I. Background

SOS Children’s Villages works to assure children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it grow up with the bonds they need to become their strongest selves. SOS CV works with children, young people, and families in more than 130 countries and territories, tailoring alternative care and family strengthening services to the unique needs of individuals and communities.

Education is a fundamental right and a powerful tool to reduce social and economic inequality, improve active participation in society, and support every child in reaching their full potential. SOS CV’s commitment to children and families includes ensuring opportunity for inclusive quality early childhood development, education, and skills development, as well as supportive MHPSS (Mental Health & Psychosocial Support) for participants and communities. In the past, education for programme participants was predominantly delivered through SOS operated schools.

II. Purpose

Poverty, political fragility, conflict, and climate related disaster compound barriers to education for children at risk of losing parental care, often disproportionally impacting girls and children with disability. Toxic stressors on children and caregivers increased after Covid-19 related school closures, with a growing digital divide an additional deterrent to adequate progress towards learning outcomes.

SOS Children’s Villages is committed to support national education systems and communities in strengthening early childhood development, improving digital inclusion, and increasing access to quality educational opportunities for more children at risk of losing parental care.

The SOS CV Education Team is seeking an education consultant to design and engage a global mapping across five regions to support the organization in identifying sustainable and scalable programmes, processes and partnerships that meet these challenges effectively to improve education outcomes for children 0-18+ in the target group.

The consultant will be engaged to

- Develop a learning agenda clearly linking social protection and education for children at risk of losing parental care; learning agenda should define questions guiding methodology for mapping internal and external promising practice
- Develop systematic methodology for mapping, identifying both contextual barriers and enabling processes and programme approaches adaptable for scaling access and improving the quality of education for the target group in five regions of the globe
- Complete an inception report inclusive of leading practice examples illustrating effective regional or country directions following the completion of key informant interviews and a desk review of relevant data, policies, and research
- Produce a final report with an evidence base of data, literature and research supporting key recommendations for impactful reform, innovation, and further development of SOS CVI education programmes
The intended audience of the report is internal, and the tools and methodology for mapping barriers and identifying opportunities for scaling promising practices specific to the target group must be replicable and demonstrate relevance across five diverse regions, Latin America, and the Caribbean (LAAM), Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF), West, Central and North Africa (WCNA), ASIA, and SEE, CIS and the Middle East.

III. Scope: Tasks, Deliverables, and Timeframe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Task</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Estimated LOE (days)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With the Global Education Advisor, conduct key informant interviews with SOS CV education and programme advisors in each region. This will include qualitative perspectives on barriers to access and identification of programming and design processes poised for adaptation and scale.</td>
<td>Learning Agenda with relevant questions guiding process of data collection specific to target group</td>
<td>October 2023</td>
<td>10 Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collate sectoral education data, research, and key external informant interviews relevant to access and quality for the target group in each region. Identify barriers to access, system and policy strengths, weaknesses, and sector finance mechanisms utilizing research, surveys, interviews, and data visualization</td>
<td>Submit draft outline with methodology and tools for planned qualitative and quantitative data collection</td>
<td>October-November 2023</td>
<td>10 days</td>
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<td>Complete a comprehensive internal and external desk review of education, alternative care, and child protection literature/policies/research relevant to children at risk of losing parental care in each region.</td>
<td>Inception report inclusive of qualitative and quantitative data and literature review</td>
<td>October-November 2023</td>
<td>10 Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Link findings from inception report to identify innovative approaches and promising practices. Include expert networks, educational institutions, funders, local, national, and international non-profit organizations,</td>
<td>Map of potential partners best positioned to improve service delivery for the target group in each of five regions. Include clear indicators benchmarking</td>
<td>December 2023</td>
<td>8 Days</td>
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government agencies, and private sector entities

| Final report with process guidance for data collection and mapping tools | Analytic, concise final report inclusive of consultants' findings, with at least three relevant recommendations per region. Accessibly organized and relevant visual data, literature, and research should support recommendations. The report is also in digital format with a maximum length of 30 pages excluding annexes. | December 2023- January 2024 | 10 days |

IV. DATES OF PERFORMANCE
The consultancy will be conducted between October 1, 2023 and January 15, 2024

V. LOCATION
The consultant(s) should have offices or partners in at least three of the five regions to engage in research, collect data, and demonstrate requisite understanding of the intersection between education and social protection services. Meetings and discussions with SOS CV staff and other stakeholders will take place virtually.

VI. TERMS OF PAYMENT
The consultant/s shall be compensated on a fixed-price basis for provision of the deliverables outlined above. Payment shall be disbursed in two tranches upon receipt of an invoice after completion and approval of the following milestones:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Payment %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception Report</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping and Final Report with Process Guidance</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</table>

VII. SOS CV CONTACT PERSONS
The main contact for this assignment is Meghan Kellner, Global Education Advisor for SOS Children’s Villages International. Collaborative engagement with the consultant is expected throughout the process.

VIII. QUALIFICATIONS
The ideal consultant will possess the following qualifications

- 10 years’ experience in international education, including work with Ministries of Education or in policy and advocacy
• Strong understanding of current international development and humanitarian assistance trends, with extensive demonstrated expertise with the intersection of education and child and/or social protection systems, specifically for children at risk of losing parental care
• Outstanding research and analytic skills, including strong ability to analyze, integrate and summarize information from a wide variety of sources
• Demonstrated experience in effective, diplomatic engagement with key stakeholders to develop effective guidance materials in multiple global regions
• Experience in facilitating consultative processes which lead to the development of guidelines, papers, publications, etc.

IX. SOS CV CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT
SOS Children’s Villages International has a child safeguarding policy and code of conduct that all staff as well as external researchers involved will be expected to comply with and will be required to sign a statement of commitment to the policy. This be mandatory upon award and signature of contract, together with an orientation of consultants on internal child safeguarding processes and data protection regulations.

Before the actual start of data collection, a police check is to be provided, in case any direct contact with programme participants and/or any sensitive data is planned.


All material developed is the sole property of SOS CV.

X. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Applicants must submit the following to be considered for this engagement:
1. Cover letter
2. 2-4 page summary or presentation on their approach to conducting the assignment and completing the deliverables.
3. CV that demonstrates qualifications and a list of clients/projects with contact info that he/she has supported in relevant efforts.
4. Daily rate.