



CALL FOR APPLICATION TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Date of Issuance: 25th August 2025

Submission of Application Deadline: 30th September 2025

Project Title: *Establishment of Community-Based Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers “Malezi Center’s” in 15 Regions of Tanzania Mainland*

Project Duration: November 1, 2025 – February 28, 2028

1. Introduction and Background

The Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN), a national umbrella organization of ECD-focused CSOs in Tanzania Mainland, invites qualified CSOs to express interest to facilitate the establishment of *Community-Based Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers* across 15 selected regions of Tanzania Mainland. The project will be implemented across **Singida, Lindi, Dodoma, Rukwa, Katavi, Morogoro, Manyara, Tanga, Pwani, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Njombe, Iringa, Kigoma, and Songwe** to support project implementation.

This is a three-year project (2025 to 2028), a component of Strengthening TECDEN’s Operations and Sustainability (STOS) Project funded by Echidna Giving, aligned with the National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NMECDP 2021/22–2025/26). The STOS Project aims to build the resilience and impact of ECD systems by empowering Civil society organizations (TECDEN members) to increase access to quality of childcare services. at community level

2. Purpose of the Call

This call seeks to identify capable Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with a proven track record in implementing early childhood development interventions, particularly in underserved rural and peri-urban settings, to establish and manage **Community-Based ECD Centers**.

Selected CSOs from within **TECDEN members portfolio** will receive technical and financial support to implement center-based services that are inclusive, gender-transformative, and culturally responsive, targeting children aged 0–5 years and their caregivers.

3. Objectives of the Project

- **Expand access** to quality ECD services in underserved communities.
- **Strengthen community capacity** to manage and sustain child-centered development hubs.
- **Foster gender-responsive care** and early learning through inclusive, locally led models.

- **Promote multisectoral collaboration** with LGAs and other stakeholders for long-term sustainability.

4. Scope of Work for CSO Partners

Each selected CSO will be responsible for:

- Conducting **community assessments** to identify priority areas for center establishment.
- Leading **community mobilization and awareness campaigns** on the importance of ECD.
- Establishing and operationalizing at least **two ECD centers per region**, equipped and staffed according to national ECD standards.
- Coordinating with **LGAs, community leaders, and sector stakeholders** for co-funding, support, and referrals.
- Participating in **capacity-building activities**, reporting, and knowledge-sharing events led by TECDEN.

5. Eligibility Criteria

Interested CSOs must:

- Be registered and operational in Tanzania Mainland.
- **CSO Applicants must be from the listed regions**
- **Be TECDEN members either regular or affiliate**
- Demonstrate **experience in ECD implementation**, preferably in center-based models.
- Show evidence of **collaboration with local authorities (LGAs)** and community structures.
- Have robust financial systems and willingness to adhere to **TECDEN's MEL and reporting protocols**.
- Commit to promoting **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** in programming.

6. Support Provided by TECDEN

- Financial support including:
 - **TZS 10,000,000** annually for CSO core costs.
- Technical assistance in:
 - Center design, community mobilization, engagement, and compliance with national ECD standards.
 - MEL training, reporting templates, and performance tracking.

7. Expected Outcomes

- **30 functional community-based ECD centers** established across 15 regions.

- Enhanced CSO capacity in **ECD coordination, monitoring, and advocacy**.
- Greater **community ownership and demand** for early childhood services.
- Strengthened **multisectoral integration** of ECD in education, health, nutrition, and protection

8. Application Process

Only successful applicants will be contacted for the further process, including a physical visit, for validation of the information provided. It is anticipated that after the deadline a successful applicant will be hearing from TECDEN within a period of one month.

To facilitate the review of applications, applicants must organize the narrative sections of their applications with the same headings and in the same order as the selection criteria.

General Application instructions:

Interested organizations should download the application form from TECDEN website: www.tecden.or.tz fill and submit to our official email: recruitment@tecden.or.tz; indicating in the subject line: “**Name of the Region – Name of the CSO Application**”. All application documents should be in a single pdf format.

The deadline for application is 30th September 2025 at 23:00hrs Tanzania local time.

9. Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Regional representation and coverage, prioritizing marginalized areas. Only relevant CSOs from the targeted regions.
- Relevance and feasibility of the proposed approach.
- Organizational capacity and past performance in ECD or similar community-based initiatives.
- Innovative ideas for sustainability and inclusive service delivery.

10. Child Safeguarding: At TECDEN, children come first. We are fully committed to protecting their safety, dignity, and rights in every activity we support. Partner CSOs must place children at the center of their work by having and enforcing strong child safeguarding policies, creating safe and inclusive spaces for every child, and taking immediate action to report and address any safeguarding concerns. Any breach of these standards will be taken seriously and may result in termination of partnership.

11. Disclaimer

This call does not commit TECDEN to award a grant or contract, nor reimburse any costs incurred in preparing applications. Final selections are contingent to due diligence outcomes.