



Terms of Reference for Multi Year Resilience Program MHPSS assessment in Iraq

August 2022

SUMMARY

Save the Children International is seeking an external consultant or agency to undertake a MHPSS assessment for the Multi Year Resilience Program (MYRP) project in Iraq funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW). The assessments aims to cover all Iraq with specific focus on Al Anbar, Sulaymaniya, Diyala, Duhok, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Salah al Din and two governorates from the centre and south of Iraq. The assessment will use a mixed approach that involves the collection of both qualitative and quantitative information. The objectives of the MHPSS assessment is to understand the needs and challenges, and use the evidence to inform education programmes, built advocacy initiatives for stronger buy-in for learner and teacher well-being in emergencies and protracted crisis, and lastly to use data to influence policy-level changes i.e. structured inclusion of MHPSS in curriculum and teacher training programmes.

Project	Multi Year Resilience Program (MYRP) - Equitable access to safe education for Syrian refugee, returnee, IDP and host community.
Donor	Education Cannot Wait
Project Goal	Crisis affected children; including adolescents have increased and continued access to safe, protected, inclusive and quality education that supports their wellbeing and learning outcomes.
Assessment type	MHPSS Needs Assessment
Assessment Methodology	<p>Refer to Save the Children’s MHPSS Toolkits for guidance with methods, principled approaches and guiding questions. Methodology should include:</p> <p>Desk review of SCI documents, national strategic papers, reports, UN/INGO assessments, evaluations, studies, school policies and codes of conduct related to children’s MHPSS and other relevant global reports on MHPSS and education.</p> <p>Key informant interviews (KIIs) and in-depth interviews with Government of Iraq education staff, specialized MHPSS providers and academies, community leaders as well as boys, girls, women and men including teachers/principals, youth groups, religious leaders and local organizations working on MHPSS and disability.</p> <p>Focus group discussions (FGDs) with boys, girls, men and women youth, parents/ caregivers and boys and girls with disabilities.</p> <p>Participant observation: classroom environment, student participation and teaching methodology</p>



	<p>Case studies, it can be identified and documented throughout the assessment.</p> <p>The targeted community groups are IDPs in camp and out of camps, returnees, refugees in camp, out of camp and the host community.</p>
Assessment objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) understand the needs and challenges b) Use the evidence to inform education programmes, c) Built advocacy initiatives for stronger buy-in for learner and teacher well-being in emergencies and protracted crisis, d) Use data to influence policy-level changes i.e. structured inclusion of MHPSS in curriculum and teacher training programmes.
Thematic areas	Access, protection and wellbeing, learning and system strengthening.
Assessment dates	15 th September 2022 – 31 December st 2022
Anticipated draft assessment report release date	5 th December 2022



PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Iraq Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) aims to support crisis affected children and children , including adolescents to have increased and continuous access to safe, protective, inclusive and quality education to support their well-being and their learning outcomes. The Iraq MYRP prioritizes safe, protective, inclusive and MHPSS responsive education services, supported by strategies and actions aimed at improving safety and well-being beyond schools. It also focusses on learning environments that are inclusive, MHPSS sensitive, child friendly, and establish conditions conducive to quality learning. This is underpinned by supporting systems that address exclusion and barriers to education. This includes reaching children and children of all ages in areas affected by displacement (in and out of camp settings), Syrian refugees, host communities and returnees, with a special focus on children and children living with disabilities. The ECW seed funding will reach 36,500 children over three years. Of this group, 10% are IDPs in camps and 15% in non-camp settings, 30% are returnees, 35% are Syrian Refugees, and 10% are from host communities. The Iraq MYRP aims to support 250 schools and learning centers delivering formal and non-formal education, in eight governorates (Al Anbar, Al-Sulaymaniya, Diyala, Dhouk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Sala al Din) and across two regions – Center Iraq and Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Duration	36 months (July 2021 - June 2024)
Primary sector of intervention	Education and child protection
Project Locations	Al Anbar, Al-Sulaymaniya, Diyala, Duhok, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din
Project Goal	Crisis affected children and children, including adolescents have increased and continued access to safe, protected, inclusive and quality education that supports their wellbeing and learning outcomes.
Outcome	<p>ACCESS- Girls and Boys, including adolescents (3-18) access continuous, inclusive and gender responsive education services in crisis-affected communities.</p> <p>PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING- Learners (3-18) improve their sense of safety and social and emotional well-being at learning centers.</p> <p>LEARNING- Learners (3-18) are supported by qualified teachers and provided with quality, inclusive and efficient learning opportunities.</p> <p>SYSTEM STRENGTHENING- Enhanced community-based and institutional system efficiency in school governance, education continuity and quality.</p>
Targeting	192,100 children and children , including adolescents, 60% of whom are children and adolescent girls

CONTEXT BACKGROUND AND MHPSS ASSESSMENT PURPOSE, CRITERIA, QUESTIONS AND INTENDED USAGE.



Access to inclusive and equitable quality education is a fundamental human right. In 2020, 3.2 million school-aged Iraqi children did not have access to formal public education.¹ Many children have lost years of schooling due to conflict and shortages of schools and teachers. At the end of 2019, there were approximately 345,000 children remaining out of school, with school dropouts continuing to be an issue in 2020 (OCHA 17/11/2020; discussions with operational partners). Starting 2020, the aftermath of COVID-19 combined the inequalities that were in place. Under the MYRP, a comprehensive MHPSS assessment will be conducted in order to achieve the following objectives:

General objective:

Generate evidence to inform future programming and advocacy, ensuring equitable resource allocation to reach most under-served and most vulnerable

Specific Objectives (to be refined/fine tuned):

- a) Understand key issues on safety and wellbeing affecting mental and psychological wellbeing of girls and boys of different ages
- b) How parents and caregivers/families support and influence the MHPSS wellbeing for out of schools children.
How teachers and facilitators in formal and none formal education influence the MHPSS and wellbeing of children inside the schools and in non-formal education facilities.
- c) Identify and evaluate the different factors affecting boys and girls sense of safety, well-being and social inclusion at learning facilities.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- **Educators knowledge & attitudes**
 1. Do all the educators in the schools and ALCs have a basic understanding of PSS?
 2. Do the educators in in the schools and ALCs deal with all learners in a respectful way that builds their dignity?
 3. Do the educators in the schools and ALCs deal with all the adult caregivers or parents in a respectful way that builds their dignity?
 4. Do educators know what the needs of the learners are and what particular difficulties they may be facing?
- **Learners supporting one another**
 1. Does learning facilities encourage learners to support one another and encourage empathy and care towards one another?
 2. Do schools and ALCs have classroom sessions and tools to promote respect and empathy towards one another?
 3. Is there a peer support program?
- **Involvement of caregivers and the school community**
 1. Do caregivers are usually consulted about their ideas for the school and ALCs through PTAs /community networks or government?

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/what-we-do/education>.



2. Do schools/ALCs give feedback to caregivers about their learner's MHPSS wellbeing status or progress?
3. Does the government or specialized MHPSS service providers involve Parents and caregivers in activities related to the learners MHPSS wellbeing?
- **PSS support**
 1. Does schools /ALCs identify learners whose health and wellbeing are at risk and makes sure that the learners get the care and attention they need?
 2. Do Schools & MOE identify learners who are out of school or missing school and link them to a source of help so that they can attend school regularly?
 3. Do schools have refer learners with specialised needs to NGOs, CBOs and government departments who are able to provide expert assistance or material assistance where needed?

- -STUDY PARTICIPANTS

The targeted community groups are IDPs in camp and out of camps, returnees, refugees in camp, out of camp and the host community, the assessment will involve the following groups of participants: -:

- A. girls, boys and youth from 05 to 25 years old with specific consideration for diversity aspects (displacement, ethnicity, literacy, child labor, minorities groups etc...).
- B. family members and caregivers (parents).
- C. government of Iraq's ministry of education staff.
- D. governmental ministries that provide MHPSS services for children (including students) and caregivers
- E. religious and community representatives as part of the key informants.
- F. SCI staff as key informants who will in addition provide an insight into the practices of MHPSS mainstreaming policies across the organization and what can be improved.
- G. - organizations working on MHPSS and with people with disability.

INTENDED AUDIENCE AND UTILISATION

The targeted audience for this assessment is:

- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)
- Donor Community
- Ministry of Education
- Save the Children International (SCI)
- ECW consortium partners

Findings of the assessment will primarily be used to strengthen MHPSS mainstreaming in MYRP project. It is anticipated that some of the identified needs and challenges of MHPSS will be targeted in the course of project implementation for elimination while enablers will be further profiled, tested and used in evidence-based advocacy both at community and government levels. The findings will also be used for fundraising among civil societies and donors as well as it will influence policy-level changes i.e. structured inclusion of MHPSS in curriculum and teacher training programmes.

METHODOLOGY

External consultant or agency to develop and design the assessment methodology in line with the scope, objectives and assessment questions. It is envisioned that the process will follow a phase approach:

- Desk review of SCI documents, national strategic papers, reports, UN/INGO assessments, evaluations, studies, school policies and codes of conduct related to children's MHPSS and other relevant global reports on MHPSS and education.
- Key informant interviews (KIIs) and in-depth interviews with Government of Iraq education staff, community leaders as well as boys, girls, women and men including teachers/principals, youth groups, religious leaders and local organizations working on MHPSS.
- Focus group discussions (FGDs) with boys, girls, men and women youth, parents/caregivers and boys and girls with disabilities.
- Case studies, it can be identified and documented throughout the assessment.

Developing the analytical framework, i.e. refining and operationalizing the questions will be done in close cooperation between Save the Children consortium management and the consultant or agency.

The process will follow a phase approach:

- Completion of desk review to identify existing information and gaps that need to be taken care during primary data collection phase
- Data collection instruments, protocol and procedures Sampling methodology for quantitative and qualitative data collection
- Inception report and briefing to SCI management.
- Ethical review
- Primary data collection with a focus on mixed-methods approach (qualitative and quantitative methods)
- Analysis and interpretation of findings
- -Validation of findings
- Reporting and dissemination.

The assessment is proposed to be conducted through a mixed-method approach-The consultant or agency should select quantitative and qualitative data collection i.e. FGDs and KIIs to give deeper understanding of processes and approaches and perceptions to achieve the assessment objectives. The proposed methodological approach and the tools will be developed by the consultant and/or agency in close cooperation with Save the Children. - field-testing with a sample set of beneficiaries will be required.



The consultant or agency is expected to plan to develop a comprehensive sampling framework and justification

The sampling should be representative of all Iraq with a focus in the mentioned governorates.

○ Ethical Considerations

The study must be guided by the following ethical considerations:

- Inclusion – *ensuring that adolescents and youth from different ethnic, social and religious backgrounds have the chance to participate, as well as adolescents and youth with disabilities and adolescents and youth who may be excluded or discriminated against in their community.*
- Safeguarding – *demonstrating the highest standards of behaviour towards children and adults.*
- Sensitive – *to child rights, gender, inclusion and cultural contexts.*
- Openness - *of information given, to the highest possible degree to all involved parties.*
- Confidentiality and data protection - *measures will be put in place to protect the identity of all participants and any other information that may put them or others at risk.*
- Public access - *to the results when there are not special considerations against this.*
- Broad participation - *the relevant parties should be involved where possible.*
- Reliability and independence - *the study should be conducted so that findings and conclusions are correct and trustworthy.*

It is expected that:

- Data collection methods will be age- and gender-appropriate.
- Study activities will provide a safe, creative space where all participants feel that their thoughts and ideas are important.
- A risk assessment will be conducted that includes any risks related to children, young people, or adults’ participation.
- A referral mechanism will be in place in case any child safeguarding or protection issues arise.
- Informed consent must be used.
- Study field teams/enumerators will be trained on child safeguarding, gender and conflict sensitivity, and data collection tools and methods.

The Consultant/s will be required to obtain approval from a Research Ethics Committee. Save the Children will provide support with this process

ASSESSMENT TIMELINE

What	Who is responsible	By when	Who is involved
Assessment TOR review	Consortium unit	31 st August 2022	MEAL, Members and IPs, MHPSS TA
Selection of assessment team	Consortium MEAL	25 th Sep. 2022	Consortium MEAL, Supply Chain, MHPSS TA
Desk review	Consultant or agency	10 th Oct. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA and IPs
Ethical review	HR	24 th Oct. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA and IPs



Inception report and comments	Consultant or agency	6 th Nov. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA and IPs
Field /primary data collection	Consultant or agency	25 th Nov. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA and IPs
First Draft Report	Consultant or agency	5 th Dec. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA and IPs
Validation of assessment findings and recommendations	Consultant or agency	20 th Dec.2022	MEAL, ,MHPSS TA, member and IPs
Final report	Consultant or agency	25 th Dec. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA, member and IPs
Two pages summary report in English, Arabic and Kurdish	Consultant or agency	25 th Dec. 2022	MEAL, MHPSS TA, member and IPs
Final report (together with response plan and summary fact sheet/info graphics)	Consultant or agency	30 th Dec. 2022	MEAL , MHPSS TA ,member and IPs

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The assessment consultancy should result in the following outputs and deliverables:

- Inception meetings (virtual) to finalize scope of work, expectations, process / work plan, and brief on logistics and technical aspects
- Methodological approach including required secondary sources from the project, approach to sampling, primary data collection tools
- Prepare and review after SCI feedback final training plan for enumerators to implement primary data collection
- Prepare and review after SCI feedback analyse raw data (all data sets in excel, notes from KIIs and FGDs)
- Plan and develop key findings and recommendations dissemination of the assessment findings.
- Draft & final assessment report and summary fact sheet/info graphics. The consultant or agency will produce a draft report to be submitted to ECW consortium / SCI on the agreed date for review. A final report (MS Word, Excel files, PDF), including feedback from SCI reflected in, will then be submitted to SCI. The report needs to follow the provided template / guidance.

All deliverables including assessment report need to be provided in English. It will be required to provide two pages summary report in English, Arabic and Kurdish.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Save the Children's work is based on deeply held values and principles of child safeguarding, and it is essential that our commitment to children's rights and humanitarian principles is supported and demonstrated by all members of staff and other people working



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for and with Save the Children. Save the Children's Code of Conduct sets out the standards, which all staff members must adhere to and the consultant or agency and interpreters if applicable are bound by the principles and conditions of Save the Children's Code of Conduct and will need to sign it before departing to the field.

- A contract will be signed by the consultant or agency before commencement of the action. The contract will detail terms and conditions of service, aspects on inputs and deliverables.

MANDATORY SECURITY TRAINING

The consultant or agency shall be expected in country for at least 10-15 days as such, SC expect the successful consultant or agency to undergo mandatory online security training and submit the certificate of completion to Save the Children before the commencement of the task. Failure to deliver this will lead to an automatic disqualification. SC will provide security brief to consultant or agency upon arrival in KRI.

PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The consultant or agency must have proven MHPSS expertise and experience in fragile contexts (especially Iraq), with strong social research experience and sound understanding of education and protection programming in humanitarian contexts and be able to work with the assessment inputs from Iraq context. Proof of relevant knowledge and skills to be provided as requested under application requirement.

REQUIREMENTS IN DETAIL:

- -
- Minimum educational qualification equivalent to a master's degree in a relevant field. (Mental Health, Psychology, XYZ).
- Proven experience in conducting MHPSS assessments, with at least three years experience on MHPSS related research.
 - - expertise and experience in assessments, social science research, including mixed methods and notably quantitative and qualitative primary data collection methods
 - - expertise and experience in research, monitoring and evaluation in humanitarian emergency response contexts, as well as related technical and ethical standards, including research with children
 - - a good understanding of the Iraq crisis.
 - - excellent communication and team leading skills, with the ability to work with a diverse team
 - - superior analytical, report writing and presentation skills
 - - good knowledge of data collection software (such as Kobo, SMAP).
 - - excellent written English and Arabic Kurdish is an advantage.
- Knowledge of children participation in research and studies
- Knowledge of relevant MHPSS principles and policies
- Strong writing and conceptual skills, particularly on MHPSS
- Higher university degree in relevant field e.g. MHPSS

APPLICATION

The consultant or agency should submit a proposal comprising the following:



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- A technical proposal (not more than 10 pages) which indicates how the consultant or agency is going to undertake the activities highlighted in the ToR, with clear methodology, including types of data collection tools and analysis
- A capacity statement detailing the consultant or agency's ability to deliver a quality assessment report within the given timeframe, including an overview of relevant work and technical experience
- At least 2 samples of previous relevant works undertaken, including at least 1 assessment report that was 100% led by the lead consultant or agency.
- Contact details for 2 references for similar assignments done not more than 2 years ago
- CVs of the consultant or agency.
- A financial budget with explanations about the line items
- Any appendices the consultant or agency sees as relevant to the application.