

Call for Concept Notes

Develop a school-based program for at-risk youths

Introduction

As part of its Promoting Resilience in the Maldives (PRIME) program, Transparency Maldives invites Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) registered in the Maldives to submit Concept Notes to develop and implement school-based projects with the objective of **addressing sense of purpose and identity amongst young children through the education system.**

The larger objective is to increase social cohesion and to engage young people in programs focusing on skills development, career guidance, workforce training, community engagement, psychosocial support and/or other broader social work approaches to engage youth. This funding opportunity will also focus on re-integration of youth into schools and society.

Background

Transparency Maldives is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from local Maldivian civil society Organizations (CSOs) regarding a new program initiative implemented under Promoting Resilience in Maldives (PRIME). PRIME is a four-year project aiming to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and at-risk groups such as youth, men and women alike in order to create an atmosphere for young people to grow into being contributing citizens of the Maldivian society. Thus, reducing radicalized pathways and creating opportunities to rejoin society.

According to UNICEF's 2018 Children in Maldives study, the number of out-of-school children is close to negligible for primary and lower secondary students, however, drop-out rates increase at age 16, when students take their O level exams. Limited accessibility to higher education across the country means that many students who score well are unable to continue their studies due to lack of scholarships or absence of higher secondary level school on their atoll. At present only 27% of secondary schools offers advanced level (higher secondary) courses, and many students move to another island, or drop out of school after grade 10. As a result, out-of-school youth are at risk of youth delinquency, gang related activities and drug abuse.

Limited capacity of the current education system to address the different needs of the students, contributes towards the interrelated social problems that drive youth VE recruitment and susceptibility to VE narratives in the Maldives. According to the UNDP Youth Vulnerability Assessment 2019, young respondents highlighted that they were disenchanted by many aspects of their education, saying it neither prepared them well for jobs or for adult life. The lack of mental and emotional support systems within the educational structure, combined with dysfunctional families, lack of support in entering the job

market, often leads students to either look for an alternative environments within gangs or other means of belonging.

An important focus key area of PRIME is addressing issues relating to a sense of purpose and identity of at-risk youth within the educational system. Under the project objective 2.3, to address issues relating to sense of purpose and identity within the education system PRIME aims to develop a school-based at-risk youth support program . This objective will be realized through 1) Identifying and addressing areas of vulnerability of children who are at risk of offending and dropping out of school and 2) Empowering teachers to provide age-appropriate prevention strategies.

The grant seeks to support CSOs, including women-led organizations, to develop and implement programs and activities that can contribute to the above objective. Through the grant Transparency Maldives aims to empower and support to smaller, CSOs who with the necessary support, can play an important role in enabling inclusive approaches to support at-risk youths to promote resilience and cohesiveness within the school and at community at large. CSOs can offer useful evidence and reasons to help shape school policy in support of marginalized youth at schools.

Transparency Maldives therefore invites CSOs registered in the Maldives to submit EOI to develop and conduct a school-based t-risk youth support program.

Scope

Programs can include (not limited to):

1. Develop and deliver targeted programs for at risk youth at schools
2. Carry out capacity assessments and develop capacity building plans for community-based organizations or civil society actors that can support CSOs to deliver programs for vulnerable at-risk youth at schools
3. Develop and implement programs that can address issues such as smoking, substance abuse, children in conflict with the law, child grooming, gang recruitment, violence and build awareness on peace education, self-awareness, trust building and peer to peer support etc.
4. Develop and deliver school-based vocational training or other skill-based training for at-risk youth in schools
5. Conduct leadership camps/life skills programs for students, teachers or parents.
6. Develop and/or adapt supplementary content, materials and/or tools that can be used in formal curriculum or extracurricular activities to build skills such critical thinking, civic engagement, etc and/or promote values such as tolerance, respect, inclusion, diversity, etc.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Boys and girls aged 12 – 17,
- Identified at-risk youths in schools
- Parents of boys and girls aged 12-17,
- School teachers (indirect beneficiaries)

Target Reach

- Location: Greater Male' area, Addu City, Fuvahmulak City, Kulhudhufushi City. Additional locations with justifications on the relevance of the project can be considered.
- Beneficiaries
 - o Direct and indirect beneficiaries: Reach at least 500 people through different community program interventions

Grant Value: minimum USD 10,000 – maximum USD 25,000 per grant

Number of grants available: up to 3 grants or more (depending on value of proposals received)

Grant Duration 12-24 months

Eligibility Criteria for CSOs

CSOs shall meet the following criteria to be eligible to participate in this program:

- Must be a registered Civil Society Organization (CSO) of the Maldives under the Ministry of Youth, Community Empowerment and Sports.
- Must have at least a basic accounting and reporting system in place.
- Currently active in the community with existing programs
- Commitment and flexibility to work in partnership with TM
- Credibility and proven relevant experience
- Must not have affiliations with a religious or political party, and must not utilize funds for religious or political purposes
- Must NOT subgrant the funds to a third party
- Must not be a government entity or a politically elected individual/entity, or an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO).
- Must demonstrate an ability to manage funds and have a designated person to manage finances of this grant.
- Must submit a completed application (as explained below) including all requested supporting information

Concept Note Application

Concept Notes can be submitted in English or Dhivehi, should not exceed five pages in length and must include the following:

- **Project Description:** Project rationale, objectives (Concept Note should highlight how the planned program will contribute towards achieving the project’s Objective 2 **to enhance agency and social cohesion of populations vulnerable to violence by increasing prevention and response measures that address youth drug addiction, substance abuse, and youth involvement in criminal gangs** (sub-objective 2.1) and hence contributes towards the attainment of the overall goal of the project) and briefly explain the outcomes, outputs and activities. Specify the target locations and beneficiaries of the project with justification. Highlight the sustainability strategy of the planned program together with the summarized estimated budget.
- **Organization's profile:** Name of the organization, year of establishment, brief information on history and mission of the organization (please provide details of formal registration under local or national authorities).
- **Relevant experience:** Description of prior work relevant to working with vulnerable groups, geographical working areas (May provide supporting documents if any).
- **Organizational capacity:** Number of staff, staff expertise and physical resources, organization's technical competence, prior history managing donor funds, governance (details of board members) and finance structure, and accomplishments to date. If applicable, please submit most recent audit and or annual reports. Include organigram for the implementation and management of this award. Include organigram for the implementation and management of this award.
- **Details of Focal Point: Contact information of person responsible for Concept notes including email address, postal address, phone number and web address, if available.**

Concept Note Process

Concept notes will enable Transparency Maldives to select local CSO best placed to support and achieve the program objectives set out above. Transparency Maldives will review and reach out to selected CSOs. Those CSOs not selected will also be notified via email.

The following tentative schedule will apply to this concept note, but it may change in accordance with Transparency Maldives’ needs or unforeseen circumstances. Changes will be communicated by email to all CSOs.

Timeline

Event	Date
Grant Application stage 1	
Release of Concept Note	2 May 2021
Information session for interested CSOs	10 May 2021
Workshop on Developing Successful Concept Notes	17-18 May 2021

Questions from CSOs due	23 May 2021
Answers from Transparency Maldives - Answers will be provided in the online document here	27 May 2021
Deadline for Concept Note Submission	9 June 2021
Evaluations completed	10-22 June 2021
Successful applicants informed	24 June 2021
Grant Application stage 2 (Applicable to successful applicants only)	
Successful applicants develop the full proposal	25 June -15 July 2021
Final deadline to submit the full proposal	16 July 2021
Evaluation of the full proposal and donor approval	27 July 2021
Award the Grant	1 August 2021

***Concept note is the first stage of the grant application process. Shortlisted listed applicants will be informed and given 3 weeks to develop their concept notes into full project proposals. Successful grant applicants will be informed within 2 weeks after receiving full proposals. DO NOT submit full proposals at this stage.**

Selection Criteria

Evaluation criteria for Concept Note	100%
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<p>Technical</p> <p>The proposed project description in the Concept Note will be assessed based on following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevance of proposed activity to the scope of the Concept Note - Clear strategy proposed to achieve the outputs and outcomes of the proposed project. - An effective approach to engaging key stakeholders - The sustainability of the project - Plan on ensuring gender equality (if applicable) 	50%
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- Proposed use of different/ wide range of advocacy tools types of advocacy tools.	
Management and Staffing Capacity of the applicant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management structure, staffing and resources are adequate for implementation and results oriented management of the project. - The team demonstrates sound experience in successfully implementing similar donor funded projects in the Maldives. - Demonstrated ability to disburse project funds on time - Documents such as audit and annual reports are in order. 	20%
Past Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant has successfully managed and implemented community-based projects in areas relevant to the scope of Concept Note. 	15%
Cost Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Cost, flexibility and transparency of applicant's financial application. 	15%

Deadline

Deadline for the submission of EOIs is 4pm on 10 June 2021. EOIs should be emailed to: grantsmaldives@transparency.mv copied to shaziya@transparency.mv

Questions for clarification can also be forwarded to grantsmaldives@transparency.mv before 4pm, 25 May 2021.