



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2011

Section I. INTRODUCTION

The **Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund** initiative aims at reducing the prevalence of violence against children in low- and middle-income countries by funding **evaluations** of violence prevention and child protection programmes. These evaluations will contribute to build a solid evidence base that will be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of violence prevention and child protection programmes and policies.

The rationale for the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge can be found in the paucity of quality evaluations and research in the field of violence against children in developing countries. Most programmes are based on assumptions derived from studies conducted in developed countries or on the experience of individual child protection staff who lack access to a body of evidence-based good practices. The need for better data and research on the issue of violence against children was highlighted in the 2002 WHO World Report on Violence and Health and in the 2006 United Nations Study on Violence Against Children. Recently, this has been further reiterated in the latest annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children (February 2011) and is one of the priority areas identified by the interagency Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG).

The Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund is a pooled funding initiative of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Oak Foundation and UBS Optimus Foundation. The Fund is being managed by the Network of European Foundations (NEF) based in Brussels and is open to other Foundations sharing common concerns about violence and children in low-income settings. The initiative will cover the period 2011-2014. The present call for proposals is the first call issued by the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund. Subsequent rounds of call for proposals are anticipated over the four years with possible different thematic focus.

VISION: a world where children grow up and develop in a protective and caring environment free from all forms of violence and exploitation.

MISSION: to generate and disseminate solid evidence on violence prevention and child protection interventions in low- and middle-income countries in order to improve the effectiveness of policies and programmes and to contribute to the fulfillment of the child's right to protection from all forms of violence.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To generate a more rigorous evidence base in the field of violence prevention and child protection through a set of robust evaluations in low- and middle-income countries;
2. To enhance the capacity of organizations working in the field of child protection and violence prevention in low- and middle-income countries to recognize the potential of rigorous evaluations and to implement, commission and use them appropriately;

3. To disseminate the evidence generated from evaluation research to relevant stakeholders engaged in child protection and violence prevention to inform and improve programming and policy making.

Section II. WHAT WILL BE FUNDED

This, the first call for proposals by the Evaluation Challenge Fund, will fund **EVALUATIONS**¹ of violence prevention interventions in low- and middle-income countries addressing the issue of violence against children in family settings.

Evaluations are expected to be rigorous in terms of social science methodology in order to generate a robust evidence base that can inform programming and policy making. In order to ensure the credibility of findings, it is important to note that **ONLY external independent evaluations** – i.e. evaluations conducted by a credible and qualified individual, company or institution that is not part of the organization(s) implementing the intervention to be evaluated – will be funded.

The evaluator(s)/evaluating organization(s) and the organization(s) implementing the intervention to be evaluated, however, are expected to work in close collaboration during the evaluation exercise. The implementers will offer to the evaluators their knowledge of the local context, their programmatic experience, access to data, established relationships with communities and local stakeholders, as well as the means to translate the evidence into better programming. The evaluators will contribute with their research capacity and their knowledge of evaluation methodologies and will allow the implementers to learn about the range of methodologies available and to develop an appreciation of how to access, interpret and use the evidence to improve programmes and support policy changes. For this reason, the Fund strongly encourages collaborative **partnerships** between the two parties. Such partnerships may lead to longer-term collaborations also beyond the duration of the grant.

- **Thematic scope/focus area**

The **focus area** prioritized for the present call for proposal is the following:

PREVENTIVE strategies to reduce VIOLENCE (including physical, emotional and/or sexual violence) occurring in FAMILY SETTINGS and affecting CHILDREN, including - but not limited to - the youngest children (0-8 years).

In line with the definition used by the World Report on Violence and Health (2002) and by the UN Study on Violence (2006), 'violence' is meant as 'intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, by an individual or group, that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in, actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity'. This will comprise all forms of violence, including physical, emotional and/or sexual violence. For the purpose of this call, the exposure of the child as witness to domestic violence is also considered as a form of emotional violence that is likely to cause harm to the child's development.

¹ For the purpose of this call, evaluation means the systematic application of social research methods to assess the changes brought about by a specific intervention or programme in the lives of children with regards to violence prevention.

With a clear focus on prevention, the Fund is interested in a range of interventions that are intended to either directly or indirectly reduce or eliminate the risks of violence within families. This might include a broad range of preventive strategies, for example:

- positively engaging men and boys to enhance their protective roles within families and beyond;
- parenting education; or
- home visiting.

Applicants are invited to highlight in their applications how the intervention they propose to evaluate is linked to the following key elements prioritized for the first call for proposals:

- Direct or indirect prevention component;
- Family setting;
- Focus on children, including - but not limited to – the youngest children (0-8 years);
- Preventing violence, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

- **Geographical scope**

In line with the primary objective of the initiative, which is to address the evidence gap in terms of effectiveness of violence prevention interventions in low- and middle- income settings, the geographical focus of the call for proposal is on any of the **low- and middle- income countries listed in the latest DAC list of ODA recipients**² (Annex 1).

The **geographical scope refers to the country where the intervention to be evaluated is implemented**. Only evaluations of interventions implemented in one of the countries listed in Annex 1 will be eligible.

Evaluations of **regional interventions** covering more than one country can also be accepted, provided that at least one of the countries of implementation is included in the list of eligible countries in Annex 1.

- **Categories of eligible interventions**

Provided that they fall within the thematic and geographical scope indicated above, under this call for proposals, the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund will fund the evaluations of the following categories of interventions:

- 1. Category 1: Large scale interventions designed to prevent violence against children:** it refers to established interventions explicitly designed to prevent violence against children and implemented at large scale.
- 2. Category 2: Small scale innovative interventions designed to prevent violence against children:** it refers to interventions designed to prevent violence with an innovative approach that are implemented at small scale but are believed to have the potential for being scaled-up.
- 3. Category 3: Specific components of interventions that, although not directly designed to prevent violence against children, have an impact in terms of violence prevention:** it refers

² The DAC (Development Assistance Committee) List of ODA (Official Development Assistance) Recipients shows all countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance. These consist of all low and middle income countries, except G8 members, EU members, and countries with a firm date for entry into the EU. This list was approved in August 2009 and is subject to review every three years. More information at the following link: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.

to interventions that were not specifically designed to prevent violence against children, but that are nonetheless expected to have an impact in terms of reducing such risks. In this case, the applicant should explain how the intervention is expected to achieve the violence prevention outcome(s) with regards to children and how this specific component will be evaluated. Examples of interventions that would fall under this category are:

- housing programmes that, by improving the living conditions of the family, are believed to indirectly reduce the risk of violence within the family;
- cash-transfer programmes that, by improving the economic conditions of the family, are expected to indirectly prevent violence in family settings; or
- programmes addressing intimate partner violence that, by so doing, are believed to reduce the risk of violence against children in the family.

Under this category, the Fund might also consider funding an additional component/research question of an ongoing/already planned evaluation, provided that the specific component falls under the thematic focus of the present call for proposals.

Section III. WHO CAN APPLY

The Children and Violence and Evaluation Challenge Fund believes in the need to combine promising prevention interventions with a strong methodological approach to evaluation in order to ensure the quality of the findings and their utilization to improve programming and policy making. To this end, the teaming up of practitioners and independent evaluators/researchers is believed to be critical for the success of the evaluation.

The following organizations are eligible to apply for the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge grant programme as main applicant:

- **Non-governmental and/or non-profit organizations**, both local and international;
- **Research institutes and/or universities**, both local and foreign.

Partnerships among the above stated categories are encouraged.

Individuals are not eligible to apply. They can, however, be identified as external evaluators or consultants by organizations that are eligible to apply.

In case the evaluating organization (be it the main applicant or partner) or individual identified as evaluator(s) in the application is not deemed to have adequate capacity to ensure robust evaluation findings, the Fund reserves the right to negotiate and advise the applicant(s) on a case-by-case basis on the possibility of receiving external technical assistance or considering additional and/or alternative partners.

The Fund is also open to wider partnerships that include **multilateral organizations** (including the United Nations) and **governments**, provided that the main applicant – who will be the recipient of the funds - falls within the two categories listed above. In these cases, we anticipate that these partners are contributing technical assistance, co-funding or in-kind contributions, to the intervention being evaluated or to the evaluation.

Applications from **for-profit organizations** can be considered on an exceptional basis. In such cases, for-profit organizations can apply as main applicant and receive funds.

Applicants will be subjected to a process of due diligence to verify that their activities are consistent with the mission and objectives of the Fund, that they are motivated to generate robust evidence on violence prevention interventions and that they have both the administrative and technical capacity to achieve the objective(s) stated in their evaluation proposals.

Section IV. FUNDING MODALITIES

The total amount of funding that it is anticipated will be allocated through this call for proposals is **up to EUR 750,000**. Funds will be divided into a number of separate grants.

The amount of each grant will vary according to the type and scale of the intervention, as detailed in the different categories described above, and the nature of the evaluation proposed. A wide range of factors affecting costs will be taken into consideration when assessing the cost-effectiveness of the proposed evaluations.

It is important to highlight that the grant will cover ONLY the costs related to the evaluation of the intervention and NOT those costs associated with the implementation of the intervention.

The **length** of the grants will vary according to the complexity of the intervention being evaluated and the type of evaluation proposed. Grants cannot exceed 3 years.

Section V. HOW TO APPLY

The application process will consist of the following 2 stages:

1. Applicants will first submit a concept note by using the **Concept Note Application Form** (Annex 2).
2. Only shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a **full evaluation proposal** that will be subject to a second phase of review.

During both phases of the application review process, applicants could be invited to provide clarifications and to discuss some aspects of their proposals, if necessary.

For the 1st stage of the application process, applicants must send the **Concept Note Application Form** (Annex 2) **by e-mail** to the NEF Secretariat at the following e-mail address: **programmemgr@nef-europe.org by 7 October 2011.**

Acknowledgment of receipt will be sent by e-mail by the NEF Secretariat.

The full text of the Call for Proposals and the Concept Note Application Form can be downloaded from the website www.evaluationchallenge.org. Should you have any query, please contact the Programme Manager of the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund at the e-mail address programmemgr@nef-europe.org.

The working language for the activities of the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund will be **English**. Therefore applications, as well as any other communication related to the initiative, must be in English. Additional documents that are essential to complement the Concept Note Application Form can be submitted as supporting documents (optional) and will be accepted in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Applicants are, however, invited to limit the number and size of attachments only to those that are critical to complement their application.

Section VI. SELECTION CRITERIA AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

A first pre-screening of applications will be done by the NEF Secretariat in order to verify that the applications are in line with the requirements stated in the present call for proposal.

The **selection process** will be articulated in two stages: the **first stage** will be the review of the Concept Note Application Forms by an assessment team. The members of the team will be selected on the basis of their expertise and will include child protection specialists and evaluation experts. Based on the assessment team's recommendations, the Steering Committee of the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund - composed of representatives of the sponsoring Foundations - will shortlist applicants.

If necessary and appropriate, the Fund might decide to provide shortlisted applicants with a small cash grant to cover the costs involved in the development of the full proposal. Such grants will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the shortlisted applicants after the conclusion of the first phase of selection.

In the **second stage** of the selection process, the full evaluation proposals will be reviewed again by the assessment team that will be looking more carefully into the methodology and the rigour of the evaluation plan. Based on this assessment, the Steering Committee of the Children and Violence Evaluation Fund will make the final decision on the successful grantees.

During the selection process, further discussion might take place between the Fund and the applicants on how the evaluation proposals can be strengthened.

The proposal review process will be based on **selection criteria** that will include the following:

- **Relevance:** the proposed evaluation is relevant to the thematic focus area of the call and is in line with the objectives of the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund.
- **Impact:** the proposed evaluation is expected to have an impact in terms of informing changes in programming and policy making. This may include consideration concerning potential for innovation, scaling-up and/or replicability.
- **Motivation:** the applicant and its partners are motivated to generate evidence in order to improve violence prevention and child protection programming and to facilitate knowledge sharing in this field.
- **Feasibility:** it refers to the realistic feasibility of the proposed evaluations and the achievability of the objectives set in the evaluation proposal.
- **Capacity:** it refers to considerations about the capacity of the applicant and the evaluation partner(s) to conduct the evaluation proposed ensuring the quality of results. Under this criterion, opportunities for knowledge transfer between the evaluator(s) and the implementing organization(s) will be given particular consideration.
- **Rigour/quality:** the proposed evaluation will apply scientifically recognized methodologies in a rigorous manner so to produce solid and robust evidence that will be accepted and utilized by the scientific community, as well as by practitioners.

- **Efficiency/cost-effectiveness:** the amount of funding required for the evaluation is proportionate to the complexity of the proposed evaluation, its length and the expected outcomes.
- **Research ethics:** the evaluation is conducted in line with established ethical standards for research with children and adults and has robust child safeguarding procedures in place as integral part of the evaluation.

Section VII. GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE

The deadline for the submission of the Concept Note Application Form is **7 October 2011**.

Shortlisted applicants will be informed during the month of **November 2011** and invited thereafter to submit a full evaluation proposal.

Deadlines for the submission for the full evaluation proposals may vary according to the categories of interventions and will be communicated at a later stage. Start dates for the grants will vary accordingly.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

DAC list of ODA Recipients (Effective for reporting on 2009 and 2010 flows)³

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI < \$935 in 2007)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$936-\$3 705 in 2007)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$3 706-\$11 455 in 2007)
Afghanistan	Côte d'Ivoire	Albania	*Anguilla
Angola	Ghana	Algeria	Antigua and Barbuda
Bangladesh	Kenya	Armenia	Argentina
Benin	Korea, Dem. Rep.	Azerbaijan	Barbados ²
Bhutan	Kyrgyz Rep.	Bolivia	Belarus
Burkina Faso	Nigeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belize
Burundi	Pakistan	Cameroon	Botswana
Cambodia	Papua New Guinea	Cape Verde	Brazil
Central African Rep.	Tajikistan	China	Chile
Chad	Uzbekistan	Colombia	Cook Islands
Comoros	Viet Nam	Congo, Rep.	Costa Rica
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Zimbabwe	Dominican Republic	Croatia
Djibouti		Ecuador	Cuba
Equatorial Guinea		Egypt	Dominica
Eritrea		El Salvador	Fiji
Ethiopia		Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Gabon
Gambia		Georgia	Grenada
Guinea		Guatemala	Jamaica
Guinea-Bissau		Guyana	Kazakhstan
Haiti		Honduras	Lebanon
Kiribati		India	Libya
Laos		Indonesia	Malaysia
Lesotho		Iran	Mauritius
Liberia		Iraq	*Mayotte
Madagascar		Jordan	Mexico
Malawi		Kosovo ³	Montenegro
Maldives		Marshall Islands	*Montserrat
Mali		Micronesia, Federated States	Nauru
Mauritania		Moldova	Oman ¹
Mozambique		Mongolia	Palau
Myanmar		Morocco	Panama
Nepal		Namibia	Serbia
Niger		Nicaragua	Seychelles
Rwanda		Niue	South Africa
Samoa		Palestinian Administered Areas	*St. Helena
São Tomé and Príncipe		Paraguay	St. Kitts-Nevis
Senegal		Peru	St. Lucia
Sierra Leone		Philippines	St. Vincent and Grenadines
Solomon Islands		Sri Lanka	Suriname
Somalia		Swaziland	Trinidad and Tobago ²
Sudan		Syria	Turkey
Tanzania		Thailand	Uruguay
Timor-Leste		*Tokelau	Venezuela
Togo		Tonga	
Tuvalu		Tunisia	
Uganda		Turkmenistan	
Vanuatu		Ukraine	
Yemen		*Wallis and Futuna	
Zambia			

³ *Territory.

(1) Antigua & Barbuda and Oman exceeded the high income country threshold in 2007. In accordance with the DAC rules for revision of this List, both will graduate from the List in 2011 if they remain high income countries until 2010.

(2) Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago exceeded the high income country threshold in 2006 and 2007. In accordance with the DAC rules for revision of this List, both will graduate from the List in 2011 if they remain high income countries until 2010.

(3) This does not imply any legal position of the OECD regarding Kosovo's status.

ANNEX 2. CONCEPT NOTE APPLICATION FORM



CALL FOR PROPOSAL 2011

Concept Note Application Form

To be submitted **by 7 October 2011** to the e-mail address: programmemgr@nef-europe.org

Please note that Concept Note Application Forms must be filled in **English** and **cannot exceed 10 pages**. The font to be used is **Times New Roman, Size 11**. For any query, please contact the Programme Manager of the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund at programmemgr@nef-europe.org.

Section I. INFORMATION ON APPLICANT(S)

MAIN APPLICANT			
Organization name			
Director/Chief Executive name			
Address		PO Box	
City/Town		Country	
Type of applicant <i>(Please note only the listed organizations can be main applicants/ recipients of funds)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local NGO/non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> International NGO/no-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Local university/research institute <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign university/research institute <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit organization		
Contact person and position			
Ph. No.	Office	Cell	Fax
Email address			Website (if any)
PARTNER(S) of the main applicant for the evaluation, type of organization and role	Name of partner	Type of organization	Role
	1.	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO/non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> University/research institute <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-lateral organization <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify)_____	
	2.	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO/non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> University/research institute <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-lateral organization <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify)_____	
<i>Add rows if there are more than 2 partners</i>			

Section II. INTERVENTION TO BE EVALUATED

<p>Project title of the intervention to be evaluated</p>	
<p>Organization(s) implementing the intervention</p>	
<p>Geographical area <i>(region/s, country/ies)</i></p>	
<p>Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries <i>(Please specify number, age and gender)</i></p>	
<p>Category of intervention</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Category 1: Large scale interventions designed to prevent violence <input type="checkbox"/> Category 2: Small scale innovative interventions designed to prevent violence <input type="checkbox"/> Category 3: Specific components of interventions not directly designed to prevent violence but having an impact in terms of violence prevention</p>
<p>How is this intervention <u>relevant to the thematic area</u> defined in the call?</p>	
<p>What are the <u>expected outcomes</u> of the intervention?</p> <p><i>If the intervention falls into category 3, please highlight how the intervention is expected to achieve the violence prevention outcome related to children</i></p>	
<p>What are the key <u>activities and strategies</u> of the intervention?</p>	

<p>What are the <u>major strengths</u> of the intervention?</p>	
<p>Are there any <u>arrangements in place for monitoring and/or evaluating</u> the intervention? If yes, please briefly describe.</p>	
<p>What is the <u>start date</u> and <u>end date</u> of the intervention?</p>	<p>Start date: End date:</p>
<p>What is the <u>total budget</u> for the intervention? Who is providing the funds?</p>	<p>Total budget (in EUR): € Funded by:</p>

Section III. EVALUATION PROJECT OVERVIEW

<p>What are the <u>key outcome(s)/ component(s)</u> of the intervention that will be evaluated and <u>why</u> do you want to evaluate them?</p>	
<p>What are the <u>objectives of the evaluation</u>?</p>	

<p>What <u>methodological approach</u> would you propose?</p> <p><i>NOTE: Applicants will be required to elaborate more on the methodology in the full evaluation proposal in the second stage of selection.</i></p>																									
<p>Do you envisage any opportunity for <u>knowledge transfer</u> between the evaluator(s) and the organization implementing the intervention to be evaluated? If yes, how?</p>																									
<p>Estimated <u>start date</u> and <u>length of the evaluation project</u></p>	<p>Start date:</p> <p>Length:</p>																								
<p>Estimated total budget (in EURO)</p> <p><i>Note: The amounts indicated in the budget overview are estimates. A budget breakdown will be required in the second stage of selection.</i></p>	<p>€</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BUDGET ITEMS</th> <th>Amount in EUR</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Human resources</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Training/capacity building</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Data collection (transport, material, etc...)</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Data analysis and reporting</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication and dissemination</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other direct costs</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admin costs/overheads</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co-funding (IF ANY)</td> <td>€</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">GRAND TOTAL</td> <td>€</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If co-funded, please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-funding organization: - Co-funding amount (or estimated value of in-kind contribution): € 	BUDGET ITEMS	Amount in EUR	Human resources	€	Training/capacity building	€	Data collection (transport, material, etc...)	€	Data analysis and reporting	€	Communication and dissemination	€	Equipment	€	Other direct costs	€	Admin costs/overheads	€	TOTAL	€	Co-funding (IF ANY)	€	GRAND TOTAL	€
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Section IV. DISSEMINATION AND UTILIZATION OF THE FINDINGS

<p>How do you plan to <u>disseminate</u> the evaluation findings (target audiences and strategies) and <u>utilize</u> them within your (and your partner’s) organization?</p>	
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FINAL STATEMENT

I, the undersigned, certify that the information given on this form is correct and that I am legally entitled to represent the applicant organization (electronic signature compulsory).

Electronic signature:

Name:
Position/title:
Date:

ATTACHMENT(S) - optional

Supporting document(s) – Please specify

NOTE: Applicants are invited to submit only supporting documents that are critical to complement the Concept Note Application Form (e.g. logical framework, project reports). Supporting documents will be accepted only in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.