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தேசிய மொழிகள் சமத்துவ மேம்பாட்டுச் செயற்றிட்டம்
National Languages Equality Advancement Project

NATIONAL LANGUAGES FUND (NLF)

Rapid Response Fund

for

Language Rights Promotion and Language Learning

Guidelines for Applications

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இலங்கை அரசாங்கம்
Government of Sri Lanka

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கனேடிய அரசாங்கத்தினால் அனுசரணை வழங்கப்பெறும் இருதரப்பு செயற்றிட்டம்
A bilateral project supported by the Government of Canada

Canada

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கனேடிய அரசாங்கம்
Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

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NATIONAL LANGUAGES FUND (NLF)

**Request for Applications
for
Language Rights Promotion and Language Learning
under
Rapid Response Fund (RRF)**

Guidelines for Applications

1. Background

The Government of Canada has a long-standing history of supporting Sri Lanka towards its wellbeing and development through the provision of development assistance for various aspects. The support for language rights related issues is one of the key forms of technical assistance and support provided over decades to ensure the successful implementation of the Official Languages Policy (OLP) and to support various initiatives for effective civil society partnerships for its programs and activities.

The National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP), implemented by Alinea International, is a bilateral project between the Governments of Canada and Sri Lanka designed to respond to Sri Lanka's need for strengthening implementation of the Sri Lankan Official Languages Policy (OLP). The Project is implemented with the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL), specifically the Ministry of Public Administration (formally the Ministry of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs (The Ministry) and its affiliated institutions:

- Department of Official Languages (DOL)
- Official Languages Commission (OLC)
- National Institute of Language Education and Training (NILET)

The Official Languages Policy (OLP) of Sri Lanka is enshrined in the 1978 Constitution paving the way for one of the most significant changes related to the status of the Tamil Language in the country. The 13th Amendment (1987) to the Constitution made the Tamil Language an official language and recognized the English Language as a link language. The 16th Amendment (1988) to the Constitution made additional provisions supporting the use of the National and Official Languages; Sinhala and Tamil.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the National Languages Fund (NLF)

The Primary purpose of the fund is to foster acceptance by Sri Lankan men, women and youth of the culturally diverse and bilingual nature of their country and to promote language rights towards reconciliation.

The NLF has two core objectives:

*To increase capacity of local civil society organizations to **promote language rights towards national integration and reconciliation**.* In this respect, NLEAP will fund Sri Lankan CSOs and organizations to:

- Promote language rights, in the interest of strengthening national integration and reconciliation;
- Increase awareness of language rights, while fostering engagement in and support of implementation of the OLP;
- Establish forums/conferences/workshops to facilitate collaboration amongst CSOs and respective public institutions through consultations while fostering diversity and inclusion in discussions on issues related to language rights;
- Better inform organizations of complaints procedures relative to OLP compliance of public institutions.

*To increase capacity of local civil society organizations to **assist citizens (women and men) to communicate in official languages**.* This objective will be realized through grants provided to CSOs demonstrating a strong methodology for working with Co-existence Societies to achieve the following results:

- Operate more efficiently, effectively and inclusively through improved networking and governance towards greater awareness and promotion of the official languages policy;
- Develop tools and resources to improve internal capacity for offering second language training;
- Increase internal capacity to train and support the general public including women and youth in second language learning;
- Refine approach for delivery of second language training to the general public including women and youth.

3. Funding to be provided by NLEAP under RRF

The Rapid Response Fund (RRF) under the National Languages Fund was created to respond to interesting and worthy initiatives consistent with the NLF Strategy. Accordingly, the RRF is a mechanism to offer flexibility at the discretion of the program in order to respond to and capitalize on timely, small scale initiatives that may arise. The initiative shall meet the objectives as articulated in Section 2 and the application shall demonstrate its timely importance and its results towards the objectives.

NLEAP will provide financial support to eligible civil societies and other organizations that demonstrate the capacity to manage the grant or the funding disbursed under RRF. These organizations will need to demonstrate the timely need, urgency, and relevance of the initiative in a way the promotes the objectives and provides value for money. NLEAP is prepared to fund initiatives up to CAD \$10,000.

Ineligible costs under the Project include, but are not limited to, entertainment expenses, costs incurred before the effective date of the Agreements, gifts, travel insurance, carrying charges, membership fees, patents, immunization, interest expenses, costs related to non-approved employees and family members and costs incurred by the organization that are not directly attributed to the initiative.

3.1 Rules and Procedures for the Rapid Response Fund

Eligibility for receiving funding will be established based on three criteria: (1) eligibility of the organization; (2) relevance of the initiative submitted; (3) description of eligible costs.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION

No	Types	Eligibility Criteria to apply for NLF
01	Non-Governmental Organizations ¹ (NGOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a duly registered organization and a legal person before the laws of Sri Lanka, be a non-profit or charitable organization or other organization • Has been in operation for a minimum of 3 years • Has demonstrated capacity in project/program management • Has sound credentials in financial management and shall demonstrate good present audited financial statements for the organization • Has a recognized track record of effective programming including projects, programs, studies and research related to language rights, language learning, language services, conflict mediation, national integration and reconciliation • Has experience in implementing programming that is gender sensitive and promotes gender equality particularly rights of the women and girls • Can provide an in-kind and/or financial contribution to the proposed initiative
02	Professional Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a duly registered or recognized organization and a legal person before the laws of Sri Lanka, be a non-profit or charitable organization or other organization • Has been in operation for a minimum of 3 years • Has demonstrated capacity in project/program management • Has sound credentials in financial management and shall demonstrate good present audited financial statements for the organization • Has a recognized track record of effective programming including projects, programs, studies and research related to language rights, language learning, language services, conflict mediation, national integration and reconciliation • Has experience in implementing programming that is gender sensitive and promotes gender equality particularly rights of the women and girls • Can provide an in-kind and/or financial contribution to the proposed initiative
03	Community Based Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a duly registered organization and be a non-profit or charitable organization or other organization • Has been in operation for a minimum of 2 years • Has demonstrated capacity in implementing project/program. • Has fulfilled minimum credentials in financial management and demonstrates strong audited financial statements • Has experience in effective programming including projects, programs, studies and research related to language rights, language learning, language services, conflict mediation, national integration and reconciliation • Favourable if organization can demonstrate experience in implementing programming that is gender sensitive and promotes gender equality particularly rights of the women and girls. If not, demonstrates willingness to incorporate such expertise into a project proposal • Has available resources to provide an in-kind and/or financial contribution to the proposed initiative
04	Academic/Research Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a duly registered or recognized by Universities or Campuses and registered as a Research Institutions and be a non-profit or charitable organization or other organization • Has been in operation for a minimum of 2 years • Has demonstrated capacity in project/program management • Has sound credentials in financial management and shall demonstrate strong audited financial statements

¹ Registered under the Voluntary Social Service Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980 (as amended) or registered as Guarantee Limited under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 or by an Act of Parliament.

No	Types	Eligibility Criteria to apply for NLF
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a recognized track record of effective programming including projects, programs, studies and research related to language rights, language learning, language services, conflict mediation, national integration and reconciliation • Favourable if organization can demonstrate experience in implementing programming that is gender sensitive and promotes gender equality particularly rights of the women and girls. If not, demonstrates willingness to incorporate such expertise into a project proposal • Has available resources to provide an in-kind and/or financial contribution to the proposed initiative

3.2 Application Procedures

Eligible organizations that are interested in receiving funding for an OLP initiative are invited to submit an Application to NLEAP. The Application must be prepared in line with the objective(s) outlined in Section 2 and in accordance with the Application Template and Budget Template (Annex IA). The templates can be downloaded from our project website at www.nleap.lk and submitted to the attention of the Project Deputy Director at nlf@nleap.lk in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Please ensure that the Application is prepared according to the following criteria:

Language	Font	Size	Space
Sinhala	FMBindumathi	10	Single
Tamil	Baamini	10	Single
English	Calibri	10	Single

All Applications are evaluated by the National Languages Fund Evaluation Committee based on the Evaluation Grid provided (Annex IB).

4. Evaluation Process

Applications will be first assessed on the basic eligibility criteria stated above in Section 3.1 and administrative checks on the accuracy of the Application. Qualified applications will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee (EC). The EC assesses applications based on an Evaluation Grid (Annex IB) and submits the evaluation results to the Project Approval Committee (PAC). Applicants will be notified if their Application was accepted or not.

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