

## **Project Title: Supporting AISDA's Leadership & Refugee Assistance**

### **Project Summary:**

*Supporting AISDA's Leadership & Refugee Assistance* project is a critical response to the severe funding crisis triggered by the termination of U.S. government foreign aid, which has impacted 74% of AISDA's 2025 budget. This crisis has jeopardized essential education and health programs serving vulnerable populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), leaving over 381,926 individuals without access to improved health services and 13,445 displaced children without quality education. The project aims to ensure the continuity of educational services for these children, particularly through inclusive and safe learning environments, while retaining AISDA's senior management team and key staff to sustain organizational operations. By rehabilitating classrooms, providing learning materials, training teachers, and mobilizing communities, the project will address immediate educational gaps and protect the well-being of affected children. Additionally, it will secure the salaries of critical personnel and maintain administrative functions, enabling AISDA to continue its mission until alternative funding is secured. With a total budget requirement of \$198,010 USD for 12 months, this initiative seeks to restore stability, promote resilience, and safeguard the futures of thousands of vulnerable children and their communities.

### **Problem Statement:**

The termination of U.S. government foreign aid has had a devastating impact on AISDA, with 74% of its 2025 budget now affected. This funding has been essential for maintaining vital programs in Education and Health that serve some of the most vulnerable populations, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The termination of three major projects, valued at \$1,913,984, has directly impacted 32 staff members and 14 head office key staff whose salaries were funded by these initiatives. These projects were critical in providing healthcare and educational opportunities to communities in need, particularly IDPs and refugees.

The termination of these programs leaves approximately 381,926 individuals without access to improved health services. For refugees and IDPs, who are already living in precarious conditions, this loss of healthcare could mean life-threatening consequences. In addition, 13,445 displaced children, many of whom are refugees, will no longer have access to quality, inclusive, and safe education. The disruption of education is especially damaging for these children, as it not only deprives them of their right to learn but also disrupts their sense of stability and normalcy in an already unstable environment. Furthermore, 3,500 preschool children who relied on play-based education will be left without the essential learning experiences that foster early development.

The termination of these vital programs will impact over 270,000 additional individuals who were expected to benefit from these projects, further compounding the hardships faced by IDPs and refugees. The financial burden of this disruption is significant, with an estimated loss of \$41,785.99 in wages and benefits over a 90-day period (February to April 2025), in addition to \$7,967 in ongoing financial obligations for severance, supplier contracts, and lease agreements at AISDA.

The funding termination of the three USAID funded projects has created a severe crisis for both AISDA and the communities it serves, with refugees and IDPs bearing the brunt of this loss as they face a future without access to essential health and education services. If alternative funding is not secured, AISDA may struggle to retain key staff at its head office and field offices, putting the organization's sustainability in jeopardy.

In response to this crisis, AISDA estimates that approximately \$55,000 will be needed to maintain its senior management team, including the Executive Director, until December 2025. Additionally, at least \$143,050 will be required to continue one of our key education projects for 13,000 refugees and IDPs, ensuring that they have access to some form of education until December 31, 2025.

### **Project Goal:**

To ensure the continuation of educational services to refugees and IDPs, focusing on displaced children, while maintaining AISDA's capacity to deliver and manage these programs until alternative funding sources can be secured.

### **Project Objectives:**

1. **To provide education to 13,445 displaced children**, ensuring they have access to inclusive, quality, and safe educational opportunities.
2. **To continue providing early childhood education** to 3,500 preschool-aged children, including play-based learning and developmental activities.
3. **To retain key AISDA staff and maintain essential administrative operations**, particularly those in education-focused and fund-raising roles ensuring continuity of education services as well as the organization.

### **Major Activities Outcomes & Budget Allocation:**

#### **Outcome 1: Increased Community Engagement in Education**

1. Train School Management Committees (SMCs), PTSA members, and community leaders on DRR and School Improvement Plans: \$9,000
2. Sensitize parents on child protection and positive parenting: \$6,000
3. Establish and train gender clubs for disability inclusion and girls' education: \$6,000
4. Conduct community mobilization for school enrollment: \$6,500

**Subtotal for Outcome 1: \$27,500**

#### **Outcome 2: Improved Access to Education**

1. Rehabilitate classrooms and improve WASH/MHM facilities: \$30,000
2. Supply learning materials and assistive devices for CWDs: \$10,000
3. Establish and equip Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) centers: \$17,000
4. Conduct teacher training on inclusive, gender-responsive pedagogy: \$13,000

**Subtotal for Outcome 2: \$70,000**

**Outcome 3: Safe and Protective Learning Environments**

1. Train teachers in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), MHPSS, and child protection: \$12,000
2. Implement GBV prevention and response in schools: \$10,000
3. Provide MHPSS and case management for affected children: \$6,000

**Subtotal for Outcome 3: \$26,000**

**Outcome 4: Strengthened Education Service Delivery**

1. Enhance education cluster coordination: \$7,000
2. Improve data collection and dissemination: \$6,500
3. Capacity building for education clusters: \$6,000

**Subtotal for Outcome 4: \$19,500**

**Outcome 5: 70% of AISDA's key staff in education-focused and fundraising roles retained over the next 12 months, ensuring minimal disruption to the delivery of education services and the organization's ability to secure necessary funding for ongoing operations.**

1. **Salaries for Senior Management & Key Personnel:** Covers the salaries of the senior management team, including the Executive Director, Project Coordinator, and key project officers responsible for overseeing the overall implementation, coordination, and monitoring of the education project during the project continuation period.

**Budget: \$40,000**

2. **Head Office and liaison Office Supplies & Operational Costs:** This allocation is for office supplies, utilities, communication costs, and other basic operational expenses for the head office and liaison office.
  - **Budget: \$15,000**

**Conclusion:**

This project is critical to restoring access to education for **13,445 children** in the Afar region who have been severely impacted by the ongoing crisis. By addressing the immediate educational needs, providing inclusive learning environments, and ensuring child protection, this project will contribute to the long-term recovery and resilience of the affected communities. With the total funding requirement of **\$198,010 USD for 12 months**, this initiative will create lasting change and support the well-being of children who need it most.