



## **CALL FOR PROPOSAL**

### **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**

### **CALL NO: NTT/JUL/2020/04**

#### **a. 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 the protection and promotion of 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 supports arts and culture initiatives that serve as a conduit for peace building.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses an overwhelming challenge to many countries across the world but the specific contextual issues in Sri Lanka demand a targeted and specific approach both to address the short- to medium term emerging humanitarian crisis and the deeper, structural issues that are manifesting themselves in this period. In response to the COVID crisis the Government took the decision to minimize infection by introducing a nation-wide shutdown through curfews in mid-March. While this has dramatically curtailed cross infection and human interactions, it has also had a far-reaching impact on daily life, particularly access to essential items and services and employment in particular. The State and other actors have introduced measures to provide relief and basic services, yet on the ground the sheer volume of households and the logistics of supply and demand have compounded the problem. In addition, to the most vulnerable who are generally recognized by the state as deserving of assistance such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, those suffering from chronic diseases, the elderly and those in absolute poverty, others such as daily wage earners, domestic workers and factory workers continue to face challenges to access food, medicine, and services. On the other hand, the public health sector is under tremendous strain and like in other parts of the world, and hence external support to assist strengthen critical health infrastructure, not limited to basic safety equipment for health and essential service workers, medical assistance, supplies for patients, psychosocial services for care workers and patients are just some of the key areas that may have to be supported.

#### **b. Objectives:**

The overall purpose of making interventions crafted to address immediate needs as well as initiatives that seek to mitigate socioeconomic disruptions among communities across Sri Lanka

#### **c. Programme areas and type of activities:**

This call for proposal specifically seeks to address immediate needs, such as humanitarian needs, protecting human rights and democracy, ensure social protection and mitigating the adverse effects of economic breakdown among communities. Within this broader rubric, the grants will focus on addressing specific needs of vulnerable communities, such as women headed households, persons with disabilities, daily wage earners, the plantation workers and those requiring psycho-social support. Recognizing the scale of the crisis, humanitarian assistance may also involve supporting specific initiatives of the public health sector, caregivers and persons in state institutions in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

The following are few examples on the type of activities:

- Ensure food security among vulnerable & marginalized population including female-headed households, daily wage laborers, migrant workers, internally displaced families, children, elderly, asylum seekers, etc.
- Livelihood assistance for poor and vulnerable households.
- Advocacy and efforts aimed at addressing the devastating impact of COVID-19 on groups, such as plantation workers, daily wage earners and Free Trade Zone Workers whose livelihoods have been lost overnight.
- Effective response systems to address gender-based violence.
- Increase psychosocial counseling services in both urban and rural areas, particularly patients.
- Create awareness among the public on health & safety measures, infection prevention & control.

- Support efforts to address critical needs at orphanages and elders' homes.

**d. Available grant amount:**

The maximum grant amount that can be approved for a particular project at a time is limited to Rs.5,000,000.00. Applications submitted with budget over Rs.5,000,000.00 will be considered based on the merits of the proposed activities. Applicants are encouraged to look for co-financing opportunities to ensure sustainability of the project beyond the project period.

If a grant is approved for an organisation, the particular organisation may not be able to apply for another grant until the existing grant is completed.

**e. Who is eligible to apply:**

In order to receive funding from the NTT, the applicant organisation must meet the following criteria:

- Be a civil society organisation legally registered in Sri Lanka
- Has previous experience in implementing similar activities.
- Have the required knowledge and professionals to implement the proposed activities.
- Have a bank account (current) registered to the organisation's name.

Who is ineligible to apply:

- For-profit organisations,
- Individuals,
- Political parties,
- Organisations with political affiliations or governmental bodies
- Existing partner organisations

**f. When to apply:**

Funds will be available from July 1, 2020 and applications will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis. All activities must be completed on or before May 31, 2021.

**g. Application forms:**

Please visit our website ([www.neelan.org](http://www.neelan.org)) to download the grant application formats. Application can be submitted using the appropriate grant application format downloaded from our website in any language (English, Sinhala, Tamil). All grant applications along with the required supporting documents to be forwarded to the following email address [grant.applications@neelan.org](mailto:grant.applications@neelan.org).

Please mention the following title in the email subject 'COVID 19 Emergency Response Fund'.

If you are sending the hard copies of the grant application, please COURIER it to the following address. Please remember to mention '**Emergency Response**' on top of the envelope.

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