CALL FOR CONCEPT	
DATE OF ISSUE	9th December 2019
CLOSING DATE	4:00 pm E.A.T. 17th December 2019
PROJECT TITLE	NIS Gender Equality and Inclusion Initiative in Somalia – ENPOWERING SOMALI WOMEN
PROJECT LOCATION	Mogadishu, Hargeisa/Berbera, Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowhar, Dhusamareb and Garowe/Galkacyo
PROJECT PERIOD	2.5 years starting from 01.01.2020 – 15.06.2022
GRANTOR	Nordic International Support Foundation – NIS

1. Background

The Nordic International Support Foundation (NIS) is a Norwegian-registered non-profit organization engaged in stabilization and reconciliation initiatives in conflict and post-conflict locations. Our primary areas of intervention are institutional development, public service delivery and conflict resolution. Headquartered in Oslo, Norway, NIS recently finalized a project in Sri Lanka and currently implements projects in Somalia, Myanmar and the Sahel.

NIS Somalia is currently implementing a wide range of stabilization projects in all federal member states with plans to expand into new areas. The projects, funded by different donors, aim to support the implementation of government policies across a range of sectors, all working in different ways to achieve greater stability and better prospects for the country's longer-term development goals. The various stabilization initiatives share the objective of contributing toward a more inclusive post-conflict society which sees the value of diversity and gender equality.

Based on this background and in consideration of challenges and disadvantages that women in particular face in regard to income generating opportunities, NIS is seeking concept notes from local **women owned and operated** small and medium sized business enterprises (SMEs), business cooperatives or groups of women that are jointly running an enterprise in any of the listed major towns that will answer on some of the challenges facing women in entrepreneurship and accessing the job market. The nature of business should be credible, legally and socially acceptable and add value to the women who directly or indirectly depend on it.

2. Objective of the call for Concepts

One of the key pillars of the Initiative for Stabilization, Transition and National Development (I-STAND) program is Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). As a major stakeholder, NIS acknowledges the major role played by women in the social economic and political growth of Somalia. Women also contribute significantly to the stability of the Somali society at the household, local, regional and national levels, through their concerted efforts to build resilience through economic interventions that not only sustain their families but contribute to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). NIS recognizes these efforts and wishes to support selected women initiatives through solar electrification and improvement of the business operation facilities.

3. Criteria for selection

This is a competitive open call, looking into selecting the most promising concepts from women owned and run initiatives. The selected women initiatives shall strictly fulfil the following criteria:

i. Be addressing concretely on some of the challenges facing women in Somalia
ii. Be purely owned and operated by women who are residents in any of the listed major towns in Somalia, i.e. Mogadishu, Hargeisa/Berbera, Kismayo, and Baidoa, Dhusamareb, Garowe, Galkayo.
iii. The business is legally registered and has a valid business/operational license
iv. The business has complied with the respective state or regional governments' tax regulations
v. The business has employed a minimum of 10 women of different ages (with a significant number being youths below 25 years)
vi. The business has a potential to employ/engage more women in the future, preferably 50 or more
vii. The business occupies its own premises or has a Lease Agreement of a period not less than 5 years
viii. The business indirectly benefits at least 100 women, and has the potential to benefit more after NIS support
ix. The business is currently struggling with high electricity bills and would be open to solar electrification

Business initiatives owned and operated by ***women living with disabilities*** and that meet the above criteria are highly encouraged to apply.

4. Criteria for application

Women enterprises meeting the above criteria are encouraged to apply in line with the following requirements:

- Submit a concept that addresses the challenges women are facing in operating business and accessing gainful employment in Somalia. The winning concept will be invited to submit a full proposal with a detailed budget. In addition, the winning business will be subjected to a further detailed assessment and due diligence.
- Submit a business profile describing what the business does, who owns it, when it was started, how many employees it has and their roles, etc.
- The concept should be maximum 5 pages including the cover page, appendices not included.
- The proposal should be accompanied by
    - a copy of certificate of business registration
    - Evidence of electricity bill paid in the last 3-5 months (Electricity Bill, Receipt of payment)
    - Evidence of owner occupier status of the business premises or a copy of the Tenancy/ Lease Agreement

5. Submission of proposals

Concepts should be submitted on or before **4:00 pm E.A.T. Sunday 17th December 2019.** All concepts must be submitted electronically to procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org with the subject line "**NIS Gender Equality and Inclusion Initiative in Somalia - CALL FOR PROPOSALS**".

Concepts received after the indicated date and time will be disqualified.

6. Contact information

Please forward any query to the following e-mail address: procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org.

OFFERS WILL BE REJECTED IF ANY ILLEGAL OR CORRUPT PRACTISES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH THE AWARD.