

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Assessment of project proposal

Project title: Safe Children Online

Project country: Zambia

Lifeline/Childline Zambia is looking for a suitable qualified consultant to undertake a baseline study for its Project Safe Children Online.

Location: Chibombo

A. Background

Lifeline/ChildLine Zambia and Bris, children's rights in society, Sweden is to implement a project with the goal to contribute to the protection of children online and to strengthen the knowledge of risks that children face when being online in Zambia.

The project will focus on children and youths, aged 9-18, living in the Chibombo district in Zambia. It is expected that at least 50% of the engaged children and youths will be girls and that gender-based roles, stereotypes and unequal access and control of resources is addressed to ensure both girls and boys benefit from the opportunities and resources offered by the project.

Digital technology provides great opportunities for learning and development, which should be made available to all children and youths and although uptake in digital technology continues to grow with many benefits, digital technology and interactivity also pose significant risks to children's safety, privacy and well-being, magnifying threats, and harms that many children already face offline and making already vulnerable children even more vulnerable. Even as information and communications technology (ICT) has made it easier to share knowledge and collaborate, it has also made it easier to produce, distribute and share sexually explicit material and other illegal content that exploits and abuses children. ChildLine Zambia has seen an increase in recent years of children who contact them through the helpline to talk about being subject to cyber bullying, posting of private pictures without their consent and being sexually abused online.

Many internet users in Zambia are not aware of existing risks associated with online activities with only 54.9 % of male and 45.1 % female being aware of any risks.¹ Levels of awareness among individuals aged 10 years and older on criminality of production, possession and or circulation of obscene materials is at 54.3 %. The survey revealed that only 30.4 % of individuals that use internet services know how to activate security or privacy settings on social media or on a web browser and the survey estimates revealed that only 17.7 % of the households with access to the internet had established rules among household members on how to use the internet. For children, there is also limited knowledge on mechanisms for reporting cases of abuse including those that are online.

¹ ZICTA, National Survey on Access and Usage of Information and Communications Technology by Households and Individuals, 2018, https://www.zicta.zm/Downloads/publications/2018%20ICT%20Survey%20_%20Preliminary%20Report.pdf.

B. Objectives

The consultancy will entail two stage and type of analysis:

B.1. The situational analysis (March 2023)

The objective of the situational analysis is to get a deeper and more accurate understanding of the current situation and conditions of children and youths' safety online in the Chibombo district, in a gender differentiated manner. It also serves to entail consultations with the children and youths to understand their perspectives and priorities (problem ranking), their needs, challenges and interests, and solutions, in a gender differentiated manner when it comes to their online environment.

Based on these findings the partners involved will, design a full project implementation plan in April 2023.

B.2. The Baseline study (March 2023)

The objective of the Baseline study is to provide an expert opinion on the starting point, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed project proposal (objectives, measures and key activities) and to evaluate whether the proposed solutions are expected to meet the desired benefits. It will also seek to identify any barriers or risks that could potentially impact on the solutions or results proposed for children and youths online.

C. Evaluation period

Situational analysis: (10 working days), including desk review and primary data collection (field work).

Baseline study: (10 working days), including only desk review.

Deadline for the report to be submitted to LifeLine/ChildLine Zambia: 7th April,2023

The situational analysis is part of the Baseline study and can therefore be conducted simultaneously.

D. Methods

D.1. Situational Analysis:

- Desk study.
- Field visit to the project district.
- Consultations and discussions with the target group, using participatory and gender sensitive tools.
- Consultations with key stakeholders (through skype/ face to face meetings and other means as considered appropriate).

The situational analysis will be conducted in close collaboration with implementing partners.

D.2 Baseline study:

- Desk study
- Further consultations with key stakeholders, when needed.

Deliverables

- 📄 Situational analysis report
- 📄 Baseline study

Both reports must follow the structure and points proposed in TORs and further agreed with consultants in the beginning of the contract.

Profile of the Consultant

- University degree in a relevant related subject (Children Rights issues, Economics, Technical and Social development or a related field).
- Previous and proven experience in conducting situational analysis and baseline studies, external evaluations, baseline assessments and/or baseline studies in the area of livelihoods, technical accessibility, with knowledge on children's rights issues and familiarity with LifeLine/ChildLine operations will be an added advantage.
- Extensive experience in using gender sensitive methods for primary data collection
- Extensive experience in using participatory approaches and children and youth friendly approaches in primary data collection.
- Familiarity with the political, social, economic, and cultural context of Zambia.
- Established working relations with relevant government departments in Zambia is to be considered an advantage.
- Residence in Zambia is to be essential.
- Fluency in English and good writing skills.

Interested candidates to send their profiles and budget to the following email address:

lifelinechildline@yahoo.com

Closing date: 20th March,2023