

## Call for Expression of Interest - 2024

<b>Topic</b>	Mobile Group MHPSS activities dedicated to unaccompanied and separated children placed in alternative care
<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	Registered independent local/national NGOs/CBOs
<b>Country</b>	Poland

### Background:

Save the Children Poland is launching a pilot program for 2025 dedicated to unaccompanied and separated children placed in alternative care seeking international protection in Poland as well as to professionals working in these institutions. Additionally, the project aims to enhance the overall well-being of all children living within these alternative care facilities.

The project is a response to the evolving situation on the Belarusian border, where there is a systematic increase in the number of refugee children placed in institutional foster care. Data collected by non-governmental organizations indicates that many of these children experience pushbacks and various forms of violence. Despite being placed in alternative care, these children often choose to continue their journey irregularly to Western European countries, disappearing from facilities and becoming particularly vulnerable to the risk of human trafficking.

At Save the Children, we believe that better understanding and addressing the needs of these children, alongside improving their protection, will significantly reduce the risks of escape, disappearance, and potential exploitation by criminal groups. At the same time, we are committed to work with communities and support all children ensuring inclusivity of the response.

Caregivers report challenges in accessing psychosocial support, including assistance in navigating a new social and cultural environment, as well as in fostering positive relationships with trusted adults and peers.

Save the Children Poland invites civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) registered in Poland to submit expression of interest for mobile group MHPSS activities dedicated to unaccompanied and separated children placed in alternative care.

**The aim is to conduct regular mobile group activities for children and youth focused on developing social skills, identifying and managing emotions, self-regulation, and recognizing personal resources. Activities should include all children residing in facilities.**

### Objectives of the project:

Provide access to integrated Child Friendly Space through mobile modalities:

- Mobile MHPSS activities will be provided to build trust, create entry points and foster positive relations between Polish and non-Polish children, in line with conflict sensitivity considerations.
- The focus would be to provide psychosocial support, strengthen positive coping strategies, prevent and respond to violence, support the child in accessing education and to raise awareness on child rights.

### Activities that partners are expected to cover within the scope of the project:

Regular group activities for all children in facilities to foster the development of essential skills, including:

- Social skills
- Emotion management

- Self-regulation techniques
- Recognition and utilization of personal strengths and resources
- Expressive activities
- Any other activities that organizations find effective and relevant to the project

Detailed programme should be designed to fit to the context and will be developed jointly with Save the Children MHPSS and Child Protection team in consultation with other stakeholders if necessary.

Mobile group activities should be conducted:

- On the weekends and/or afternoons – depending on the schedule of the facilities
- Minimum 2 people with experience of conducting similar group activities who are open to gain more skills in MHPSS that will be provided by SCI

#### **Locations:**

Initially identified institutional foster care facilities in:

- Białystok
- Supraśl
- Białowieża
- Suwałki
- Wasilków
- Komarno
- Any other locations identified by applicants

**Maximum budget: 220 000 PLN**

**Duration of the project: February-October 2025**

#### **Expression of Interest Guidelines:**

1. Only one project per organization can be awarded
2. Partners cannot submit EoIs in consortia
3. Expression of Interest must include:
  - a) Concept Note – Annex A
  - b) Partner Budget – Annex B
4. Applications should be submitted to: [aleksandra.zablocka@savethechildren.org](mailto:aleksandra.zablocka@savethechildren.org); [joanna.hajduk@savethechildren.org](mailto:joanna.hajduk@savethechildren.org); [elzbieta.mibenge@savethechildren.org](mailto:elzbieta.mibenge@savethechildren.org)
5. Timeline:  
The deadline for submission of EOIs: 13.01.2024  
Project planned start: 1.02.2025

#### **Evaluation Criteria:**

A panel of Save the Children staff will evaluate each EOI based on:

- a. Effectiveness and feasibility of programme activities/approaches described in the narrative concept note - 40%
- b. Access and experience in delivering similar activities in the locations (Podlaskie and Lubelskie) – 30%
- c. Cost breakdown – 30%

**Attachments to the Call for Expression of Interest:**

- 1) Narrative Concept Note
- 2) Partner Budget

**Any agreement between Save the Children and organization will be contingent on the following aspects:**

- Secured funding from the donor
- Organization must pass the vetting and Partner Assessment processes after the preselection – applicant will be requested to provide data for Partner Vetting (name, date of birth and place of birth of key management staff) after being preselected
- Organization must take part in Partnership Assessment process facilitated by Save the Children
- Operational and technical approval of the final proposal by Save the Children developed jointly with the partner

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: [aleksandra.zablocka@savethechildren.org](mailto:aleksandra.zablocka@savethechildren.org), [elzbieta.mibenge@savethechildren.org](mailto:elzbieta.mibenge@savethechildren.org) (for Partnership and formal inquiries); [joanna.hajduk@savethechildren.org](mailto:joanna.hajduk@savethechildren.org) (for programmatic and MHPSS inquiries)