

**GUIDE TO APPLY**

# Children's Solutions Lab

## Call for applications 2022

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT IS THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB? .....	3
HOW TO GET INVOLVED? .....	5
SELECTION CRITERIA .....	5
TIMELINE 2022 .....	6
HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR EVENT AND SUBMIT A CHILD-LED PROJECT? .....	7
CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB APPLICATION FORM .....	12
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS .....	16
CONSENT FORM EXAMPLE .....	18



## WHAT IS THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB?

The Children's Solutions Lab (CLS) is a process initiated by Arigatou International in 2020 to support young people in taking action to address poverty affecting children in their communities through solutions based on education.

The Children's Solutions Lab seeks to promote ethical reflections among children about the root causes of poverty and how some cultural norms can impact the wellbeing of children and, ultimately, lead to child poverty. The initiative also aims to support children in finding local solutions to address these issues in their communities.

As there are very limited opportunities, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, for children to take action and collectively address challenges in their societies, the CSL process seeks to enhance, promote, and support opportunities for child-led actions.

Through an open call, children's groups around the world are invited to submit projects led by them that can propose context-sensitive and unique solutions to poverty affecting children in their communities. The projects are expected to address the ethical challenges and the cultural norms that can lead to poverty and suggest solutions for this based on education.

# THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB AIMS TO:

- **CREATE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATORY SPACES** and opportunities, where children are empowered to lead, develop and implement relevant actions that can bring positive impacts to their communities;
- **ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ADULTS** and organizations to involve children in their local actions in authentic and meaningful ways that can foster horizontal child-adult relations;
- **PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND SMALL-SCALE FUNDING** to projects led entirely by children with grounded and trusted support from local adults;
- **NURTURE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COLLECTIVE ACTION** among the children, and between children and trusted adult-accompaniers, through the teamwork required to carry out the process;
- **FOSTER INCLUSION OF CHILDREN** from various backgrounds (gender, age, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, and geographic location) towards taking an active role in promoting children's education and overcoming child poverty;
- **ENCOURAGE CHILDREN** (and their supporting organizations) to work together with faith actors and mobilize local resources towards their proposed solutions;
- **PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH AN OPPORTUNITY** to respond to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the impacts on their education, and an increase in the adverse indicators of child poverty.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Individuals or organizations (faith communities, schools, etc.) working with groups of children can involve them in this process by following these steps:

## 1. Organize an event

Organize a dialogue for the children to discuss if and how poverty is affecting children in their community and to identify solutions to this issue based on education. Follow our guidelines below to ensure a meaningful dialogue with the children.

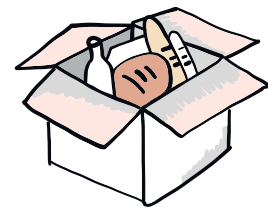
## 2. Prepare the project

Provide support to the children so they can put their solutions together into a cohesive and feasible project.



## 3. Apply!

Support the children to apply for one of our CSL micro-grants. Ensure that the children's project and application meet the selection criteria.



# SELECTION CRITERIA

- The project must be led by a group of 4 or more children (below 18 years of age) and must reflect genuine efforts to ensure the highest possible level of child participation.
- Solutions must be focused on how education can contribute to ending poverty affecting children
- Preference will be given to solutions led by diverse groups of children (groups that show religious and cultural diversity as well as gender, age, and ethnic diversity)
- The project must be innovative and with the potential to be sustainable and replicable
- The project must be relevant and sensitive to the local context of the applicants.
- Feasible to complete implementation in a period of six months and before the end of 2022.

# TIMELINE 2022

Launch of the  
Call for Applications

**FEB 22**

Deadline to  
submit applications

**MARCH 31**

**FEB 25**

**Informative  
Session\***

A free live webinar to clear  
all your doubts before  
applying for the CSL

Applications' assessment

**APRIL 21**

Announcement of  
selected projects

**MAY**

Mobilization of  
funds to selected  
groups

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Selected groups will have six  
months to implement their  
solutions, starting from the day  
they receive their funds. The  
projects must be fully completed  
before the end of 2022.

**6**

**MONTHS**

\*Click here to register for our Informative session

# HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR EVENT AND SUBMIT A CHILD-LED PROJECT?

The purpose of this chapter is to guide you on how to organize a CSL event or dialogue where children can reflect together on the root causes of poverty in their specific context. These are some questions that your dialogue should aim to address:

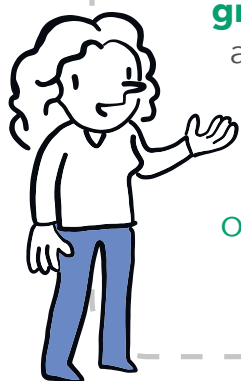
- **Are there social and cultural norms in our community that can contribute to aggravating child poverty?**
- **How can education improve the conditions of children impacted by poverty?**

The dialogue should motivate the children to identify solutions to address child poverty through education. Children should be encouraged to put their solutions together into a cohesive and

feasible project that they can submit for our international selection process. If selected, the children's project will receive technical support and small-scale funding for its implementation.

It is important that the first part of the event provides children with opportunities to acknowledge themselves and others, dialogue, and think critically about child poverty to ensure that the solution they propose addresses root causes and can potentially be sustained and replicated.

Your event can be organized either face to face or using online platforms taking into consideration the official health and safety guidelines in your country in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.



While the 5 most meaningful and impactful projects will receive funding, the Children's Solutions Lab is **not merely a grant-giving or funding opportunity**. It is focused on children's agency and on how to encourage children to work together to transform their communities.

**Make this an opportunity to enhance how your organization or group supports children's participation.**

# BEFORE THE EVENT

## PARTICIPANTS

Ensure diversity within the group of children involved. When possible, the dialogue should include children from different faiths, cultures, ages, and ethnic backgrounds, as well as children with disabilities.



## VENUE

Decide if the event will be face-to-face or online considering the local context. If face to face, find a suitable venue that is spacious and has a positive environment.

## DATE AND TIME

Ensure that there is an adequate time during the event for children to interact with each other and come up with solutions.

## DURATION

We recommend having at least a 3-hour dialogue. You can also break it up into multiple sessions/meetings in two or three days.



## CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Ensure that you are following safeguarding practices when involving children. Please review Arigatou International Child Safeguarding Policy.

Find the policy and guidelines to protect children's dignity [here](#).

## GET CONSENT

Communicate with children and their parents/legal guardians to obtain consent for participation and use of the children's images and/or names observing safeguarding practices. Find a consent form template below.



## DURING THE EVENT

- **Create a safe learning environment** for children by ensuring they all feel welcomed and get to know each other. Introduce the program and develop collective agreements on how they want to interact with one another during the event.
- If you are dealing with a big group of children, **create smaller mixed groups for dialogue**. After the dialogue, invite the groups to share their reflections and solutions in a plenary with all the participants.
- Following safeguarding practices, take pictures of children working together during the event and **take notes from children's presentations** to complete the application later.
- **Ask questions to encourage children to think critically** about child poverty and the role education can play in transforming these issues.
- **Ensure high-level participation from all children**, with the facilitators of the event giving plenty of space for children to express their ideas. Remember, there are no bad ideas!

## AT THE END OF THE EVENT

- **Thank everyone for their contributions** to the dialogue and highlight the potential to make a difference in the community by implementing the solutions identified today.
- **Decide which solution(s) will be submitted** for the international selection process. You can submit more than one by creating separate applications.
- Keep in mind that even solutions that are not submitted may be worthy to implement with the children.
- Following safeguarding practices, **record a video message of the children** presenting their solution as you will have to include this video in your application.

## AFTER THE EVENT

Submit an application for the LSN on behalf of the children's group. You can apply in any of these languages: English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.



**Ready to apply? Click here!**



# EXAMPLE OF AGENDA

The following agenda is an example of how you can structure your event. You can modify, add, remove, or adapt this agenda to your own context and to the characteristics of the group of children involved. You can also choose to run a similar agenda over multiple sessions or as a full-day workshop, with suitable break times.

TIME	SECTION	ACTIVITY DETAILS
15mins	Welcome and Introduction	Welcome the children and introduce the idea and purpose of the Children's Solution Lab. Develop a few points of collective agreements about their active participation. For instance: everyone's ideas are welcome, there are no bad ideas, listen to each other, wait for your turn to speak, etc.
30mins	Acknowledging ourselves and others	<p>Use an interactive activity for participants to get to know each other. Here are some examples:</p> <p>Example 1: In an open space ask participants to move around like a "butterfly" and each time they meet another participant they can ask them their name and one of the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your favorite superhero?</li> <li>• What is something you are good at doing?</li> <li>• What is a dream you have for your future?</li> </ul> <p>Children should try to meet as many fellow participants as possible. (15mins)</p> <p>Example 2: Form a big circle and invite participants to pass a boll of string/rope/cord to someone they connected with while holding on to the end of the string themselves. The next person forwards the string to another while holding on it him/herself. In the end, when the cord is passed around it should connect all participants in a sort of web. Without naming the formation, ask participants the following questions to encourage reflection and sharing. (15mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you see here?</li> <li>• What does it symbolize?</li> <li>• What can we learn from this?</li> <li>• What happens when one person pulls, shakes or lets go of the cord?</li> </ul>

TIME	SECTION	ACTIVITY DETAILS
40mins	Understanding Child Poverty	<p>Use an activity such as the “Problem Tree” to invite children to discuss in smaller groups the issue of child poverty. Children draw an outline of a tree on a large piece of paper with three sections of roots, trunk, and branches. In the top part of the paper - near the branches, write down the effects of poverty on children. Then, looking at the effects identified, write down their root causes in the bottom part of the tree near the roots. (30mins)</p> <p>Invite groups to share their trees by displaying them on the walls and asking participants to move around to look at the trees by the other groups. (10mins)</p>
30mins	How Education can end Child Poverty	<p>In smaller groups invite children to reflect on how education can help to address the root causes of poverty. Ask them to write each idea down on a separate sticky note or small piece of paper. (20mins)</p> <p>Invite each group to present their ideas. Use a board/wall to post all the sticky notes by each group clustering them based on similarities. (10mins)</p>
45mins	Working together on a Solution	<p>Share an example of solutions led by children <a href="#">like this video</a> about Arun and his friends who came up with the idea of a food bank to support children in a vulnerable situation in their community in India. (5mins)</p> <p>Invite children to think of a solution that addresses child poverty through education that is both meaningful and impactful. (30mins)</p> <p>Invite groups to present their solutions and receive feedback from other groups in terms of what they like and what they think can be improved (15mins)</p>
10mins	Next Steps and Closing	<p>Together with the children decide which of the solutions proposed by them will be submitted for the international selection process.</p>



# CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB APPLICATION FORM

In the following pages, you will find the list of all the questions you will have to answer during the application process.

To save time and submit a solid application, we suggest you review the questions and prepare your answers in advance together with the children who are in charge of the project/ solution. Do this before visiting the link to the online application form.

We **strongly suggest** that all participants use our online application form to submit the children's projects, as this is the official channel to apply to the Children's Solutions Lab. However, we understand in some locations access to the internet might be very limited. Only in these cases, we will accept that groups send their submissions as a Word or PDF document to these email addresses:

[endchildpoverty@arigatouinternational.org](mailto:endchildpoverty@arigatouinternational.org)  
[geneva@arigatouinternational.org](mailto:geneva@arigatouinternational.org)



# CHECKLIST

Before applying make sure you have:

- Read through this Guide to Apply
- Agreed to follow our Child Safeguarding Policy
- Obtained consent from all the participating children and their parents or legal guardians.
- Recorded a video of the children presenting their project
- Prepared all your responses in advance to save time

## SECTION 1: CONTACT INFORMATION

**DESCRIPTION:** *In this section, we request more information about the main contact person submitting the application for the CSL 2022 on behalf of the children's group. This person can be an adult from the organization that is supporting the children's group. We also ask you to briefly tell us about the children's group applying for the CSL 2022.*

### 1. WHO IS SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN'S GROUP?

- Full Name of contact person:
- Title or Position of contact person:
- E-mail of contact person:
- Phone number:
- Name of Organization/ Group:
- Country:
- Organization e-mail (if available):
- Organization website or social media (if available):

### 2. WHO ARE THE CHILDREN INVOLVED?

- Name of the Children's Group:
- Country:
- How many children are in the group? Please, specify how many girls and how many boys are participating:
- What ages are the children:
- Please describe the children's group, in terms of their cultural or religious backgrounds and how long they have been working together as a group.

## SECTION 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE SOLUTION

**DESCRIPTION:** *In this section, we ask you to tell us more about the children's solution – that is, the idea the children are proposing towards ending child poverty in the community, through ethics education. We want to know more about the process – how the children developed their solution and what kind of support your organization provided. Lastly, we would like to see the children speak directly about their project, through a short video. Remember to be brief and specific in all your responses.*

## 1. TELL US ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTION:

**Problem:** What issues did children identify, in terms of how poverty is affecting children in the community?

**Solution:** What innovative solution is the children' group proposing to help overcome child poverty and promote ethics education in the community?

**Innovativeness:** Why is this solution the most impactful? How does it help address the needs of children across various social, cultural, and religious backgrounds in the community?

**Children's participation:** Please describe the process of how children worked together to develop the proposed solution.

*For instance, you can tell us if an online or face-to-face CSL event was organized for children to work together, and who helped organize this event. Did the children have discussions in their schools, institutions of worship, social clubs or other such safe spaces? Did the children meet once, or over several occasions, to work on their solution? Who facilitated the children's discussions?*

**Support for Children's Solutions:** Please describe how your organization/group plans to support the children to implement their solution. Please also describe any other community support that is likely to be given to the children in implementing their solution.

## 2. VIDEO BY CHILDREN

Please include a short video of the children presenting/explaining their solution. Alternatively, you can share a link to this video if it is already uploaded to your website, YouTube, WeTransfer, Google Drive, etc. (video maximum of 5 minutes)

### Good to know:

- The children's video can be recorded in English, Spanish or French. You will be kindly required to provide English subtitles for any other language used.
- Ensure to maintain children's online safety, particularly if the video has been uploaded on an organization's website, YouTube, Facebook or other such public online space.
- All videos, as well as other materials produced for the Children's Solutions Lab (CSL), will be stored by Arigatou International, for immediate or later use, replay, publication, dissemination, and necessary communication purposes.

Kindly keep in mind that an important requirement in the application process is to send a video recorded by the children presenting their project/solution.

**This video is a key element** to assess if the project was genuinely designed by the children and if they are motivated to implement it.



## SECTION 3: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND PERMISSIONS

**DESCRIPTION:** *In this section, we request you to go through a brief checklist that outlines the basic requirements for safeguarding children and ensuring their wellbeing during the Children's Solutions Lab process.*

### 1. HAVE YOU REVIEWED OUR GUIDELINES ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN?

- Yes, I confirm that I have read and agreed to adhere to Arigatou International's [Child Safeguarding Policy](#) and Code of Conduct.
- I confirm that all adult directly supporting the children's group have read and agreed to adhere to Arigatou International's Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.

### 2. DO YOU HAVE THE CONSENT FROM THE CHILDREN AND THEIR GUARDIANS?

- Yes, I confirm that I have the consent from the children and their parents/ legal guardians to work together for the Children's Solution Lab and to take, use and share photos and/or videos during the process.
- I confirm that I have the consent from the children and their parents/ legal guardians to submit this application to the CSL 2022 on behalf of the children's group.

### 3. ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL'S USE OF MATERIALS:

- I understand and I agree that the information I've shared here (stories, photos, videos, etc.) might be disseminated on Arigatou International social media channels and websites, especially if the project I am submitting is selected. Arigatou International will inform me before publishing any these materials.

### 4. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SELECTED?

- I agree that if the children's project is selected to receive a micro-grant, I or my organization will ensure the funds are used accordingly.
- I agree that, if selected, I or my organization will support the children to develop an action plan and budget to implement their solutions within a period of 6 months in consultation with Arigatou International.

**SUBMIT!**



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here is a summary of the most frequently asked questions related to the Children's Solutions Lab. If your question is not answered here, [please visit our website](#) to find our complete FAQs list.

## WHAT DOES CHILD-LED MEAN?

Child-led is when a child chooses the activity/project/action rather than the adult. The child has control of the activity, but the adult accompanies the process to ensure it is safe and meaningful.

The main criteria to get selected for one of the CSL micro-grants is that the submitted project is genuinely conceived, developed, led, and eventually implemented by children.



## WHAT DOES ETHICS EDUCATION MEAN?

Ethics education is an approach towards promoting positive values on children, young people, and the larger society towards creating a world of greater justice, peace, and dignity.

For the Children's Solutions Lab, the ethics education approach aims to promote critical thinking among children about the social and cultural norms that can lead to poverty, and collective actions to find solutions to tackle these issues.

The Children's Solutions Lab (CSL) also encourages interfaith and intercultural collaboration, whereby children from different walks of life work together to develop solutions that can positively transform their communities.



## WHEN DOES THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB TAKE PLACE AND HOW LONG IS THE PROCESS?

In 2022, the call for applications for the Children Solutions Lab (CSL) will be launched by the end of February 2022 and will remain open until March 31, 2022. Selected projects will be announced in April and children's groups will have six months to implement their solutions, starting from the day they receive their funds. The projects must be fully completed before the end of 2022.



## WHERE DOES THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB TAKE PLACE?

We encourage children to develop local community solutions. Therefore, the Children's Solutions Lab (CSL) processes take place in the children's respective communities - be it at their schools, social clubs, places of worship and other such safe spaces.

Children's Solutions Lab events can be organized virtually (online) or in-person, depending on the needs and resources available. In all sessions, the wellbeing of the participating children should be ensured, including their safety, comfort, and meaningful participation.





## WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB?

The Children's Solutions Lab (CSL) welcomes the participation of children from various countries, communities, faiths, cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

Children (persons below 18 years of age) are encouraged to work together in groups of 4 or more children, to participate in the Children's Solutions Lab (CSL).



## IS IT NECESSARY FOR MY GROUP TO BE REGISTERED TO PARTICIPATE?

No, it is not necessary for the children's group to be registered (legal or business registration) to take part in the Children's Solutions Lab (CSL).

However, if you are considering applying on behalf of a children's group, keep in mind that -if selected for one of our micro-grants- the funds must be channelled through a legally registered organization. This means a registered organization will receive the funds on behalf of the children and report to Arigatou International on the use of these funds.



## IF MY GROUP PARTICIPATED IN THE CSL IN A PREVIOUS ROUND CAN WE PARTICIPATE AGAIN?

YES! We believe this is a great opportunity for children and we welcome as many groups to participate as possible- whether it is the children's first time to participate in the CSL or if they have participated before.



## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

Nothing!. Groups or organizations participating in the Children's Solutions Lab (CSL) are NOT required to make any payments or send any funds to Arigatou International.

However, please be aware that your group or organization may incur costs during the organization of your CSL event, for example for children's transportation, refreshments, communication, etc.



## DOES ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS LAB?

Arigatou International will provide CSL 2022 micro-grants (ranging from USD \$ 500 to USD \$ 2000) to five selected groups that applied for the Children's Solutions Lab 2022.

In addition to the micro-grants, Arigatou International will provide support and mentoring to the five selected groups during the implementation of their solutions.

Do you have more questions?

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



# CONSENT FORM EXAMPLE

## FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS TO SIGN

I \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/legal guardian name) in the quality of parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) give my permission for any photos, video or written content of my son/daughter to be collected by \_\_\_\_\_ (organization's name) and to be submitted for Arigatou International's Children's Solutions Lab international selection process.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) at the age of \_\_\_\_\_ give my permission for any photos, video or written to be content collected by \_\_\_\_\_ (organization's name) and to be submitted for Arigatou International's Children's Solutions Lab international selection process.

The photos, videos or written content will be collected in accordance with UNICEF guidelines for ethical reporting on children and young people under the age of 18 years old.

Submitted materials will be the property of Arigatou International and might or might not be published on Arigatou International's websites, social media and other authorized media as part of the Children's Solutions Lab initiative.

The materials will be collected under adult supervision and the best interests of the child are to be protected over any other considerations, including advocacy for children's related issues or promotion of child rights.

Parents/legal guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

