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**Terms of Reference**

**Assessing the impact of the Call to Action on the prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies
Women’s Protection and Empowerment
Consultant
January-February 2017**

**Background**

Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a leading international organisation working in relief, rehabilitation, protection, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those affected by the world’s worst humanitarian crises. At work today in over 40 countries and 26 U.S. cities, the IRC restores safety, dignity and hope to millions who are uprooted and struggling to endure.

The International Rescue Committee works to foster communities where women and girls are free from violence and have the rights and resources to promote their own safety and self-determination. One of the ways IRC achieves this is through the Women’s Protection and Empowerment (WPE) team comprised of 450 field staff and technical experts, including specialists in primary prevention, care for child survivors, economic programming, and service delivery, among others. Collectively, this team advances the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for humanitarian workers to serve survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) with effective, comprehensive programming that meets the specific needs of women and girls. In partnership with communities and institutions, we advocate for and protect the rights of women and girls while cultivating conditions in which women and girls can recover from violence and thrive.

GBV, particularly against women and girls, is pervasive and is exacerbated in humanitarian emergencies. Yet prevention of and response to GBV is still not treated as a priority from the earliest stages of emergencies and humanitarian responses lack sufficient mechanisms—funding, policy, and systems—to ensure that the issue is comprehensively addressed. This inaction represents a failure on the part of humanitarians to promote, respect, and protect the rights of affected populations, particularly women and girls.

The Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies, formally launched in 2013 by the United Kingdom and Sweden, aims to fundamentally transform the way GBV is addressed in humanitarian operations via the collective action of numerous partners, each bringing our various strengths and capacities to the table. The goal is to drive change and foster accountability within the humanitarian sphere. The commitment to act and to hold ourselves accountable for action on GBV brings us together under the Call to Action. In September 2015, [the Call to Action Roadmap](https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/gbv/resources/1240-call-to-action) was published which articulates the collective changes we want to see in this area and defines a specific set of results to achieve by 2020.

**Objectives**

In 2017 the Call to Action will be four years old, and IRC has identified the need to comprehensively review what progress has been made in implementing the Call to Action at a global level by commissioning research for a Call to Action report. Our overall aim is to demonstrate the impact the Call to Action has had in achieving its central aim; provide clear and compelling reasoning for further action and participation; and outline the ways that the Call to Action can go further in improving GBV response in emergencies. Once completed and published, we will organise a meeting of key stakeholders to share the findings of the report.

Objectives of the report:

1. Provide an overview of what the Call to Action has achieved since its inception, with an emphasis on changes in stakeholders’ policy and practice
2. Assess what gaps remain, and what more is needed from humanitarian actors to better respond to and prevent GBV in emergencies
3. Provide examples and ideas for implementing the Call to Action through case studies of good practice
4. To work as an advocacy tool on Call to Action implementation with current and prospective partners

**Scope of Review**

The IRC seeks to hire a consultant researcher who will use desk-based research and key informant interviews to answer the overall question of what difference the Call to Action has made to members’ policies and practices, and to:

* Conduct a global mapping and analysis of previous and current Call to Action commitments based on indicators agreed with the IRC
* Provide examples of what members have done to change their structure, policies and adopt funding mechanisms as a result of the Call to Action
* Gather evidence of global implementation of the Call to Action, with case studies
* Gather feedback from key informant interviews with Call to Action members on the usefulness/limitations of the Call to Action as a multi-stakeholder initiative, including from technical and political perspectives
* Conduct a mapping of stakeholders that are not partners of the Call to Action, and their level of activity on GBV in emergencies
* Provide an analysis of gaps in the Call to Action based on research findings, and outline recommendations to fill these gaps to move the Call to Action forward

The IRC will provide up-to-date information on Call to Action members, their commitments, the Roadmap and all progress reports to date, as well as contact details for key informant interviews.

**Deliverables and timeline**

The consultant will be responsible for the deliverables described below. The due dates provided in the table are estimates and may be modified following further discussion with the selected consultant. The consultancy will be for a length of time not exceeding 21 working days from the signature of the contract.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Deliverable** | **Estimated days of work** | **Due Date** |
| Desk research  | 10 days |  |
| Key informant questionnaire | 1 day |  |
| Key informant interviews (ideally six interviews) | 3 days |  |
| Draft report | 5 days |  |
| Final report | 2 days | 24th February\* |
| **TOTAL** | **21 days** |

The length of the final report will be agreed between the IRC and the consultant. The final report will be shared externally with current Call to Action members and outreach targets.

**Oversight of Consultancy**

The consultant will report to the WPE Policy & Advocacy Advisor in IRC’s London office. The specific responsibility of the WPE Policy & Advocacy Advisor is to oversee, guide and support the consultant in his/her work under the consultancy. This includes, but is not limited to, recruitment of consultant; convening of regular progress calls; authorization of consultant hours and tasks; review and approval of KII questionnaire, evaluation tools [if needed], and draft and final reports; and agreement on final dissemination plan.

**Requirements**

A successful candidate(s) will be able to demonstrate the following:

* Understanding of humanitarian policy and advocacy, preferably familiar with advocacy relating to women’s and girls’ protection in emergencies. Some knowledge of the Call to Action preferable.
* Understanding of the global NGO and donor landscape
* Previous experience working on issues related to violence against women and girls internationally
* Experience conducting desk research
* Experience conducting key informant interviews with a range of stakeholders
* Excellent English language and report writing skills

**Application Process**

Interested candidates should submit their proposal to applications@rescue-uk.org including their expression of interest, CV and estimated cost in USD and availability. Deadline for submission is 18th January 2017.

\*We would like to interview candidates ideally in the week commencing 22th January in order to meet our preferred deadline of 24th February, though we are able to factor some leeway into this timeline.