CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Strategic Mapping of Civil Society Organizations for Community-Based Early Childhood Development and Nurturing Care in Zanzibar

Geographic focus: Unguja and Pemba, Zanzibar (11 districts through phased geographic coverage)

Nature of call: Strategic partner identification and mapping

1. Background

Save the Children Tanzania works with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, civil society and communities to advance children's rights and strengthen quality, equitable and sustainable Early Childhood Development (ECD) services. In alignment with the Zanzibar Multisectoral ECD Strategy and Framework, Save the Children Tanzania invites legally registered local and national civil society organizations (CSOs) to express interest in a strategic mapping exercise focused on nurturing care for children aged 0–3 years, caregivers and the local systems that support them.

The mapping seeks to understand organizations' expertise, operational capacity, geographic presence, community relationships and potential contribution to locally led, inclusive and gender-responsive ECD approaches. This exercise does not announce a confirmed project, grant or funding opportunity.

2. Purpose of the EOI

To identify and profile CSOs with experience and capacity relevant to community engagement, quality and inclusive childcare, caregiver support, positive parenting and gender-equitable social norms in Unguja and Pemba. Information gathered may inform future dialogue, collaboration and partnership processes, subject to separate decisions and approvals. Organizations may demonstrate expertise in one or both technical areas below; no single organization is required to have implemented every activity.

3. Technical Scope of Interest

A. Quality and Inclusive Community-Based Childcare Models

Experience in strengthening community-based, daycare and home-based childcare models that deliver quality, gender-responsive nurturing care to children aged 0–3, including underserved families:

- Mapping underserved and hard-to-reach communities, daycare and home-based providers, community facilities, market/workplace-linked spaces, community- and faith-based organizations, women's collectives and other childcare and early-stimulation structures.
- Establishing or strengthening community-based, daycare and home-based childcare services, including safe market- or workplace-linked models where feasible.
- Providing age-appropriate, inclusive, locally relevant play and early-stimulation materials that support equal participation of girls, boys and children with disabilities.
- Supporting locally appropriate governance and management of childcare services, including meaningful involvement of women's groups without reinforcing unpaid care burdens.
- Building community ownership, demand and accountability through village councils, Shehia structures, faith networks, women's groups, male champions and caregiver committees.

- Applying quality-monitoring checklists covering safety, safeguarding, hygiene, adult–child interaction, play, inclusion, father engagement, caregiver support and referral linkages.
- Contributing implementation learning to government-led development or refinement of standards and guidance for community-based, home-based and drop-in childcare models.

B. Caregiver Parenting Practices and Gender-Equitable Social Norms

Experience in improving responsive caregiving, positive parenting and early stimulation, promoting fathers' participation and shared caregiving, and supporting young mothers and vulnerable families:

- Assessing caregiver knowledge, practices and needs relating to responsive caregiving, play, early stimulation, nutrition linkages, child protection, inclusion and gender-responsive care.
- Developing or adapting caregiver support packages covering positive parenting, play-based stimulation, non-violent discipline, father engagement, safeguarding, disability inclusion and support for adolescent and young mothers.
- Facilitating community behaviour-change and social-norms initiatives through parenting groups, community dialogues, male champions, faith actors and local leaders.
- Establishing or strengthening parenting learning groups for mothers, fathers, grandparents and other caregivers, including peer learning and regular early-stimulation practices.
- Reaching adolescent and young mothers through accessible parenting sessions, peer support, respectful counselling and referral linkages to social welfare, protection and other services.
- Strengthening links between community child-protection committees and ECD platforms, including referral roles, focal persons, reporting channels and coordination to review cases and barriers.
- Promoting safe, nurturing and stimulating family and community environments, gender-equitable caregiving and active engagement of fathers and male caregivers.

4. Cross-Cutting Capacity and Experience

- Coordination with government institutions, district and Shehia structures, communities and other implementing actors.
- Child safeguarding, child protection, disability inclusion, gender equality and accountability to affected communities.
- Meaningful engagement of caregivers and local actors, including underserved or vulnerable families and children with disabilities.
- Use of programme standards, referral pathways, quality-assurance tools and learning to improve practice.
- Sound programme and financial management, documentation, procurement, risk management and compliance.
- Monitoring, timely reporting, evidence generation, learning, review and adaptation.

5. Expected Contribution to Government Coordination and Engagement

- Organizations should demonstrate their ability and willingness to work collaboratively with relevant government authorities at Zanzibar, district and Shehia levels. Depending on any future agreed partnership and applicable government arrangements, contributions may include:
- Engaging relevant local government authorities and designated focal persons in identifying, mapping and validating underserved communities, target beneficiaries, childcare providers and community structures, while applying appropriate safeguarding and data-protection practices.

- Coordinating activity planning and implementation with government focal persons, district and Shehia structures and relevant technical departments to align with existing priorities and avoid duplication.
- Participating in joint supportive supervision and monitoring visits with Save the Children and relevant government representatives and following up on jointly agreed actions.
- Submitting timely activity updates and progress reports through applicable government reporting structures and channels, in accordance with agreed requirements.
- Participating in government-led coordination, technical review, learning and referral meetings and sharing implementation evidence and lessons to strengthen ECD services.
- Supporting government ownership and sustainability by strengthening the capacity and participation of relevant community and government structures.

6. Eligibility and Desired Organizational Profile

- Legally registered local or national CSO based in Zanzibar or mainland Tanzania, including mainland-based organizations already working in Zanzibar, with authorization or demonstrated ability to operate in Zanzibar.
- Relevant technical and operational experience in one or more areas described above.
- Understanding of Zanzibar's social, cultural and institutional context and ability to collaborate with community, faith and government structures. Mainland-based applicants should clearly describe their existing work, partnerships or operational presence in Zanzibar.
- Demonstrated commitment to safeguarding, gender-responsive programming, inclusion and community accountability.
- Appropriate governance, programme, finance, human-resource and monitoring systems, with openness to joint capacity strengthening.

7. Information and Documents to Submit

- Organizational profile, registration details, governance arrangements, geographic presence in Unguja and/or Pemba, and authorized contact person.
- Concise statement of relevant technical expertise, experience and approach to the areas of interest, identifying which activities the organization can support.
- Evidence of relevant experience, including up to three comparable assignments, projects or partnerships and available achievements or lessons. Include examples of collaboration with relevant Zanzibar government authorities and local government structures, where applicable.
- Proposed or existing team structure and brief profiles of key personnel with relevant expertise.
- Summary of safeguarding, gender equality, inclusion, financial management, procurement, monitoring, accountability and risk-management systems.
- Contact details for at least one government reference from a relevant government institution or local government authority (such as a district or Shehia-level structure) with which the CSO has worked, including name, position, institution, email/telephone and nature of collaboration; plus other organizational references (up to two, where available).

A full project proposal, detailed implementation workplan or project budget is not required for this mapping exercise.

8. Submission Instructions

Submission channel: Email one consolidated PDF to tenders@savethechildren.or.tz

Email subject line: EOI – Zanzibar ECD CSO Strategic Mapping – (Organization Name)

Closing date and time: 23 November 2026, 11:00 p.m. East Africa Time

Page limit: No page limit is specified in the current mapping advert; applicants are encouraged to keep submissions concise and include the documents listed above. Registration evidence should be attached.

9. Clarifications

Send clarification requests to tenders@savethechildren.or.tz with the subject: **Clarification – Zanzibar ECD CSO Strategic Mapping**. Clarification deadline: **18 November 2026.**

10. Review and Potential Future Engagement

Submissions will be reviewed for eligibility, thematic relevance, geographic presence, contextual knowledge, demonstrated experience, institutional capacity, safeguarding and inclusion commitments, and collaboration potential.

Relevant organizations may be contacted for clarification or further dialogue. Any future selection, due diligence, Joint Partnership Assessment or formal agreement would follow Save the Children's established procedures, applicable requirements and approvals.

This EOI is solely for organizational mapping. It is not a tender, an offer of funding, a guarantee of shortlisting or a promise of future partnership. Save the Children Tanzania may retain submitted information for legitimate partnership mapping purposes in accordance with applicable data protection requirements.

11. Safeguarding and Equal Opportunity

Save the Children Tanzania is committed to child safeguarding, non-discrimination, inclusion, transparency and equitable partnership. Eligible organizations led by women, persons with disabilities, young people and other underrepresented groups are encouraged to express interest.

SAVE THE CHILDREN TANZANIA — Working together for children and communities.