

Request for Consultancy Applications

Building the evidence base on effective models of community-led child protection and bottom-up child protection systems strengthening:

Developing case studies of effective practice in Uganda and Tanzania

Date of issue:	21 September 2016
Submission deadline	14 October 2016
Duration of assignment:	6 months on a part-time basis (estimated 53 consultancy days)
Expected start date:	1 January 2017
Child Safeguarding Level:	Level 2 (enhanced) – The consultant will have direct access to children on a <u>frequent/intensive basis</u> . A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check and where required equivalent international police check will be obtained for those at this level.

Background

It is widely recognised that communities play a key role in protecting children and are more often than not the frontline of wider child protection systems. Despite this recognition and increasing efforts to support communities to drive action, many agencies and governments still rely on top-down approaches to strengthening child protection systems that generate low levels of community ownership and which have low sustainability beyond a particular programme funding period. Sector-wide, there is a shortage of skills for deep listening, patient facilitation, inclusive community planning, and internally driven social change that are at the heart of community driven action.

Although there is increasing recognition of the need for community-led child protection and bottom-up system strengthening, there is a gap in evidence of *how* to achieve this. Without examples of effective practice and models from a range of contexts it is difficult for the child protection sector to change its practice. The lack of evidence around effective models is further compounded by the need for the increased communication of lessons learned and practical implications, which can support take up of learning by practitioners.

The Interagency Learning Initiative on Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms and Child Protection Systems (hereafter referred to as ILI)

Since January 2009 a group of child protection agencies has come together to take forward an ILI on community based child protection, prompted by a collective need for increased evidence and the development of standards for practice in supporting communities to protect children. The overall aim of the ILI is to develop the evidence base on what works to strengthen community based child protection mechanisms in the context of national child protection systems. The ILI has been implemented through strong interagency partnerships and overseen by a global reference group involving 10 national and international agencies. Save the Children coordinates the ILI and the Columbia Group for Children in Adversity is the technical lead for the action research in Sierra Leone and Kenya.

Since its inception the ILI has taken forward key pieces of work:

- A global desk review of evaluation evidence on community based child protection mechanisms
- Multi-year action research in Sierra Leone and Kenya to develop and robustly evaluate new models of community-driven child protection, and
- Establishment of an online environment¹ and network, the Community Child Protection Exchange (“the Exchange”), to bring child protection practitioners together and link them to key research and learning on this topic

More information and publications generated by the ILI can be found on the Exchange website, <http://childprotectionforum.org/>

With funding from the Oak Foundation, the ILI is now in its third phase of work, which runs from 2016-2018. The current phase focuses on three key objectives:

1. Extending the community-driven child protection model in Sierra Leone to the former 'comparison communities'²
2. Building capacity to use, promote, facilitate and advocate for community-led child protection mechanisms and bottom-up systems strengthening approaches in Uganda and Tanzania, and
3. Helping build the evidence base on effective community-led child protection and bottom-up child protection systems strengthening in order to influence and strengthen policy and practice for children’s wellbeing in Uganda and Tanzania, regionally and globally.

2. Objectives and scope of the consultancy

The consultancy outlined in this call for applications relates to the third objective of the current phase of the ILI work. The aim of the consultancy is to develop at least six case studies of innovative or promising practices in community-led child protection or bottom-up systems strengthening implemented in Uganda and Tanzania by local and national organisations. The types of approaches and programmes that we are looking to document through the case studies are those which have all or some of the following attributes:

- high levels of community ownership
- demonstrate inclusive community participation
- community decides the child protection issue to be addressed
- community decides how to address the issue
- community designs the intervention
- community implements the intervention
- community conducts its own evaluation of the intervention
- relatively low reliance on outside facilitators or actors

¹ <http://childprotectionforum.org/>

² The research design in Sierra Leone involved a phased approach, where community-led activities were implemented in specific “early intervention communities”. Similar communities were designated as “comparison communities” where activities were not implemented. Outcomes were measured in both sets of communities during the course of the community-led intervention, meaning that it was possible to attribute any observable changes to the absence or presence of the intervention.

The programme will support small meetings in Uganda and Tanzania in which organisations can share and reflect on the information and learning identified through the case studies. The ILI Exchange will further facilitate the dissemination of key lessons and implications via its online communications platforms as well as through supporting regional participation in select learning events. The case studies will contribute to building the global evidence base in order to influence and strengthen policy and practice for children’s wellbeing.

2.1 Objectives

1. To conduct a focused mapping of a range (perhaps 10-12) of community-driven child protection models and approaches currently supported by local and national organisations in Uganda and Tanzania
2. To develop from the mapping six detailed case studies (3 per country) of some of the most promising models
3. To provide a detailed documentation of each model and how it has been implemented
4. To document the enabling factors and challenges that have influenced the implementation of each model
5. To propose practical recommendations for improving the design, implementation and/or monitoring and evaluation of each model which can be useful to the local or national organisation implementing the model
6. To identify key lessons from each model, and comparatively across the case studies, which can be drawn to influence sector-wide practice

It is expected that three case studies will be developed for Uganda and three for Tanzania. However, if there is a case made from the initial mappings for a different balance between the two countries, then that can be considered.

Methodology

The following provides a guide on the methodological process expected for collecting and documenting the case studies. A final methodology will be proposed by the selected consultant and presented to the ILI project team overseeing the case studies for their review and endorsement.

3.1 ILI project team

The ILI project team will hold virtual meetings with the consultant to review the Terms of Reference and finalise the mapping and case study methodology, including the data collection and analysis process to be put forward by the consultant. The ILI project team will also oversee the design and implementation of ethical safeguards for the protection of the confidentiality, dignity, safeguarding, rights and welfare of participants.

3.2 Inception Report

The consultant will develop an inception report that outlines the following:

- The overall approach for the mapping and case studies in Uganda and Tanzania
- Detailed methodology, including data collection tools, key data sources and analysis methods
- Work plan, including time frames and travel schedules.
- Risks and limitations
- Ethical considerations
- Child safeguarding considerations

This will be presented to the ILI project team for their review, amendment and endorsement, prior to commencing the field process.

3.3 Mapping models in Uganda and Tanzania

In order to identify six models to document as detailed case studies, a first step will be to conduct a focused mapping to identify a small number (perhaps 10-12) of system strengthening models that are being implemented by local and national organisations in each country. The mapping will not be exhaustive but should provide a limited picture of programmes being implemented across organisations. The ILI project team will already have gathered some mapping information from activities in each country during 2016 and this information will be passed to the consultant as a starting point. The ILI project team will also have compiled a list of local and national organisations which can be approached to identify and document further information. The mapping information may be generated through some form of paper survey sent to organisations to complete, or through a series of telephone or skype meetings.

3.4 Detailed case studies

Once the focused mapping is completed the consultant, together with the ILI project team, will select 3 models in each country to document through detailed case studies. The Consultant will travel to the implementation sites to gather information on each model. The consultant should set out a methodology for generating the case study data in the inception report. As a guide this might involve a series of key informant interviews and focus group discussions with children and adults in communities.

3.5 Debrief sessions

Debrief sessions should be held with each implementing organisation at the end of the visit to provide initial feedback on findings and recommendations. A remote debrief should also be held with the ILI project team within one week of each visit. A final de-brief will also take place with the ILI project team during April 2017. These de-briefs will be used to guide the development of the final outputs.

4. Deliverables

The expected deliverables are:

1. Inception Report of approximately 10 pages, detailing the methodology and work plan, and including the data collection tools, for the review and approval by the ILI project team (to be based on inception report format that will be provided by Save the Children)
2. A focused mapping of a range of models (perhaps 10-12) of community-led child protection and bottom-up system strengthening process in Uganda and Tanzania
3. Debrief sessions with each organisation and with the ILI project team on early analysis and findings
4. A detailed case study (up to 15 pages) for each of the six models reviewed
5. A draft summary document of maximum 10 pages, highlighting the key lessons from each model and comparatively across models, based on the objectives outlined above and in a report format to be agreed with the ILI project team
6. A final summary document, with specification as in (5), incorporating the inputs from the ILI project team

5. Suggested Timeline for Work

The consultancy is expected to start in January 2017, once all DBS and international police checks have been carried out. A detailed workplan including timelines will be agreed between Save the Children and the Consultant as part of the contract.

Activity	Date	Estimated number of days to complete activity
Planning calls with ILI project team	January	1
Case study methodology design	January	3
Identification of case studies in Uganda	January	2
Fieldwork in Uganda	February	15
Drafting Uganda case studies	February/March	3
Finalising Uganda case studies	March	3
Identification of case studies in Tanzania	March	2
Fieldwork in Tanzania	April	15
Drafting Tanzania case studies	April/May	3
Finalising Tanzania case studies	May	3
Producing final summary briefing	May	3
Total		53

6. Management Arrangements

The ILI is coordinated by Save the Children. Save the Children will manage the contractual relationship with the consultant and will be the primary contact point.

A project team will steer the design of the case study work and review and input on all of the deliverables. The project team will consist of:

- Margaret Atimango – Child Rights Governance and Protection Specialist, Save the Children Uganda
- Lucy Hillier – Coordinator of the ILI Exchange, Independent Consultant
- Deputy Head of Child Protection, Save the Children UK
- Representative from Save the Children Tanzania
- Agnes Wasike – CPWG Coordinator Uganda
- Mike Wessells – Technical Lead for the research in Sierra Leona and Kenya, Columbia Group for Children in Adversity

7. Application Timescales and Process

Activity	Date
Request for consultancy applications issued	21 September 2016
Deadline for submission of applications	14 October 2016
Skype interviews with shortlisted consultants	TBC
Child safeguarding checks carried out (DBS or equivalent International Criminal Record Check) as required	October – November 2016 (timeline will depend on Consultant's situation)
Award of consultancy contract	December 2016
Start date for work	1 January 2017

The selected consultant will be expected to have the following competencies:

- Extensive (at least 5 years) experience in the field of child protection and/or social work, including experience of implementing child protection programmes
- Excellent understanding of child protection issues and familiarity with current discourse on child protection systems and community based child protection mechanisms
- Extensive (at least 5 years) experience of conducting research, evaluation and learning activities in child protection
- Experience/knowledge of child protection work in Uganda and Tanzania is an advantage
- Sound understanding of gender issues
- Fluency in English, written and verbal
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrates strong commitment to Save the Children's Mission, Vision and Values
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality, age sensitivity and fully comply with Save the Children's Child Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines.
- Speaking of local language is an advantage

The consultant will have the following logistical capacity:

- Capacity to maintain and submit accurate and timely invoices
- Access to a laptop and appropriate office software to generate the required outputs
- Availability to start work in January 2017 and to travel to Uganda and Tanzania during the months specified.

Expressions of Interest (EoI) should be submitted electronically to Lucy Hillier, lucy@childprotectionforum.org **no later than 14 October 2016 by 11:59pm British Summer Time**

EoI's should include a cover letter, outlining:

- a) How the consultant meets the technical competencies and logistical capacity requirements outlined above, and should include an up to date CV.
- b) Relevant expertise and experience for the work
- c) An outline of the proposed approach for developing the case studies
- d) Cost per day (in GBP) and number of days required to complete the work
- e) Details and justification for any other costs
- f) A suggested timeline for key deliverables
- g) Attachments or links to examples of previous relevant work.

As a donor funded body Save the Children is committed to ensuring our resources are used as efficiently as possible, in order that we can focus them on achieving maximum impact for children and that our arrangements with consultants represent value for money. We expect this approach to be demonstrated from any consultant it does business with.

The successful applicant will be asked to sign a consultancy agreement.

It is Save the Children UK policy to pay for work in arrears using our 30 day payment terms. Flight and accommodation costs during the fieldwork will be covered by Save the Children. Additional expenses (food and incidentals) will be reimbursed on presentation of receipts in line with Save the Children's expense policy.