



NEELAN TIRUCHELVAM TRUST

CALL FOR PROPOSALS “EMPOWERING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES” CALL NO: NTT/NOV/2017/02

The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust is pleased to announce it is currently accepting project proposals to be supported under its November 2017 funding cycle “**Empowering Vulnerable Communities**”– Call No: **NTT/NOV/2017/02**

Background

The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT) is a Sri Lankan philanthropic organisation that supports social justice, peace and reconciliation initiatives. It was established in 2001 after the assassination of Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam - a Sri Lankan legislator, constitutional scholar, peacemaker and institution builder, who actively worked to build peace through non-violent means. Since its founding, the Trust has striven to extend and continue his legacy by contributing towards facilitating upholding human rights, transparency and accountability, and promoting pluralism, diversity and ethnic harmony. With this aim, NTT provides grants and strengthens the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) island wide. NTT also has a long standing reputation as a supporter of the arts and culture as a conduit for peace building.

Objectives of the Call for Proposals

This Call for Proposals specifically seeks to strengthen civil society and community efforts to develop individually and collectively; to empower citizens participation in governance and policy issues and enable effective engagement with stakeholders, particularly government, at local, regional and national levels, to ensure that its policies and programmes effectively responds to community needs.

Types of Projects

Where possible, applicants are encouraged to propose intersectional approaches to ensure impact across the below programme areas. Types of projects/activities that may be supported include, **but are not restricted to:**

Programme area 1: Inclusive Economies

- a) Promoting socio-economic empowerment in post war rebuilding and rehabilitation initiatives;
- b) supporting documentation, discourse, advocacy, and research on rights – or its denial -over economic resources, including land;
- c) supporting inclusive and accessible markets, value and supply chains for local/marginalised communities and expanding economic opportunities for local/marginalised communities;
- d) Evaluation of current policies, methodologies and programmes in the areas of livelihood support, vocational training, micro-finance;
- e) Strengthening CSOs engaged in economic empowerment of communities.

Programme area 2: Gender mainstreaming

- a) Addressing structural and systemic factors that impede equal opportunities for women; supporting initiatives that advocate integrating the gender perspective to the content of different policies and addressing issues of participation related to post war rehabilitation;
- b) Strengthening service provision, advocacy, discourse and redress systems addressing Gender based violence;
- c) Supporting discourse, advocacy, and research on women's rights to employment, land, resources etc aimed at supporting decision making and practical measures that improves the lives of communities;
- d) Providing opportunities to women to strengthen leadership and participation in community and public life.

Programme area 3: Strengthening the rights of marginalized communities

- a) Supporting academic and policy discourse, advocacy, and research that critiques dominant approaches to macro-micro economic policies with a view to promoting equality, equity and social justice;
- b) Establishing and strengthening systems that enable identifying and documenting violations of right abuses and narratives of communities;
- c) Supporting marginalized/vulnerable communities to have better access to legal aid support and services including psychosocial counselling;
- d) Promoting human rights and justice, freedom of expression, right to information, rights of migrant workers, plantation workers and families and other marginalized/vulnerable communities in both urban and rural areas;
- e) Securing disability rights - access to information and facilities, awareness of their rights, livelihoods training and assistance for persons with disabilities (PWD);
- f) Providing opportunities to youth to strengthen leadership and participation in community and public life.

Programme area 4: Strengthening CSOs ability to address current and emerging issues

- a) Supporting effective engagement of CSOs or individual activists (especially women activists) with the community by providing exposure to different delivery mechanisms (public discourse, research, training and networking, for example);
- b) Strengthening organisations working on gender, ethnicity and religious minorities to better address intersectionality;
- c) Publishing, translating and disseminating materials addressing any of the above programme areas to address needs and gaps (these may be from/to Sinhala, Tamil or English).

Eligibility Criteria

Potential applicants are invited to submit proposals that are in line with the above mentioned thematic programme areas. Projects may be implemented in any part of Sri Lanka, without geographical constraints. Sub-granting is not allowed; applicants must clearly demonstrate that the proposed activities will be implemented by them and not subcontracted or sub-granted to a third party (exceptions would be resource persons, consultants or third party specialists who will need to be subcontracted for certain activities).

Only one application per organisation will be entertained (applying alone or in partnership with one/more other organisations).

- Eligible recipients include duly registered community-based organisations (CBOs), local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and local not-for-profit organisations.
- Grant applications from individuals will not be accepted.
- Organisations without a valid registration will not be considered. (Exceptionally, applications will be considered if the applicant applies in partnership with another facilitating organisation which has a valid registration.) The facilitating organisation must comply with all the eligibility criteria of this Call.
- Applicants who have an existing grant with NTT may apply but the application will only be reviewed upon the satisfactory conclusion of the existing grant.

- NTT will not fund organisations that have not shown good performance implementing previous projects funded by NTT or by any other donors.
- NTT will not consider applications received from government institutions or departments. NTT will not fund organisations which have political affiliations.

Grant Amount & Duration of Projects

The minimum amount that may be requested is LKR 1,000,000 and the maximum cannot exceed LKR 5,000,000. The minimum grant duration is 12 months and the maximum is 24 months. NTT reserves the right to consider requests above the maximum amount and/or grant duration under exceptional circumstances. Applications requesting LKR 3,000,000 – 5,000,000 to initially submit the *Concept Note only*.

Application Guidelines & Deadline for Submission

Applications may be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil or English, and should be typed. Projects should ideally commence in March 2018 or after. Applications should be submitted in the **NTT format ONLY**, applications submitted in any other formats will be rejected.

Applications must be duly completed and include all supporting documents specified in the relevant Application Form. Incomplete applications (without necessary supporting documentation) will not be considered.

All applications should be forwarded to: grant.applications@neelan.org (Please mention *NTT/NOV/2017/02 APPLICANT NAME* in the subject area).

Submissions by post, courier or by hand should be addressed to The Programme Manager, Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT), 16/6A, Ward Place (Mohideen Terrace), Colombo 7. Please mention *NTT/NOV/2017/02 APPLICANT NAME* on the outer cover.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND BOTH EMAIL AND HARD COPY. ONE VERSION IS SUFFICIENT.

Applications up to LKR 3,000,000:

- Deadline for submission: **2 January 2018**, no later than 16:00 hrs local time.
- Application forms are available to download from: <http://neelan.org/download-forms/>
- Any questions relating to this call for proposals should be made in writing via email to grant.applications@neelan.org no later than 5 December 2017. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

Applications between LKR 3,000,000 – 5,000,000: CONCEPT NOTES ONLY

- Deadline for submission: **20 December 2017**, no later than 16:00 hrs local time.
- Application forms are available to download from: <http://neelan.org/download-forms/> (only shortlisted applicants will be requested to submit a full proposal).
- Any questions relating to this call for proposals should be made in writing via email to grant.applications@neelan.org no later than 5 December 2017. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

Please refrain from contacting NTT regarding submitted applications.

Decisions made by the NTT Programme Committee are final.