

Terms of Reference: Schools as Zones of Peace in Niger and Nigeria - Evidence Reports

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. In West and Central Africa, SCN has supported SZOP projects in Niger (December 2016-November 2017, new application pending) and Nigeria (November 2017-May 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 Niger and Nigeria, 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 for two purposes:

- a. To have a go-to source that summarizes current evidence for SZOP's impact in Niger and Nigeria – 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

- **What is Safe Schools programming in Niger and Nigeria?**

- What are the main common components?
- What are the links between school level interventions and advocacy on the Safe Schools Declaration's implementation? How could these be strengthened?
- **What are the main positive impacts?**
 - At child-level
 - At community level
 - At the institutional level (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)
- **If the consultant has strong child-led research skillset:**
 - How have children's (and teachers') perceptions of safety in and around school evolved?
 - How have children's (and teachers') knowledge on how to stay safe in school evolved?
- **What is the added-value (if any) of programming regionally (aka Lake Chad) on Safe Schools?**

4. Scope of the evidence report

- Analysis of all Schools as Zones of Peace, Safe Schools Declaration, Protecting Education from Attack programming in Niger and Nigeria.
- Field work to take place in:
 - Niger: Zinder, Niamey
 - Nigeria: Borno State, Abuja

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 given Niger is one of the two focus countries.

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 case studies with children's perspective of SZOP programming (1 page each, 1 from Niger, 1 from Nigeria)
- 1 advocacy brief (1 page for Nigeria and 1 page for Niger)

8. Timeline

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

- November 2018: Recruitment and prepping of consultant
- December 2018: Inception phase
- January 2018: Field work Nigeria and Niger
- February 15: Draft Report
- Mid-March: Final Report
- End March: 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