**DEVELOPMENT OF A MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK AND POLICY BRIEF ON ASPIRATION 9 OF AGENDA 2040.**

**Terms of Reference**

1. **Introduction**

Save the Children (SC) is the world's leading independent organization for children. As part of the organisation’s contribution towards ensuring every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Save the Children has been working with armed forces in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) since 1998 and with the African Union (AU) for the last ten years to promote the rights of children in conflicts, post-conflict and protracted political emergency situations.

Twenty-five years after the adoption of the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), children’s rights are still not seen as a serious political issue. Rather, they are often seen as social welfare issues and excluded from broader political development debates. It contradicts commitments made by African States under the ACRWC and ignores the benefit of children’s contribution as rights holders to their societies, countries and the development of Africa. As a result child rights, beyond family protection, health and education, receive insufficient attention from African political decision makers. This affects the rights of both boys and girls, but girls voices are particularly absent in the discussion.

1. **Background and Rationale**

***The Impact of Armed Conflict and Crises on Children:***

New evidence presented by Save the Children[[1]](#footnote-1) is damning:

1. 420 million children – nearly one-fifth of children worldwide – are living in a conflict zone; a rise of nearly 30 million children from 2016.
2. The number of children living in conflict zones has doubled since the end of the cold war.
3. 142 million children are living in high-intensity conflict-zones; that is, in conflict zones with more than 1,000 battle-related deaths in a year.
4. New analysis from Save the Children shows that the numbers of ‘grave violations’ of children’s rights in conflict reported and verified by the United Nations have almost tripled since 2010.
5. Hundreds of thousands of children are dying every year as a result of indirect effects of conflict – including malnutrition, disease and the breakdown of healthcare, water and sanitation.

Specifically*,* Africa has 1 out of 5 children living in conflict zones and 6 African countries - CAR, DRC, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan - are listed among the 10 most dangerous places for children to live in the world. A continental study on the impact of conflict and crises in Africa Report, 2016, showed that conflict accounts for about 50 per cent increase in infant deaths and 15 per cent increase in undernutrition. During conflict, there are 2.5 times fewer doctors per capita than during peacetime. Children are twenty-four times more likely to die during armed conflict due to illness and injury than in peacetime. In conflict situations, girls in particular face increased threats of trafficking, exploitation and sexual and gender-based violence.

Conflict also results in a devastating waste of resources that could be invested in national development and children’s well-being. The money spent on arms begs the question of whether conflicts are simply a façade for making financial gains through arms deals. For instance, up to 2011, Sudan is estimated to have spent $24 billion on the war in Darfur, equivalent to 162 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). This includes $10 billion in direct military expenses. [[2]](#footnote-2) Research by Save the Children and other organizations has shown the cost of conflict in terms of lost investment in children. The cost of violence containment has been estimated at 22 per cent of GDP in Central African Republic, Somalia and South Sudan. Similarly, the civil war that broke out in South Sudan in 2013 resulted in a 15 per cent decline in GDP in 2014 and an increase of domestic debt from essentially nil in 2011 to approximately 12 per cent at the end of 2014. Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to one of the lowest revenue-to-GDP ratios in sub-Saharan Africa, estimated at 13.3 per cent in 2014. Meanwhile, the 2015 Refugee Response Plan by Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan for the South Sudan conflict was estimated at almost $810 million. This is more than South Sudan’s budget for education, health and child welfare combined.

Conflict in Africa accounts for a 50 per cent increase in infant deaths and a 15 per cent increase in undernutrition. In times of conflict, there are 2.5 times fewer doctors per capita than during peacetime. Children are twenty-four times more likely to die during armed conflict due to illness and injury than in peacetime. Although all warring parties are obliged under international laws to protect children, heinous attacks are committed against them for which the perpetrators are not held to account. What is more, many of these violations are increasing, driven by brutal conflicts. The common violations against children as per the UN and AU against children are killing and maiming, abductions, sexual abuse, recruitment of children as armed combatants, attacks on education and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

The nature of conflict has changed, putting children in the frontline in new and terrible ways. Wars are lasting longer. They are more likely to be fought in urban areas amongst civilian populations leading to deaths and life-changing injuries, and laying waste to the infrastructure needed to guarantee access to food and water. Attacks on schools and hospitals are up. The denial of humanitarian aid is used as yet another weapon of war. The international rules and basic standards of conduct that exist to protect civilians in conflict are being flouted with impunity. Children are disproportionately suffering the consequences of these brutal trends; almost one fifth of children worldwide are now living in areas affected by armed conflict. We are seeing more children facing unimaginable mental and physical trauma; more children going hungry; more children falling victim to preventable diseases; more children out of school; more children at risk of sexual violence and recruitment by armed groups; and more children trapped on the frontline without access to humanitarian aid.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) entered into force in 1999. This was after AU Member States took an unambiguous stance on the applicability of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to children in Africa on various socio-economic, cultural and developmental diversities.

The ACRWC defines the full spectrum of children’s civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the obligations of duty bearers to uphold those rights; the principal duty bearer being the state. The Charter establishes the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) as the body responsible for monitoring its implementation and ensuring the protection of the rights contained in it. The Charters articles are applicable in all contexts including situations of conflict. It should be noted that the Charter is applicable in all contexts including situations of conflict with Article 22 specifically providing that no child should participate in armed conflict.

Africa’s Agenda for Children (Agenda 2040) is an elaboration of Agenda 2063 as relates to children. This agenda aspires to ensure the protection of the rights of children through implementation of the ACRWC. Aspiration 9 states, “Every child is free from the impact of armed conflicts and other disasters or emergency situations.” It further articulates enabling goals that should be met by Member States so as to realise the aspiration by 2020.

To realise the aspirations of Agenda 2040, there exists a five-phased implementation strategy to be undertaken by Member States. It should however be noted that there currently lacks a common mechanism to track the implementation process of ***Aspiration 9: Every Child is free from the impact of armed conflicts and other disasters and emergency situations.***

1. **Objectives**

With the support of SIDA, Save the Children is seeking to engage a consultant to develop an engendered policy brief as well as an engendered monitoring and evaluation Framework to support AU Member States in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Aspiration 9 of Agenda 2040 by ACERWC.

The **objectives** of the consultancy are as follows;

1. Conduct a gendered analysis of AUs progress in addressing impacts of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises on children (considering its gender commitments) to inform the development of the policy brief.
2. To develop a comprehensive Engendered Monitoring and Evaluation framework to assess the status of implementation of Aspiration 9 of Agenda 2040. The framework should have objective indicators to guide States on the implementation of Aspiration 9 of Agenda 2040;
3. **Methodology**

The task mentioned above will be undertaken between May and August 2019. The assessment will involve desktop research on the implementation of Article 22 of the ACRWC in relation to aspiration 9 of Agenda 2040, document review and where necessary, key informant interviews.

Key technical staff from SCI shall support the consultant during the development of the M&E Framework.

**Timeframe**

The consultancy will be conducted for 32 person days (billable to SCI). However, the full consultancy period will be completed with 35 calendar days as indicated in the below table:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Deliverables/Outputs | Estimated Duration | Timelines |
| 1. | Notification of successful consultant  | 1 Day | 22May  |
| 2. | Inception Meeting with Consultant | 1 Day | 24 May |
| 3 | Plan and Design Work planDesktop Research and analysis of Aspiration 91st draft of the policy brief | 12 Days | 11 June |
| 5 | M&E methodology, including indicators, tools and reporting format | 8 Days | 21 June |
| 6 | A report with recommendations on piloting the methodology of monitoring Aspiration 9 | 3 Days  | 26 June |
| 7 | Review and comments from SCI | 3 Days | 2 July |
| 8 | Incorporation of comments from SCI | 5 Days | 9 July |
| 9 | Submission of the revised and final drafts of Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology and Policy brief | 3 Days | 15 July |
|  | **Total** | **32 Days** |  |

**Key Deliverables**

An Inception report; this should outline the consultant understanding of the TOR, key methodology, scope of work, data collection tools.

* Inception Report.
* Final monitoring and evaluation framework with comprehensive tools and
* Final policy briefs. Presentation of M&E Framework to SCI.

There might be potential travel for validation and presentation of the policy brief at key forums on children in armed conflict to gather inputs from stakeholders to finalise and strengthen the Policy Brief and M&E Framework

**Consultant profile**

* Post-graduate/university degree, preferably in law, political or social sciences, economics, statistics and other relevant discipline;
* Sound M&E systems designing experience and demonstrated technical competency;
* Expert knowledge of International Human Rights Law, child protection, gender, Regional frameworks, processes, and policy analysis.
* Experience of developing policy briefs and their usability.
* Ability to research and write at a high level policy analysis
* Expert knowledge of Regional mechanisms and processes;
* Ability to research and conduct interviews with key informants;
* Familiarity with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children, and its monitoring body- the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
* The consultant will have experience of research and analysis including planning research, policy analysis and interpretation, reviewing documents, conducting in-person and remote (skype or telephone) informant interviews on sensitive issues – all within an agreed timeframe.
* Good working knowledge of the AU and its organs
* Working proficiency of English and French is critical.

**Remuneration**

Daily rates will be determined after discussions with the consultant. Save the Children ESARO will cover for the consultant’s air tickets on economy class to relevant field sites, accommodation on bed and breakfast plus airport transfers in the field. All other costs shall be borne directly by the consultant. Remuneration will be based on submission of deliverables. Payment will be made as par the agreed schedule. Taxation laws for Kenya will apply on the overall consultancy fee.

**Ethics, Safeguarding and Code of Conduct**

As the consultant will be working on behalf of Save the Children, they will be required to sign and adhere to the Child Safeguarding Policy and ethical guidelines. Note that background checks will be undertaken on all applicants.

As regards the documentation, the title rights, copyrights and all other rights of whatever nature in any materials used or generated under the provisions of these services will exclusively be vested with Save the Children International East and Southern Africa Regional Office.

**Submitting expressions of interest**

Interested individuals must submit a technical and financial proposal including:

* A cover letter introducing the consultant and how the skills and competencies above are met, with concrete examples as appropriate.
* An expression of interest including interpretation of the TOR, proposed methodology, time schedule and work plan for carrying out the consultancy.
* A CV detailing relevant skills and experience, including 3 contactable referees
* Reasonable budget breakdown and cost consideration commensurate to expected deliverables.
* Applicants should be available for immediate engagement (May 2019)

**Applications** should be submitted to: esaro.procurement@savethechildren.org

Save the Children East and Southern Africa Regional Office by **17TH May 2019**

1. Save the Children’s *War on Children, 2018 Report* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. acerwc.africa/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Study\_on\_the\_impact\_of\_armed\_conflict\_and\_crises\_on\_children\_in\_Africa\_ACERWC\_FINAL\_ENGLISH.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)