

Plan International Sweden

Strengthening resilience of at risk children and youth in situations of protracted conflict – final workshop with lessons learned and best practice

Expression of Interest

Background:

In situations of conflict and natural disasters children are particularly vulnerable due to their dependence on adults and their need for care. In emergency situations existing threats are exacerbated, (e.g. violence or trafficking) and new ones appear (e.g. recruitment into armed groups). Displacement, separation from family and community, losing a parent or a care giver, losing home and possessions are all factors that further increases the vulnerabilities of children. At the same time, the protective environment is weakened, both in terms of breaking down community and public child protection services as well as by a lack of safety, security and a dependence on humanitarian assistance.

Assisting children in the context of an emergency has to be done through careful interventions, which address both their immediate needs and protects them from long-term harm. In situations of protracted conflicts it is necessary to find solutions that bridge the common humanitarian-development dichotomy and contributes to long-term peace and re-establishment of the social fabric in order to strengthen the protective environment. In this context, Plan International's programmes:

- are guided by a child-centered community development approach where we work with children, their families, communities, organizations and local governments to bring about positive change regardless of the context in which they live;
- take a nexus approach to ensure that interventions are relevant, sustainable, conflict sensitive, and tackle root causes regardless of context and circumstances in both humanitarian and development settings; and
- aim to overcome the structural causes of poverty, undertaking the role of facilitators and catalyzers, working jointly with boys, girls, adolescents, families and actors of the civil society, advocating for the rights of children.

The **Strengthening resilience of at risk children and youth in situations of protracted conflict project** is a pilot project. The overall objective of the project is to protect children, adolescents and youth in situations of protracted conflict. The specific objectives of the project are to i) protect children and youth from the risk of recruitment into armed forces; ii) empower adolescents and youth to contribute actively to building a more inclusive, equitable, cohesive and peaceful society; and iii) increase resilience and protective capacities of conflict-affected adolescents, youth and their families. The project is implemented in three (3) countries and project approach has been designed based on the specific context within which the project is implemented.

Country 1: Central African Republic

- Context: Country with protracted conflict situation where the current protection needs are far from met. Large IDP population and children at high risk of recruitment into Armed Forces and Armed Groups.
- Project focus: Community-based child protection mechanism, including preventing the recruitment of children into AFAG
- Thematic focus and example activities: The project strengthens community resilience through a series of activities that address both push- and pull factors for children's involvement in armed groups. Families and communities are informed of the detrimental effect that involvement in armed groups has on children longer term development. Leaders of armed groups are made aware of the potential legal implications of recruiting children. Complaint mechanisms are development so that youth are provided with alternative ways to voice

grievances. These activities will involve both Christian and Muslim communities, thereby also contributing to social cohesion (peacebuilding).

Country 2: Myanmar

- Context: Central Rakhine State where conflict has been ongoing for long. Large IDP community after local clashes. Limited safe access for Muslim/Rohingya children to education.
- Project focus: Access to education as part of the Safe Schools Declaration.
- Thematic focus and example activities: The project will strengthen community resilience by addressing needs that go beyond the immediate humanitarian phase in a situation of prolonged displacement. Activities focus on the educational and economic empowerment of young people, as a vital prerequisite for attaining a stable, peaceful and cohesive society in Rakhine State.

Country 3 Tanzania

- Context: Burundian refugee camps in western Tanzania (Kibondo area).
- Project focus: MHPSS in refugee camps as part of prevention.
- Thematic focus and example activities: The project strengthens community resilience by upgrading child friendly spaces into multi-purpose community centres, offering early childhood care and development, psychosocial support, life skills, vocational opportunities and parenting programmes, and prevention (skills and asset building). Activities will be youth and community led with an emphasis on capacity building on conflict resolution and mediation, as transferable skills applicable in the camps and in re-building peaceful Burundian communities. It will also pilot a package of soft skills support for returning families and their children, with a focus on protective capacities of the family.

Objectives:

- To facilitate a digital learning event between 3 intervention countries, and bilaterally with each country team if needed, to identify major lessons learned and best practices during 4 years of implementation of the program
- To ensure learning, sharing and documentation within Plan International on key issues related to programming and work in fragile states, Children in Armed Conflict (CAAC), Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), social cohesion/peacebuilding and humanitarian-development nexus
- **Based on the conversations with the 3 country offices. Provide key recommendations on how COs and SNO can strengthen nexus interventions in similar future projects.**

Expected deliverables:

1. *Facilitation of a digital learning event workshop between 3 countries*
 2. *Follow up bilaterally with each country for additional information*
 3. *A final workshop report to include but not limited to:*
- A brief assessment of major progress, learnings and achievements under the *Strengthening resilience of at risk children and youth in situations of protracted conflict* project
 - An analysis of the project's current engagement in the thematic areas, including impact from local to regional and global level:
 - Strengthen social cohesion and peacebuilding ,
 - Strengthen and build bridges to the CAAC (1612), youth, peace and security agenda (SCR 2250),
 - Engage in the intersection between the humanitarian and the development nexus

- Provide recommendations for Plan International's continued and expanded engagement in the field of strengthening resilience among children and youth living in fragile/conflict/disaster (FCD) areas

Scope of the work:

- Planning and facilitation of online workshop and gathering lessons learned and best practice
- Writing final workshop report with analyses and recommendations

Budget: 44,000SEK

Ethics and child protection

Plan International staff, and external parties taking on assignments on behalf of the organization, are required to act in the best interest of the child and adhere to the principle of "do no harm." In order to ensure that the consultants understand, and admit to respect, the organizational requirements, the successful candidate is requested to sign the Plan International Child Protection Policy and act in accordance with the Code of Conduct and international standards.

Qualifications and experience

The desired specifications and qualities of the successful candidate(s) are:

- Demonstrated experience of conducting workshops and documenting the learnings and best practices;
- Studies of similar focus and scope and in depth-knowledge of children's rights, child protection and equality for girls in fragile contexts and protracted crisis are considered beneficial;
- Good understanding of the humanitarian-development nexus and peacebuilding as well as the youth, peace and security agenda;
- Fluent spoken and written communication skills in English (French is considered a merit); and
- Ability to deliver on tight time frames and meet deadlines within agreed budgets.

Expression of interest

Plan International Sweden welcomes the responses to this Terms of Reference with a bid of maximum five (5) pages including:

- A brief response to the aim of workshop and final report
- A quote for consulting fee in EUR; *a period of planning workshop (2 days), ½-1 day for the final workshop + bilateral dialogue with countries (2 day) and final report writing 8 days.*
- A statement of availability and work to be done during February (state the suggested dates).
- Two references (including one from your last client/employer);
- Copies of all relevant Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Please send your related documents before 31 December 2021 via email to: anna-maija.beloff@plansverige.org

Mark the email with 'Expression of Interest CAAC final workshop'.