Terms of Reference - Individual Contractor
Temporary support to the Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict

Gender disaggregated data collection & impact of Covid-19 on children in armed conflict

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

The data collected by the Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) enables the Secretary-General to list parties to conflict that perpetrate grave violations against children in the annexes of his annual report on children and armed conflict. The gender dimension of the impact of armed conflict on children needs to be further analyzed.
In addition, the recent developments and restrictions imposed by COVID-19 resulted in increasing protection concerns, despite the limitations faced in documenting grave violations against children.

The OSRSG CAAC is looking for an Individual Contractor to develop two analytical papers on (1) the gender dimension of the impact of grave violations on children, and (2) the impact of COVID-19 on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

C. Responsibilities

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

- Conduct desk review and consultations with the members of the Technical Reference Group (TRG) on the MRM, the CTFMRs on the ground, and other UN partners and NGOs working on related issues and produce an analytical paper in the form of a practical tool for CTFMRs on the gender dimension of the impact of armed conflict on children;
- Conduct desk review and consultation with relevant UN and non-UN actors and produce an analytical paper on the impact of COVID-19 on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

D. Expected outcomes

- One analytical paper of approximately 4000 words for CTFMRs (i.e. practical tool) on the gender dimension of impact of armed conflict on boys and girls;
- One analytical paper of approximately 5000 words on the impact of COVID-19 on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

E. Location

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

F. Duration of Work

2 months full-time or 4 month part-time to be completed by 15 March 2021.
G. Qualifications

Functional competencies

- Proven ability to conduct complex research, including expertise in gender disaggregated data collection, including in the context of monitoring and reporting grave violations against children in armed conflict and solid understanding of child protection concerns;
- 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 human rights monitoring and reporting, child protection and/or gender, including four years in the field. Experience working in or on conflict situations 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 Gender/COVID-19” 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.***