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

**Call for Proposals – Data visualization**

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, prompting 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, which has fostered data analysis and contributed 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 further facilitate the use and dissemination of data on children with disabilities and raise global awareness of such data, the Centre has committed to sponsoring innovative and engaging data visualization.

The Centre will fund five data visualization projects. Each successful candidate will receive a total of US$5,000 for a period of six 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, recipients will be required to enter into a consultancy agreement with UNICEF for the duration of the project.

The applicant will be partnered with a senior expert in the field of disability statistics who will provide support and guidance throughout the project. 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**

The Call for Proposals is open to candidates of all nationalities who have, at minimum, a bachelor’s degree in an applicable discipline. The applicants must be willing to commit to a six-month project. They will be required to complete the agreed-upon project within the given time frame and to disseminate the completed project in collaboration with the Centre.

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

* At minimum, a bachelor’s degree (a master’s degree is an advantage) in an applicable discipline, such as data science, journalism, communications or other related field
* Relevant work experience focusing on data visualization and data journalism is an asset
* Advanced knowledge of the use of software utilized in data visualization, such as Tableau, Infogram, etc.
* Strong understanding of quantitative data analysis and interpretation
* Ability to accurately interpret data and extract key messages
* Ability to communicate complex technical ideas to non-specialists, verbally and in writing
* Demonstrated interest and experience in the field of child disability 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 unique project topics
* Fluency in English
* Willingness to learn and accept advice.

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 CRITERIA**

At minimum, a bachelor’s degree (a master’s degree is an advantage) in an applicable discipline, such as data science, journalism, communications 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. **OUTCOME**

At the end of the six months, the recipients are required to submit the completed agreed-upon project (article, dashboard, animation, etc.) for dissemination in collaboration with the Centre, in a format to be determined by UNICEF. Any data analysed in the process should also be made available to the research community through channels provided by Centre. Recipients are required to ensure that their final work is accessible to persons with disabilities. The recipients are also encouraged to disseminate their findings in local and national languages, as applicable.

1. **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants must complete the following documents in English and send them in one PDF file to [disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org](mailto:disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org) with the subject line: Data Visualization 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
* A description of the proposed project, including the distribution plan, of no more than 500 words
* A brief methodology, including the data you intend to utilize, any analysis to be conducted, and a timeline of anticipated steps for project completion, of no more than 250 words
* One example of previous data visualization work (animation, journal article, dashboard, etc.)
* Contact details for three professional references.

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](mailto:disabilitydatacentre@unicef.org).

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. 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 created. 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 to contribute to the discourse and awareness of child disability data * Innovative ideas on the presentation of data * Appropriate milestones and timelines * A plan for the dissemination of the final project | 40% |
| **Impact of the project**   * Potential contribution to awareness of child disability data or the situation of children with disabilities * Potential to share knowledge with a broad audience (such as the general public, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, national statistics offices, etc.) | 30% |
| **Training and career development of the applicants**   * Visualization and dissemination experience and results (based on CV, examples of work, etc.) * Potential to acquire new data visualization-related skills * Potential to conduct further work on priority themes | 30% |