

Terms of Reference: Schools as Zones of Peace in DRC - Evidence Report

1. Background

Schools as Zones of Peace (SZOP) is humanitarian project that bridges the divide between Education in Emergencies and Child Protection in Emergencies to mitigate and respond to attacks on education in conflict contexts. Since 2015, Save the Children Norway has piloted a SZOP programming model that links school- and community-based interventions to advocacy for the endorsement and implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration. SCN has supported SZOP projects in DRC from July 2015-April 2018, new application pending.

In 2017, SCN commissioned an external evaluation of SZOP with DRC and oPt as case countries for the project period occurring between 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017. We expect the evidence reports to build on findings from this evaluation as part of the document review.

2. Purpose of the evidence report

SZOP aims to mitigate and respond to attacks on education in conflict settings. This is a hefty ambition that is challenging to achieve in conflict contexts that are constantly changing and challenging to monitor progress towards.

For example, if more attacks on education are reported, is that because the project failed? Or because awareness on attacks on education and reporting mechanisms has been raised, which could be a success? If the Ministry of Defence has not updated the military code of conduct to integrate the Safe Schools Declaration and its Guidelines, yet has shown an increasing interest in doing so, how can that progress be best reported?

Despite the challenges of documenting the impact of SZOP programming, SCN consistently receives positive feedback from countries that are implementing Schools as Zones of Peace. There is interest in continuing such programming in DRC, and to possibly expand to other countries in the region. Continuation and expansion will be hard to finance, however, without strong evidence of SZOP's impact to date.

The purpose of this consultancy is to collect evidence of the impact of current SZOP programming in Central Africa for two purposes:

- a. To have a go-to source that summarizes current evidence for SZOP's impact in DRC – both the positive impacts and any unintended negative impacts
- b. To use in advocacy opportunities related to the Safe Schools Declaration

3. Objectives and key question

DRC is one of the countries that has a longest running SZOP project (going on 4 years since 2015). As most other SZOP projects to date have only run 12 months, we would like a case study on DRC to understand the impact of longer-term Safe Schools programming in one country.

- **From 2014 to 2018, how has SZOP evolved in DRC?**
 - Changes in school level interventions? Why?
 - Changes in advocacy strategies for the Safe Schools Declaration? Why?
- **What is the main positive impact of SZOP:**
 - For children?
 - For teachers?
 - For parents and communities?
 - For ANSA?
 - For institutional changes? (i.e., North Kivu’s School Safety Planning Guidelines)
 - For implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration?
- **What are any unintended negative impacts? How could these be mitigated in the future?**
 - At child-level
 - At community level
 - At the institutional level (implementation of Safe Schools Declaration)
- **Sustainability:**
 - What elements of SZOP programming in DRC can be described as sustainable? Which not, and why?
 - How can sustainability be defined in SZOP in DRC?
 - What is the way forward for sustainability of SZOP and Safe Schools Declaration in DRC?
- **Effectiveness:**
 - Reduction in # in attacks on education (SC definition)
 - Reduction in # of lost school days (compare the school years)
 - Awareness of Safe Schools Declaration at community and school level

4. Scope of the evidence report

- Analysis of all Schools as Zones of Peace, Safe Schools Declaration, Protecting Education from Attack programming in DRC.
- Field work to take place in North Kivu and Kinshasa

5. Design and methodology

The consultants should present a detailed statement of proposed methods in the technical proposal. When developing the methodology, the consultants should consider a children’s rights approach as well as children’s participation. The guiding principles mentioned in the Save the Children International Evaluation Handbook should be considered.

The review should be a participatory process, where the team of consultants will act as facilitators and drivers of the process. The review should include, but not necessarily limit to the following methods:

- **Desk review** of relevant documents (country annual plans, annual reports, field reports, relevant national policy documents etc.)

- **Key informant interviews** with SCN and SCI employees, country level staff, implementing partners etc.
- **Focus groups discussions** with children, teachers and community members

A note on child participatory research: Save the Children Norway strongly encourages candidates with experience in child-led or child participatory research (i.e. Hear from the Children) to apply and propose a child participatory methodology. If the plan is convincing and realistic for the timeline, more funds may be allotted. As a minimum, short case studies with children must be included as described in the deliverables section below, and here strong child safeguarding standards must be applied.

A note on language: The consultant must speak French

6. Organisation, roles and responsibilities

The entire review process will be led by external consultants. SCN will select the potential candidates based on the technical and financial proposals submitted. The consultant will also be responsible for developing a sound research methodology, planning and conducting a consultative/participatory review and managing the data collection, as well as writing the reports and presenting the findings and recommendations.

SCN will be responsible for facilitating the review process through making available relevant documents and give feedback to the consultant. A small project group will be established to manage the consultancy. The group, consisting of SCN staff from the Programme Quality and Impact department and the International Department, will review and validate the inception report, the draft and the final report, and will also be engaged in discussing how the findings will be followed up. SCN will be responsible of covering the entire costs for the assignment.

7. Deliverables

- 1 report (10-20 pages)
- 2-4 case studies with children's perspective of SZOP programming (1 page each)
- 1 case study with Geneva Call/ANSA (1 page)
- 1 case study with Ministry of Defence (1 page)
- 1 advocacy brief (1-page summary of SZOP impact in DRC)

8. Timeline

The consultancy is estimated to a maximum of 30 working days.

- January 2019: Inception Phase
- February 2019: Field Work DRC
- Early March 2019: Draft Report
- End March 2019: Final Report
- Mid-April 2019: Advocacy Brief

The timeline is aligned with the advocacy needs in the build-up to the third Safe Schools Declaration conference to be held in April/May 2019. February-March 2019 are important months for one-on-one advocacy meetings and the evidence reports would ideally be finished by this period for their dissemination with relevant advocacy targets.

9. Budget / Resources

All costs will be covered by SCN. Save the Children Norway will sign a consultancy contract with the consultant. 30% of the total amount will be paid upon signing the contract, 30% will be paid upon submission of draft report and the remaining 40% upon submission and approval of the final report and all deliverables.

10. Plan for dissemination and learning

- In Oslo:
 - SCN to share with NMFA desk officers and Safe Schools Advisor
- In WCA:
 - WCA RO to share with relevant donors (ECHO, Norwegian embassy etc), and other partners (AU, EiE WG)
 - CO to share with relevant donors (ECHO, Norwegian embassy etc) and Safe Schools partners (EiE WG, MoE, Geneva Call, etc)
- Internationally:
 - SCN to share with GCPEA
 - SCN to add the evidence reports to SCI Education Library and tag as evidence for the Safe Schools Common Approach
 - SCN to use as helpful in the third Safe Schools Declaration Conference in May 2019