



Term of Reference - External Evaluation
Supporting the Protection and Empowerment of Afghan Children (SPEAC – II)

Consultancy Title	Short Term Consultancy External Evaluation - Supporting the Protection and Empowerment of Afghan Children (SPEAC-II)
Reports to	Senior Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation, Canada
Supported by	PQAL Manager, Afghanistan; Deputy Country Director, Afghanistan; Country Director, Afghanistan
Background	<p>War Child Canada is a registered Canadian charity based in Toronto that works with war-affected communities to help children reclaim their childhood through access to education, opportunity, and justice. War Child Canada has over 20 years of experience working in communities in conflict and post-conflict zones. All work is implemented in direct partnership with local communities, local NGOs, and other stakeholders using a child-centered approach. War Child Canada is currently operational in Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Yemen.</p> <p>In September 2019, War Child Canada received funding for the second phase of the project called “Supporting the Protection and Empowerment of Afghan Children” (SPEAC). This project was designed to build on the success and learning of the first phase implemented by War Child Canada and its local implementing partners from September 2016 to October 2018.</p> <p>The second phase of the SPEAC project was implemented by War Child Canada and local NGO partners in seven provinces (Kabul, Logar, Kandahar, Balkh, Kunduz, Badakhshan, and Takhar).</p> <p>After the political changes in August 2021, the project activities were put on hold, as working with public institutions, particularly with state justice actors became difficult. The project was adapted to focus on community-based stakeholders for the remainder of the project period and a no-cost extension was approved until January 2023.</p> <p>The project’s <u>original</u> three key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased enforcement of existing national child protection laws and focus on the implementation of the 2018 Penal Code by justice and law enforcement officials 2) Afghan national and sub-national authorities promote the active prosecution of perpetrators of bacha baazi increased support services for survivors 3) Afghan civil society support community engagement and advocacy of CBCSMs, youth activists, CDCs think tanks and academia to be agents of change for policies and practices of trafficking-in-person including bacha baazi <p>The project’s <u>adapted</u> three key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased enforcement of existing national child protection laws and focus on the implementation of the 2018 Penal Code by justice and law enforcement officials



	<p>2) Afghan government, civil society activists, and local communities establish protection measures, surveillance, and reporting system to ensure identification and protection of victims of trafficking and bacha baazi</p> <p>3) Civil society actors ensure increased support services to survivors of bacha baazi</p>
<p>Consultancy summary</p>	<p>The consultant/consultancy team will lead a mixed-method summative evaluation of the project listed below.</p> <p>This evaluation will provide an opportunity for all project stakeholders to review accomplishments and to be informed by the voices of the beneficiaries e.g., children, their families, community leaders and protection actors, civil society actors and government officials to reflect on the extent to which the project has made a difference in the lives of the beneficiaries and achieved the planned results. The consultant/consulting firm will conduct a systematic and objective assessment of the project's theory of change and implementation. The evaluation will document accomplishments of the project, challenges, successes, and lessons learned using the following framework.</p> <p>Relevance and efficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors related to local context and variances between provinces facilitated or limited the project response? • To what extent the project has considered the causes and factors of conflict and fragility and taken them into account as part of project implementation? What best practices should be retained for future programming (for War Child Canada and the donor)? <p>Context changes and adaptability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the project implementation and activities? What adaptations and strategies were employed to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the project? How useful and appropriate were these changes? • To what extent the political power shift of August 15, 2021, and the change in regime, impacted the project implementation and activities? What adaptations and strategies were used for the project's continued implementation? How useful and appropriate were these changes? • Which factors facilitated or limited the project's response capacity and flexibility? <p>Coherence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent was the project aligned to the long-term needs, development goals, and priorities relating to countering human trafficking and child protection in Afghanistan? <p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent was the project's theory of change accurate and able to produce the planned changes in the targeted communities? • To what extent has the project achieved the expected results/outcomes in the following priority areas:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community-level capacity building to protect and promote children’s rights ○ Application of victim centred approach & trauma-informed approach ○ Engagement and advocacy with legal actors and decision-makers ○ Community-focused behaviour change communication & public awareness <p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What steps have been taken for sustainability of the project? To what extent are local partners and stakeholders empowered and engaged as part of these steps? <p>Coordination and Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To what extent project team been effective in its coordination with relevant actors, examples of support received, and effective project implementation, monitoring and evaluation and grant management? ● To what extent did the project apply the Do No Harm approach? What are some examples?
<p>Approach and Deliverables:</p>	<p>The consultant/team will review all project documents and existing data in advance to carrying out the evaluation. While War Child Canada has developed this scope of work for the evaluation team and has tailored the approach to its needs with evaluation themes that are specific to the project, the consultant will finalize the methods and tools to measure results in collaboration with M&E staff (Canada and Afghanistan). Evaluation questions have been proposed above and will be finalized jointly by the consultant/team and WCC. The evaluation will focus on relevance, efficiency, coherence, effectiveness, sustainability, coordination, and management.</p> <p>The consultant will be responsible for design of the evaluation and tools, coordination and implementation of data collection activities, analysis of data, and reporting. The consultant/ team will provide the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inception report ● Data collection tools ● Summary of key findings ● Draft report ● Final report ● 3-4 case studies of project participants ● Presentation of evaluation findings (one for Kabul stakeholders and one for the donor) <p>The consultant/team will identify and document lessons learned on successes, innovative approaches, challenges, and learnings, as well as a review of the project’s implementation approach, and a discussion of value for money through a final report that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. A one-to-two-page executive summary II. One-page infographic summarizing key evaluation findings III. Summary of accomplishment of project outcomes



	<p>IV. Lessons learned, constraints, challenges with particular reflection on the post August 2021 NGO operating environment and other areas that need further attention</p> <p>V. The capacity-building impact of the program both with project beneficiaries and local stakeholders</p> <p>VI. Prospects for sustainability of program outcomes</p> <p>VII. Proposed recommendations on how War Child Canada can build on successes and incorporate learnings as part of future programming</p> <p>VIII. Case studies from representatives of key beneficiary groups</p> <p>IX. Personal reflections from stakeholders where possible</p> <p>X. Annex of methodology and tools applied during evaluation</p> <p>The final report should use high quality photos, stories of change, reflection from the field and will have graphic design and will be formatted by the consultant/team, with feedback from War Child Canada.</p> <p>Evaluation proposals should not exceed \$20,000 USD.</p> <p>The evaluation is planned to occur in November 2022 and January 2023, with final deliverables provided no later than the last week of January 2023.</p>
Experience, skills	<p>Consultants/consultancy team must demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience performing high quality mixed-method evaluations and strong understanding of global best practice program evaluation procedures • Consultant/team must have strong research, data analysis, and excellent report writing skills • At least one team member with master's degree or equivalent in relevant subject area • In-depth understanding of child protection and legal sector in Afghanistan • Experience working on projects related to children's rights and protection issues, education programs, and community-based protection in Afghanistan or in a fragile Muslim context • Strong understanding of program design, result-based model, and evaluation system and standards • Experience working in Afghanistan or similar Muslim context is desired • Strong English language skills required; Dari and Pashto an asset
Travel	<p>Travel to the field locations (outside Kabul) is required but subject to security clearance and COVID-19 safety considerations</p>
Application process	<p>Interested applicants/firms are invited to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical proposal including methodology, timeline, and demonstration of experience (10 pages maximum) ▪ Financial proposal (basic budget) ▪ Curriculum vitae of consultant or key consultant team members ▪ Confirmation of availability (November 2022 to January 2023 timeline for evaluation) <p>Email: jobs@warchild.ca</p>



	<p>Please ensure your submission email has the subject heading: "<i>Afghanistan SPEAC External Evaluation</i>"</p> <p>Final candidates will be vetted in accordance with War Child Canada's Child Safeguarding Policy, including appropriate reference and security checks.</p> <p><u>Only those applicants selected for an interview will be notified.</u> For more information about War Child Canada, please visit www.warchild.ca.</p>
Deadline	<p>October 31, 2022</p> <p>*Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.</p>