

Terms of Reference

Country Research and Local CSO Identification in Liberia

May 2016

1. Background

About us

Family for Every Child is a global alliance of local civil society organisations working together to improve the life of vulnerable children around the world. Together we have a stronger voice to advocate for children and their families. We learn from each other, replicating and amplifying our expertise across the globe. Together we ensure that children can grow up in caring families safe from exploitation, trafficking, child labour and early marriage, and other forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

We have 18 members working hands-on with children without parental care in every region of the world. The members are supported by a global team, the Secretariat, which leads collective activities in policy, research, advocacy and knowledge exchange. Family for Every Child is made up entirely of local CSOs.

In line with our Membership Engagement Strategy for Family for Every Child¹, we are in the process of expanding and growing at a controlled rate until March 2017. A process of selection and slow growth will ensure continuity of diversity of geography, child focus and type of organisation and equity of representation across the membership of the alliance.

- We seek to identify new organisations which bring new models of practice to ensure the membership broadens its expertise rather than duplicating existing models within the membership.

Our Goals

All of our members are programmatically aligned with our 5 organizational Goals:

1. Enable children to grow up in permanent, safe and caring families
2. Ensure high quality, appropriate alternative care choices for children
3. Stop children from having to live outside of adult care and protect them in the short term.
4. Push for better and more participatory decision making about children's care
5. Strengthen child protection systems which promote better care for children.

For more information about our work please visit our website www.familyforeverychild.org

New Member Selection Process

Our Membership Support Team is undertaking regional analysis which then enables us to identify one country per region to select for more in depth country analysis and scoping of organisations which meet our membership criteria.

This is a desk research exercise to provide an overview of family and children's care issues in the region and a top line indication of the strength of civil society and presence of an enabling government environment for reform to achieve better outcomes for children.

¹ The parameters and top line content of this strategy were discussed with SC members in Delhi at the 5th SC meetings March 2013. Members took the decision to “continue with ensuring diversity of geography, child focus and type of organisation and equity of representation through a process of selection, growing slowly”.

The analysis examines:

- Scale and dimension of family and children's care issues in accordance with the goals of Family for Every Child
- Presence of an enabling government environment
- Capacity, nature and operating environment of civil society, including opportunities for advocacy
- Known models of good practice - in line with current gaps in membership
- Feasibility of member engagement in terms of language, infrastructure in country

The output of the country research is a comprehensive understanding of each country, with recommendations on key issues related to the specific context linked to Family for Every Child's goals, and which can subsequently lead to the identification of a potential new member.

2. Purpose & Activities

Family for Every Child is seeking additional capacity to support the identification of a new member in Liberia.

This is a **10 day** assignment to

- **Produce a country report on Liberia;**
- **Produce a list of local civil society organisations who could be considered for future membership of Family for Every Child.**

The recommendations in the country reports should follow our goals and priorities outlined above.

The shortlist of local civil society organisations identified must be working in the field of child protection and care; support the vision, values and mission of Family for Every Child; be committed to child participation and the realisation of our Goals.

The country reports should include an extensive overview of the relevant local context under the following sections:

1. Background

- key demographics
- political summary
- economic summary

2. Situation of Children

- key indicators & statistics
- brief summary of significant issues that impact on family care

3. Care context

- legal & policy framework relating to family and alternative care, and engagement with civil society
- context in which civil society is operating and its capacity
- overview of prevalent types of care, protection systems, or lack of care options

- detailed review of provision and use of alternative care (kinship, foster, adoption, residential, etc)
- other issues specific to local care context (e.g. trafficking, conflict, migration, etc)
- potential fit with Family for Every Child priority areas - disability, care in resource-constrained settings, post-conflict/disasters

4. Recommended local civil society organisations

- for appropriate local CSOs:
 - contact details
 - history, size & scale, governance structure
 - programme focus areas
 - fit with specific goals of Family for Every Child
 - capacity to engage with Family for Every Child
- a short list of organisations reviewed but not suitable

The local civil society organisation shortlisting should review the following characteristics for all organisations considered:

3. Competencies of Scoping Advisor

Essential

- Extensive experience of the Liberian context.
- Fluent in written and spoken English.
- In-depth knowledge of the civil society environment in Liberia and the West African region and the capacity for CSOs to operate, particularly those engaged in research and advocacy.
- In-depth knowledge of child rights programming, ideally backed-up by practical experience at the national and / or regional level. Ideally this knowledge should relate to care and child protection in both development and emergency settings.
- Demonstrable communications skills with experience of writing regional situational reports
- Experience of partnership development with national or local CSOs.

Desirable

- A credible reputation amongst INGOs and NGOs in the region with a broad range of pertinent personal contacts and working relationships to draw on.

4. Logistics

This is a **10 day** contract to be completed at the latest by **30th May 2016**. We would like someone to start as soon as possible. The location of this post is flexible. However Family for Every Child is keen to ensure strong regional understanding.

5. Accountabilities and Internal Contacts

The consultant would report to the Gemma Gilham for Family for Every Child and work closely with others in the Membership Support Unit.