



East Africa Disability Fund

Strategic grants – expression of interest in being a lead partner

The National Lottery Community Fund has been supporting projects in Tanzania and Uganda through a test and learn phase of the East Africa Disability Fund (EADF). Since 2017 we have awarded a number of grants across two main strands of funding:

- **Disability specialist** - specific interventions in support of disabled people
- **Mainstreaming** - supporting mainstream organisations already working to improve livelihoods in our target countries to strengthen their approach to disability inclusion.

The refreshed strategy for the (EADF) includes the development of 2-3 strategic proposals over the 2019/2020 financial year. Ahead of the strategy being finalised in March, we are looking to identify organisations that we can work with to facilitate the development of these strategic partnerships/proposals.

Strategic grants are large grants (£1-2 million over 2-5 years) that may be provided to one organisation with partners or a consortium of different organisations, working together to contribute to longer-term change for people with disabilities in Uganda, and Tanzania (which includes Zanzibar). These grants should target different **aspects of economic empowerment, addressing root causes of vulnerability and poverty**, challenging or changing how things are done. Local people and organisations should be at the heart of project development and delivery. Grants will be flexible, focused on learning and adapt over time as the context and issues evolve.

About systems change:

A multitude of individuals, communities, organisations and institutions in Tanzania and Uganda are all part of supporting economic empowerment for disabled people. We are looking for a systems lens to be taken in strategic grants, which could include:

- Having an ultimate vision of what the future could look like for access to livelihoods for people with disabilities and what a strategic project's role in that could be.
- Looking at the bigger picture and seeing the connections and dependencies between different individuals, communities, organisations and institutions that contribute to economic empowerment of people with disabilities to identify what can be done to challenge the status quo or create positive changes.
- Focusing on the root causes of economic exclusion for people with disabilities, not just its symptoms.
- Being open to adapt and change the project approach as you learn and engage with others with different perspectives.

Further information

We will be hosting an online discussion about this opportunity, at the following times:

- Monday 4th March, 11am (UK time)
- Friday 8th March, 2pm (UK time)

Please email international@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk to register an interest in joining one of these discussions, stating your preferred timeslot. Please contact us at this address should you have any other queries.

Expressions of interest

The deadline for expressions of interest to be received is **15th March 2019**. These should be submitted to international@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk by no later than 5pm.

Note that we are not looking for consortia to be developed at this stage, nor for wider partnership
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arrangements to be put in place, as this will form the next stage of development.

The expression of interest should be no longer than three sides of A4 and provide information as per the key headings at Annex A. The international team will consider the expressions of interest received and shortlist partners for a further discussion. Expressions of interest will be shortlisted against the criteria outlined in Annex A:

- **Partnership approach and approach to putting people in the lead**
- **Experience of managing large grants**
- **Experience of supporting systemic change**
- **Commitment to disability inclusion**
- **Topics of interest**

Development funding

Pending the approval of our refreshed strategy, shortlisted partners will be invited to submit an application for development funding to support the next stages of the project design, with the anticipation that Fund staff will be closely involved throughout.

Full grants

We would anticipate aiming for full grants to be awarded in early 2020.

Annex A - Content for the Expression of Interest (no longer than three sides of A4)

- **Organisational details**

Please ensure you include your organisation's full legal and known as names, charity and company number, and contact details.

- **Approach that you would take in facilitating a partnership and in putting people in the lead**

It is anticipated that lead organisations will work with a range of partners to design and develop proposals. A key area of our revised strategy is to support a move towards a development approach that is more strongly led by local people and organisations; proposals should be built on genuine co-production and recognise the expertise of relevant organisations both in-country and in the UK. Expressions of interest should provide examples of previous approaches to partnership development, evidence of putting project participants in the lead in activities, and experience of long term, holistic support of partner capacity.

- **Experience of managing large grants in East Africa**

We anticipate that the strategic grants will be significant in size and involve multiple partners. At potentially around £1-2m per award, expressions of interest should provide examples of managing large and complex funding arrangements, with particular emphasis on experience within Tanzania and Uganda.

- **Experience of supporting systemic change**

The strategic grants will provide an opportunity to consider and address some of the systemic factors that are affecting people with disabilities. In addition to supporting activities which have a direct impact on the lives of the project participants, we expect in each project to explore the root causes of issues and provide opportunities for longer term impact, which could be secured to last beyond our funding. Expressions of interest should provide examples of where an issue has been tackled through taking a holistic, systems lens approach.

- **Commitment to disability inclusion**

Lead organisations are expected to have a strong organisational commitment to disability inclusion, which should be demonstrated in the expression of interest, through examples of existing work on disability or steps your organisation has taken to advance disability inclusion.

- **Topics you would be interested to explore as part of a strategic grant**

As outlined above, we anticipate an in-depth process of project and partnership development taking place over the coming months. Applicants are requested to give an indication of topics they would be interested to explore as part of a strategic grant - which should be linked to livelihoods development. These could be framed as critical questions or issues to address to challenge the status quo or create positive changes related to the economic empowerment of people with disabilities in Tanzania and/or Uganda. These should focus on addressing root causes, not symptoms, with a view to contributing to longer term systemic change (see box on systems change - above - for further guidance).