A. Background

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) serves as the leading UN advocate for the protection and well-being of children affected by armed conflict.

The mandate of the SRSG CAAC was created by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/51/77 following the publication, in 1996, of the report by Graça Machel on the impact of armed conflict on children.

Since 1999, the systematic engagement of the UN Security Council has placed the protection of children affected by armed conflict at the heart of its international peace and security agenda. In 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution 1612 which established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, including:

1. recruitment and use of children
2. killing or maiming of children
3. rape or other forms of sexual violence against children
4. attacks against schools and hospitals
5. abduction of children
6. denial of humanitarian access for children.

The SRSG CAAC regularly reports to United Nations bodies (Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council) on the situation of children in armed conflict. In addition to the Annual Report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict presented to the Security Council that covers all country situations on the CAAC agenda, country-specific reports are also regularly submitted to the Security Council Working Group (SCWG) on CAAC.

B. Project description and objective

Except for denial of humanitarian access, the above-listed violations are triggers for listing parties to conflict that commit grave violations against children in the annexes of the Secretary-General’s annual report on children and armed conflict.

The definition and legal foundations in international law of the six grave violations are outlined in the Working Paper N.1 The Six Grave Violations Against Children During Armed Conflict: The Legal Foundation (2009, updated 2013) and in the MRM Field Manual (2014). However, in the course of her
initiative to further strengthen the MRM and enhance participation of the broader UN system, including humanitarian actors, the SRSG CAAC has identified the need to provide further guidance to MRM partners in the field on the documentation and reporting of abduction and denial of humanitarian access for children as grave violation against children in armed conflict.

The OSRSG CAAC is looking for an Individual Contractor to develop a technical guidance for the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on the ground to monitor and report the denial of humanitarian access for children and to support the finalization of a technical guidance on abduction in the context of the MRM.

C. Responsibilities

Under the supervision the Political Affairs Officer, the Individual Contractor will:

- Conduct consultations with the members of the Technical Reference Group (TRG) on the MRM, the CTFMRs on the ground, OCHA and other UN partners and NGOs working on related issues and develop an analysis on issues that require further clarification for monitoring the Denial of Humanitarian Access for Children in the framework of the MRM;
- Research and collect information pertaining to the challenges, gaps and opportunities in documenting and reporting the denial of humanitarian access for children in the framework of the MRM as a grave violation against children in armed conflict and the impact of this violation on children;
- Identify opportunities for engagement with parties to conflict and humanitarian partners to address abduction and the denial of humanitarian access within the framework of the MRM and propose elements and measures to include these two violations in comprehensive Action Plans with parties to conflict to end and prevent these violations.
- Draft a technical guidance on denial of humanitarian access for children aimed to improve and standardize the documentation, monitoring and reporting, as well as the response to the Denial of Humanitarian Access for children in armed conflict. The guidance should include a summary of the international legal framework, clarify the definition of Denial of Humanitarian Access for Children the purpose of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, include relevant past and current examples of this violation in different geographical situations, and practical tools for MRM monitors in the field.
- Support the finalization of a technical guidance on abduction within the framework of the MRM for practitioners in the field, including the CTFMRs and other UN and NGO partners.
D. Expected outcomes / Performance indicators

- Summary (approx. 2000 words) of outcome of consultations with members of the TRG, CTFMR, OCHA and other UN partners and NGOs (within one month from the start date);
- Outline of the technical guidance to monitor and report the Denial of Humanitarian Access for Children (within one month from start date);
- Analysis (approx. 3000 words) of the challenges, gaps and opportunities documenting and reporting the denial of humanitarian access for children and the impact of this violation on children (within two months from the start date);
- First draft of the guidance on Denial of Humanitarian Access for Children for Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMRs) and their partners on the ground to be shared with TRG for review (within two months from the start date);
- Recommendations (approx. 1000 words) on ways to enhance the participation of humanitarian actors in monitoring and reporting the Denial of Humanitarian Access for children within the MRM (within three months from the start date);
- Recommendations (approx. 2000 words) for engagement with parties to conflict and humanitarian actors to end and prevent the abduction of children and the denial of humanitarian access for children in situations of armed conflict and propose concrete elements to be included in Action Plans with parties to conflict in this regard (within three months from the start date);
- Final draft (9000 words) of the guidance on Denial of Humanitarian Access for Children for Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMRs) and their partners on the ground to be shared with TRG for review (by the end of the consultancy);
- Support in the finalization of the Technical Guidance on Abduction (throughout the consultancy, as required).

E. Location

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the individual contractor is expected to work remotely.

F. Duration of Work

4 months full time to be completed by 15 March 2021.
G. Qualifications

Functional competencies

• Proven ability to conduct complex research, including expertise in monitoring and documenting grave violations against children during armed conflict and understanding of child protection concerns and humanitarian access issues;
• Excellent writing, communication and analytical skills;
• Familiarity with the UN system and good knowledge of the children and armed conflict mandate is required.

Education

• Advanced degree (Master’s or equivalent) in law, political sciences, international relations or other disciplines related to human rights and international law. A combination of relevant academic qualifications and five years additional work experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Experience

• Minimum seven years of progressively responsible experience working on issues of humanitarian access and/or human rights monitoring and reporting with a focus on children’s human rights and/or child protection, including four years in the field is required.
• Experience working in humanitarian operations is an asset.

Languages

• Fluency in English is required; knowledge of French or another UN language is desirable.

Applications

The following documents must be submitted with all applications (incomplete applications will not be accepted) to Silvia Schwarz at schwarzs@un.org. Please refer to “Individual Contactor Denial of Humanitarian Access and Abduction” in the subject of your email.

1. Cover letter
2. Personal CV, including past experience in similar projects and at least 3 references
3. One writing sample

***The deadline to apply is 30 October 2020. ***