EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Regional Program-Youth and Civil Society

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

Young people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region want to be active and influential members of a society that rarely includes them. 83 million adolescents live in MENA. Together with the MENA's older cohort of youth, they constitute a large and diverse demographic of young people making MENA one of the most youthful populations in the world. Around 35 per cent of the population is between 10 and 24 years old, and 60 per cent is below the age of 30. The numbers of adolescents and youth in MENA are projected to reach 152 million in 2030 and 158 million in 2050.

Young people in MENA are standing at the crossroads of major changes in their countries. Supporting young people, especially the most marginalized, is vital. Legal frameworks, institutions and policies, as well as the wider society, have to adjust in order to give young people a greater voice in shaping better policy outcomes and society at large. We can look at young people as a challenge, a burden or a threat or we can look at them as an asset, unlocked potential and opportunities for growth and prosperity. This 4-year long program (2018-2021) funded by DANIDA recognizes young people’s agency and committed to support them removing the systematic barriers to their meaningful participation.

Through this regional program, Save the Children is committed to reaching out to the most marginalized groups of young people and to partner with the hard to reach in order to amplify their voices, to protect and support their participation in influencing key policies that affect their lives.

The overall Objective of the program is: ***Young People are listened to and have equitable choices in a protective environment realized through strengthened civil society actors and regional platforms.***

**Some Key Activities of the program**:

* Mapping youth-led initiatives/ platforms;
* Selecting 1-2 youth-focused civil society organizations that we will support and partner with;
* Selecting 1-2 youth-led initiatives/ platforms;
* Capacity assessments of the new partners;
* Strengthening the capacities of youth-led and youth-focused groups (including CSOs) on core approaches, on research methodologies and evidence based advocacy as well as issues that will be identified in the assessment;
* Supporting youth-led initiatives/ platforms by providing small grants to support their programming and advocacy initiatives (directly by SCI or through youth-focused civil society organizations);
* Supporting a regional advocacy strategy with the participation of young people, and in line with other No Lost Generation regional strategies,
* Support a regional youth advisory group, and regular representation of young people in existing regional platforms;
* Participatory, youth-led research to inform programming and advocacy;
* Support cross-learning between countries.

**PURPOSE OF THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:**

The purpose of this expression of interest is to identify local civil society organizations to partner with Save the Children to support young people and amplify their voices. The proposed regional program will be implemented in Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen. Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

The program will empower and support young people as rights-holders, so that they are better equipped to claim their rights and to influence issues that might affect their lives.

The scope of the program will consider the following **outcomes:**

1. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are strengthened to support young people;
2. Robust youth-led evidence on young people’s rights is generated to inform advocacy and programming;
3. Voices of young people are better represented in regional platforms in a protective environment.

**SELECTION PROCESS:**

Application submission will go through the following process:

* Interested civil society organizations submit an application using the template below by the deadline submission date indicated below.
* Save the Children will conduct a review of all applications, applications will be scored and selected based on the evaluation criteria below.
* Save the Children will work with selected partners to assess their needs and capacities to develop detailed project activities within the overall program framework.
* Save the children will sign an agreement to support and partner with the selected civil society organizations.

Evaluation Criteria

* The capacity of the organization to reach out to the most vulnerable and excluded young people;
* The activities/programs cited by the organization are meaningful and innovative youth programs;
* The organization has a gender perspective/balance reflected in their staff, beneficiaries and activities;
* The organization implements activities based on needs identified through an assessment or external resources;
* The organization applying demonstrate technical capacity and knowledge in working with and for young people;
* Each question in the application form will be scored between 0-5, please ensure each question is answered.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Q&A:

Questions regarding the clarification of requirements should be submitted by email to partnership-tco@savethechildren.org.

Questions can be submitted in either English or Turkish.

Submission Process: Applications are due **14th September 2018, Friday at 23.59 PM.** Applications must be submitted in soft copy to the following email partnership-tco@savethechildren.org. Applications can be submitted in either English or Turkish.

**APPLICATION FORM:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of organization** : |  | **Project Contact Person****:** |  |
| **Positionه:** |  |
| **Organization Address/:** |  | **Email:** |  |
| **Phone/:** |  |
| **Date Established**: |  | **Are you registered?** **(Yes/No)** **If yes, where?:** |  |
| **Which of the outcome (s) listed above would your organization support?** |
| **Why would you focus on these outcome (s) specifically?**  |
| **What are the organization’s needs to address these outcome(s)?**  |
| **Please list some activities that your organization are implementing to support young people?**  |
| **In Which location(s) the organization is implementing these activities?**  |
| **What are some of the identified needs of young people in the locations when you are implementing (based on internal or external sources)?**  |
| **Please describe which youth are you targeting and why has this particular group been selected?** |
| **What are the challenges that your organization is facing in reaching out to young people**؟  |
| **With whom do you work with across civil society, local authorities, national authorities, within community structures and institutions?**  |
| **Why is your organization best placed to work to address these outcomes for young people?**  |
| **How do you ensure gender equality in your programming and in your organization?** |
| **What is your experience in applying conflict-sensitive approaches in your programming?**؟ |
| **What are your strategies to insure that the most vulnerable and marginalized young people are included in your programming?** ؟  |
| **What are your strategies to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of young people are reflected in the design, monitoring and evaluation of your programmes?** |
| **What are some of the capacity gaps and needs in your organization that may be required to strengthen in order to implement quality interventions targeting young people?**؟ |

**Please attach an organization profile with your application.**