

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“Inclusive ‘Built Back Better’: Mental Health Responses to COVID-19”.

I. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased psychological distress both among high-risk and marginalized groups like persons with disabilities. COVID-19 response measures as well as the social/economic impact of the pandemic, have increased the level of mental distress particularly amongst persons with psychosocial disabilities, who are experiencing a higher level of social isolation and exclusion.

Despite concerted global efforts to address the emerging health challenges from the impact of Covid19 and response measures, the issue of investing in comprehensive mental health services that are in line with the UN CRPD and other international human rights standards to address mental health has not been substantively addressed either at policy, programmatic or budgetary levels. It is also essential that these challenges are duly considered when “building back better” to ensure the mental health and the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities are fulfilled.

With support of the Open Society Foundation, the Pan African Network of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANPPD) seeks to raise awareness on the impact of COVID-19 on persons with psychosocial disabilities in Africa, identifying the main barriers encountered to the enjoyment of their right to mental health and full inclusion in their communities, as well as carrying out advocacy to ensure that all health responses to COVID-19, including access to diagnostics and vaccines, are delivered following a human rights-based approach, that respects autonomy and dignity of the persons, while at the same time recognizing psychosocial support

II. OVERVIEW

The PANPPD **Inclusive ‘Built Back Better’: Mental Health Responses to COVID-19** Request for Proposals (RFP) aims to support national/local advocacy campaigns from 6 PANPPD members (applications from Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Togo and Ghana are particularly welcomed) to raise awareness on the social and economic challenges precipitated by the Covid-19 pandemic for persons with psychosocial disabilities and to advocate for responses to COVID-19 and for “building back better” policies and programs that are inclusive, human rights- and community based, and that include psychosocial support and other alternatives to the medical model as a key component.

These campaign strategies may be related to:

- Advocate for ways to ensure the right to health, employment, and education of persons with psychosocial disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Advocate for the development of effective mechanisms to support persons with psychosocial disabilities who have fallen behind Covid-19 disruption;
- Advocate for improving health care delivery systems for individuals who are unsheltered during the pandemic;
- Raise awareness, including through social media, on preventative health behaviors;
- Advocate for the need to adequate budget allocation to rebuild social and health system in an inclusive manner;
- Raise stakeholders' attention to best practices on alternatives to bio-medical interventions, particularly in the COVID-19 context.

This list is not exhaustive: any proposal that explores potential advocacy strategies towards relevant healthcare, disaster management and emergency responses, that support the development of inclusive recovery response plans of low-income communities in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and contributes to PANPPD mission of ensuring that the existing support and exclusion gaps are addressed are welcome.

III. TYPES OF PROPOSALS:

The award period will be 5 months. A full project proposal is one where applicants:

- Can propose a clear and well-developed national/local strategy addressing the impact of COVID-19 on persons with psychosocial disabilities and advocating for inclusive building back better measures;
- Can indicate concrete deliverables and outcomes of interest.

Guidelines for budget proposal:

- PANPPD cannot support purchases of hardware and equipment such as computers, cameras, etc.;
- PANPPD cannot support air travel and hotel as of now, and organizations must plan for national/local level activities, preferably in and nearby their hometown;
- PANPPD supports Covid-19 national level activities with a specific focus on advocacy, proposal must clearly specific what activities at the national/local level.

IV. APPLICATIONS

a) Eligibility

- Organizations from PANPPD Network are eligible to participate in this call.

Please make sure that the following points are covered:

- **Aim to focus on national/local advocacy, peer support and inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities.** PANPPD is looking for a specific focus on national/local advocacy, focusing on work on the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities in COVID-19 responses and recovery plans. In this manner, the small grants should include measures that incorporate advocacy with multiple stakeholders, use of the Bali Declaration, dissemination and translations of advocacy materials (including UN reports, Bali Declaration), mobilising members and any work that specifically includes the participation and make audible the voices of persons with psychosocial disabilities.
- **Clarity on the lockdown conditions in the country.** With most countries under a lockdown to stop the spread of Covid-19, member organisations must also inform PANPPD what the conditions of the lockdown in their specific country are including the ability to travel locally for fieldwork, the permits needed to step out of their homes, curfew limitations that might hamper the plans made, relationship status with the local governments and more.
- **Documentation, monitoring and record keeping.** Member organisations applying for the grant must have a system in place to document and monitor the work that is being done. The key areas include keeping track of the number of events and participants, number of beneficiaries, outcomes of events and any other relevant details. PANPPD expect to receive one narrative report covering the implementation period, outlining outcomes and deliverables achieved - in case the organisation requires support in this step, they may consult PANPPD and IDA. For financial reporting, documentation trail of all expenses should be preserved carefully and submitted at the end of the project period (all supporting, bills, invoices, etc. for validating each and every expenditure).

b) Budget

- Maximum funding for a proposal is USD 4,500.

Guidelines for budget proposal:

- PANPPD cannot support purchases of hardware and equipment such as computers, cameras, etc.

- PANPPD cannot support air travel and hotel as of now, and organisations must plan for national/local level activities, preferably in and nearby their hometown.
- PANPPD supports Covid-19 national/local level activities with a specific focus on advocacy, proposal must clearly specify the activities.
- Applicants must keep in mind the timeframe of 5 months, the budget of 4500 USD and advocacy that can be realistically achieved in this time.

V. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Checklist of documents that must be submitted:

1. Registration and Statutes

The organization will have to provide:

- Registration certificate / permission of license to operate as a DPO/NGO. Income tax number/PAN card copy of the grant receiver, any unique identification number of the DPO provided by the government;
- Bank account details including details for wire transfers;
- Office address, contact details, email;
- List of Board Members, their contact details, and dates of their last 3 meetings.

2. Internal Financial Control Mechanisms

The organization will have to provide:

- The most recent annual financial statements signed by the Treasurer/President;
- Name, designation, address, contact details of focus person for the project from the organisation.

3. Disbursement

- The disbursement of funds will be done in 3 tranches – one at the beginning of the project phase (40%) and the other in the middle of the project phase (40%). The remaining (20%) of the grant will be retained, and disbursed, when the final report is submitted along with bills, etc.;
- If there is a disbursement request in the interim period, the organization will be liable to provide a reason for the request and the amount requested.

4. Financial Reports/documents required

Financial reports will include the following at the time of final reporting:

- Financial statement should build on the budget approved with the contract and showing the expenses for the period reported;
- Variances above +/- 10% should be explained. Major variances should have been discussed on the job with the PANPPD authorized person;
- Documentation trail of all expenses should be preserved carefully and submitted at the end of the project period (all supporting bills, invoices, etc. for validating each expenditure);
- Financial statements should be signed by the Partner financial controller/accountant and by the Executive Director / Program Director;
- Copy of workshop/training/event attendance lists.

5. Program documentation

- Present project information through a mid-term report, following through with a full narrative report at the end of the grant period.

6. To submit application

Please submit your Technical and Financial Proposal, following the format in the annex, together with a cover letter addressed to Project Coordinator, no later than **31 May 2021** through Teopista (tnannyanzi@gmail.com) with copy to Support Advisor: Action (amos_action@yahoo.co.uk).