

TERMS OF REFERENCE: PROJECT EVALUATION CONSULTANCY BECOME SAFE (2021-2023)

PURPOSE

In collaboration with Defence for Children International Belgium, coordinator of the Become Safe project, the consultant will assess the impacts and achievements of the project's activities delivered in the frame of the project.

Based on the results, an evaluation report including conclusions and recommendations will be prepared. This will focus on lessons learned from the current partnership in order to facilitate a feedback to the European Commission and to stakeholders, including where possible the project's beneficiaries, as well as to inform potential future projects.

CONTEXT OF THE BECOME SAFE PROJECT

Defence for Children International (DCI)-Belgium, created in 1991, is part of a worldwide movement active on five continents since 1992. Its objective is to advance, protect and defend the rights of children. DCI-Belgium produces educational tools, provides training on children's rights for professionals and the general public, raises awareness among children themselves and plays an advocacy role with the State.

Become Safe (Feb. 2021 - Feb. 2023) is led by DCI-Belgium (as main applicant) and implemented in partnership with the DCI-Italy, DCI-Spain, DCI-Greece, Terre des Hommes Hungary and DCI-World Service.

The **overall objective of Become Safe** is to improve the protection of migrant children and young people victims or at risk of violence, and uphold their rights to assistance and quality victims care in the EU. To achieve this, the project deploys three complementary strategies to promote systemic and sustainable improvements in the protection of children and youth on the move. It does so through working hand in hand with children and young people themselves, as well as professionals in contact with them.

Amongst the latter, the project specifically targets:

- Professionals in contact with children and young people on the move in reception centers and other accommodation services (such as social workers, NGO staff...etc.).
- Professionals in contact with children and young people victims of violence or at risk as part of national child protection services / victims support services.

Main objectives :

- *Objective 1:* Empower and raise awareness amongst migrant children and youth victims or potential victims of violence on their rights to protection, and available support services
- *Objective 2:* Enhance the capacity of professionals working with migrant children and youth victims or potential victims of violence, and other ‘mainstream professionals’ and child protection systems delivering victims support services’ in order to better serve the specific needs of migrant children
- *Objective 3:* Enable migrant children and youth victims and potential victims of violence to access quality protection and multidisciplinary support services through improved referrals and coordination between professionals and child protection services

Main activities:

ACTIVITY	CURRENT STATUS
Virtual kick-off meeting with all partners to agree and sign off project planning, deliverables and M&E framework	Done
Bimonthly Skype meetings with lead project manager from each partner	Ongoing
Monitoring & evaluation framework creation	Done
European final event hosted in Brussels, including one day learning and evaluation with all partners and half a day dissemination of key findings and recommendations (50 participants)	To come
Development of a European curriculum (manual) to be used during the Training of Trainers and by trainers when training professionals	Done
1st Training of Trainers (TOT): 3 day training hosted in Budapest (by TdH) and delivered to 16 professionals identified as Trainers across partners	Done
Adaptation of European curriculum to national context: revisions of the curriculum to ensure it is contextually-relevant, acknowledges national legal framework and is accurately translated	Done
TOT 2: Refresher training and learning exchange hosted by partner DCI-It bringing together 16 trainers to share their experience and challenges	Done
Development of transnational youth facilitator training curriculum to be used by partners when training youth facilitators	Done
Use of the ChildHub platform to disseminate knowledge through webinars	To come
Roll-out trainings for professionals working with migrant children and youth (shelter system): 0.5 to 2 day training hosted in each country of implementation to 320 professionals (80 per country; training format tailored to professionals’ availability and needs).	Ongoing (depending on partner)
Roll-out trainings for professionals in child protection and victims support services: 0.5 to 2 day training hosted in each country of implementation to 240 professionals (60 per country)	Ongoing (depending on partner)
Seminars to co-develop protocols and monitoring frameworks with selected professionals: 19 seminars training hosted with 240 professionals (4 to 6 seminars per country over project lifetime)	Ongoing (depending on partner)

Training of 10 youth facilitators in each country of implementation – 5 in Spain (total of 35)	Done
Consultations with children and young people on the move: participatory activities (Focus Group Discussions) to record young people’s perspectives on protection and safety and knowledge about avenues to seek support	Done
Creation of child-friendly awareness-raising material	Done
Youth-led awareness-raising campaigns: information sessions using awareness materials / media co-created with children and disseminated to 1,300 children and youth	Ongoing (depending on partner)
Stakeholders analysis: desk-based mapping and in-person/phone interviews with key stakeholders in each country of implementation	Done
Roundtable exchange on systemic & institutional violence: one-off event convening stakeholders to present findings from consultations led by youth and stakeholders mapping findings; launch of concerted strategies with interested parties; est. 50 participants including testimonies from youth facilitators	Ongoing (depending on partner)
Four meetings of stakeholders leading likeminded/complementary initiatives in support of the protection of child migrants (Concerted Strategies) in each partner country to support exchange of information regarding respective project, opportunities for synergies and leveraging joint advocacy opportunities/strategy	Ongoing (depending on partner)
Creation of a joint advocacy material	Ongoing (depending on partner)
Advocacy meetings with authorities and stakeholders aiming at sharing the findings, results of activities, recommendations, good practices, coming from the project, in view of improving globally the reception and care of young migrants.	Ongoing

Expected results:

1. 650 migrant children and youth victims or potential victims of violence are more aware of their rights and available support service
2. Enhanced capacity of 580 professionals in contact with migrant children and youth victims of violence or at risk of violence to deliver quality, tailored and specialised victims support services to migrant children and youth.
3. Increased access of migrant children and youth victims or potential victims of violence to quality holistic assessment and support services relevant to their needs, thanks to advocacy, referrals and coordination amongst service providers

EXPECTATIONS, SCOPE AND DELIVERABLES

A final evaluation and an evaluation of impacts are a mandatory deliverable for the donor European Commission. In addition, the project’s partners hope to undergo a final external evaluation to ensure a robust and neutral external assessment and judgement on project performance.

DCI Belgium is thus seeking experienced evaluators to assess the project’s performance in terms of impact, relevance, sustainability, effectiveness and sensitivity to diversity and inclusion against the project’s stated objectives.

Overall, the evaluation exercise will help DEI Belgique and implementing partners:

- Measure the **impact** of activities.
- Assess the **relevance** of the program and its implementation strategy.
- Measure the intended changes brought about by the project (i.e. **effectiveness**) at all levels of implementation and their **sustainability**.
- Identify useful lessons learned from the design and implementation.
- Make recommendations for future interventions promoting the protection of children in migration.

In addition, it is expected that the evaluation will contribute to the **broader learning questions**:

- Has the project contributed to generating impact in an **inclusive and equitable** way? Has the project benefited all groups of children (gender, age, nationality, status) equally?
- Looking at the project's design and key activities, what are key drivers, and barriers of sustainability for the project results?

The project's progress against its intended impact and objectives will also use the dedicated Monitoring & Evaluation framework outlining indicators as well as accompanying data collection tools that have been consistently deployed by all partners.

The final evaluation will cover the entire project, including all partner organizations. Geographically, it will cover the five implementation countries: Belgium, Italy, Spain, Greece and Hungary. No field visits are foreseen within the framework of this evaluation.

Methodology

We invite experienced evaluators to present the methodological framework and approach they will deploy to meet the above-mentioned objectives. The evaluator will propose a methodological approach that will make it possible to measure (appreciate, verify, give meaning to, interpret) what has been done, and to highlight the achievements of the program. It should make it possible to verify which objectives have been achieved, both in terms of results and in terms of the dynamics and processes promoted.

The evaluator's assessment will be accompanied by recommendations, points of attention to enrich knowledge of the problem and to improve the overall intervention strategy beyond the action evaluated. It is basically a critical analysis of the performance of the program through the results achieved, the changes obtained and the learning acquired.

Source of data

Ideally, a mixed-method approach will be followed balancing suitable quantitative and qualitative methods to draw on different sources and triangulate information. Existing M&E data and collected quantitative and qualitative information (via the comparative research at project start, post-event/post-training questionnaires, project meeting reports) will also be available for the evaluator. DCI will also facilitate access to key stakeholders who could be involved for data gathering. Generally, a participatory approach should be followed throughout the evaluation.

Deliverables

- The inception report including the results of the initial desk review, the proposed detailed methodology, the evaluation matrix, the detailed timeline, the data collection and analysis tools. This should be reviewed and approved before any data collection starts.
- The interim evaluation report that will be submitted at least 15 days before the final report's deadline.
- The final report with relevant annexes, that will be published in English.

Timeline

The evaluation will be conducted during the final four months of the project, thus it will start by focusing on activities already undertaken and will include, as it goes on and as much as feasible, the main activities being implemented in the last phase of the project. No travel is foreseen as part of this evaluation assignment. All data collection will need to be conducted online.

As the timeframe for the conduct of the evaluation is quite tight, and project partners are still focusing on the final project activities, their involvement in data collection (for consultation) must be well planned to avoid conflicting schedules.

The foreseen timeframe and number of working days for the assignment are indicated in the table. The final schedule and number of days will be mutually agreed between the coordinator and the selected evaluator:

Steps/phases & deliverables	Timeframe/deadline
Starting date of contract/assignment	10 October 2022
Desk review of available documents	3 to 5 days
Development of data collection methods and tools	
Inception report	
Data collection phase	5 days
Data analysis and drafting of the final report	5 days
Presentation of the draft report and preliminary findings	0.5 day
Finalization of the final report	1 days – expected by mid-January
Closing date of contract, final administration and payment (upon approval of the report by coordinator)	By 25 January 2023

PROFILE OF THE EVALUATOR

DCI-Belgium accepts applications from both individuals, teams, academic entities, NGOs and companies as long as they are officially registered with a European tax number (i.e. are able to issue an invoice) and have evaluation, research, impact study or similar and/or consultancy as their object of activity, which can be proven by legal documentation.

Required experience and skills:

- Proven experience in the evaluation of protection projects or similar themes.
- Proven skills in using quantitative and quality data collection and analysis methods.
- Good knowledge of child protection in the migration context
- Strong understanding of diversity and inclusion incl. age, gender and diversity sensitivity aspects.
- Ability to produce quality results within the given timeframe.
- High level of organizational skills and a strong capacity for analysis and for working in a multi-stakeholder and multi-cultural context.
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English. Strong writing skills and ability to convey technical and complex information in a structured, logical, clear and concise manner for different audiences.
- Strong computer proficiency to prepare quality written reports with clean data visualization and presentation of findings.
- Experience in evaluating the success of child participation activities and/or direct experience conducting participatory evaluation with children and young people will be considered a plus.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The assignment will be conducted entirely online, and under the guidance of DCI-Belgium. The coordinator will support the evaluator in understanding the assignment, organizing the work and obtaining data from the partners.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If interested, please make sure to submit your up-to-date resume (max. 3 pages), a brief methodological/technical proposal (max. 5 pages) as well as a financial offer to emmanuelle.vacher@defensedesenfants.be before the 4th of October 2022. Your financial bid should take into account all expenses related to the report (all fees and costs necessary to carry out the study) and indicate whether it is excl. VAT or not.