

Terms of reference for consultancy on study on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and the Child Rights agenda

Background

Disasters threaten the lives, the rights and the needs of millions of children around the world. In the coming years, children's vulnerability especially in developing countries to disasters is expected to increase as their exposure to risks increases and as the frequency and intensity of natural hazards rises. Developing nations, where resilience to shocks is low and livelihoods are often highly dependent on natural resources such as water and land, will be the most affected by climate change. Within these nations, children are perhaps the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Without concerted action, millions of children will be at increased risk from infectious disease, malnutrition, water scarcity, disasters, and the collapse of public services and infrastructure. Yet children are not only potential victims of the impact of climate change, they are also important agents for change to promote effective adaptation strategies.

Plan International ("Plan"), has been taking a lead role in developing a distinct rights-based approach to Disaster Risk Reduction and have been encouraging governments, donors and agencies at all levels to integrate child-centred Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change adaptation into the national and international child rights agendas. Plan believes that disaster risks and climate change affecting children's rights and their lives ought to be reflected in the CRC Committee's work including the CRC monitoring process. One of the main functions of the CRC Committee is to regularly review states' reports to assess progress in the fulfillment of their obligations under the respective treaties. As a result of the consideration of these reports based on a dialogue with states, the Committee issues observations and recommendations to assist the state on how to further improve the implementation of the CRC at the national level.

Presently, there is little guidance in the CRC and Committee documents such as general comments on how states should work on the implementation of the CRC in relation to situations of natural disasters, man-made, complex and conflict emergencies and in the light of this Plan aims to study to what extent the impacts of climate change and disasters, and how these are affecting the realization of children's rights are being considered in the initial and periodic reports submitted by parties to the CRC.

In order to study the issue of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in CRC monitoring, Plan currently seeks the support of a consultant to analyse how stake holders involved in the CRC monitoring and implementation process has approached the issues of DRM and CC in the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations, state reports, alternative reports etc between 2005 and 2011.

Objectives of the consultancy

Carry out an in-depth analytical study of how relevant stake holders involved in the CRC monitoring and implementation process have addressed and made references to disasters and climate change (i.e. by looking for key words) in concluding observations, State Periodic reports, NGO alternative reports, list of issues etc based on a sample of countries (see annex 1). The aim is to understand how DRM and Climate change has been dealt with in the CRC monitoring and implementation process.

The results of this study will be analyzed and serve as a basis to inform Plan's national and international advocacy around DRM including CR monitoring.

Methodology (tasks and scope of the study)

To carry out the study, the consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks:

1. Compile information related to DRM/CC in:
 - a. The CRC and optional protocols, CRC and OP reporting guidelines and general measure of implementation
 - b. State Periodic reports (based on the sample countries)
 - c. Committee's "lists of issues" and concluding observations
 - d) Relevant Committee general comments and recommendations from Days of General Discussions to see if references are there, and if not, what is missing and would be needed.
 - e) NGO alternative reports submitted to the Committee specifying the type of information collected .and information on whether Plan has given input or not and in what way. ¹
2. Analysis of the information found in the compilation under 1 by;
 - a) With regards to Committee's concluding observations and recommendations:
 - i) Highlighting the type of recommendations made (e.g. legal reforms, procedural changes, structural changes in the domestic culture, specific references to CRC and optional protocols articles);
 - ii) Identifying recommendations that are particularly concrete and can serve as best practice
 - b). Based on available information (mainly from Plan and other actors on DRM/CC, assess whether the actual situation in the selected countries is adequately reflected in the state reports, alternative reports, concluding observations (to see if the lack of mention is due to the Committee's lack of information on the issue).
 - d. Cross-reference the information contained in the list of issues and in the concluding observations with the information made available by states and NGOs to the Committee prior to the review (to assess whether the Committee always reflects in its concluding observations the information received);
3. Compile relevant sources of international law and policies relevant to DRM/CC (i e Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and other relevant treaties, resolutions etc. as well as UN and other relevant entities working on these issues, in order to have a solid understanding of relevant frameworks to inform Plan's international advocacy and lobby work
4. Consultation with selected persons to obtain inputs and/or confirm information (see list in annex 2);
5. Develop and suggest follow up actions for Plan when targeting external actors, such as the CRC Committee, States, as well as, internally targeting Plan offices.

Deliverables/expected outcomes

¹ The NGO alternative reports submitted to the Committee are available on CRIN website at: <http://www.crin.org/Alternative-reports/index.asp>.

- Report of the mapping and analysis, containing recommendations and follow up actions linking to Plan's advocacy on DRM/CC
- Document with a compilation of the relevant legal framework

Timeframe

Start date: 1 February 2011

Expected duration: 20 days over a 3 month period

Expected qualifications of the consultant

- Human rights expert with a university degree in law, political science, international relations or related field.
- Very good knowledge of international human rights law, in particular of the international standards on the rights of the child and the working methods of the UN treaty bodies, in particular those of the UN committee on the rights of the child
- Very good knowledge of the UN system and preferably experience lobbying before the UN treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Knowledge of the issues to be researched on (Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change).
- Strong analytical skills and ability to complete in-depth analytical research.
- Excellent communication (spoken and written) skills, including the ability to convey complex concepts and recommendations in a clear and concise style.
- Fluency in oral and written English.