**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF)**

**CALL FOR INSTITUTIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**Strengthening the Provision of Assistive Technology in five Countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESAR)**

**Date of the EOI: 30 July 2021**

**Closing Date of the EOI: 12 August 2021 before or by 23:59 New York time**

**1. PURPOSE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

UNICEF’s Disability Unit is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified institutions (consultancy firms, universities, etc.) for the provision of services related to strengthening the provision of Assistive Technology in Eastern and Southern Africa Region.

Institutions that meet the requirements of this EOI will be shortlisted and invited to submit full technical and financial proposals. This EOI document provides a short description of the planned scope of work. Detailed terms of reference (ToR) will be provided to those organizations selected to advance to the next stage.

**2. BACKGROUND**

There are more than one billion people with disabilities globally, of which more than 150 million are children. About 90% of them do not have access to the assistive technology (AT), that they need. Lack of access to wheelchairs, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and other life changing products and services often results in the individual and their family members being isolated and excluded from education, work, family, and community life.

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programs, in advocacy and in operations. The leave no one behind principle of the SDGs and UNICEF’s equity agenda translates this commitment on children’s rights into action. The rights of children with disabilities have always been a critical part of UNICEF’s work. Currently, more than 140 UNICEF country offices are implementing programmes for children with disabilities in education; child protection; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); health and nutrition.

As part of its work for the Norway-UNICEF Partnership Framework for Disability grant, the UNICEF Disability Section is starting to provide guidance to ESAR governments for the surveying of the met and unmet population need in terms of access to AT and the Assessment of national capacity to finance, procure and provide AT. These are critical assessments to help policy makers identify actions which will strengthen service delivery. This response to country demands will require the implementation of two AT assessment tools developed by the WHO for both rapid AT assessment (rATA), and capacity assessment (ATA-C).

In addition, the UNICEF Disability Section, in partnership with the Supply Division, is improving the availability of AT and inclusive products in the UNICEF Catalogue, improving the accessibility of existing and new products, as well as construction projects, and promoting product innovation for unmet needs. Finally, the Disability Section and the Supply Division are developing strong partnerships with the WHO and other global actors through bilateral projects such as the development of tools to facilitate the procurement of appropriate AT, and multilateral initiatives such as ATscale, a market shaping and resource mobilization initiative designed to enable access to AT for 500 million persons by 2030.

Against this background, the UNICEF Disability Section requires the **support of an institution with relevant experience, expertise, and capacity on the utilization and adaptation of WHO AT assessment tools in ESAR countries**. Moreover, given the urgency that the Norway grant implies and the augmented challenges of the pandemic, it is essential that the institution selected have capacity for an immediate start to the activities.

**3. METHODOLOGY / APPROACH**

**Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**

The aim is to conduct assessments and produce a final report and action plan for each of the four countries and conduct a validation workshop with all relevant stakeholders in each country on the results and collectively identified priority actions.

**Kenya**

The aim is to develop an action plan for a UNICEF-supported pilot project in coordination and collaboration with the government (building on the National Strategy).

**4. SCOPE OF WORK**

* Map stakeholders and adapt the WHO ATA-C tool to the context of each target country (Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)
* Collect data through desk research, key informant interviews, and in some countries, focus group discussions as needed.
* Consolidate data into the ATA-C excel-based tool and analyze to identify gaps and opportunities to increase access to AT.
* Organize a consensus building workshop bringing together government ministries as well as non-government stakeholders such as non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, academia, service providers, professional associations, user groups, organizations of persons with disabilities, and community champions.
* Support each of the four countries in the production of a report highlighting key findings and recommending actions for systemic improvements to AT provisioning.
* Support the Kenyan Government to define how service delivery and access to AT can be optimized, define an improved governance structure for rehabilitation services and an optimized configuration of the national supply chain for assistive devices which will improve access to appropriate AT

**5. TIMELINE AND PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT**

20 September 2021 – 28 February 2022

**6. DESIRED TEAM COMPOSITION AND PROFILE**

Qualified institutions (consultancy firms, universities, etc.) that have the capabilities to meet the following requirements, and are available for the aforementioned period, are invited to submit an EOI.

In their EOI, institutions are required to specify their experience and capacity in the following:

* Conducting national AT capacity assessments, ideally in Sub-Saharan Africa
* Using the WHO ATA-C tool in assessments
* Supporting development of national action plans
* Conducting scoping and data collection in the UNICEF focus countries; a presence in the focus countries is preferred
* Working with Government stakeholders on organizing multi-stakeholder workshops

As a whole, the team should bring skills and experience including research, programme planning and implementation and monitoring and evaluation, hands-on experience in collecting and analyzing data, strong conceptualization, analytical and writing skills. Experience of national and international level work on disability and particularly assistive technology issues, ability to conceptualize disability issues and/or systems strengthening.

In the EOI, institutions and /or groups of consultants should describe their organization’s/team’s ability to perform in a highly efficient and timely manner. Organizational capacities are required for rigorous quality assurance procedures as well as back-office support and logistics.

Interested institutions are encouraged to complete and submit the EOI form provided in the following page. EOIs should be sent to Jasmina Acimovic ([jacimovic@unicef.org](mailto:jacimovic@unicef.org)) and copy Mohammed Al-Ani (malani@unicef.org) no later than **23:59 NY time on 12 August 2021.**  Please quote “**Strengthening Provision of Assistive Technology in ESAR”** as the subject in your correspondence.

**7 SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

This EOI does not constitute a solicitation. We do not require bids or proposals at this stage; we merely seek your expression of interest in participating in the tender. A response to this Call for Expression of Interest does not automatically ensure that you will be selected to participate in the tender. A final TOR will be provided to those vendors invited to submit a full proposal by way of a Request for Proposal for Services (RFPS).

UNICEF reserves the right to change or cancel requirements at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. A response to this request for EOI does not ensure automatic selection to participate in the tendering process. UNICEF also reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final tender document. Responses received without a duly completed form or an incomplete form will not be considered. If you have any questions about this EOI, please email Jasmina Acimovic ([jacimovic@unicef.org](mailto:jacimovic@unicef.org)) by 6th August 2021 and please copy Mohammed Al-Ani (malani@unicef.org)

Following this EOI, institutions will be short-listed and invited to tender for Request for Proposal for services (RFPS). More detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) will be sent to short-listed institutions in the form of RFPS. The RFPS will remain open for 2 weeks from the day of issue.

UNICEF Disability Section – Expression of Interest Form (Institutions)

***Title of the Scope of Work***

Please fill-in the form (up to 10 pages total) and submit to above two email addresses

Full Name of Institution:

Type of Entity:

User Salutation: Dr. Ms.  Mr.

First Name:

Last Name:

Job Title/Role in Entity:

Phone Number:

(please include country & city code)

Alternate Phone Number:

(please include country & city code)

Contact E-mail Address:

City:

State:

Postal Code:

Country:

Mailing Address:

Address of Internet Website:

Alternate Contact Person:

**Please answer the following mandatory questions:**

**1.** Provide information which will enable us to determine whether your organization has the basic capacity **to carry out AT assessments using the WHO ATA-C tool, supporting governments, including support for developing action plans and defining how service delivery and access to AT can be optimized**. In no more than two pages, information should include:

 Organizational structure including any associates, partner firms, etc. and infrastructure in place to support the assessments

 The year in which the organization started operating

 Staff capacity, both technical and support staff (to the extent possible, attach CVs of prospective team members, pending confirmation of their availability and indicate the role of each team member)

**2.** Provide information which will enable us to determine whether your organization has relevant **experience and capacity to undertake the AT capacity assessments and to provide support to governments on assistive technology related issues**. In no more than two pages, the information should include previous relevant projects you led (or contributed to) that addressed issues of the scope of work that outlined in this EOI.

**3.** **Confirmation that your entity:**

 Has no on-going litigation with the UN.

 Is not currently removed/invalidated or suspended by the United Nations or UN system organizations.