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

Follow-up study on the impact of Covid-19 on the implementation of the CAAC mandate

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

In May 2021 the OSRSG CAAC published a study assessing the impact of COVID-19 on violations against children in situations of armed conflict, based on information gathered mostly from UN Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Violations against Children (CTFMRs), as well as from NGO and other UN sources. The exact impact of the pandemic on the monitoring capacity
of CTFMRs could not be determined at that stage, but it was contingent upon the differing operational systems of each CTFMR: those with solid field presence, established monitoring networks and good internet connectivity across country coped more easily. As the measures to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 are easing in various situations on the CAAC agenda and the CTFMRs were able to further document the impact of the pandemic on their operations, the OSRSG CAAC is looking for an Individual Contractor to develop a follow up study to further assess the impact of COVID-19 on the MRM and on the engagement with parties to conflict in the situations on the CAAC agenda included in the first study published in May 2021, plus two additional situations.

C. Responsibilities

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

- Conduct desk review and consultations with relevant CTFMRs on the ground, and other UN partners and NGOs working on related issues.
- Produce outline of the follow up study by 28 February 2022.
- Finalize the follow-up study on the impact of COVID-19 on the MRM and on the engagement with parties to conflict by 30 April 2022.

D. Expected outcomes

- Follow-up study on the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the CAAC mandate.

E. Location

The individual contractor is expected to work remotely.

F. Duration of Work

40 working days to be completed by 30 April 2022.

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
Please apply by submitting your updated PHP, including motivational statement and at least 3 references (incomplete applications will not be accepted) to Dianne Fairweather at fairweather@un.org. Please refer to “Individual Contactor COVID-19 study” in the subject of your email.

***The deadline to apply is 14 November 2021***