

Terms of Reference Evaluation of The Multi Years Resilience Program (MYRP) in Iraq

February- May 2024

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Iraq Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) aims to support, crises affected girls and boys, including adolescents¹ 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 gender 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, gender sensitive, child friendly, and establish conditions conducive to quality learning. This is underpinned by supporting systems that address exclusion and barriers to education. The technical design of the MYRP is based on the Quality Learning Framework, which defines foundations for quality basic education through five pillars aimed at supporting children's well-being and learning. These foundational pillars are underpinned by policies and systems that promote learning and address exclusion. The MYRP strategic priorities aim to reduce barriers impacting the right to education for the most marginalized and vulnerable girls and boys including adolescents. This includes reaching girls and boys 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 girls and boys living with disabilities.

Programme and Resource Mobilization Outcomes	
Outcome 1	ACCESS – Girls and boys, including adolescents (3-18) access continuous, inclusive and gender responsive education services in crisis affected communities
Outcome 2	PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING – Learners (3-18) improve their sense of safety and their social and emotional well-being at learning centers
Outcome 3	LEARNING – Learners (3-18) are supported by qualified teachers and provided with quality, inclusive and efficient learning opportunities
Outcome 4	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING – Enhanced capacity of both community-based and institutional school governance leading to improved education continuity and quality
Outcome 5	RESOURCES – Adequate material and financial resources are mobilized to scale-up the MYRP

Type of evaluation	External Evaluation
Name of the project	Multi Years Resilience Program in Iraq
Project Start and End dates	July 2021 - June 2024
Project duration	36 months
Project locations	Al Anbar, Al-Sulaymaniya, Diyala, Duhok, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din.

Thematic areas	Access to education, Protection and wellbeing, Learning, system strengthen and resources
Sub themes	Child Protection, MHPSS, Children with Disability (CwD)
Donor	Education Cannot Wait
Estimated beneficiaries	36,500 girls and boys, including adolescents, 60% of whom are girls and adolescent girls
Overall objective of the project	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.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

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 centres delivering formal and non-formal education, in eight governorates (Al Anbar, Al Sulaymaniya, Diyala, Duhok, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninawa and Sala al Din) and across two regions – Centre Iraq and Kurdistan Region of Iraq. 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, Ninawa, and Salah al Din Project Goal Crisis affected girls and boys, including adolescents have increased and continued access to safe, protected, inclusive and quality education that supports their wellbeing and learning outcomes.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF EVALUATION

The purpose of this evaluation is to:

- a) Assess the extent to which project objectives were achieved by comparing actual results to baseline results; and
- b) Assess the quality of programme implementation by the partners. Of interest is not only assess how well the initiative was implemented, but also seek to answer the “why” question by identifying factors contributing to (or inhibiting) successful delivery of the results.

The primary objectives of the evaluation are to:

- Assess the extent to which the programme achieved the expected objectives, outcomes, and outputs through a set of project indicators and targets.
- Evaluate the quality of programme implementation by the partners.
- Evaluate the quality of coordination by consortium leads and sub partners.
- Make recommendations that will inform the implementation of the next phase of the project.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- To compare baseline and endline results for each partner.
- To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs and outcomes, as defined by its performance indicators?
- To determine the extent to which the consortium lead coordinated the programme in accordance with the grant agreement.
- To assess the overall effectiveness of communication and collaboration between the grant agent and each implementing partner.
- To rank implementing partners based on quality programming measurements.
- To identify the elements in programme delivery that met or did not meet the expected quality measurements and the reasons contributing to the success or failure.

INTENDED AUDIENCE OF THE STUDY

Primary intended audience of the study are:

Stakeholder	Further information
Project donor	Education Cannot Wait
Primary implementing organisation	Save the Children
Implementing partners	Mercy corps (MC) Save the Children International (SCI) Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) People In Need (PIN), INTRISOS War Child United Kingdom (WCUK) Terre des Hommes (TdH Lausanne) Bent Al-Rafedain Organization (BROB) Sabe' Sanabul Organization for Relief and Development (SSORD) Rwanga Foundation (RF) Iraqi Institution for Development (IID) Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organization (IADO) Public Aid Organization (PAO)
Government stakeholders	Ministry of Education Federal and KRI
Community groups	Returnees, IDPs, Refugees and Host community
Beneficiaries	Children and adults involved in the program/project/s and the study including teachers, headmasters and volunteers.
International development/humanitarian research community	INGOs

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The consultant is expected to utilize qualitative data collection from the partners. The methods are summarized below:

- **Desk review-** Review of project documents not limited to project proposals, result framework, baseline and endline surveys (review and analyse data of five tools used by the partners), field monitoring visit's reports, etc.
- **Key Informant Interviews-** KIIs will also be conducted as part of the qualitative data collection to aid in the triangulation of the quantitative data collected. The KIIs will include a

diverse range of key stakeholders (partners and MoEs). The KIIs should be conducted using both closed questionnaires and open-ended questionnaires, depending on the Key Informant.

•**Focus Group Discussion-** The FGDs will focus on gathering qualitative data to triangulate, explain, and expand upon the quantitative data gathered and to explore in more detail the Project Management Unit (PMU) perception of the implemented project and the perceived gaps in intervention.

Activity/observation check: The activity check will focus on gathering qualitative data from the field level by visiting the program activities implemented by the partners and do a quality check. The consultant will be responsible of the spot check tool/check list development in consultation with Save the Children.

An evaluation matrix and questions (more specific), data collection methods tools and sampling options will be developed during the 'Inception Phase' of the evaluation by the evaluation consultant/team, after the desk review and in close collaboration with the Technical Advisors and PMU team of Save the Children. The Technical Advisors and PMU of Save the Children should validate the matrix and questions before the evaluation team start the field visit and data collection process.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The consultant shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the survey is designed and conducted to respect and protect the rights and welfare of the people and communities involved and to ensure that the survey is technically accurate and reliable, is conducted in a transparent and impartial manner, and contributes to organizational learning and accountability. Therefore, the survey team shall be required to adhere to the survey standards and applicable practices as recommended by Save the Children.

- **Utility-** Surveys must be realistic, diplomatic, and managed in a sensible, cost-effective manner.
- **Ethics & Legality-** Surveys must be conducted in an ethical and legal manner by ensuring the safety and security of those participating in the evaluation. Consent should be sought from all survey respondents.
- **Transparency-** Survey activities should reflect an attitude of openness and transparency.
- **Accuracy-** Survey should be technically accurate, providing sufficient information about the data collection, analysis, and interpretation methods so that its worth or merit can be determined.
- **Participation-** Stakeholders should be consulted and meaningfully involved in the survey process when feasible and appropriate.
- **Collaboration-** Collaboration between key operating partners in the survey process improves the legitimacy and utility of the survey.
- **Ethical:** The study must be guided by the following ethical considerations:
 - Safeguarding – demonstrating the highest standards of behavior 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.¹
- 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.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- **Inception report and plan:** Following the desk review and prior to beginning fieldwork, the evaluation team will produce an inception report for review and approval by the SC. This report will detail a draft work plan with a summary of the primary information needs, evaluation matrix, clear methodology to be used including quantitative and qualitative methods, and a work plan/schedule for field visits and major deadlines. With respect to methodology, the evaluation team will provide a description of how data will be collected and a sampling framework, data sources, and drafts of suggested data collection tools such as questionnaires and interview guides including the development of a tool that will be used to assess the quality of program implementation by the partners.
- **Draft Report for Review:** A draft report prepared in MS Word format for review by Save the Children, adhering to the provided reporting template.
- **Presentation of Findings and Results:** A presentation summarizing the evaluation findings and results, following the agreed-upon reporting template.
- **Knowledge Translation Materials:** A PowerPoint presentation encapsulating the key findings of the study.
- **Summary infographics** highlighting the essential takeaways.
- **A completed evaluation matrix** showing the objectives, findings, conclusion, and recommendations.
- **An Evidence to Action Brief (2-4 pages)** concisely summarizing the full report, utilizing the Save the Children Management Response template.
- **An article [4-5 pages]** summarizing the report that can be published in a reputable humanitarian journal.
- **Final Report** The final report in electronic format, including any databases generated from fieldwork.
- **Hard copies** of the final report and any associated databases
- **All documents** are prepared in MS Word format.
- **Electronic submission** of all documents via email to the Save the Children Program Manager.
- **Copies of all PowerPoint presentations** used for project briefings, provided to Save the Children in editable digital format.

¹ If any Consultancy Service Provider, Freelancer or Contingent worker will have direct contact with children and/or vulnerable adults and/or beneficiaries and/or have access to any sensitive data on safeguarding and/or children and/or beneficiaries, it is the responsibility of the person receiving the consulting service to contact the local HR team and child safeguarding focal point to ensure vetting checks and on-boarding are conducted in line with statutory requirements, local policies and best practices guidance.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

An external consultant, who will be recruited according to the Save the Children external consultancy policy guidelines, will conduct the evaluation. The Program Director will be responsible for the overall process of the consultancy while relevant thematic leads or relevant technical advisors and MEAL team will be responsible for technical backstopping the evaluation team on the methodology, ensuring that the evaluation task becomes a learning and sharing process among stakeholders. Whereas the lead consultant will be responsible for managing the whole consultancy.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT

- Submit technical and financial proposal with clear statement of the proposed methodologies.
- Submit inception report in line with the 'inception report template'.
- Administer data collection, data entry and analysis of questionnaires and key informant interviews.
- Analyse the baseline and endline data provided by Save the children according to the result framework.
- Develop and administer a tool for assessing the quality programme implementation among implementing partners.
- Review of relevant documents and literature.
- Provide reports as per the pre-agreed reporting template and timeframe of the evaluation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SAVE THE CHILDREN AND PARTNERS

- Provide relevant project documents.
- Facilitate consultations with the relevant informants.
- Ensure lists of contacts in areas of the study are shared.
- Partners to collaborate with consultant and share the required information.
- Partners to support with field coordination for the consultant to complete the activities/ observation check successfully.
- Partners to be available for KIIs.
- Review the draft report and provide feedback to the consultant in line with the agreed timeframe.
- Disburse payment of the service as per the contract agreement.
- Add on evaluation budget (without mentioning the budget) but mention what costs the consultant is expected to cover. Especially travelling, accommodation, reporting, enumerators etc. during field work.

REPORT STRUCTURE

Report should have the following structure:

- Executive Summary
- Background description of the Program and context relevant to the Study
- Scope and focus of the study.

- Overview of the study methodology and data collection methods, including a Study matrix
- Findings aligned to each of the key evaluation questions.
- Specific caveats or methodological limitations of the evaluation
- Conclusions outlining implications of the findings or learnings.
- Recommendations
- Annexes including tools used, people contacted, etc.
- The total report should not exceed 30 pages.

PROPOSED TIMELINES

What	Who is responsible	By when	Who else is involved
Share project documents with consultant	MYRP PMU	10 th March	MYRP PMU
Documentation review, desk research	Consultant	13 th March	Consultant
Inception report	Consultant	20 th March	Consultant
Review of inception report	MYRP PMU	27 th March	Technical advisors
Data collection	Consultant	31 st March	Consultant, PMU, and partners
Data management and analysis (coding, transcriptions, data cleaning, integration, and analysis)	Consultant	21 st April	Consultant
First draft of the Final study report	Consultant	30 th April	Consultant
Review and validation of the draft report	PMU, MEAL, and TAs	7 th May	PMU, MEAL, TAs, and Partners
Validation of study findings and recommendations	PMU and MEAL	14 th May	PMU, MEAL, and TAs
Final study report and submission of data and analyses	PMU	30 th May	PMU, MEAL, and TAs

Save the Children seeks value for money in its work. This does not necessarily mean "lowest cost", but quality of the service and reasonableness of the proposed costs. Proposals shall include personnel allocation (role/number of days/daily rates/tax) and any other applicable costs.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

The following payments will be made to the consultant using an agreed mode of payment.

- Upon approval of inception report and evaluation tools: [30%]

- Upon submission of the first draft study report: [30%]
- Upon approval of the final evaluation report: [40%]

LEVEL OF ACCESS TO CHILDREN

The consultant will have access to the children in the field while discussing their needs and interests in the schools and in the communities. The consultant is required to sign and adhere to the Save the Children Child Safeguarding; Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying; and Data Protection and Privacy policies throughout all the evaluation activities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Interested consultants will be required to submit an Expression of Interest in line with the provided template, which should demonstrate adherence to the following requirements:

- Advanced degree related to evaluations and partners performance evaluations.
- At least 10 years of working/research/study/evaluation experience on humanitarian and/or development work of similar action of similar scopes using mixed approaches in multiple sectors such as Education, Child protection & wellbeing, and WASH.
- Leading evaluations or consultancy work in Iraq or similar settings in humanitarian and recovery contexts.
- Experience of conducting ethical and inclusive studies involving children and children's participatory techniques.
- Experience of conducting ethical and inclusive studies involving marginalized, deprived and/or vulnerable groups in culturally appropriate and sensitive ways.
- Managing and coordinating a range of government, non-government, and community groups.
- Strong written and verbal skills in communicating technical and/ or complex findings to non-specialist audiences (especially report writing and presentation skills);
- A track record of open, collaborative working with clients.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

In response to these terms of reference, potential consultants are requested to submit the technical proposal should outline methodology, study instrument, task assignment of staff members, detailed work plan and so on. Recent and detailed curriculum vitae of proposed staff, and other supporting documents (an example of previous research reports from similar work including Save the Children if any) should be annexed.

For more information, you may reach out using the following address:
Yasser.Rashid@savethechildren.org

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Proposals should be submitted on 7th March 2024 till 4:00pm.