

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CONVERSION OF LEARNER PACKS TO ACCESSIBLE FORMATS

Project title	Conversion of learner packs to accessible formats for children with disabilities
Planned duration	3 months
Proposed methodology for sourcing of qualified institutions	Call for Expression of Interest

### 1. BACKGROUND

Lesotho is grappling with a complex web of challenges, necessitating immediate and multifaceted humanitarian interventions. Climate change poses a significant threat to Lesotho, particularly affecting agricultural productivity and food security. Erratic weather patterns, droughts, and floods disrupt farming activities, leading to poor harvests and food shortages. Rural populations, who rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods, are especially vulnerable to these changes. Children and young people are often the most vulnerable to climate impacts and disaster shocks. For instance, school closures that result from climate effects disrupt the learning of school-going children.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of equitable access to learning resources, especially for vulnerable learners. While significant progress has been made in the development of printed and digital learner packs, there is a critical gap in formats accessible to learners with disabilities. This intervention seeks to address that gap by engaging a qualified NGO with technical capacity and experience in developing inclusive and accessible educational content that will ensure better preparedness in times of climatic shocks that lead to learning disruptions. In line with the Ministry of Education and Training's commitment to inclusive education and ensuring no learner is left behind, UNICEF Lesotho is supporting the development and dissemination of accessible learning materials for children with disabilities and other learning needs.

### 2. SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the assignment is to engage an organization that has the resources and relevant experience in converting learning materials to accessible formats for inclusive education.

Through the advice of the Ministry of Education and Training, the selected organization will convert already-existing learner packs into accessible formats (e.g. Braille, audio, large print, simplified text, digital screen-reader compatible versions) as agreed with the Ministry, to support inclusive and equitable education delivery in times of educational disruptions.

The converted materials will then be distributed to the selected beneficiary schools where the Ministry would have identified such need.

The aim is to ensure that all learners, including those with disabilities, have equal access to quality learning materials, thereby promoting inclusive education and reducing educational inequalities, especially during emergencies and periods of remote learning.

### 3. OBJECTIVES:

The overall objectives of the assignment are:

- To convert existing learner packs which were developed by the Ministry of Education and Training into accessible formats ensuring alignment with national standards and inclusive education policies, through close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training during the review and adaptation process.
- To distribute the converted materials to selected schools identified by the Ministry as having learners in need of accessible resources in order to strengthen inclusive education practices by improving access to quality learning materials for all learners, particularly during times of educational disruption such as emergencies, remote learning periods, or school closures.

### 4. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

#### 4.1. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES / TASKS

- Review and assess the existing learner packs in collaboration with MoET.
- Identify the most appropriate accessible formats based on learner needs and disability categories.
- Convert the content of the learner packs into selected accessible formats (e.g., Braille, large print, audio recordings, simplified versions, digital accessible formats) ensuring compliance with relevant accessibility standards and guidelines such as the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as appropriate
- Share the converted materials with teachers and learners for initial feedback and quality assurance and refine the formats based on their feedback.
- Distribute the final approved accessible learning materials to selected schools.

### 5. EXPECTED RESULTS / PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- At least 500 children with disabilities benefit from the accessible learning materials
- 100% of the converted materials reviewed and validated by MoET for compliance with accessibility standards

### 6. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should describe how they plan to implement the project, indicating that they are in line with the priorities of the Ministry of Education and Training's Inclusive Education Policy. Proposals should encompass the outlined scope of work and address how the organization will work with the MOET in the implementation of the proposed activities.

### 7. TARGETED LOCATIONS AND DURATION

- The project is targeting to reach at least 500 children with disabilities enrolled in schools across the country
- Duration of the project: 3 months.

## 8. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### Format of the Application (3-5 pages maximum)

Interested organizations should submit a concise proposal using the following format:

- Brief overview of the organization: Organizational background, key competencies, and management structure relevant to the proposal
- Previous work in Education and/or disability-inclusion: Highlight past experience of implementing disability-inclusion projects within the education sector or within communities
- Approach to implementation: Explain the methodology for executing project activities
- Workplan: Provide a timeline for activities and expected milestones within the 3 months.

## 9. SUBMISSION DETAILS & DEADLINES:

- Submit Expression of Interest to: [les-techproposal@unicef.org](mailto:les-techproposal@unicef.org)
- Subject Heading: **EOI for Conversion of Learner Packs to Accessible Formats**
- **DEADLINE: 30 May 2025**
- Queries to be sent to: [les-tender-queries@unicef.org](mailto:les-tender-queries@unicef.org)

## 10. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Technical capacity and experience in Education and Disability-inclusion, especially past experience in inclusive education, disability programming, or production of accessible learning materials.
- Demonstrated collaboration with Ministry of Education and Training
- Proposed methodology and feasibility of implementation.

UNICEF reserves the right to accept or reject any application without obligation to provide justification.