



Nelson Mandela
CHILDREN'S FUND

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Project Title: Operationalizing the NMCF Child Participation Policy

Duration: 12 Months (July 2026 – June 2027)

Target Group: NMCF Board, NMCF Staff, and Child Stakeholders

- Clarification Questions Deadline: 19 June 2026 (by email to samkem@nmcf.co.za)
- Proposal Submission Deadline: 26 June 2026
- Anticipated Award Notification: 6 July 2026

How to Apply

Interested organisations or individuals should submit proposals to samkem@nmcf.co.za with karlm@nmcf.co.za in copy by the deadline above. Late submissions will not be accepted.

1. Project Overview

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) seeks to appoint an experienced consultant or consulting firm to lead the evaluation and implementation of its Child Participation Policy. The goal is to move beyond superficial engagement and institutionalize "deep and appropriate" participation where children's voices influence the Fund's strategic direction, governance, and programmatic outcomes.

Child voices need to be included in all steps of the project. The project will be implemented considering and acting within the NMCF Child Safeguarding Policy and the consultant will be expected to understand safeguarding and work within our safeguarding structure.

2. Detailed Scope of Work

Phase 1: Diagnostic & Baseline Review (July – October 2026)

The consultant will conduct a comprehensive audit of the status quo.

- **Practice Audit:** Review current programmatic activities and locations against the existing Child Participation Policy.
- **Platform Analysis:** Identify and analyse all current engagement platforms (e.g., youth forums, advisory councils, digital platforms) for effectiveness, safety, and inclusivity.

- **Needs Assessment:** Conduct a training needs analysis (TNA) for staff and board members to identify gaps in skills, attitudes, and knowledge regarding child rights and participation.
- **Deliverable:** A Situation Overview & Action Plan Report, detailing the current organizational "pulse" and a roadmap for the subsequent phases.

Phase 2: Capacity Building & Training (November 2026 – February 2027)

Based on the Phase 1 findings, the consultant will deliver tailored capacity building.

- **Board & Executive Training:** Focus on governance-level participation and the strategic value of child-led insights.
- **Staff Training:** Focus on the practicalities of the "Lundy Model" or similar frameworks—ensuring space, voice, audience, and influence for children.
- **Deliverable:** A Training Summary Report, documenting the modules covered, attendance, and an evaluation of the shift in participant competency.

Phase 3: Implementation of Change & Final Reporting (March – June 2027)

The consultant will act as a technical advisor to embed changes within the Fund's daily operations.

- **Organizational Adaptation:** Support the restructuring of platforms or the creation of new mechanisms to ensure "deep" participation.
- **Policy Alignment:** Assist in updating internal workflows (e.g., M&E frameworks) to include child-led indicators.
- **Deliverable:** A Comprehensive Project Closure Report, providing a full narrative of the implementation year and a Strategic Recommendation Paper for sustaining participation long-term.

3. Consultant Requirements

NMCF requires a consultant/firm with the following profile:

- **Sector Expertise:** Minimum 10 years of experience, with demonstrable success, in Child Rights and Participation, specifically within the South African or Southern African context.

- **Governance Experience:** Proven track record of training NGO Boards or Executive Committees on rights-based frameworks.
- **Methodology:** Must demonstrate child-safe, ethical, and creative methodologies for engaging children from diverse backgrounds.
- **Education:** Lead consultants should hold post-graduate qualifications in Social Sciences, Law, or Development Studies.

4. Submission & Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Technical Approach: Alignment with NMCF's vision and depth of the proposed methodology.	40%
Experience & References: Evidence of similar organizational change projects.	40%
Budget & Value for Money: Itemized costs for each of the three phases.	20%
