

Caring for Boys Affected by Sexual Violence Primary Research

Consultant Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

Family for Every Child is an international alliance of civil society organisations working to mobilise knowledge, skills and resources around children's care. A group of Family for Every Child member organisations in the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, India and Indonesia met in the Philippines in February 2017 for a practice exchange on child sexual abuse. They decided to conduct a scoping study to understand how social norms around gender influence how we care for boys affected by sexual violence, and what is already being done by likeminded organisations to ensure that boys affected by sexual violence grow up in a permanent, safe and caring family or quality alternative care where needed. The study explored sexual violence affecting boys as including both sexual abuse and exploitation of boys and harmful sexual behaviour¹ of boys themselves, but by considering both in the study the aim was not to infer that one leads to the other. The study is now complete and Family for Every Child has secured funding to implement primary research to further develop their local understanding in these areas.

Findings of the Scoping Study

The study sought to answer two questions:

1. What global, regional or country-specific knowledge exists on the drivers of sexual violence affecting boys? Sub-questions focussed on culture, context, social norms around gender and the role of parents and caregivers.
2. What promising or best practice interventions exist with evidence of demonstrable effectiveness?

The study makes a number of conclusions regarding the need for further primary research, as follows, which should be considered in light of the study's wider findings and recommendations.

While the study highlights some of the key drivers of sexual violence, it is important to think critically about why some boys are more at risk than others, and the varied ways that boys with different characteristics, and living in different situations and contexts will experience and be affected by sexual violence. It is evident that more needs to be done to consider the highly contextual and situational interaction of risk and resiliency factors in the lives of boys and how this affects their protection from or vulnerability to sexual violence. In depth, participatory, primary research that engages with ecological² and intersectional theoretical frameworks³ is needed to recognise these differences and identify the care, treatment and

¹The study considers terminology used by various actors and researchers to describe what the study refers to as 'harmful sexual behaviour' of children

²Children's experiences are influenced by a range of individual characteristics, by the relationships that they negotiate and participate in, as well as by the socio-economic and cultural contexts in which they live. When thinking about risk it is important to remember that risk is specific to both the individual and the context; multiple risk factors may have a cumulative effect on children; and some factors may moderate and mediate the effect of violence serving as protective factors and enhancing children's resilience. Psychological research suggests that one cannot assume the effects of violence on children and that some are resilient and proactive in their attempts to cope with violence. It is therefore useful to adopt an ecological systems approach as conceptualised by Bronfenbrenner (1979).

³Intersectionality is an important lens through which the vulnerability of boys to sexual violence can be understood. At a minimum, intersectional analysis needs to consider 'difference' and power dynamics in order to analyse the origins of multiple sources of (gendered) oppression and the way that different forms of disadvantage intersect and influence the experiences of certain groups of people – in this study boys – on the basis of gender, generation, race, socio-economic status etc. Furthermore,

support needs of boys who are vulnerable to or affected by sexual violence. This research would help to develop a more nuanced understanding of how culture and context influences sexual violence affecting boys over the life course.⁴The findings suggest that protecting boys from sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour requires a multi-layered strategy, but how this can be done requires further exploration through research and well evaluated pilot interventions. The study highlights the need for donors, policy-makers, programmers and practitioners to consider how stereotypes around masculinity have affected resource allocation, programming priorities and targeting when it comes to strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence. In order to be effective, relevant and sensitive to the local context, this multi-layered strategy can only be developed on the basis of evidence, gathered at a local level with meaningful participation from children, adults, caregivers and community members.

ANTICIPATED NATURE OF THE PRIMARY RESEARCH

Focus	Draft Main Research Questions
Gender / Masculinity / Sexuality	<p>What does it mean to be a male child and what are their lived experiences in the context of sexuality and masculinities?</p> <p>How is masculinity and sexuality socially constructed?</p> <p>How do boys and those around them perceive masculinity and sexuality and how does this impact them?</p>
Sexual Violence	<p>What are the linkages between the dominant notions of sexuality and masculinity <i>and</i> sexual violence against male children and 'harmful sexual behaviour' of male children?</p> <p>Consideration of harmful sexual behaviour of girls will also be noted, but the focus on harmful sexual behaviour of boys is to explore how this is grounded in notions of sexuality and masculinity rather than to infer that sexual abuse of boys leads to them harming others sexually</p> <p>Experiences of those in their family network (ecological approach)</p>
Interventions	<p>What promising or best practice interventions exist?</p> <p>What challenges have been encountered and were they resolved?</p>

it requires an analysis of the structural factors that support and/or reproduce these inequalities or vulnerabilities, and how this plays out in lived experiences, interpersonal relations and multiple identities (Yuval Davis 2011; Lutz et al 2011; McCall 2005).

⁴ By considering childhood in relation to the life course, one focuses on the socially constructed boundaries between - and the transitions into - the stages associated with early and middle childhood, adolescence, youth and adulthood (Huijsmans 2016; Clark Kazak 2009; Valentine 2003). This perspective would help us to understand how norms, practices and expectations associated with masculinity shift as boys make these transitions, and how boys' understanding and engagement with these norms and expectations changes over time.

Possible Research Methods

- Extended individual interviews with boys (including older boys affected by sexual violence if they are in a stable situation where members work with affected boys directly)
- Family case study interviews (ecological framework, support provided by family)
- Focus group discussions (for broader discussions on sexuality and masculinity) with various participant groups
- Focus group discussions with caregivers or other adult participant groups
- Individual interviews with service providers (possibly survey instead to save time)

Considerations:

- How to consult boys safely considering the sensitive focus of the study
- Required skill level of researchers to manage different methods
- Appropriate age group of children for each area of focus and method
- Availability of services to support boys who disclose abuse or become upset during the research
- When consent from parents would not be needed (may differ from other research due to the subject)

Expected Outcomes of the Research

- Understanding about masculinity regarding sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour in the context
- Understanding of drivers or influencing factors and trends in the context
- An overview of relevant available services and legislation

Intellectual Property

The data collected as part of this research project will be owned by Family for Every Child (and their member organisations).

KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIFFERENT PARTNERS

The consultant will be responsible for:

1. Participating in a face to face meeting to: review and finalise research proposal; facilitate discussions to inform development of method, questions and tools; provide guidance on data collection and analysis to enable effective cross analysis of each country's data.
2. Working with Family for Every Child to finalise the draft research proposal, major research questions and agree the research methodology (at first face to face meeting)
3. Developing detailed research methodology, questions and tools (research tools, consent forms, participant sheets, ethical protocol), sampling frameworks, and approach to and tools for analysis and report writing) for each member / local consultant to customise (following face to face meeting)
4. Providing remote support to in country researchers for training, piloting, data collection, analysis and report writing alongside the Family Secretariat.
5. Providing in country support to one stage of the research process in Nepal
6. Participating in a face to face meeting to cross analyse data from each country to inform the synthesis report
7. Writing a synthesis report based on the data from each of the country reports and analysed data

Family for Every Child's Member Organisations will be responsible for

1. Customisation (and translation if needed) of research tools to context
2. Hiring and training data collectors (and local consultants if needed) for data collection
3. Mobilising participants for data collection and gaining any necessary approvals
4. Data collection (using common tools and sharing consent forms and participant sheets with the Secretariat)
5. Safeguarding children throughout the research process
6. Data analysis (using common tools and sharing analysed data in English with Secretariat and Lead Consultant) and validation
7. Report writing (using a standard template provided by the Lead Consultant)
8. Participating in the face to face meetings

Family for Every Child's Secretariat will be responsible for

1. Identifying the Lead Consultant (in collaboration with the Member Organisations involved) and briefing them on Family for Every Child's ways of working, conceptual framework and policies (as per consultant briefing site)
2. Supervising the work of the Lead Consultant and liaising between them and the member organisations
3. Supporting the design and in country implementation of the research in addition to the Lead Consultant
4. Attending the face to face meetings
5. Supporting the writing and publication of the synthesis report in liaison with the Member Organisations

TIMEFRAME

Timeframe	# Days	Activity
February	2 days	Preparing for face to face meeting
Week of 19 th February	7 days	Face to face meeting to finalise research proposal, agree research method and provide guidance on data collection and analysis to ensure data can be cross analysed for synthesis report.
March	8 days	Develop detailed research questions and tools (as above), sampling frameworks and work plan and tools for data collection, analysis and report writing
March to November	4 days	Remote support to all members (e.g. during pilot testing, data collection, data analysis, validation and report writing)
	12 days	In country support to Voice of Children Nepal at one stage of the research process (e.g. training and piloting, data collection including immediate response to participant according to needs, data analysis and validation, report writing)
November / December	5 days	Face to face meeting to cross analyse data from each country (days include prep and travel)
December / January	10 days	Writing of Synthesis Report (5 days drafting 3 days revising)
TOTAL	48 days	(may be divided between more than one consultant)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Consultative and collaborative approach to working
- Experience with qualitative research, research with adolescents and research on gender and sexual violence or violence against children
- Fluency in English and strong track record of report writing to publishable standard
- Knowledge of the region

Desirable:

- Knowledge of care issues
- Programming on gender and/or sexual violence
- Experience working with or for local and national civil society organisations
- Experience using a range of participatory research methodologies to understand sensitive issues

TO APPLY

Submit the following to info@familyforeverychild.org

- Your CV and those of any collaborating consultants
- A covering letter outlining your relevant skills and experience according to the criteria and your availability and budget for the work.
- One or more writing samples
- Two references (one being your most recent client or line manager)

Start Date: Ahead of first face to face meeting (likely in Cambodia) week commencing 19th February 2018.