

Terms of Reference for MHPSS/Child Protection Case Management Consultant UNICEF PCA Project

Where: The MHPSS Collaborative, Save the Children Denmark

Start date 01/07/2021

End date: 31/10/2021

Duration of appointment: The consultant will work for a total of **32 working days** over the duration of the appointment

Location: Remote

Background

The MHPSS Collaborative is a global platform for research, innovation, learning and advocacy. In the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), we connect key academic and humanitarian actors with local civil society to give children and families in fragile circumstances the possibility to thrive. The MHPSS Collaborative was born out of a response to a growing body of research on the impacts of children's exposure globally to unprecedented rates of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, particularly those in crisis, migration and displacement situations. Exposure to critical incidents and long-term adversity, and the failure of adequate child protection and nurturance, leads to devastating impacts on children's physical and mental development, their potential to actively engage in the building of inclusive, peaceful societies, and the socio-economic development and stability of communities as a whole.

Description of the project

The MHPSS Collaborative identifies MHPSS as a priority area, building upon existing programming through child protection, education, climate change and suicide. Worldwide, 10-20% of children and adolescents experience mental disorders; half of all mental disorders begin by the age of 14 and three-quarters by mid-20s; mental and brain conditions are the leading cause of disability in young people in all regions; and 1 in 4 children is living with a parent who has a mental disorder. Suicide is among the top 5 leading causes of adolescent deaths, with higher rates among adolescent girls.

Looking at child protection with a MHPSS lens is critical for case management, with special considerations for continuity during and after the COVID-19. Significant gaps remain in evidence-based and inter-agency guidance and training for caseworkers, including paraprofessionals, to address the increasingly complex MHPSS needs of children with protection concerns, children with developmental, intellectual, and behavioral problems, and other mental health issues affecting their wellbeing.

An integrated approach to case management, which strengthens the knowledge and competencies of paraprofessionals and considers appropriate and effective adaptation during the COVID 19 response, is integral to a system that protects and supports the most vulnerable of children and families affected by adversity.

Scope of work of the MHPSS/Child Protection Case Management Consultant:

The **MHPSS/Child Protection Case Management Consultant** will join a small project team comprised of a MHPSS Technical Advisor, MHPSS Adviser and Project Officer. The team work closely together, while working remotely, in order to support each other in meeting the deliverables for the project.

The objective of this assignment is twofold: (1) to provide feedback and input to the development of the *field informed* Operational Framework on MHPSS in Child Protection Case Management; (2) to assist in the development of Mental Health and Psychosocial learning modules and a package of tools and approaches based on current evidence of best practice for identified topics. The topics will be provided by the MHPSS Technical Advisor.

Working under the supervision of the MHPSS Technical Advisor, the MHPSS/Child Protection Case Management Consultant will:

Part (1) of the assignment

- Provide technical input to the *field informed* Operational Framework and help to review and incorporate suggested changes from key stakeholders on each iteration.

Part (2) of the assignment

- Guided by the *field informed* Operational Framework, assist in the development of MHPSS focused modules that will be incorporated into the **Foundational Course for Case Management in Child Protection**, which is currently being developed.
- Help to vet materials and consolidate them into *reading lists, references, and case studies* to ensure a blended-learning approach is incorporated into the development of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Child Protection Case Management.

Deliverables:

The following are the expected deliverables for this consultancy:

1. Final drafts of the field informed Operational Framework, incorporating input, review and stakeholder suggestions.
2. A minimum of two MHPSS modules developed for the Foundation Course
3. Consolidated package of reading lists, references and case studies for the developed modules.

Qualifications

The successful applicant should have:

- 3-5 years of experience in the field of MHPSS and or child protection prevention and response, broader protection or social work involving empowerment of gender, child protection, mental health, within the humanitarian context.
- Experience in developing training and learning modules, with online learning experience a plus.
- Demonstrated experience and success in delivering similar scope of work.
- Effective facilitation and communication skills.
- Ability to dialogue with various stakeholders.
- This person will need to be open minded with the ability to listen and have an understanding of differing opinions and approaches.

Terms of Employment

You will be employed on a short-term consultancy contract with **the MHPSS Collaborative** to work for a maximum of ***32 days of work in 4 months***, the details of which will be negotiated with the successful candidates. You will be able to work remotely.

HOW TO APPLY

If you have any questions or would like to express your interest in this position, please contact Mary Jo Baca, MHPSS Technical Advisor (mjb@redbarnet.dk) and Kate Harris, Project Officer (kaha@redbarnet.dk).

The successful candidate will begin the beginning of **July 2021 through to October 31st 2021**.