**Terms of Reference**

# **Consultant to conduct Participatory Action Research on online safety and resilience**

# **Research Respect Ourselves, Accentuate Resilience (ROAR)**

**September 2021**

1. **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Thailand has a high (75%) internet and social media penetration rate and the average user spends 9h online each day (Datareportal, 2020). Young users dominate some of the country's lead social media platforms, such as TikTok where over 50% of total users in Thailand (South East Asia's third biggest market) are young people aged 13 to 17 (TikTok, June 2020). In the past year, which was marked by the Thai student protest and the COVID19 pandemic, the internet and social media have proven to be valuable resources for accessing digital learning, keeping up with peers and promoting child rights. However, with Thai young people's internet usage and online presence on the rise, their exposure to Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) or online bullying are also emerging trends, as noted by UNICEF, ECPAT, Plan, Thai Health and DTAC.

Data shows that unregulated and excessive use of online platforms can lead to abuse, exploitation and risky behaviour by young people. A recent study by Thai Health reported that children in Thailand spend more than 35 hours a week on smartphones and that of 15,000 children surveyed, 61% aged 6 to 18 showed risks of being addicted to online games. COPAT's (Child Online Protection Action Thailand) 2020 national survey shows that children 12-18 years of age are increasingly exposed to different forms of online abuse, with 69% of child respondents reporting experiencing cyber bullying and a further 68% revealing that they practice online risk-taking behaviour. 43% of respondents expressed that the excessive amount of time they spend online (10 hours and above) had resulted in a negative impact on their family relationships as well as their education performance. As of today, there remains limited data on how boys, girls, and other vulnerable groups of children experience online abuse - this is a critical gap.

Global evidence shows that the socioeconomic conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic are directly increasing the amount of child abuse materials online and the increasing risk of grooming of vulnerable children online (Europol, 2020). In Australia for instance, reports of online abuse amongst peers have increased by 21% in the past 18 months (video chat platforms being a key vector of this increase) while cases of abuse by adult users have skyrocketed by 50%(E-Safety Commissioner, Australia Government, 2021) . It is assumed that Thailand would have experienced a similar rise. Thailand remains a host country for child sexual abuse images, ranking 6th out of the top 15 countries in the world (ECPAT and UNICEF Situation Analysis, 2015) and undoubtedly COVID-19 is increasing attempts to access existing material or coerce more children living in Thailand in selling or exposing intimate photos online. 45% of respondents from a 2018 survey by COPAT reported being involved in collecting, downloading and sharing illicit materials i.e., child pornography, while 17% of respondents reported having been sexually harassed including pressured to share sexual images.

While these statistics depict the risks Thai children face online, we do not have a clear understanding of their scale and severity, nor how they are distributed differently across different groups or locations. It is also unclear if, and how, traditional harmful practices affecting children in marginalized communities (e.g. early marriage, school drop-out, sexual exploitation etc) are being affected by current conditions whereby internet usage and online presence are rising sharply.

Thailand is home to a large migrant population (around 4.9m as of 2018 statistics) which includes approximatively 3.9m migrant workers from neighbouring Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar (IOM Thailand migration report, 2019). According to the Tak Primary Education Area Office, at least 13,000 to 20,000 migrant children live in Tak districts bordering Myanmar and in 2018, the Immigration Office estimated that around 2,000 children crossed the border daily. Over the past decade, more than 200,000 Myanmar nationals sought refuge in Thailand, fleeing conflict and ongoing violence in South East Myanmar. Presently, 91,818 (45,449 male, 46369 female) verified Myanmar refugees reside in 9 camps alongside the Thai/Myanmar border which includes 37,711 children aged 0 to 17 (UNHCR, March 2021). They face various barriers to accessing essential services, alongside stigma that puts them risk of not realizing their rights to learn and be protected. Following the coup in Myanmar in February 2021 and ongoing fighting between the Tatmadaw and the Karen National Union (KNU) across the Thai-Myanmar border, the number of individuals seeking asylum and protection in Thailand is on the rise and some of the villagers at the border fleeing airstrikes are seeking refuge at the border.

Assumptions among agencies working with refugee populations from Myanmar in Thailand is that access to connectivity – with the exception of some specific large camps such as Mae La and Umpiem – is limited or barely existent, meaning that online safety risks may not be a major concern. Although connectivity issues persist, UNHCR's 2016 'Connecting Refugees' report reveals that 59.1% of refugees in Thailand had access to 3G or more through mobile phones, a figure that is very likely to have increased in line with the increase in Thailand's broader digital penetration since 2014, when the data was collected. A series of interviews that SC conducted with the Karen Student Network Group (KSNG) in March 2021 to develop the proposal for ROAR revealed that – despite various challenges such as lack of resources and hotspots – it is common for households in various camps to gain access to connected device and purchase short term data plans. Further to this, KSNG young people leaders have identified a host of emerging protection concerns alongside other concerns present offline which are exacerbated by the use of the internet and digital devices. Activities carried out by the KSNG as a part of their young people engagement and coordination strategy have been forced online since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, meaning young people are increasingly using the internet.

When asked in-depth questions about these challenges, young people leaders reported that young people wishing to access social media or online gaming has contributed to children dropping out of school early to work or spend time online, as well as adopting risky behaviours to get online, such as travelling to the camp border to seek signal, selling alcohol or stealing to buy digital devices. Young people also report that the prevalence of fake news is of particular concern for young people who rely on the internet to connect outside of the camps, where travel is restricted. Peer and young partner bullying are also issues of concern. Young people leaders also raised specific concerns such as bullying of children with disabilities and intimate partner violence and shaming (mostly body-shaming) which appear to be affecting girls in particular and can occur online.

A Protection Working Group (PWG) reports from the UNHCR conducted in these refugee camps reveals emerging issues of peer sexual harassment online, albeit cases not being frequent and/or rarely being reported (UNHCR, March 2021). Data from the PWG’s reports indicate that children living in the camps continue to suffer from a culture characterized by patriarchy and the *rule of compromise*, in which the father, husband, and/or eldest male leader determine the way men, women, parents and children relate and live together, including deciding roles for other members of the family. Within these cultures, sexual abuse is typically seen as a sin and a form of disgrace for female victims, who may not report due to shame and stigma. Compromise is often used by the male authorities and head of the household to silence the causes; girls and women are forced or convinced that proceeding through formal justice system would only bring them shame. This could partially explain the fact that most offline child protection issues are not reported. When asked about the capacity of the current child protection systems in the camps to address the off/online continuum of children protection (CP) cases, the CP leads and young people groups acknowledge there is a lack of awareness among young people and CP actors OSEC. It is also recognized that children and young people are rarely consulted or part of decisions affecting their wellbeing and the types of services that target them specifically, meaning existing CP mechanisms are unlikely to be child friendly or fully meet their needs.

For migrant children living outside of the camps in Tak Province, hardship and challenge prevail to access basic services. A recent report by a coalition of local CSOs (Education Reimagined, 2020) shows that amongst 356 migrant families surveyed in Tak Province, over 60% reported a household income of less than 6,000 THB a month (around 95 USD). Given the data was collected in May 2020, these findings have likely worsened with the spread of COVID-19. In the wake of the increasingly worsening outbreak in Thailand, Migrant Learning Centres (education institutions that are not affiliated with the RTG) have shut down and remain closed more than a year into the pandemic, pushing education and social lives online as well as posing a dire threat to continued education access.

Children on the move at the border are particularly vulnerable to abuse. There is a lack of comprehensive data on the prevalence of offline and online sexual abuse and exploitation of migrant children in Thailand, however a 2019 Harvard research paper looking at migrant Myanmar communities in Tak province found that “all interviewed Burmese migrants [in Thailand] reported having access to a mobile phone with internet and reported high rates of smart phone usage in their communities”. This finding was echoed by representatives from Ray of Young people (ROY) interviewed by Save the Children during the design of this project in March 2021. According to ROY representatives, compared to the past year the digital presence of migrant young people has increased. ROY identifies this both as an opportunity and a challenge for young people. With an increased in digital literacy amongst young people, ROY was able to successfully migrate some of their workshop facilitation tools online for young people to use[[1]](#footnote-2) and have witnessed many young peoples’ creativity blossom on YouTube (singing is identified as a trend). At the same time, ROY has identified that online hate speech and discrimination against migrants are emerging issues and they have also witnessed cases of “love turned sour,” an increasing prevalence of young children chatting to strangers online, meeting in real life, and then entering into abusive relationships. In one instance, ROY reported being contacted directly by a young woman who faced bullying online and offline after her photo was distorted and used in a photomontage of pornographic images, which caused her great distress.

In both contexts, young people have spearheaded initiatives such as KSNG hosting fake news discussions with young people and ROY’s new app which connects them with future migrant young people leaders. However, both groups recognize the small scope of these projects, and that awareness amongst young people and service providers about online safety and resilience remains limited. To date, a number of compelling resources have been developed in Thailand (eg. Plan's digital literacy teacher guide, Facebook's digital literacy curriculum, ECPAT Foundation toolkit on Protecting Children from Online abuse) and globally (eg. Mind of my Own, safe to change, Mye Pya Tike, etc.). These tools seek to educate children about online abuse risks, promote positive peer interactions and improve referral to local protection and police authorities. However, we seldom came across solutions that were co-designed with migrant and refugee young people, reflecting their concerns, motivations and unique user perspectives. We also found little to no evidence of the perceptions and uptake of existing tools among young people themselves.

1. **SCOPE OF RESEARCH**

**2.1 Purpose and Key Research Questions**

As a part of the ROAR projected funded by the Australian Department of Foreign and Trade (DFAT) via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), Save the Children Thailand is conducting Participatory Action Research together with young leaders living on the Thailand Myanmar border. The research will be informed by a desk review and will be conducted between October and November 2021. The desk review will start around end of October alongside the preparation for the child participatory action research, with data collection aiming to be commence at the beginning of November.

The ROAR project intends to hire a research consultant to conduct preliminary desk research, building on evidence generated by a study conducted by Child Online Protection Action Thailand (COPAT) on the online behavior of the Thai children in 2018. The desk research will seek to summarise the evidence available on online, protection concerns and internet and social media usage in target locations. Findings will inform the participatory action research (PAR), which will be conducted with young people using both quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies. The gender-sensitive PAR research aims to identify and quantify the specific risks and opportunities that girls and boys of all gender and abilities living in the refugee camps and 1-2 migrant communities in Mae Sot face online. This research will contribute to the evidence base and directly inform phases two and three of the ROAR program, in which young people will design and advocate for solutions, campaigns and policies to prevent abuse and improve their protection. The findings from this research will also provide recommendations for Save the Children, protection leads, CSO partners, migrant and refugee communities and the Thai government to build a strategy to prevent online violence against children.

The research shall propose actions that would help inform the design of co-creation workshops in which children participate as change agents to define and develop solutions to tackle online abuse. Recommendations within the research report should include suggestions for modalities could be used to prevent OSEC, as well as make recommendations for behavioral change models VS child-led tools and solutions and resilience building which place a priority on the essence of child participation: children are promoted to be engaged, test and refine their solutions and campaigns along the life of the project.

**The overall objectives of this research include:**

* To identify and quantify general threats (problems and risks) online to determine issues that targeted groups of children and young people are facing;
* To understand the distribution of online safety risks according to age, gender, socioeconomic groups, geographical locations and other relevant factors
* To understand existing means of risk mitigation and protection, in order to inform actionable recommendations for Save the Children’s programming, and that of its partners
* To establish a baseline of digital literacy and knowledge about online safety amongst young people against which project progress can be assessed against
* To generate recommendations/gather lessons to inform phase two, i.e. how young people would like to be supported online and create their own solutions for peer awareness raising on online safety for children
* To empower young people leaders to build their skills to co-conduct Participatory Action Research (PAR) and to produce an increased Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive evidence base on the types of safety issues children are facing.
* To influence broader policy and practice around child protection in online settings, and encourage uptake of actionable findings into government, SC, and DFAT-funded initiatives.

**Audience and use of findings:**

* Primary target audience:
* ROAR project steering committee,
* CSO partners; Rays of Young people (ROY) and Help Without Frontier, and Karen Refugee Student Network (KSNG),
* Targeted children, young people, their families, teachers and community leaders
* Secondary target audiences:
  + The Department of Children and Young people (DCY) and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on protecting children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse to advocate for integration into the policies
  + Save the Children Australia and the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
  + SCI to integrate findings and best practices into our programmes

**Key research questions:**

1. How do children and young people behave online and use digital devices, and for what purpose (looking at frequency, medium, usage etc.)?
2. What level of access that the children have to internet and online platforms?
3. What are the risks and benefits that young people face from being online?
4. What kind of abuse have children (or their peers) experienced online, what platforms were used and what kinds of abuse occurred (e.g. sextortion, scams etc.)?
5. How are risks distributed according to age, gender, socioeconomic groups, geographical locations and other relevant factors?
6. What are the behaviors that increase risks to migrant and refugee children and young people online?
7. What are the barriers to children, young people and their parents reporting risks and instances of abuse online?
8. What is the level of knowledge on digital literacy and online safety among targeted children, young people and parents? How are children made aware of the risks at the moment?
   * What are the existing, most effective tools and solutions present in communities to protect children from online risks? To what extent are existing tools already in use? How do children themselves protect from online risks, and what influences the success of their strategies to do so?
   * What is the appetite of children and young people to take up existing digital safety and resilience tools?
9. What type of peer and general support would children, young people and their parents like to receive to increase resilience and safety online and how do they access those service support?

***Note on terminology:***

Resilience is the ability to overcome adversity and positively adapt after challenging or difficult experiences. Children’s resilience relates not only to their innate strengths and coping capacities, but also to the pattern of risk and protective factors in their social and cultural environments. Resilience is not an outcome in itself but a process that integrates individual resources (knowledge, skills, confidence, self-autonomy) as well as resources located in the environment including physical resources and relational resources e.g. interaction with their parents and caregivers, their peers and with others in their community environment. Resilience therefore should look to strengthen all these areas of children’s lives to help improve their wellbeing and social interactions.

**2.2 Scope**

The research is expected to be carried out in the ROAR project areas. There will be 11 research sites (9 in camps, 2 in migrant communities) in Mae Sot, Pop Phra and Tha Song Yang district and in selected refugee camps.

Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 and in the event that face-to-face research and data collection cannot be done, the research team will be requested to prepare alternative data collection methods with support from Save the Children and implementing partners i.e. remote data collection, interviews and online surveys. The challenges to training children, CSOs and collecting data remotely target areas must be thoroughly considered prior to research commencing. The researcher/consultant is expected to discuss the research methodology with SC and implementing partners and provide an overview of this in their application, as well as a detailed description in the inception report of how these challenges will be addressed.

**Expected outcomes of the research:**

* Inception report detailing sample and full methodology
* A presentation of the research findings and research validation meeting with relevant stakeholders
* Standalone case studies
* Copies of any data collection instruments formulated
* Cleaned data set (field notes, data set in & Excel, qualitative analysis and other relevant documents should be filed).
* A final report (of no more than 30 pages) that answers the evaluation questions, presents an accurate and rigorous analysis, and should be learning oriented and take a strong gender sensitive approach in the analysis. (Full report in Thai and an executive summary in English)
* Recommendations for the adoption of online safety solutions
* Child friendly version of the results of study

1. **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 Research design and Methodology**

Target research population:

**Two young people groups** namely Rays of Young peoples (under umbrella of HWF) and KSNG will engage in PAR research. Over **55 young people** (20 boys, 30 girls) from 11 “research teams” will be trained as research leads to collect inputs from up to **1,200 children** (550 boys, 650 girls) from refugee camps and target districts in Tak.

Children and young people will be trained by the research consultant to lead the participatory action research (PAR). The consultant will conduct the research collaboratively with the young people, with support from selected mentors from their umbrella organisations or other, local civil society organisations. Young people leaders will be 12-17 year old and will receive direct capacity building on data collection, CSG and creating safe spaces for children to share their views to collect data for the study. Although the research lead will be responsible for methodology development, young people leaders will be consulted throughout the development of the research protocol, their feedback incorporated where possible and relevant, which will be later approved by the project steering committee.

The project steering committee will be made up of at least five members who are expert on child protection and online safety both from the government and NGO side i.e. COPAT, Internet Foundation for the Development of Thailand, ECPAT International, and Save the Children and its main function will be to give advice on the overall project’s direction, the research TOR and the selection of the research team. Under SC's oversight, COPAT and the Thailand Internet Foundation will join the project's technical committee to ensure CSG system and ethical measure is in place while children involved in the data collection. Key protection stakeholders in both settings such as the members of the Protection Working Group (PWG), will also be consulted as Key informants.

Detailed analysis and risk assessment will ensure this research will be compliant both from an ethical and from a child safeguarding point of view.

Research method/research structure:

This research shall employ a mixed methods approach. Desk research and a secondary data review shall be conducted to establish the initial scope and an inception report outlining the proposed approach for the PAR. Based on areas of enquiry agreed by the consultant and the young people leaders, key interviews and focus group discussions will be carried out to inform structured questionnaires (both in paper form and via online mediums), through which primary data collection will be carried out on a statistically significant sample size, according to key groups identified. Findings will then be validated in a further set of key informant interviews and focus group discussions, with the relevant informants and groups agreed by young people leaders alongside the consultant (to include representation among children and young people of gender, socioeconomic grouping, location, disability and other factors).

To reach the participants, the research team will work with CSO partners; ROY and KSNG to identify respondents, with the consultant expected to provide further detail on a sample. The inception report must clearly detail how the sample will ensure representation of gender (male/female/transgender/ nonbinary), diverse SOGIE (if relevant) disability and other aspects of identity that are discriminated against in the context.Data collection is to include:

* Focus Group Discussions with children and young people, with atleast 2 FGDs (1 per site) run specifically with only children with disabilities.
* Questionnaire survey with 1,200 children and young people using convenient and snowball sampling
* Key informant Interviews or other data collection i.e. online survey can be considered as option, with the following respondents:
  + - government and non-government protection stakeholders such as members of the Child Online Protection Action Thailand (COPAT)
    - the Thailand Internet Foundation
    - members of the Protection Working Group (PWG)
    - Karen Refugee Education Entity Committee (KRCEE)
    - BMTA
    - BMWEC
    - Suwannitmit Foundation.
    - Key protection stakeholders in both settings such as the members of the Protection Working Group (PWG), the Karen Refugee Education Entity Committee (KRCEE) BMTA, BMWEC, and Suwannitmit Foundation will also be consulted as Key informants.
    - Representatives of Parent Teacher Association

Tools will be developed by the consultant team in collaboration with young people involved in the project and Save the Children Thailand. Tools must include the Washington Group Questions and/or UNICEF questions to collect data on disability.

**3.2 Data**

With the resurgence of COVID-19 and travel restrictions, where face-to-face approach is limited the research team shall propose remote data collection modality wherever possible, including by using phone/Line/Zoom survey. All data collection methodology must ensure confidentiality and compliance to Save the Children Safeguarding and Data Protection policy.

Analysis of the data will be led by the research team. Three guiding principles will be followed in analysing the data to address the Key Research Questions. Firstly, all analyses will be grounded in the context-driven or program logic of the project. Secondly, all analyses aim to draw on both quantitative and qualitative data. This is to help rigorously assess and triangulate the effectiveness of the documents and provide explanations on why the results are as they are. Finally, all analyses will be disaggregated by – and analysed for - aspects of the children's identity that are targeted. These aspects include gender, diverse SOGIE (if relevant), disability, age, ethnicity and refugee/migrant status.

Quantitative data must be analyzed through the use of statistical software to produce descriptive statistical analysis. Analysis of qualitative data is expected to be guided by an evaluation rubric, to be developed and included in the inception report by the consultant.

**3.3 Ethical considerations**

It is expected that this research will be:

* **Child-friendly and participatory:** Children should be meaningfully involved in the research as a holistic process and not only as informants. Refer to the Practice Standards in Children’s Participation (International Save the Children Alliance 2005); and Global Indicator technical guidance (SCI M&E handouts Package, Volume 2).
* **Inclusive:** Ensure that children and adults with different identity markers can participate effectively in the evaluation process. Identity markers include but are not limited to – Gender, diverse SOGIE, disability, ethnicity, age, Indigeneity, language, religion and refugee / migrant status.
* **Ethical:** The evaluation must be guided by the following ethical considerations:
  + Child safeguarding – demonstrating the highest standards of behaviour towards children
  + Sensitive – to child rights, gender, diverse SOGIE, disability, age and cultural contexts
  + Openness - of information given, to the highest possible degree to all involved parties
  + Confidentiality and data protection - measures will be put in place to protect the identity of all participants and any other information that may put them or others at risk.
  + Public access - to the results when there are not special considerations against this
  + Broad participation - the relevant parties should be involved where possible
  + Reliability and independence - the evaluation should be conducted so that findings and conclusions are correct and trustworthy
  + Principles of Do No Harm
* **Voluntary**: informed consent must be used and participants in the evaluation have the right to refuse to participate, with no disadvantage to themselves. The study must make clear to all participating stakeholders that they are under no obligation to participate in the baseline study. All participants will be assured that there will be no negative consequences if they choose not to participate. The study team will have to receive prior permission for taking and use of visual still/ moving images for specific purposes and informed consent for participation in the study. Study will assure the participants’ anonymity and confidentiality and will ensure the visual and narrative data is protected and used for agreed purpose only.

It is expected that:

* Child researchers will be empowered and supported to take an active leadership role in the PAR.
* Data collection methods will be age, gender and disability appropriate, and
* Research activities will provide a safe, creative space where children feel that their thoughts and ideas are important.
* Wherever possible, key members of the evaluation team will be local to the context research is being conducted in.
* The evaluation team will at a minimum include a balance of male and female representatives, and wherever possible represent the diversity that exists within the target population, taking into account identity markers such as disability, diverse SOGIE, Indigeneity, language and refugee/migrant status.
* All evaluation activities, including collection of data, will be undertaken with respect to the people and culture in which the research is being conducted.
* The research team will adhere to the Save the Children Child Safeguarding, Data protection and Privacy policies that are required throughout all project activities.
* Evaluation activities will respect community’s time, workload and commitments and not place an undue burden on community schedules or resources.
* All analysis will be undertaken with unbiased judgement, to the full extent possible.
* Communities will be kept informed of the key findings of the evaluation.
* Disability Data will be collected using internationally comparable and reliable tools – Washington Group Questions for adults and UNICEF Questions for children (2-4 years and 5-17 years). Protection measures (including use of access passwords for data files, separation of identifying information from responses, and secure storage of hard copy records) must be in place to protect the privacy of all respondents.

**Ethical Considerations:**

**Benefits/Harms:** Children’s involvement in research on online abuse can play a critical role in their

protection, in shaping appropriate supports and services and importantly in the development of

risk mitigation strategies. Research involving children in these contexts provides a means to amplify children’s voices, challenge the culture of silence in which abuse thrives while also encouraging active engagement with services and professional support This research will focus on primary data collection from survey and interview. The process may expose children to secondary victimization (such as trauma, distress, anxiety, and loss of self-esteem) through the questions that trigger their memories of abuse and exploitation they experienced in the past. To avoid such harms, the researchers should avoid unnecessary questions related to violence, abuse, and exploitation that children encountered in the past, also the use of secondary data should be collected and reported in an ethical manner that will not expose children to harms. Furthermore, the research team will be trained on psychological first aid (PFA) to detect stress and provide initial support and refer to appropriate support.

In order to prevent harmful or unprofessional research, risk benefit assessments need to be made at different levels: by the researchers; by ethics, funding and scientific review committees and advisers; and by the people who are asked to take part in the research (children and young people) and their care givers.[[2]](#footnote-3)

**Consent/Assent:** The researcher shall obtain children’s assent and young people’s consent as well their parents’. The children’s assent form must be written in the age-appropriated language. The linguistic ability must be taken into consideration. The consent/assent can only be given if the participants and their parents are informed about and have an understanding of the research. It must be given voluntarily without coercion and it may be withdrawn at any stage of the research process. Due to sensitivity of obtaining parental consent from children with diverse SOGIESC (as the children may not disclose SOGIESC information freely or are not accepted by their parents), it is recommended that parental consent could be waived in this research. This will be confirmed during ethics review.

* Privacy/Confidentiality: The researcher shall not disclose children’s names, families, address and personal information in the report and research dissemination. All of the children’s data shall remain anonymous. Alternately, researchers have promoted the use of computer assisted self-interviewing techniques that allow children to fill out surveys anonymously on a computer/tablet screen.
* Non-discrimination: all children must be respected and participate in this research at their will. All researchers must oblige to guarantee that participation of children is exercised without discrimination of any kind of sex, gender, sexuality, language, religion, ethnicity, legal or social status.
* Child safeguarding and Research risk analysis:
  + Anti-harassment and PSEAH
  + Reporting and complaint mechanism

The research team will be required to obtain approval from a Human Research Ethics Committee.

**Timeframe:**

The research aims to present deliverables within 7 months from November 2021 to May 2022. (2 months preparation, 2 months data collection and workshop, 3months data validation/analysis/report writing)

1. **DELIVERABLES**

The research deliverables and timeframe are outlined below.

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| **Key deliverables** | **Timeframe** | **Remark** |
| The TOR is written, the research team is contracted and commences work | September 2021 |  |
| **Preparation Phase** | | |
| The research lead and Save the Children will formulate the **research working committee** to design, review, and monitor the implementation of the research. | September 2021 | In the research working committee, SCI side will be ROAR Project Coordinator and Technical Expert. |
| **Phase 1: Inception Phase** | | |
| The research team will conduct initial desk research and tool development. The inception research report will include:   * Research objectives and research questions * Detailed description of methodology, data collection tools, sample and its considerations, and geographical locations * Detailed young people participation and workshop plan, including remote management protocols * Analysis matrix * Limitations and challenges of research and management plan * Key deliverables, milestones and timelines * Ethical and Safeguarding protocols for engaging with children and other vulnerable groups   Logistical or other support required from Save the Children | 1st week November 2021 | All of the items will be reviewed by SCI ethics and consulted with young people leaders and CSO mentors to refine research protocol. The research team needs to identify Thai-national ethics committee (IRB) affiliated. |
| Presentation of desk research and draft research methodologies | 2nd week November 2021 | Save the Children will review inception report and tools within 7 working days. |
| Feedback by SCI and Thai-national ethical committee’s review. | 3rd week November 2021 |  |
| Approval of Inception Report and data collection tools  Once the report is finalized and accepted, the research team must inform and submit a request for any change in strategy or approach to the ROAR Project Coordinator | 4th week November 2021 |  |
| The research team will be required to ask for the ethical approval from a recognized ethics committee or an Institutional Review Board/Committee(IRB) for research in human subject.  Approval is acquired | 4th week November – 4th week December 2021 |  |
| The research team will officially convene the research in accord to approved plan, jointly working together with young people leaders. It is expected that the research team will meet and provide short updates to the research working committee in a timely manner. Preparation for data collection will include:   * Development of a field work plan and logistical arrangements * Development of tools with children and young people * Translation of tools | January -2022 | The research team will be introduced to local CSO partners and young people groups to coordinate/engage in data collection. |
| The research team prepare the child participatory training with children and young people and the mentors   * Design the training modules for children and young people as well mentors from the host organisations. Materials should be simple and friendly to the children – using the picture cards or illustrations and local language to communicate to the children * The training for children should explain steps to collect the data, how to ask the questions and keep information confidential, and support that the children and young people can seek for if they have any problems during the data collection * The training for adult mentors will cover steps to collect the data, how mentors can support children without domination and discouraging children, child safeguarding, and referral system | January 2022 | The research team will be working closely with Save the Children and host organisations to design the training modules that are safe, friendly, and relevant to young researcher |
| **Phase 2: Data Collection** | | |
| **Data collection**   * Young people mentors receive capacity building on child participation, disability inclusion, gender equality and participatory action research (PAR). * Young people leaders are supported to collection data in their communities (surveys). * FGDs and KIIs with children and young people in 11 project sites are conducted, children leaders will be supporting to conduct this FGDs and KIIs together with their mentors.   Data shall be collected and stored using agreed research data collection mechanism. | February 2022 | Save the Children will provide hands-on technical support to the research team to facilitate all trainings with young people. |
| **Phase 3: Data Analysis, Validation and Reporting** | | |
| **Data Analysis**   * Analysis identifies the different risks to, and experiences of, girls and boys of different ages, children with disabilities and other marginalized groups | March 2022 |  |
| **Preliminary findings presentation** and **data validation** with SCI and relevant stakeholders   * Summary of Interim findings presented to the steering committee, CSOs and young people leader. | March 2022 | The research team shall present the data to be validated. In data validation, representations from children and CSOs should provide their opinions. |
| First draft of report including the following elements and will be written in plain, easy to understand language:   * Executive summary (no more than 3 pages) * Introduction – including Background and project description * Scope and focus of the research * Overview of the research methodology and data collection methods, including ethical considerations and limitations * Definitions and abbreviations * Key findings aligned to project goal and key research questions ensuring all data is disaggregated by, and analyzed for gender, age, ethnicity, disability and other exclusion criteria * Key Conclusions outlining implications of the findings or learnings * Lessons and recommendations * Annexes (Research TOR, Inception Report, Research schedule, List of people involved, tools)     The report should be approximately 30 pages for each language with executive summary.  A separate, A child friendly version (3-5 page summary) of the results of study in Thai (or English), Burmese and Karen | March 2022 | The first draft of full report shall include findings and recommendations. See research report section for report guideline. |
| Feedback by SCI and Thai-national ethics committee and young people research team | March 2022 |  |
| **Final version of report submission** | March 2022 | Final version of report |
| **Final research presentation and dissemination**   * Join SC at the research presentation with relevant audiences | March/April 2022 |  |

Budget and Approximate Cost Breakdown:

The total budget for this consultancy is 850,000 Thai Baht / 36,000 Australian dollar.

* All research activities of the researchers (this include the professional fee, admin/logistic cost on the researchers’ part, and the research advisors’ professional fee)
* Design and published research in digital format

1. **REPORTING AND GOVERNANCE**

The consultant will report to the SCI ROAR Project Coordinator. Additional technical advice will be provided by the Child Protection Technical Advisor, MEAL Coordinator, Communication and Campaigns Coordinator and technical team from Save the Children Australia. Save the Children should approve all plans and documents developed by the consultant.

The lead consultant/researcher is to provide reporting against the research plan. The following regular reporting and quality review processes will also be used:

* Regular email at least once every two weeks to the SC ROAR Project Coordinator documenting progress, any emerging issues to be resolved and planned activities for the following weeks.
* The consultant will hold a meeting with the project team and CSO partners to discuss the preliminary findings of the research.

A draft research report should be submitted for feedback and comments. The report should be written in English. The report should be approximately 30 pages with executive summary (appendices not included). The final report will comprise the following contents:

* Title, date, month, and year of the report, name(s) of author(s)
* Acknowledgement
* Contents
* List of Acronyms
* List of Tables
* Executive Summary
* Background of the research and context
* Background of research population and geographic area
* Introduction
* Literature Review
* Research methodologies
* Research findings
* Conclusion that identify trends in behaviors that increase risks to migrant and refugee children and young people online or that are barriers to reporting and provide better understanding on the type of peer and general support young people would like to receive to increase their resilience and safety online
* Recommendations that include proposed actions that would help inform and design of the co-creation workshops where children participate as a change agent to define and develop solutions to tackle online abuse. Recommendations should include modality of preventative intervention and behavioral change VS child-led tools and solutions and resilience building which place a priority on the essence of child participation: children are promoted to be engaged, test and refine their solutions and campaigns along the life of the project.
* Annexes
  + Research TOR
  + Inception report including work plan and budget
  + Research framework and tools
  + List of people involved – including list of ethics committee
  + Raw data

The researcher will revise the report according to the agreed feedback and comments.

1. **RESEARCH TEAM**

To be considered, the research team members together must have demonstrated skills, expertise and experience in:

* Masters’ degree in Social sciences, psychology, gender studies or relevant area to the project.
* Proven experience designing and conducting high quality research. Proven ability and track record conducting ethical and inclusive research with vulnerable populations while ensuring rigorous ethics, integrity, and safeguarding
* Experience working directly with children and young people, mentoring and training them to achieve results
* Demonstrated experience in using a rights-based approach to research and evaluation using instruments such Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
* Demonstrate knowledge in online safety and resilience, preferably with experience in conducting online child protection -related research
* Strong analytical skills and ability to clearly synthesise and present findings, draw practical conclusions, make recommendations and to prepare well-written reports in a timely manner;
* Demonstrated experience of disaggregating and analysing data by gender, disability and other aspects of identity such as diverse SOGIE, Indigeneity, Ethnicity, language etc
* Thai or international consultant who has experience working in Thailand with work permit
* Ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines
* Language proficiencies required include: English and Thai; kindly include a clear plan for language proficiencies in the team and/or translators included in the team
* Flexibility to travel (if needed)

There is a high expectation that:

* Members (or a proportion) of the research team have a track record of working together.
* A team leader will be appointed who has the seniority and experience in leading complex research projects, and who has the ability and standing to lead a team toward a common goal.
* The team has the ability to commit to the terms of the project, and have adequate and available skilled resources to dedicate to this research over the period.
* The team has a strong track record of working flexibly to accommodate changes as the project is implemented.
* The members of the research team who contribute to the report will be extremely well practiced in writing clearly and succinctly in the languages required.

Applications for the consultancy should include:

* Expression of interest: stating candidate skill and experience suitable for the consultancy (max 2 page)
* Technical and financial proposal: Outline of research framework and methods, proposed timeframe, work plan and budget (max 4 pages; applications over limit will be automatically excluded).
* CV of proposed individual/s
* Provide at least 2 research samples in Thai or English led by the leading consultant on the assignment

If you are interested in this consultancy, please submit a proposed plan for research design and implementation with detailed schedule and proposed budget (consultant fee and all proposed expenses including translators (if lead candidate is international consultant) by 15 October 2021

Submissions should be addressed to: [THA\_Procurement\_BKK@savethechildren.org](mailto:THA_Procurement_BKK@savethechildren.org) Selection Criteria included below.

# 1. Annexes

Annex 1: SCI Ethical guidelines

Annex 2: SCI Child safeguarding and PSEAH policy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TOR prepared by: | Nawasorn Limsakun (Senior Field Coordinator/CSG Coordinator) |
| TOR approved by: | Warangkana Mutumol (CP Technical Advisor) |
| Date of sign off: | 27 September 2021 |

# Selection Criteria

## Essential criteria

### Understanding of requirements and proposal

1. Demonstrate your understanding of the study requirements and provide your proposal for how you would approach the research. Your proposal will be assessed on whether the approach and methodology are robust, appropriate (actionable, sensitive, responsible) and indicates that it will achieve the study requirements.
2. Demonstrate your understanding of the deliverables and activities to be implemented, by:
   1. Describing your proposed approach to project management and track record of delivering on time and on budget.
   2. Providing a project plan with indicative timeline and defined roles and responsibilities of team members.

## Capability criteria

### Demonstrated Experience

1) Demonstrate your experience and track record in conducting research using mixed-methods (qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis)

2) Demonstrate your experience and track record of leading research, evaluations or consultancy work in Thailand that is sensitive to the local context and culture, particularly child rights, gender equality, ethnicity, religion and minority groups.

3) Demonstrate your experience and track record in conducting ethical, inclusive and participatory research and/or evaluations involving: a) children and b) marginalised, deprived and/or vulnerable groups

### Bidder capacity

1) Describe the Project lead’s coordination experience in leading consultancy work, research and/or evaluations of similar scale, and managing a team of diverse team of specialists.

2) Nominate the key personnel and resource pool who will perform the work in relation to this contract. Your response will be assessed on whether the skills and experience of key personnel adequately covers all areas of expertise and experience required, and your combined team resources (number of members) as required to implement the activities within the set timeframe. Please indicate the ‘personnel type’ for each key personnel using the types outlined in the table below for the next question.

## Financial criteria

The proposed plan with detailed schedule and budget (consultancy fee, expenses, and translation costs) will be used for the purposes of assessing cost effectiveness, as well as managing and negotiating the agreed cost of deliverables, or agreed scope variations if required.

1. e.g. Line – # 1 instant messaging app in Thailand – “secret classrooms” for young people attending leadership courses [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. (Alderson, P.,and Morrow V. (2004). Ethics, social research and consulting with children and young people. London: Barnardo’s) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)