

Call for Proposals

For over 90 years, Save the Children has been making a difference in children's lives in more than 120 countries. We are the world's largest independent child rights organisation, underpinned by a vision in a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Our mission to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

In Rwanda, Save the Children initiated an 'Advancing the Right to Read' Education Signature Programme in 2013 that aims to reverse the global crisis in learning by providing a continuum of services for children aged 0 – 9 focused on supporting learning outcomes and early grade literacy that ensures all children leave school able to read.

Using the latest evidence of what works best when trying to help children learn to read and write, together with innovative approaches to community action and the literate environment, it seeks to:

1. Close the gap in early childhood care and education by supporting family learning for parents and children aged 0–3 and increasing the quality and coverage of centre-based services for children aged 3– 6.
2. Improve the teaching of reading by providing teachers with training in effective reading instruction.
3. Develop a culture of literacy and learning in which communities understand the value of literacy and create and sustain opportunities to practice and enjoy reading together.
4. Create a rich literate environment that guarantees children access to high quality, local language reading materials.

See rwanda.savethechildren.net for more information about the Advancing the Right to Read programme and the specific projects included in this VfM analysis

Save the Children is currently looking for a consultant for the following consultancy:

Title: Value for Money Analysis, Early Math's and Literacy Initiative (ELMI) and the Rwanda Children's Book Initiative (RCBI)

The Advancing the Right to Read programme (ARR) is piloting a number of approaches to improving children's literacy and early grade reading. This consultancy is focused on two components of the programme: the Early Math's and Literacy Initiative (ELMI) and the Rwanda Children's Book Initiative (RCBI).

ELMI: Through the ELMI the programme has developed a Rwanda-specific, pedagogically sound Early Literacy and Maths curriculum for both centre-based care and for parents to support children ages 3-6 at home.

RCBI: The vision of the Children's Book Initiative (RCBI) is to get 'more children reading more and better books'.

Both ELMI and RCBI have undertaken baselines (and midline for ELMI) with endlines planned for early 2015. It is expected that evidence generated will be used to demonstrate the benefits and cost-effective of these approaches.

Consultancy Objective

The general objective of this consultancy is to develop Value for Money (VfM) monitoring frameworks and undertake an initial VfM analysis of both the ELMI and RCBI components of the Advancing the Right to Read programme. These analyses will inform Save the Children's current engagement with the Government of Rwanda, donors and other development partners on the potential scale up of these approaches. The VfM framework will also enable Save the Children to utilise future endline data (early 2015) to generate information about their cost effectiveness.

Scope of Work and Methodology

Undertake an initial VfM analysis and develop a VfM monitoring framework for both ELMI and RCBI components of ARR. The consultant will:

Conduct an analysis of both ELMI and RCBI components of ARR and propose VfM monitoring frameworks for both including a model for cost analysis.

- Based on agreement on the VfM frameworks, undertake an initial VfM analysis of both components and provide a VfM report based on existing monitoring and evaluation data.
- Develop cost analysis tools and provide guidance to Save the Children on the future use of these tools once endline data from both ELMI and RCBI is available.

The VfM monitoring framework and initial analysis will enable comparison of cost effectiveness of the different approaches (parenting and center based) within ELMI, and support possible comparison with the Government of Rwanda's new approach of a pre-primary school year

Methodology and outputs

The consultants will agree methodology with Save the Children, however it is prosed that this will include:

- Analysis of key project documents including log frames (or equivalent), budgets etc.
- Undertaking a Question and Answer session with key project staff
- Developing a cost effectiveness study proposal an analysis model and an initial VfM analysis of both ELMI and RCBI
- Presentation of the proposal (either remotely via webinar or through an in-country workshop)
- Refinement of proposal
- Development of tools
- Presentation of initial VfM analysis of both ELMI and RCBI and of tools and instructions for / orientation of Save the Children team to use these tools (either remotely webinar or through an in-country workshop)

Outputs

1. Report: Initial VfM analysis narrative report presenting the initial VfM analysis of both ELMI and RCBI and issues arising
2. VfM framework in spreadsheet form (that can be populated with endline evaluation and cost data when they are available)
3. Written guidance on completing the VfM template spreadsheet

Work effort and duration

Proposals should outline a detailed workplan; however, we anticipate the consultancy will require between 10 and 12 days work. We expect to confirm the contract with the preferred bidder before on or around 21st November and the final report should be submitted by 21st December 2014.

Key selection criteria

- Proven knowledge of approaches to maximizing Value for Money in development programmes;
- Proven experience in developing Value for Money frameworks and undertaking analysis of cost effectiveness;
- Proven experience in the education sector and/or with education interventions;
- Strong analytical and skills;
- Fluency in English;
- Experience within the East Africa Region, with specific focus in Rwanda will be beneficial but is not essential;
- The ability to travel to Rwanda may be an advantage but is not essential

Application specifications

We will consider proposals from individual consultants and companies / organisations.

To register interest in this consultancy, please send the following documentation to HR-Rwanda@savethechildren.org specifying 'VfM Analysis' in the subject line.

- A proposal responding to the ToR, with specific focus on addressing the Scope of Work/Services, timeline and methodology to be used
- An Initial work plan based on methodology outlined, and confirming availability of the applicant
- Company or organisation profile (where applicable) and CVs of consultant(s) who would deliver the work
- A minimum of 3 references (organisation or individual consultant as appropriate)
- Sample of a Value for Money analysis/ report produced by Consultant / Company within the last 3 years
- Budget breakdown based on expected daily rates and initial work plan

Applications close on 14th November 2014.

***Note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**