



*Scaling Learning through Play with Technology RFP. 24 February 2020*

Questions and Answers to to applicant clarifying questions received via email to [LEGO.foundation.grant.calls@LEGO.com](mailto:LEGO.foundation.grant.calls@LEGO.com) as of 02 March 2020

**Clarifying Questions: Background (Section 2.0 of the RFP)**

1. Will implementing partners need to include costs in the budget for specialist partners consultancy or will this be covered by LEGO Foundation?  
The LEGO Foundation will fund the three Specialist Partners described in Section 2.3 of the RFP. There is no requirement that applicants include costs for support from the Specialist Partners in their budget requests.
2. Does the use of local materials qualify as technology, and or do you have preference for technology being digital?  
The LEGO Foundation is seeking partners who can demonstrate the effective integration of creative coding, making and tinkering and robotics (see page 6 of the RFP) into formal education systems in the target countries. The use of local materials in support of the overall goal of the RFP is encouraged. Applying organizations must demonstrate how the use of local materials contributes to achieving the aim of the RFP.

**Clarifying Questions: Aim of the Request (Section 3.0 of the RFP)**

3. Does the concept note/proposal need to identify certain geographies within the country or should we assume that a national plan is required?  
An applying organization can propose to work across the entire country, or in specific states or provinces, with an ambition for this work to be sustained and scaled (page 7 of the RFP). The decision on the scale of the proposed intervention rests with the applicant.
4. Do we need to submit the letter of support from Department of Education as part of the concept note submission?  
Applicants are not required to submit a letter of support from the relevant government stakeholder during the concept note phase. Applicants that are invited to submit a full proposal will be required to submit an initial letter of support from the relevant government stakeholder (page 17 of the RFP).
5. Is there an expectation of LEGO or LEGO-aligned robotics/creating coding being used in the initiative or can other solutions be included in the submission if there is merit?  
We welcome other solutions to be incorporated in the submission. However, we strongly encourage that any solution or approach is aligned to LEGO Foundation's Learning through Play and the Learning through Play characteristics.
6. Is there a specific targeted number of schools/teachers that must be included in the concept?  
It is expected that proposed interventions will reach a scale of schools that are significant for the government and country that the implementing partner is operating in (page 11 of the RFP). The LEGO Foundation has not specified target numbers of schools/teachers to be reached and expects



applicants to demonstrate how their proposed intervention(s) will increase the use of Learning through Play with Technology in the selected country and/or school system.

7. Which stakeholder(s) should be using technology for Learning through Play (LtP)?  
At the end of the project, we expect that teachers to be facilitating Learning through Play with Technology experiences in the classroom as part of the formal curriculum by engaging children to develop a breadth of holistic skills and meet a range of learning outcomes. Please, review Section 3.2 of the RFP (pages 9 – 11) as it illustrates the target groups that the LEGO Foundation expects partners to collaborate with during the course of the Project.
8. What is the location and duration of the proposed annual face to face meeting?  
Please, review Section 3.4 of the RFP (page 12). The location and duration of the annual face to face meeting will be decided during the inception phase of the Project. However, we expect that one of the annual meetings will be in Billund, Denmark, and the others will be in one of the countries that the project is operating in or at the location of one of the Specialist Partners. The meetings are likely to be up to five full days.

### Clarifying Questions: Applicant Requirements (Section 5.0 of the RFP)

*It should also be noted that all organisations will be required to submit a copy of their official legal registration documents under attachments in order to submit their concept note.*

9. I would like to ask you if NGOs are eligible to apply for the grant?  
Yes, international and/or national NGOs are eligible. Please, review Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP for a detailed description of the eligibility requirements (page 16 of the RFP).
10. Must we be an NGO?  
Applicants don't have to be an NGO but they must meet the eligibility requirements listed in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP (page 16 of the RFP).
11. In reference to the "Open Call: Implementing and Scaling Tech & Play in Countries", when it is mentioned "Geographic Scope: Brazil; Colombia; Ghana; Kenya; Rwanda; Serbia; or South Africa" is means that the projects need to be implemented in one (or several) of these countries but they can be led by institutions from other countries, or the call is only open to institutions in those countries?  
Applicants must have on-going operations in the country(ies) for which they submit a concept note. An applicant's Headquarters might be based outside of the proposed country(ies) but it must have an operational office in the country(ies). Please, review Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP (page 16). Applicants are reminded that the LEGO Foundation is seeking to partner with organizations that have a proven track record of education system change and strong relationships relevant government agencies in the proposed country(ies). Concept notes/proposals that cannot demonstrate these relationships already exist will not be considered.
12. We are present in both Kenya and Colombia and are therefore wondering if it is possible to submit more than one proposal per organisation or can we just submit one proposal?  
At this stage we are only looking for concept notes. You can submit two concept notes, but we intend to have different implementing partners in the 5 selected geographies. While we may consider moving forward with two of your concept notes to the proposal phase, only a maximum one proposal from your organization could be selected for final implementation.



13. Must we have been operational for over a year?

All applicants must meet the eligibility criteria listed in Section 5.1 of the RFP and be able to demonstrate that their organization has the experience, capacity and commitment to implement the proposed Project successfully. Please review Section 5.2 of the RFP (page 16). If an organization has been in existence for a year, or less, and can demonstrate that the organization meets the eligibility criteria, then their application will be considered.

14. Could we form consorti after the concept notes are accepted?

No, the LEGO Foundation expects applicants to identify all members of a proposed consortium during the concept note phase. Please review Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP for a description of the eligibility criteria and an illustrative profile of applicants that the LEGO Foundation seeks to work with. All members of a multi-organizational consortium must meet these criteria.

Furthermore, applicants that are invited to submit proposals cannot modify the project ideas and components that were outlined in their concept note.

15. Can the partnering organizations be composed of government institutions ie MOE an ICT ministry.

All applicants must meet the eligibility criteria listed in Section 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP and be able to demonstrate that their organization has the experience, capacity and commitment to implement the proposed project successfully. A government institution (eg: MOE or ICT Ministry) may be part of the consortium responding to the call, but we will not accept concept notes where a government institution is the lead consortium partner or sole implementing partner.

16. What's is LEGO Foundation's definition of a social enterprise? Currently our organisation is the distributor of LEGO Education in Kenya we are a private limited company our model of operations of for profit however with a community benefit aspect are we still eligible?.

LEGO Foundation uses the UK Government definition of a Social Enterprise, '*Businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.*'

Depending on your business model and if you fit the criteria outlined in section 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP you may be eligible to make an application.

17. Would a private school that has a STEAM focus, or STEAM centered programming be considered as an Implementing partner? If the point above is considered positively, is it acceptable that the school's sphere of influence mainly is implementing a STEAM-enabled curriculum for its students, training and empowering its teachers and leaders, and working closely with the Ministry of Education to share good practice in order to have national impact?

The application must meet the selection criteria in section 5.1 and 5.2 of the RFP. Please remember that as stated in section 5.1 of the RfP the organisation must be a non-profit and any application must be able to demonstrate significant reach in the country of operation that is identified. If this is possible then the private school applicant will also need to provide evidence and demonstrate that the school is registered/recognized by the country's Ministry of Education and that it follows the government approved basic education curriculum. This is in addition to being able to work with the Ministry of Education and create national impact in public schools only then the school can be considered as an Implementing Partner.



### Clarifying Questions: Reporting and Inception Phase

18. What developments should we expect to happen between the dates announced for “Assessment of the project proposals by the LEGO Foundation” and the “Approval of the project proposals by the LEGO Foundation Board”? Should we expect to have iterations with LEGO Foundation during that period?

At the stage between assessment of project proposals and approval, the LEGO Foundation will be evaluating and selecting the implementing partners as finalists to be presented to the LEGO Foundation Board. Danish Foundation law requires that all grant proposals be approved by the Board before an organization can be declared a winner. There will be no iteration on the proposal at that stage. With that in mind, the applicants that are selected to receive an award will have the opportunity to work with LEGO Foundation staff to refine their intervention during the inception phase (see clarifying question #19).

19. Regarding the Detailed Implementation Plan, due 120 days after the start of the project, what should we expect from LEGO Foundation? Does the plan need to be approved by LEGO Foundation? How autonomous is the grantee to design the course of implementation?

During the 120-day inception phase, the LEGO Foundation, the Implementing Partners, the Specialist Partners, and the Research Partner will align on how to work together within the Community of Practice. The grantee will design the in-country implementation with taking on board recommendations from the Community of Practice as they are suitable.

20. Does LEGO Foundation expect annual reports to be produced and shared by its grantees? If yes, what information would be expected to be presented in such reports?

Yes, the LEGO Foundation requires annual reports that show the progress against deliverables stated in the proposal, as the proposal will be included in the contract as an appendix. The annual reports also will ask questions around progress on outcomes, target group reach numbers, financial reporting, advocacy reporting where relevant, challenges encountered, and mitigation strategies. Organizations are also required to provide a regular update on reach numbers.

### Clarifying Questions: Miscellaneous

21. We would like to submit a concept note for this call that has a geographical focus in Lebanon with replications in Kenya or Rwanda. Could you let us know if such geographical focus would be considered by the LEGO Foundation?

Through this request for proposal we will not support implementation in Lebanon even if it is only part of the proposal. The focus needs to be on implementation and scaling in either Kenya or Rwanda, but we appreciate that you are thinking of a replicable approach.

22. We have an idea for developing Learning through Play platform in coding which is out of formal education curriculum and which can be used in further learning opportunities for children. Do you support such initiatives which belong to the private sector and non-formal education setting?

Currently the LEGO Foundation does not have an initiative focused on informal education settings and therefore we cannot support such a project.



23. What are LEGO Foundation's hiring requirements and compliance guidelines?

*We are interpreting this question as if the LEGO Foundation places any restrictions on whom a partner can recruit/hire to work on the Project.*

LEGO Foundation does not have any pre-determined criteria for partner project staff, however the Foundation expects the applicant organization to staff the project with individuals who have the experience and qualifications appropriate to the position being performed. The LEGO Foundation does have regulations governing the personal and professional behavior of partner staff (e.g., Child Protection, conflict of interest, ethical conduct, etc.). The LEGO Foundation shares this information with those organizations that are invited to submit a full proposal.