

**Terms of Reference  
Child Protection & Health Consultancy**

**CONSULTANCY ASSIGNMENT:**

Initial Contract length: 18 days, with possible extension up to 35 days

Component 1 and 2 – 18 days

Component 3 – 17 days

Duration: January 2021 – August 2021

Location: Home-based

**BACKGROUND**

In 2018, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) awarded a three-year award to Save the Children to lead a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics. The consortium, known as READY, brings together leadership from Save the Children, the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Center for Humanitarian Health (CHH), the JHU Center for Communication Programs (CCP), UK-Med, Mercy Malaysia, and EcoHealth Alliance to fill critical gaps in outbreak response capacity and capability by leveraging expertise and best practices across these operational, academic, clinical, and communications organizations and augment global capacity to prepare to respond to major disease outbreaks for NGO. Through a consortium of partners, the READY initiative supplements existing efforts to strengthen coordination between global humanitarian outbreak structures and operational organizations responding to outbreaks. READY is also building and retaining capacity among operational consortium members, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders in priority regions and countries to be ready to quickly, efficiently and effectively respond to major outbreaks with an integrated approach that addresses holistic needs of affected communities— with community engagement and communications at the centre. READY's approach is integrated, and works to bring together Child Protection, Maternal, Newborn and Reproductive Health, Agriculture and Food Security, MHPSS, WASH, Nutrition and cross cutting themes such as Ethics, Social and Behavioural Change, Gender and One Health.

**JUSTIFICATION**

The COVID 19 pandemic is presenting the world with ever evolving, unprecedented challenges. It is exacerbating existing inequalities in accessing essential services and child protection risks are evolving and increasing. Global and national efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic must put child protection at the core. How we collectively respond to this pandemic is critical to saving lives. Since the COVID-19 outbreak in December 2019, READY has pivoted its programming to focus on COVID-19 readiness for NGOs, strengthening coordination, operational capacity, and technical preparedness to support a holistic response to the pandemic.

Leaning on lessons learned from COVID-19, the consultancy aims to improve coordination and integration between health and child protection actors in humanitarian responses to prepare for future infectious disease outbreaks. This consultancy directly aims to uplift Standard 24 of the [Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#).

Health and child protection programming play critical and related roles in ensuring the safety and well-being of children in humanitarian action. Supporting children's health increases children's protective factors, while supporting children's protection can, and should, improve children's physical health and well-being.

**Standard 24, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

Therefore, the consultancy will be conducted in close collaboration and under the guidance of a steering committee comprised of representatives from the Child Protection AoR, UNHCR, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Global Health Cluster, READY members, and other relevant stakeholders operating in humanitarian contexts.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

The READY initiative plans to strengthen the coordination of Child Protection and Health actors to prepare for infectious disease outbreak in humanitarian responses through the following components:

### ***Component One (anticipated time commitment: 8 days full time equivalent)***

- Conduct a light desk review of existing materials. Key informants will be requested to share examples of existing guidance notes, checklists, training materials, and any other tools developed at the country level.
- Conduct key informant interviews (KIIs) exploring the successes, challenges and technical gaps in relation to child protection and health coordination during COVID-19. KIIs will be conducted with approximately 20 individuals spanning diverse humanitarian contexts across the globe. The following constituents would be represented in the KIIs:
  - CP and Health country level coordinators in different settings (e.g. outbreaks, population on the move, refugees, conflict and natural disasters)
  - Global and regional colleagues from the CP AoR, UNHCR, WHO, NGO co-leads from Child Protection and Health sectors
  - Relevant key informants including government representative from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, national NGOs and CSOs who are playing a leading role in CP and Health coordination at national or sub-national levels.
- Draft a report outlining key findings in relation to:
  - Successes and challenges in coordination
  - Best practices/examples of technical guidance informing the other sector
  - Identified gaps in technical guidance
  - Key recommendations

### ***Component Two (anticipated time commitment: 10 days full time equivalent)***

Component 2 will serve to act on the key recommendations from the Component 1. Based on the information gathered from the KIIs, the consultant will develop a proposed work plan to progress on the key recommendations from Component 1.

In close coordination and under the leadership of the steering committee, the consultant will propose content for joint workshops to be held between Child Protection and Health actors in 1-2 regions based on the findings of component one (ex. Asia, MEEE, ESA and WCA). The aim of the workshops will be:

- to present key findings and validate recommendations from Component 1
- to promote Standard 24 of the Child Protection Minimum Standards
- to develop joint capacity building plans between health and child protection actors to strengthen integration and coordination between the two sectors. A specific emphasis will be on the current COVID-19 pandemic and preparation for future infectious disease outbreaks.
- Final report incorporating the finding of the KII, detailing the outcomes of the workshop, proposed capacity building plan and recommendations for the broader CPiE and Health community and recommendations for next steps

**Component Three (anticipated time: 17 days) – (Separate Contract) -**

- Depending on the outcomes of Component 1 and 2, the consultancy may be extended to include a third component with the following objective: develop 1-2 items identified as a priority (ex. guidance, training materials, checklists, and/or revise existing tools and guidance) in line with gaps identified and recommendations based on steering committee consensus.

**Overall approach:**

It is expected that the consultant will work in a collaborative manner, refining the content and format of the workshop, report and guidelines, and maintaining open communication as the work progresses. The consultant will be provided with relevant internal background documents and will be expected to work closely with the Steering Committee, team at Save the Children and the READY Initiative.

**Minimum requirements and competencies:**

To be successful the consultant or team of consultants will have a background working in humanitarian child protection capacity building and coordination. Preferred experience includes integrated or direct work in the health sector and/or responding to infectious disease outbreaks in humanitarian contexts and knowledge of global coordination mechanisms. In addition, you will have:

- Significant experience in child protection in humanitarian contexts, particularly infectious disease settings;
- Strong interpersonal skills, diplomacy and cultural sensitivity to interact with persons from a range of socio-cultural backgrounds;
- Significant knowledge of the Centrality of Protection and the risks of sectoral programming that is blind to children's protection needs;
- Experience engaging in coordination mechanisms and a demonstrable understanding of the humanitarian aid architecture;
- Experience in facilitation of workshops – ideally using an online forum;
- Experience developing technical guidance and adapting guidance into user-friendly tools (if relevant for Component 3);
- Good situational agility skills with a high degree of flexibility and adaptability in order to respond to changing needs;
- Excellent English, both oral and in writing;
- Professional fluency in Arabic, Spanish or French will be a distinct advantage;
- Experience conducting qualitative research and review;
- Knowledge of humanitarian standards, particularly the [Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#).

**Expressions of interest:**

Please submit your CV and letter of application, detailing how you would approach this assignment (max 2 pages) and your daily rate to Laura Romig, READY Project Coordinator [lromig@savechildren.org](mailto:lromig@savechildren.org) by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.