



Request for Applications

Introduction

More than half of the affected Syrian population in Lebanon, are under 18 years of age. Due to the protracted crisis, caregivers have depleted their resources and are increasingly relying on their children as their only resource to earn income. With the deterioration of the overall economic situation in the country, parents are resorting to negative coping strategies such as child labor, child marriage and dropping children out of school.

The economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation of the vulnerable families, hindered their access to services and resources and increased their reliance and resort to negative coping mechanisms such as engaging children in worst forms of labor and child marriages. According to UNICEF, 1.2 million school-aged children have been affected by schools' closure, with many of them facing difficulties (connectivity, equipment...) to access e-learning.

For most children, home represents a source of safety and security. For others, the opposite is tragically the case. During lockdown, the reports on domestic violence against children has increased. Many caregivers disclosed using a violence to discipline children as the only way to relieve stress and to control the behavior of their children while being locked together in the house for days and weeks.

On the other hand, working children are continuing to be exposed to physical and sexual abuse by the employers and other strangers in their community.

The IRC's CP Program in Lebanon

Under the CP program, the IRC aims at increasing vulnerable and at risk children's access to quality, specialized individual and group-level protection assistance. This is done through the provision of life saving services such as case management, focused psycho-social support and risk mitigation activities for children survivors or at risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect including out of school and working children. In addition, caregivers are targeted with parenting sessions.

The IRC and local partners provide these services in different modalities remotely and through Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS) and mobile spaces while abiding by COVID-19 prevention and safety measures.

Objectives of the Request for Application (RFA)

IRC aims at establishing partnerships with child protection local organizations who are operating in North of Lebanon and North of Beqaa. The local organizations would be supported to scale up or adapt their capacities to provide focused PSS and risk mitigation activities for vulnerable and at-risk children aged 6 to 17 years old from refugee, host and other (stateless, etc.) communities.

The selected partner(s), with the support of the IRC, will establish a community based mechanism to reach the most vulnerable, isolated and hard-to-reach children in the communities including children with disabilities, children engaged in worst forms of child labor and children survivors of physical and sexual abuse.



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With the technical support from the IRC, the selected partner(s) will work towards achieving the following outcomes:

- A. Vulnerable and at high-risk children, including working children are provided with age-appropriate focused and non-focused psychosocial support services.

Under this outcome, the selected partner will need to identify children at high risk -including working children who shows signs of toxic stress and who require more specialized, structured and targeted support to manage, anger, sadness, and identify positive coping skills- and implement focused PSS activities using IRC’s specialized curriculum of focused PSS sessions “Now I’m stronger” FACE or any curriculum that the selected agency is using for such activity.

The FPSS session should be tailor-made for children exposed to harm or at high risk of harm in North and Beqaa and grounded in mindfulness exercises which support children to detach from their busy environment and focus on their internal self and peace. The partners facilitators should safely address the disclosures from children and refer children to case management and other specialized services as needed.

- B. Vulnerable and at high-risk children are provided with information specifically focused on risk mitigation and harm reduction.

IRC’s cooperating partner will deliver tailored awareness sessions targeting vulnerable and at high-risk children including working children. The risk mitigation sessions should be designed to address the different CP risks and vulnerabilities in the communities and increasing children awareness on safety and risk mitigation measures.

The Sessions should facilitate referrals to the case management services by empowering children with tools and knowledge to avoid and address similar harmful situations.

- C. Caregivers of vulnerable and at high-risk children are provided with Parenting Sessions on violence reduction and the promotion of positive parenting.

IRC’s cooperating partner will involve caregivers of children participating in FPSS and risk mitigation activities and provide them with structured parenting skills sessions in order to equip them with the necessary knowledge to know how their children are developing; positive parent-child interaction techniques; stress responses and management strategies; and non-violent discipline practices.

	Target for North Beqaa	Target for Akkar
Outcome A	130 children	130 children
Outcome B	250 children	250 children
Outcome C	130 caregivers	130 caregivers

Eligible Applicants

IRC is committed to principles of equality, impartiality and transparency, which guides its selection process in identifying partners sharing the same principles. IRC will accept applications from community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations or foundations with an existing operational presence in North of Beqaa and North of Lebanon



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delivering humanitarian assistance and implementing child protection programs. The applicants need to be legally registered in Lebanon to be eligible to apply.

The following organizations/groups are not eligible to participate in this call:

- Private businesses, for-profit entities or non-state actors;
- International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs);

Project Locations

Under this Request for Applications (RFA), IRC will support projects implemented in: North of Lebanon [Akkar Mhamra, Sahel Mqayteh (Kfarmelke, Rmoul & Tal Hayat), Sahel Meniara and Tal Abbas, Semmaquieh] and North of Beqaa (Mashariee el Qaa, Hermel and West Baalbek). Potential partner organizations may submit only one application (either for 1 location (governorate) or both locations).

Project Duration

IRC anticipates that any sub-grant issued under this invitation may have a start date of 1 June 2021. Organizations may apply up to a maximum of 12 months.

Project Cost

IRC anticipates providing two sub-grants (one in each location (governorate) with a maximum amount of 160,000 USD per 1 sub-grant under this RFA. However, IRC may choose to make less or more awards, and may choose to make awards that are lower than or higher than this amount. Noting that the evaluation criteria will take into consideration the best use of resources. The budget should include rent of the centers, running cost, staff and all other activities cost. Indirect project costs will not be accepted. All budgets exceeding this threshold will not be considered.

Proposal Package:

Each application must include the following documents:

- Proposal Narrative
- Budget with Budget Notes
- Registration documents; Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Finance Documents if applicable
- Organizational organogram, including departments if available and Technical capacities of key staff working on the project
- Internal Audit report if applicable
- External Audit report if applicable
- CP policy, PSEA policy and Code of Conduct.

Formats for the Proposal Narrative, Budget, and Budget Notes are included with this package. Please comply with those formats, and complete all sections of each document. IRC may not consider incomplete applications, at its discretion. All applications must be in English.



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Questions

Questions on this Request for Application are due by **13 April 2021** at the latest to IRC's Partnerships Unit: Lb.Rfairc@rescue.org. IRC will respond to all questions received within 2 working days. Questions sent to any other IRC staff, or asked verbally to any IRC staff, will not be answered.

Submission

Please submit your application electronically to IRC's Partnerships Unit: Lb.Rfairc@rescue.org with the subject line "Child Protection Partner RFA". You do not need to submit hard copies. **Please submit your application by 18 April 2021 at 5:00 pm.** IRC may not consider any application submitted after that date and time.

IRC feedback - Once the deadline for the Request for Applications (RFA) has passed, the IRC will evaluate the different applications to identify the organization for which a potential collaboration is most relevant. Feedback will be sent to all the applicants in a maximum of one month after the closure of RFA.

Main Scoring Criteria

- Strong and established community-based outreach mechanisms;
- Experience in implementing and monitoring child protection PSS, Focused PSS, recreational and awareness programs with children and caregivers;
- Proven ability to mobilize local communities and organize events in areas of implementation;
- Experience with establishing and mobilizing safe and child friendly spaces.
- Geographical experience working in selected areas with extensive knowledge of context and strong relations with key stakeholders;
- Team capacity with relevant experience and qualifications in child protection and PSS;
- Efficient and effective use of resources.

What happens next?

Your application will be considered by a review panel with a minimum of three people and a maximum of five people, including technical and financial experts, all staff from IRC. Following a review of applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria and available funding, the IRC may offer partial or full funding for one or more of the applicants.

IRC will then negotiate the project activities and the budget with the provisionally selected partners to finalize the proposal. The Partner will then be selected, which will be followed by a thorough partner and project capacity assessment exercise. Finally, the selected partner will sign a Partnership Agreement with the IRC, enabling them to receive funding for project activities in accordance with the final proposal and budget. Funding is not guaranteed until the Partnership Agreement is signed. The IRC reserves the right to fund any or none of the submitted applications.