**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON DATA FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**Call for Proposals – Capacity building**

1. **BACKGROUND**

Millions of children with disabilities around the globe continue to be left behind, despite near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the call for action embedded in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the clear mandate set by the Sustainable Development Goals. Often, this neglect is the result of limited data. When absent from official statistics, children and adults with disabilities remain politically and socially ‘invisible’, increasing their marginalization and exposure to rights violations.

Historically, attempts to protect the rights of children with disabilities have been hampered by this lack of data. More recent times have seen a renewed focus on generating reliable and internationally comparable data on such children, leading to the development of new tools for data collection. These include the Child Functioning Module, released by UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in 2016. It has also resulted in a substantial increase in the availability of data on children with disabilities over the last five years, fostering data analysis and contributing to increased knowledge generation.

To capitalize on the current momentum, UNICEF has launched the Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities. The Centre will help fill data gaps and meet the growing need for coordination, quality oversight and technical expertise in the field. It will support a broad range of activities to build the capacity of data producers and data users, facilitate the development of new methods and tools, and support data collection, data analysis, data interpretation and use, and knowledge generation.

To promote the use of data and the generation of knowledge on the state of children with disabilities, the Centre has committed to sponsoring capacity-building initiatives.

The Centre will fund five projects that build capacity on the generation and/or use of data on children with disabilities. The projects can entail designing and conducting capacity-building opportunities or developing training material, or other activities to support individuals and organizations in developing capacity in data generation and use. Each successful applicant will receive a total of US$9,000 for a period of nine months.

The funds will be awarded through a globally competitive process. **Applications from qualified candidates from low- and middle-income countries and/or who identify as having a disability are encouraged.**

Upon selection, the recipients will be required to enter into a consultancy agreement with UNICEF for the duration of the project.

The applicants will also receive regular input and feedback from the Centre, including from other experts in the field of disability data. Through this initiative, the successful candidates will have an opportunity to collaborate with a wide network of experts in disability data, advance their skills and promote their professional growth.

1. **APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS**

This Call for Proposals is open to individuals of all nationalities who want to support organizations and individuals in building their capacity in data generation and use. The applicants must demonstrate the ability to complete the proposed project within nine months.

The applicants must be willing to commit to a nine-month project and must be hosted by another institution or work independently. In situations where the applicants are hosted by institutions or organizations, the applicants are required to submit a letter of commitment from their institution/organization to attest to their competency and commitment.

The applicants will need to possess a combination of the following skills and experience:

* At minimum, a bachelor’s degree in a discipline related to data science, statistics, disability studies, public policy or another related field
* A sound grasp of statistical theory and its application to practical policy
* Knowledge of the challenges surrounding the capacity of organizations and individuals to effectively generate and use data regarding child disability
* Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with an ability to convey complex technical ideas to non-specialists
* Demonstrated interest and experience in the field of child rights, disability studies and/or data
* Ability to work independently and meet strict deadlines
* Ability to think creatively about child disability data collection, analysis, dissemination, and implications for policy, and to develop a unique project
* Willingness to learn and accept advice
* Previous experience working with persons with disabilities is desirable.

UNICEF reserves the right to disqualify any entry that contains hurtful, misleading, libelous or vulgar content, or that contains any material that could constitute or encourage conduct that would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any national or international law or UNICEF standard.

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

At minimum, a bachelor’s degree in a discipline related to data science, statistics, disability studies or another related field is required. **Applications from qualified candidates from low- and middle-income countries and/or who identify as having a disability are encouraged.**

1. **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants must complete the following documents in English and send them in one PDF file to disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org with the subject line: Capacity Building Call for Proposals, [Last name], [First name].

The completed package must include:

* A cover letter summarizing the applicant‘s experience and motivation
* A detailed curriculum vitae
* Proof of enrolment or affiliation with the university, research institution or organization hosting the individual (not required if applicant will be working independently)
* A project proposal of 2-3 pages specifying the objectives, the approach, the final deliverables and its relevance to the field of child disability data and potential to improve capacity for data generation and use.

**PROJECT PROPOSAL COMPONENTS**

* Clearly state the problem addressed by the project
* Provide a detailed description of proposed approach
* Explain the intended impact of the project and the final deliverables
* Develop a timeline for research completion within nine months
* Present a budget proposal and description of anticipated expenses.

Application deadline: Midnight, Eastern Standard Time, 5 November 2021.

Any questions or concerns regarding the Call for Proposals or the application process can be addressed to disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org.

1. **OUTCOME**

By the end of the nine months, the recipients are expected to complete the project as agreed upon at the time of selection. Any materials or training manuals developed as part of a project must be made available in English as well as in any local languages applicable to the project.

1. **SELECTION PROCESS**

Applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements are subject to a review process by the Centre.

The evaluation process is designed to identify scientific excellence and opportunities for meaningful gains in the capacity to use data. The evaluation process will include three main steps:

1. The Centre team checks whether the application package adheres to the Call for Proposals.
2. The assessors evaluate the assigned applications and allocate points following the evaluation criteria. The assessors will convene to discuss a shortlist of proposals.
3. A ranked list of applications is recommended. Award offers are made in order of ranked score.

Evaluation criteria:

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| Evaluation components | Score Total = 100% |
| **Quality and feasibility of the proposal*** Demonstrated potential
* Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of needs of data producers and users
* Appropriate milestones and timelines
 | 40% |
| **Impact of the project*** Potential contribution to data base or data methodologies for children with disabilities
* Impact on the ability of the organization to effectively create or utilize data
 | 40% |
| **Training and career development of the applicants*** Relevant experience and results related to data and capacity building
* Potential to acquire new career-related skills
* Potential to expand capacity for data in the field
 | 20% |