

Call for Consultancy Services – Zambia Rising Project under Save the Children

Support to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to develop a National Strategy for Child Care Reform and its Implementation Plan.

Background

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has embarked on reforms for the Child Care system to ensure that all children are protected from all forms of harm and provided with appropriate family-based care. Momentum for child care reform in Zambia is at an all-time high, with important initiatives undertaken by the GRZ to implement the revised National Child Policy (approved in 2015). The commendable political commitment and leadership has accelerated the Child Care Reform process that began in 2001 with the launch of the Child Care Upgrading Program with support from UNICEF. Since 2001, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) has been implementing programs aimed at reforming its Child Care system to ensure that all children are protected from harm, provided with appropriate family-based care whilst emphasizing that institutional care is the option of last resort.

In 2014, the MCDSS launched the Minimum Standards of Care for Child Care Facilities and since 2016, has developed an Alternative Care Regulatory Framework which brings together the Minimum Standards of Care for Child Care Facilities (CCF), Guidelines for Alternative Care and Reintegration which includes Foster Care, Adoption, Emergencies and Reintegration of Children into family-based care.

In May 2016, the MCDSS led the first National Consultation on Children's Care Reform in Zambia in which the GRZ called upon all stakeholders working with children to support key strategic actions distilled into a Call to Action. One of these priority actions is the development of a National Strategy for Child Care Reform and an Implementation plan. In 2016, the MCDSS, with support from UNICEF, conducted a nationwide assessment of child care facilities in Zambia which revealed the need to accelerate the child care reform process in Zambia.

Whilst the MCDSS has since finalized the National Alternative Care and Reintegration Guidelines, the Country is yet to develop a strategy that guides the vision for the country's Child Care Reform, with its implementation plan. The MCDSS with the support of Save the Children International (SCI) through the Zambia Rising Project would like to hire a consultant who will support the process for development of a National Strategy for Child Care Reform and its Implementation Plan.

Save the Children International therefore seeks services of a consultant to support **the development of an Implementation plan and Strategy for National Child Care Reform, including Alternative Care.**

The Zambia Rising Project:

Save the Children International (SC) is the lead partner implementing the *Zambia Rising* project which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF). The purpose of the project is to improve systems and structures to ensure that most vulnerable children, adolescents and households have access to health and social services and family based care. *Zambia Rising* complements the GRZ's efforts to address the needs of

Zambia's most vulnerable children and households through strengthened social welfare systems, improved coordination amongst line ministries, and enhanced collaboration with civil society, the private sector and other critical stakeholders.

The project has five result areas:

1. Human Resources to provide comprehensive coordinated care for most vulnerable children, adolescents and their households affected by HIV and AIDS strengthened;
2. Coordination across ministries, private sector and civil society strengthened;
3. Enabling policy environment protective of children, adolescents and families affected by HIV applied;
4. Capacity of NGOs implementing programs for children, adolescents and their households enhanced;
5. Zambia's Children's Care Reform, including Alternative Care strengthened.

Through a coordinated effort between *Zambia Rising*, United States Government-funded OVC service delivery projects and UNICEF, Save the Children and its partners implement a vision of system strengthening that is coordinated and supportive of GRZ structures and sustainable processes.

Consultant

Development of a National Strategy for Child Care Reform and its Implementation Plan.

Objective of the Consultancy:

The consultancy will support the Department of Social Welfare through the Alternative Care Technical Working Group to document and compile information for the development of a draft strategy with implementation plan for the National Child Care Reform based on the current legal frameworks, Government's vision for Child Care Reform, on-going efforts (by Civil Society Partners and Cooperation Partners) to strengthen Child Care systems, including Alternative Care and Reintegration for children into family-based care, in Zambia. The Plan will be developed based on the current interventions, identification of gaps, short-term and long term actions geared towards Child Care Reforms and to ensure coordination, family strengthening, Alternative Care, prevention and gate keeping services are captured.

Description of Services:

The consultant(s) will be required to work under the direction of the Department of Social Welfare through the MCDSS with support from the Zambia Rising technical team to collate and gather information to produce a National and Strategy for Child Care, including Alternative Care with its implementation plan. The Consultant will be required to work with a team of specialized experts in costing and budgeting of the implementation plan.

Responsibilities and Tasks:

The consultant will be tasked to:

1. Conduct a desk review of study reports and documentation related Child Care in Zambia.
2. Conduct technical discussions with MCDSS, and the Alternative Care Technical Working Group members on the process for developing the Strategy and implementation plan, the direction and vision for GRZ and stakeholders with regard to Child Care Reform, Coordination,

Implementation of Alternative Care and Reintegration Guidelines, Family strengthening, gate keeping and prevention of separation.

3. Facilitate consultative meetings of key stakeholders to help develop and define the gaps, short and long term interventions per GRZ's vision for Zambia's Child Care Reform, key pillars, strategies and implementation actions.
4. Provide technical guidance and help shape the process of development of the strategy and implementation plan by working with the key actors in the Ministry and outside stakeholders.
5. Work with key actors in the MCDSS to determine what needs to be put into the strategy and implementation plan
6. Support the compilation of the information from the consultations and distill the information into a draft Strategy and Implementation Plan using the Government approved framework. This will be shared with key stakeholders for review and comments.
7. Support review of the documents to reflect input from GRZ and other stakeholders.
8. Proof read, edit the documents in readiness for submission to the MCDSS.

Deliverables and time line Expected from the Consultant:

- Desk review conducted, consultations held and a road map for completion of the report drafted and shared with MCDSS and Zambia Rising;
- A series of consultative meetings held with national and provincial stakeholder to draft the National Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- Consultative meetings held and information compiled.
- The consultant will take a leading role to ensure that the information needed to draft the National Strategy and Implementation Plan is collected, compiled and shared with MCDSS, Zambia Rising and the Alternative Care Technical Working Group for feedback.
- Draft Strategy and Implementation plan with feedback from MCDSS, TWG members, finalized and submitted.

Location:

Desk based, travel to (if International consultant) and within Zambia

Contract Duration and Timeframe:

The consultancy will require 60 days including 1 or 2 Trip(s) to Zambia (in case of an International Consultant). The timeframe will be from **26th February 2018 to 30th April 2018**.

Required Experience:

- Extensive knowledge of Child Care Reform, Alternative Care and Reintegration, Family Strengthening and Prevention of Family Separation. .
- Knowledge of International Guidelines for Alternative Care, Reintegration as well as Zambia's legal and policy framework for protection and care of children.
- Experience developing a National Strategic documents and Implementation Plans.
- Experience conducting budgeting and estimations of costs for National Plans.
- Lead consultant to be possessing an Advanced Degree in Social Work, Development Studies or any related field
- Experience working with senior government officials in African contexts.
- Proven ability to negotiate/interact with senior level government officials
- Ability to work within a multicultural environment and under tight deadlines

- Excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- Excellent English writing skills.

Supervision, reporting and oversight:

The consultant will also work on daily basis with the focal point person at MCDSS and Save the Children-Zambia Rising Alternative Care team.

Submission of Proposal:

Interested organization(s)/individual(s) are invited to submit either a sealed envelope to the Chief of Party Zambia Rising Project at Save the Children's Offices: Plot 16794, off Alick Nkhata Road, Lusaka. Phone 0211-250139 or an electronic application to jobs.zambia@savethechildren.org. The deadline for submission is **11th February 2018 by 12:00 hours**.

The submission should provide the following information:

a) Technical component:

- Outline of the approach and methodology for undertaking the assignment;
- A timeframe in which process and final Strategy and costed Implementation Plan should be produced,
- CVs of the key technical persons;
- Proof of past experiences in conducting similar assignments;

b) Financial component:

- Outline a budget for the assignment and daily rate and number of days within the set timeframe
- State the level of effort of the consultant(s) within the set timeframe.

Terms of Contract:

The lead consultant and his/her team shall abide by Save the Children International policies and its related procedures for consultancy.