



Request for Proposals

Creation of a technical compendium of resources relevant for practitioners in early childhood development in emergencies

Overview of Play to Learn, a consortium of Sesame Workshop, the International Rescue Committee, BRAC, and NYU Global Ties; funded by LEGO Foundation

The Play to Learn consortium's bold vision is to establish play-based early childhood development (ECD) programming as an essential component of humanitarian response. Since 2019, consortium implementing partners (BRAC, the International Rescue Committee, and Sesame Workshop) have been delivering quality, play-based early childhood development services and media content directly to children and communities affected by the Rohingya and Syrian conflicts and refugee crises. This includes developing all of the curricula, media content, and other resources needed, as well as generating practitioner-relevant evidence and learning through monitoring, research, and reflection on implementation. To date, Play to Learn has served almost one million children, families, and facilitators with quality early childhood development services, and has developed over 50 variations of ECD interventions to meet the needs of different populations.

Consortium advocacy partners (BRAC, the International Rescue Committee, and Sesame Workshop) have been working to catalyze changes in global systems, policy, practice, and funding to support and prioritize ECD in all humanitarian responses.

Consortium partners and NYU Global Ties, the consortium's external evaluation partner, have been producing research to generate evidence needed to build the field of early childhood development in areas affected by conflict and crisis.

For more information on the project, please see this website:

https://www.sesameworkshop.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/sw21_isi_lego_humanitarianfs_pa-3-1.pdf.

Description of Work

In the last two years of the project, the consortium seeks a team of technical consultants to help us achieve one of our final goals, which is to develop and make available a suite of evidence-based

humanitarian ECD program delivery approaches with associated content, frameworks, and practitioner guidance.

The team of technical consultants will work with consortium members to create a technical package of resources and tools, **based in our Play to Learn experience**, that fills a demonstrated gap in the available tools and resources related to early childhood development in conflict and crisis, especially gaps linked to play-based programs or digital and media-enhanced programs. The technical package is intended to be a **practitioner-facing** resource.

The consultant team will be responsible for managing and creating the technical package. Overall responsibilities include:

- Summarize background research as needed in order to frame and put into perspective the contributions that the consortium and resulting technical package are making to early childhood development in conflict and crisis.
- Finalize the scope, topic, and format of the technical package, in collaboration with consortium members and any other relevant stakeholders.
- Manage the collection of information, content, data, tools, resources, etc. from across Play to Learn partners. Information collected will come from Play to Learn-funded programs primarily in Bangladesh, Jordan, and Kenya. Travel will be required.
- Identify and compile the most relevant and appropriate evidence and resources from across the consortium.
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative raw data from monitoring and research as needed.
- Coordinate and liaise with consortium partners.
- Organize the content collected for future use by the consortium. Specifications for file organization will be provided by the consortium.
- Produce new content as needed. Play to Learn anticipates that a significant amount of original writing will be needed in order to complete the technical package.
- Plan and implement a dissemination strategy.
- Ensure the quality of all products.

The technical package will be designed according to audience needs and demands. The primary audience for this technical package is NGO and government practitioners, who may want to use lessons learned from Play to Learn in their work or implement Play to Learn models. Secondary audiences include policymakers in countries affected by conflict and crisis, humanitarian and development donors, and academics who may find these resources useful. The technical package will have multiple tools and resources within it, and the format of each tool or resource should reflect an understanding of the needs of the intended audiences.

We anticipate no additional data being collected directly from affected populations, including young children and their caregivers; however, consultants will be interviewing consortium partners, and may also interview members of target audiences or front-line service providers.

Deliverables

The deliverables are organized according to three phases: planning, information gathering and creation of the technical package, and dissemination. The time periods of these phases overlap purposefully, as each of the consortium partners have different schedules in 2023 and 2024.

Phase 1: Planning Deliverables - (May 1 - June 30, 2023)

1. **Deliverable 1: Brief landscape report**, building on work done to date, that identifies similar resources or efforts in the ECD in emergencies sector in order to avoid duplication and ensure these products contribute to demonstrated gaps in ECD in conflict or crisis-affected settings, including play-based interventions and media-enhanced or digital interventions. This will be used to inform the more precise definition of audiences and their needs.
2. **Deliverable 2: Join the Play to Learn Annual Partners' Meeting and plan/facilitate relevant working sessions.** Play to Learn partners will be meeting in person (likely in Istanbul, Turkey) in May 2023 for the Annual Partners Meeting. We anticipate that finalizing the plan for the Technical Package will be one key goal of this meeting.
3. **Deliverable 3: A final delivery plan and schedule for the technical package**, developed in consultation with consortium partners. This deliverable includes, but is not limited to: a workplan; an audit of the available content in the Play to Learn consortium; a final list of resources that will comprise the technical compendium/package; a description of new content and analysis needed; roles and responsibilities or staff needed for any new analysis or content; and proposed format for each resource based on audience demand and needs. Consultants should plan for one round of revision to this plan.

Phase 2: Information gathering and creation of the technical package

- **Information gathering and analysis - (May 1 - December 31, 2023)**
 - **Creating the technical package written contents - (July 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)**
4. **Deliverable 4: A catalog of Play to Learn interventions.** Play to Learn delivers many types of ECD services. Services have been child or caregiver-focused; remote, in-person, or hybrid; intensive or light touch; and may involve multi-media or other digital tools. Interventions have been or will be delivered in Lebanon, Jordan, Bangladesh (Cox's Bazaar and host communities), Kenya, and Colombia. The consortium seeks a technically-sound and intuitive way to organize, catalog, and present the interventions we have delivered, and share best practices or lessons learned associated with each category of interventions from across multiple implementation contexts.
 5. **Deliverable 5: A report that identifies and describes core elements of Play to Learn consortium interventions or program models that can support the replication or scaling of good practices for young children and families in crisis or conflict-affected contexts**, based on original analysis and shared criteria. Successful or promising interventions should reflect the diversity of programs provided to young children and their families in areas affected by conflict or crisis by Play to Learn partners. Data that will be available to the consultant team includes but is not limited to: reports from monitoring and impact evaluations, data from monitoring, measurement research, impact research, reports from program design and implementation,

curricula and other teaching and learning resources used in direct service delivery, and tools for monitoring and quality assurance.

6. **Deliverable 6: Practitioner-facing tools and resources created through** analyzing and synthesizing the content and data partners have about key technical topics. Topics identified by the consortium to date include: scale; the relationship between dose, quality, and impact of early childhood interventions; and adaptation, localization, and contextualization. The technical consultants will have a range of content to work with, from completed tools and resources to qualitative or quantitative datasets that will need to be analyzed in order to create new tools or resources.

Deliverables will be due on a rolling basis in this period. The timeline will be determined collaboratively in the planning phase.

Phase 3: Disseminating the technical compendium of resources - (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Deliverable 7: Create and implement a dissemination plan that complements the Play to Learn advocacy priorities: raising awareness, increasing investments, and improving quality. See this page for more information on advocacy priorities for the Play to Learn project:

<https://www.sesameworkshop.org/what-we-do/crisis-response/advocating-young-children-affected-crisis>. We anticipate that the dissemination plan will account for key opportunities throughout 2023 (specifically the UN General Assembly in September 2023 and the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023) and 2024. The dissemination plan should account for the periodic release of specific resources, even if the whole technical package is not yet ready.

Expected ways of working

The Play to Learn consortium will have clear focal points for the consultant team, as well as a steering committee with representation from all partners and LEGO Foundation to review and approve all key deliverables and milestones.

The Play to Learn consortium has one partner whose role is external evaluator (NYU Global TIES). Sesame Workshop, BRAC, and the IRC are direct service providers. The consortium partners are spread across multiple time zones (GMT-5 to GMT+6) and follow country-specific definitions of a work week (Monday to Friday vs. Sunday to Thursday). The consultant team should be prepared to work with consortium partners within their working hours.

The Play to Learn consortium will be hiring a separate team whose role will be to support the creation of multi-media products based on the contents of the technical package. The consultant team who creates the technical package is expected to work in coordination with this separate multi-media production team.

Budget: Up to \$200,000, including expenses such as travel.

Proposal package

1. A proposal narrative in English of no more than 8 pages that outlines the applicant's:
 - a. Understanding of the technical package and the work required to achieve it
 - b. Technical plan, timeline, and approach for producing the deliverables outlined above

- c. Knowledge of the types of tools and resources that different actors need and use to resource, plan, and deliver ECD services in conflict and crisis-affected settings
2. An appendix that outlines the team's capacity, team structure, key staff and roles/responsibilities (no more than 4 pages). The consortium is flexible on team structure and composition. The only required staffing position is a team leader, who is the main point of contact with Sesame Workshop. A competitive bid will demonstrate:
 - a. Technical expertise in early childhood development in emergencies or settings affected by conflict and crisis, including the capacity to analyze quantitative and qualitative data from monitoring and research.
 - b. Proven experience in translating evidence from research and practice into practitioner-facing resources and tools for diverse audiences.
 - c. Proven experience working through collaborative processes with a large consortium distributed across the world.
 - d. Given the range of technical expertise needed to deliver on the technical package, consultant teams should have demonstrated networks and capacity to identify and hire specialists or subject matter experts needed over the life of the consultancy.
 - e. Familiarity with the countries and contexts Play to Learn works in, including but not limited to Jordan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Colombia, and Kenya.

Fluency in written and spoken English is a requirement.

3. A budget and budget narrative (no page limit; no required format)
4. Two (2) examples of relevant past work in English that demonstrate your team's expertise or experience in creating the types of deliverables requested in the RFP, such as technical packages, compendiums of resources, toolkits, dissemination products or resources (no page limit)
5. Curriculum Vitae (CV) for the team leader (no page limit). Please also submit a two (2) page resume for each of the other staff named in the application (no required format).

Submission instructions & deadline: Please submit proposal packages to Kristen Sandmeier (kristen.sandmeier@sesame.org) by 11:59 pm on March 3, 2023. Use the subject line: Proposal for PTL Technical Package.

Frequently asked questions: if necessary, submit questions about this bid to Kristen Sandmeier (kristen.sandmeier@sesame.org). We will post all questions and answers to this document: [FAQ's on Technical Package RFP.docx](#)