

A brief note on implementation of innovative ideas supported through innovation window

1. Introduction on Employment Fund

The Employment Fund (EF) is currently being operated by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal under the agreement signed between the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The EF is supported by SDC, UKAid from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank. The purpose of EF is to provide gainful employment to unemployed youths by imparting skills through Training and Employment Service Providers (T&Es).

At present, EF is implementing two programs, Micro Enterprise Development for Job Creation, and The Skills Trainings and Employment Services for the Very Poor and Youth with Special Needs (Path to Prosperity) across different parts of Nepal. In the year, 2014, EFS will establish a new innovation window with the purpose of stimulating labor market actors to innovate new ideas. Through this initiative, EF will invite interested public and private organizations for proposals on a regular basis through a transparent public request. The selection of the organization to implement the innovative idea will be based on the quality and justification of the proposed innovation that addresses a key constraint or opportunity in skill trainings and/or youth employment promotion. In its proposal, the applicant organization should clearly specify how it will scale up the innovations if the results of the piloting are found to be promising.

During the implementation, EFS will remain as a facilitator by limiting its support to co-financing, monitoring and technical backstopping.

2. Rationale for inviting Concept Note on Innovation

EF has always tried to develop innovative approaches in the Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVT) sector. The aim behind exploring and piloting new ideas is to contribute more in the TEVT sector of Nepal so as to strengthen this sector as well as make it sustainable.

Hence, the main rationale for initiating this innovation is to explore the feasibility of strengthening this TEVT sector in different modalities. At present, EF works only with private training and employment service providers. But the role of EF can be elaborated in this TEVT sector's value chain. Through this new initiative, EF can have multiple opportunities, like collaborating closely with the private sector

of Nepal and hence improving the employability of the Nepalese youth. It can also play the role of capacity building of private training institutes to encourage them to become a self-sustainable organization in the long run. . Similarly, EF can also promote the culture of fee based training among the participants to help them feel more ownership and value the training they have received..

3. Process for inviting Call for Concept Note

EF will place advertisement in the national daily newspaper for call for concept note for the innovative ideas. A form and evaluation criteria will be uploaded in the EF website to help the potential bidders for preparing concept notes in the given format. Upon the receipt of such proposals, the Evaluation Committee will evaluate the concept note based on their feasibility and innovativeness and short list the promising organizations.

The shortlisted organizations will be asked to present an elaborated proposal which will be further analyzed by the committee and the final selection will be made.

The organizations will then implement the concepts as a piloting throughout the year.

Implementation Modality

The innovative concepts will be implemented by the winner organization itself. Further, the organization needs to register in VAT (if not registered before), once it is selected. The following will be the steps for implementation:

- Selection of the best proposals, technically and financially
- Setting up an action plan and time line with the output and expected results of intervention
- Signing of an Agreement
- Implementation of project activities
- Monitoring and evaluation of the project activities
- Documenting the best practices and lesson learnt
- Up scaling the program and integrating it in EF modality and in the TVET system in Nepal

4. Funding modality

The selected innovation concepts will be funded through the Funding Envelope B as this is the envelope which promotes testing of new concepts and ideas; improve the ideas through the support form EF and decide for scale up. The selected project would be co-financed up to 80% of the total cost up to **Nrs 1.5 Million rupees** per innovation (or per organization) considering the innovativeness and relevance in of the proposed project in the TVET sector

Note: Any inquiries regarding this call for Innovative Ideas will be answered from March 10-13 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) in the telephone numbers 5000 209 and 5000 226 with Ms Shikha Sunuwar.