to function innovatively and sustainably in a complex and dynamic context. The Project will support POs to use and expand inclusive technology solutions to avert socialization restrictions imposed by society and aggravated by COVID-19.

Organizations that have never worked on LF-funded projects are strongly encouraged to apply.

SECTION 2 – Programme Description & Objectives of this Call Concept Notes

2.0 Background

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria are faced with a plethora of challenges mainly caused by limited public awareness on disability issues and limited communication and disability rights advocacy. The core problems faced by PWDs include limited access to Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) services in terms of health, education, livelihoods, social inclusion and empowerment. Children and young persons with disabilities are especially disadvantaged. If these challenges are left unaddressed, it is unlikely that Nigeria would achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the "Leave No One Behind" agenda.

2.1 Access to Education

Persons living with disabilities including children or adults have a right to education. The national policy on education stipulates that education from primary up to junior secondary school is compulsory for every child in Nigeria. The policy on inclusive education requires that children with disabilities have access to education in an inclusive setting. However, majority of children with disabilities in the country especially those with moderate, severe and profound impairments, are still far from enjoying full access to any kind of school, let alone to regular education.

2.2 Access to Health

Article 25 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) reinforces the right of persons with disability to attain the highest standard of health care, without discrimination. People with disability report seeking more health care than people without disability and have greater unmet needs. In spite of this, people with disability are particularly vulnerable to deficiencies in health care services; a range of barriers limit their access to health care including prohibitive costs, limited available services, physical barriers to accessing services at health centres, and limited knowledge of health staff on disability issues.

2.3 Disability and Poverty

Disability is not only related to poverty, but also leads to extreme poverty. It is also reported that out of every 10 persons with disability in the country, 9 live below the poverty level.¹ The negative economic consequences of disability affect individuals and their families. Several factors interact in the intergenerational transmission of poverty for instance, ownership of land or housing, low levels of education and poorly paid work opportunities. In households with disabled members, other factors also play a significant role; for example, indirect cost and changes in family roles. This last factor is associated with family members being caregivers and the type of strategies households implement in order to overcome potential reductions in income. Usually, when an adult becomes disabled, children may take the role of caregivers or may leave school in order to work; in both cases, there is a reduction in human capital of household members and it directly reduces the strategies and options households have to escape poverty.

2.4 Overall Goal of the Project:

This project seeks to mitigate the problems militating against disability inclusion in Nigeria proven approaches including CBR and Rights Based Approaches. The project will contribute towards an inclusive Nigerian society where households are empowered and social structures strengthened to eliminate all barriers to holistic disability inclusion. Its 5 year goal is to see Persons with disabilities (including

¹ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2018, 2017*,
https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/201801world_report_web.pdf.

children, their care-givers & families) build resilience and actively participating in social, cultural & economic life through Rights Based Approaches. This is to be achieved through strategic objectives linked to 5 main priorities including 1) Inclusive health system, 2) Inclusive education 3) Livelihood development 4) Social Inclusion 5) and Empowerment.

2.5 Target Beneficiaries:

The project targets children and young persons with disabilities (CYWDs), under the age of 25 years together with their family members are the direct beneficiaries of the programme.

2.6 Objectives:

The medium-term change envisaged by the “Inclusion First Programme” is to enable persons with disabilities (including children, their care-givers & families) build resilience and actively participating in social, cultural & economic life through Community Based Inclusive Development approaches.

2.6.1 Specific objectives:

- Improved access to quality inclusive health services for CYWDs and their families in Nigeria.
- CYWDs have access to inclusive and specialized education services in Nigeria.
- Improved access to employment opportunities for young persons and families with disabilities in Nigeria.

2.6.2 Cross-cutting themes

In addressing the above objectives, applicants are encouraged to integrate at least one of the following cross-cutting issues in their interventions:

- Contribute towards promoting mental health and wellbeing of CYWDs.
- Interventions should contribute in reducing transmission while mitigating impact of Covid19 among CYWDs.
- Contribute towards enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health and rights of young persons with disabilities.
- Interventions that promote research and innovation in CBID.

2.7 Geographic Focus

This Call focuses on Interventions to be implemented in States within North-west (LOT-1), North-central (LOT-2), South-west (LOT-3), South-east (LOT-4) and South-south (LOT-5) regions of Nigeria. Applicants may choose to work in more than one state per LOT based on their capacity and experience.

SECTION 3 – Award Information

The maximum award ceiling, subject to availability of funds, under this “Inclusion First Programme” is **N10,000,000** per annum.

TLMN intends to make awards depending on each organization's circumstances and capacity. Partner organizational capacity will be assessed during a pre-award assessment phase to determine their status and circumstance for the award.

Anticipated Project Commencement Date and Performance Period: The anticipated project start date is from **January 1, 2022**, with a performance period of **12** months.

SECTION 4 – Minimum Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for funding, applicants must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- Must be a Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria, including registered Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Disabled People's Organization (DPOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- Must operate as an independent non-politically affiliated organization.
- Must be a registered legal entity in Nigeria, as applicable, at least two years prior to the submission, with at least one year experience managing disability related projects.
- Must not be debarred, suspended, excluded or otherwise ineligible to receive development funding from any agency.

SECTION 5 – Cost Sharing and Matching:

Sustainability Successful POs will be expected to commit to a matching grant of at least 5% of the total sum sought from this Call.

SECTION 6 – Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA):

As in all TLMN/LF programming, incorporation of CLA principles into the activity design is a priority and can include the adaptation of existing tools, methodologies or approaches to support and better inform program implementation and analysis. In all of its projects, TLMN/LF expects a rigorous approach to learning and adaptation driven by data that, in consultation with TLMN/LF, also lead to refinements and adjustments to a recipient's technical approaches and annual work plans. Disseminating information and knowledge management will contribute directly to each of the result areas, and ultimately to measurable progress in the achievement of expected results

SECTION 7 – Application Process

I. Stage One – Concept Note:

Applicants will submit a Concept Note using the template provided in Annex 1, and following the instructions contained in this document. TLMN will review Concept Notes against the merit review criteria detailed in table 1 below. TLMN will provide individual results to each applicant within 7 working days following the meeting of the Technical Evaluation Committee. Concept Notes will be reviewed by a Technical Evaluation Committee, according to the criteria described below. The purpose of this review is to ensure that prospective POs bring appropriate capabilities, experiences and potential contributions to the implementation of activities related to “Inclusion First Programme”. A concept Note is determined to be successful if it receives an overall PASS based on the review criteria.

II. Stage Two – Full Application:

Successful applicants from Stage One will be invited to a **virtual** project development workshop to address weaknesses identified in their Concept Notes and align Concepts to “Inclusion First Programme” objectives. The project development workshop will also provide additional guidance on proposed concepts. Applicants will submit a grant application in response to a Request for Application (RFA). Grant Applications will be evaluated based on the technical factors detailed in this RFA.

SECTION 8 – Stage one – Concept note Technical Evaluation Criteria

Table 1: Concept Note Technical Assessment Criteria

| Technical Element | Definition | Points |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| Understanding of project context | Demonstrate understanding of development challenge relating to issue of disabilities in the context of Inclusion First project goal and specific objectives of the Call for Concept Notes. The description must demonstrate an understanding of the various dimensions of inclusive development challenge in Health, Education, Livelihoods etc. In addition, applicants should give organizational background, vision, and mission and outline geographical locations including target population and how the intervention builds on existing programmes. | 10% |
| Technical Approach | <p>The degree to which the proposed approach presents a cohesive plan that is technically sound, feasible, and cost effective, in (potentially) addressing disability issues around health, education, livelihood / employment, and policy reforms that promote transparency, accountability in public service delivery in any of the following sectors: Health, Education, Livelihood development of target communities.</p> <p>The extent to which the applicant demonstrates capacity or existing presence within the sector, and existing relationships and capacity to work with governments, other civil society organizations, community groups and/or private sector within their geographic areas of focus.</p> <p>The extent to which proposed approach integrates mental health, sexual and reproductive health rights, covid19 prevention and impact mitigation, and research. The extent to which the approach presents clear monitoring, reporting and sharing/learning plan for the project.</p> | 40% |
| Sustainability | The extent to which the Concept note's proposed approach is sustainable and increases the likelihood that the applicant, community groups or project beneficiaries or Nigerian government will be able to continue the programme activities and/or maintain its achievements after funding ends. | 20% |
| Institutional Capacity | The extent to which the applicant demonstrates relevant expertise and experience in any of the critical sectors. Also, demonstration of appropriate management structure, organizational capabilities, competence and | 15% |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| | having adequate staff with relevant skills and experience in project implementation at national and/or sub-national levels. The extent to which the applicants demonstrate leadership and potential to grow the cluster through a clear understanding of their roles as POs. | |
| Budget | Provide summary budget of the anticipated activities including direct administrative costs. Is the funding request commensurate with the potential impact? | 10% |
| Innovation | The extent to which the intervention adopts innovative approaches to addressing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. | 5% |

SECTION 9 – Submission Information

7.1 Point of Submission: Only concept notes received through the email address below will be assessed. Paper applications or concept notes sent through other means will be rejected.

Email: tlmnapplication@gmail.com

7.2 Submission Date and Time: **August 20, 2021 by 11:59pm WAT.** Applications received after set time will not be considered.

SECTION 10 – Other information

TLMN reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Issuance of this Call for Concept Notes and any assistance with development of a full proposal do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the project, nor does it commit the project to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, the project reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received. Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision made regarding their application.

Project staff and TLMN employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Non-compliance would result in disqualification of application and/or disciplinary action against project staff.

SECTION 11 – Annexes

Annex 1 – Concept Note Template