Overview

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to Improve Child and Adolescent Well-being in Timor-Leste

Last updated 18 November 2026

Donor: UNICEF

Reference: CEF/TLS/2026/012

Location: Timor-Leste

Deadline: 4 December 2026

Open

Purpose and scope

This Call for Expression of Interest seeks proposals for a programme to improve mental health, psychosocial well-being and resilience, and access to coordinated community-based MHPSS services through stronger education, health, protection and community systems. The programme links education, health, child protection, social welfare, youth participation and community engagement.

Implementation covers Baucau Municipality's administrative posts of Baucau, Baguia, Laga, Quelicai, Venilale and Vemasse. The programme also supports national-level policy dialogue, coordination and systems strengthening. Its named groups include children, adolescents, youth and caregivers.

Funding and timing

Funding and timing.

Who can apply

National and international NGOs may apply. Only one submission per CSO is possible. Submissions are made through the UN Partner Portal and must be in English; a complete submission includes a completed Portal profile and a Concept Note.

Response priorities

In Baucau Municipality, priority activities include training teachers and school leaders in MHPSS, stress management, self-care and early identification of distress; supporting psychologically safe, inclusive schools and referrals to health and social services; engaging PTAs in mental-health awareness, child development, positive parenting and violence prevention; and completing the RAMES assessment. Other priorities are building MHPSS competencies of social workers, case managers and community volunteers; implementing EQUIP foundational helping skills; strengthening Child-Friendly Spaces and emergency readiness; and improving referrals across schools, health facilities, social services and community structures.

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The call also identifies activities to integrate basic MHPSS into primary health care and strengthen health-worker screening, psychological first aid, counselling and referral skills through supportive supervision and mentoring. Further activities include training peer supporters through I Support My Friends; youth-led awareness campaigns using podcasts, digital storytelling and social media; youth forums, school discussions and community dialogues; and safe discussion spaces to promote well-being and reduce stigma.

Additional activities include strengthening caregivers' knowledge of positive parenting, child and adolescent development, emotional regulation and violence prevention; establishing caregiver support groups and learning circles; and improving awareness of mental-health services.

Sources

unpartnerportal.org - Official call

Salient One analysis. Official call documents and amendments govern the funding conditions.