Consultancy: Sharing CLARISSA learning, evidence and methodology with practitioner audiences

Role summary

Are you passionate about child-centred solutions, children’s participation and child protection? Do you want to share the findings of an exciting Action Research programme working with highly marginalised child workers in Bangladesh and Nepal with wider audiences? Can you help us create resources to support NGOs, grassroots organizations and practitioners to enable children to fully become agents of change in their communities (when it comes to the realization of children’s rights)?

This exciting opportunity is perfect for individuals or organisations familiar with participatory evidence generation and participatory or Action Research processes - and experienced in undertaking user-driven processes, analysing findings, synthesizing research products, producing new products and dissemination to wide audiences.

Accountability and support

This consultancy will be managed by IDS (as contracting organisations). It will report to IDS, with a ‘dotted line’ to Roy Tjan at Terre des Hommes)

Renumeration

Up to 50 days paid consultancy, depending on rate. With possibility of consultancy managing the technical production of outputs such as toolkits, videos, animations etc, as well as content development (TBC – could entail additional budget for technical costs and / or time).

Duration

* Phase 1 to be completed by 31st October 2023
* Phase 2 to be completed by 31st March 2024

Location

International, with ability to engage in Asian and UK time zones.

About CLARISSA

* The CLARISSA Consortium (Child Labour: Action-Research-Innovation in South and South-Eastern Asia) aims to build a strong evidence base and generate innovative solutions to enable children to avoid hazardous, exploitative labour in Bangladesh and Nepal. CLARISSA takes a participatory, adaptive and child centred approach to evidence and innovation generation.
* The core international partners are the Institute of Development Studies, Terre des Hommes Foundation, ChildHope and the Consortium for Street Children. Core country partners in Bangladesh are Grambangla Unnayan Committee, and Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Core country partners in Nepal are Voice of Children and CWISH.
* CLARISSA’s methodology is systemic Action Research. Core CLARISSA processes which have been undertaken include life story collection (800 stories across both countries) and analysis (LSC&A) and subsequent formation and implementation of participatory Action Research groups (13 groups in Nepal and 13 groups in Bangladesh). LSC&A is a participatory process in which children engaged in WFCL share their life stories with CLARISSA facilitators or trained peers. The research team documents their stories, and then facilitate discussion of the causal relationships between factors in the stories that contribute to children ending up in WFCL. The causal analysis leads to development of systems maps, which the children use to identify potential leverage points for Action Research to address specific causal relationships. These are the themes that children and other stakeholders subsequently addressed through formation of (ongoing) participatory Action Research groups and their iterative learning processes. CLARISSA’s participatory Action Research groups become engines of innovation, developing their own local evidence base and then taking actions to address concerns.
* The CLARISSA programme is funded by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). It sits within the Asia Regional Child Labour programme which includes components run by UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), UNICEF Innocenti, and the ILO.
* For more information visit: <https://clarissa.global/>

The need / gap identified

Over the last four years CLARISSA has delivered, documented, researched and built evidence around child-centered and child-led programming (<https://clarissa.global/>). Through a large-scale Participatory Action Research process, it has enabled children in or at risk of the worst forms of child labour to act as engines of innovation. Children themselves have collected and analyzed evidence on the drivers of the worst forms of child labour; generated theories of change about interventions to address these drivers; planned and programmed innovative solutions; tested these solutions in real-time, and then evaluated these themselves. CLARISSA has produced context-appropriate ways to surface evidence around child rights violations (in this case child labour), generating child-driven innovative solutions to addressing these, and strategies for bringing effective solutions to scale.

While some very specific and niche youth-focused empowerment methodologies exist, few resources exist that can support NGOs, grassroots organizations and practitioners in general with practical and proven models, guidance, tools and training resources to enable children to fully become agents of change in their communities when it comes to the realization of children’s rights.

CLARISSA has built up the data, evidence and learning to address this gap. Grounded in rigorous documentation, analysis and support from all the research partners within CLARISSA, the program has produced a vast amount of research evidence on:

* how to use child-centered approaches to reveal the driving factors behind an issue;
* how and in what contexts effective and child-driven innovations can be generated;
* how this can be programmed at scale to address child rights violations.

However, due to the research focus of the program, all of CLARISSA’s publications on the above are more academic in nature and not accessible to, tailored for and directly applicable in the work of the ‘practitioners’ community.

With CLARISSA coming to a close this year, the question now remains – how will practitioners use the vast amount of data, evidence and learning from CLARISSA to transform the way they program with children truly at the centre?

The solution

CLARISSA now seeks a consultant or group of consultants to synthesize and transform our data and evidence (in the form of already available learning notes, emerging evidence reports, research articles, working papers and other publications) into readily accessible, practitioner-focused models, guidance, tools and training resources on child-centered and child-led programming which could include (dependent on user needs identified):

* An online interactive toolkit
* Accompanying e-learning modules
* Short and practical online ‘how to guides’
* Short and practical online ‘how to videos’

Overarching deliverables

Consultants will be expected to:

Conduct **online workshops** with selected user / practitioners[[1]](#footnote-2) (who may need to be identified by the consultant/s – although a CLARISSA working group will guide and input suggestions) in order to collect qualitative data on user needs and requirements for an online interactive toolkit and accompanying e-learning modules to be developed. Consultants will then analyse the data from the workshops and use findings to inform the development of appropriate resources. In this way, end-users (i.e. program and project managers, coordinators and officers) will engage in designing, prototyping, testing, improving and finalising digital practitioner-oriented resources.

Undertake a **digital survey** targeting a global practitioner’s community (including through engagement with different inter-agency working groups, networks and alliances and task forces at global, regional and country-level) in order to collect qualitative data on user needs and requirements for an online interactive toolkit and accompanying e-learning modules to be developed. Consultants will then analyse the data from the survey and use the findings to inform the development of appropriate resources (toolkit etc.)

**Attend a CLARISSA programme learning synthesis event** (that will be attended by 30-40 on-the-ground team members plus representatives of consortium partner organizations) in Nepal – August 2023. This workshop will be used to undertake further assessment of users' needs. It will run from August 21st to August 25th and will take place in Kathmandu.

**Synthesise CLARISSA products and develop content for new products, such as an online interactive toolkit** and accompanying e-learning module, animations, videos (or other products, as defined by user need). Having access to practitioner-oriented models, guidance, tools and training resources that have originated from a user driven process will mean that the global child rights development/humanitarian practitioner's community will have enhanced capacity to develop and implement child-centered and child-led programs.

**Disseminate new products** – for example running webinars with practitioners

Outputs

**Phase 1: identifying user’s needs (four months – July 2023 to October 23)**

Consultants will be expected to:

* Conduct online workshops with selected practitioners;
* Develop and disseminate a digital survey targeting a global practitioner’s community - in order to collect qualitative data on user needs and requirements.
* Attend a cross-program CLARISSA learning synthesis event in Kathmandu, Nepal – 21-25 August 2023
* Other engagement with CLARISSA team members (to be defined)
* Run user groups
* Analyze findings
* Produce a short report user-needs report with recommendations from the above on what kind of resources user-practitioners will respond to best and how they can engage with the resources

Approx 25 days

Suggestion: 2/3 people - over 3 months

**Phase 2: Production and dissemination (approx. Five months – November 23 - March 24?)**

* Synthesizing CLARISSA products and producing new products – to possibly include:
* Online tool kits (development - writing content and outlining how it should work– with the possibility of bringing in technical support to actually develop the product -TBC)
* e-learning modules development – as above
* Dissemination (webinars etc.)
* Light touch participatory evaluation with end users

Approx 25 days

Suggestion: 2/ 3 people - over five months

**Budget**

Tech development budget TBC

Required qualifications, experience and skills

The consultant will have demonstrable experience of conducting user needs assessment and of synthesizing data and evidence into readily accessible, practitioner-focused guidance, tools and training resources on child-centered and child-led programming

An understanding of, and commitment to, participatory processes and child rights, is desirable.

How to apply

To apply for this consultancy, please submit the following to [s.reddin@ids.ac.uk](mailto:s.reddin@ids.ac.uk) with  
the subject line “Consultant: Sharing CLARISSA with practitioner audiences” by **11:59pm on July 2nd.**

* Your CV / organisation / team profile
* A cover letter (no more than two sides of A4) explaining why you think you can deliver this work and what approach you would take
* Proposed work plan (max 2 pages, including timeframe and budget)
* One example of similar resources you have developed for practitioners
* Details for two references including their name, role, relationship, email address and telephone number.

Interviews will take place online in early July**.**

**Examples of available learning notes, emerging evidence reports, research articles, working papers and other publications produced in CLARISSA**

* [Life stories from Kathmandu's Adult Entertainment Sector: Told and analysed by children and young people](https://clarissa.global/resource/life-stories-from-kathmandus-adult-entertainment-sector-told-and-analysed-by-children-and-young-people/) - This research and evidence paper is a record of the children and young people’s analysis of 400 children’s life stories and the key themes they identified, which formed the basis of a series of eight child-led Participatory Action Research groups based in Kathmandu.
* [Designing a participatory programme at scale](https://clarissa.global/resource/designing-a-participatory-programme-at-scale/) – this paper provides a detailed description of the program design which can help to clarify the scope of learning it is generating.
* [Child-centered approach reveals the dynamics driving child labour in Nepals AES](https://clarissa.global/child-centred-approach-reveals-the-dynamics-driving-child-labour-in-nepals-aes/): this blog introduces the process and findings of the life story analysis, and illustrates the depth with which children are engaged in CLARISSA processes, bringing to life the innovative design that has the potential to contribute to the wider practitioner community.
* [Designing contribution analysis of participatory programming to tackle the worst forms of child labour](https://clarissa.global/resource/designing-contribution-analysis-of-participatory-programming-to-tackle-the-worst-forms-of-child-labour/) – while a long research paper, this provides evidence of the rigor in CLARISSA’s learning processes to make the case for the solutions being deeply evidence-based.
* [Learning from life story collection and analysis with children working in the leather sector in Bangladesh](https://clarissa.global/resource/learning-from-life-story-collection-and-analysis-with-children-who-work-in-the-leather-sector-in-bangladesh/) – this learning note illustrates the depth of process learning that we will build on to produce tools to meet the user needs.
* There are a number of blogs that, while not research outputs, can help to show how the CLARISSA team is reflecting on and learning from its experience – these are practitioners whose experience will align most closely with the end users of the solution, such as: this [one](https://clarissa.global/building-rapport-for-action-research-with-the-community-in-bangladesh/) on trust building; this [one](https://clarissa.global/safeguarding-children-in-child-labour-in-nepal/) on safeguarding; this [one](https://clarissa.global/non-violent-communication-in-everyday-life/) on the NVC skills; this [one](https://clarissa.global/reflections-on-if-and-how-our-partnership-is-working-in-bangladesh/) on working in partnership

*For more information, see CLARISSA’s website:* [*https://clarissa.global/the-publications/*](https://clarissa.global/the-publications/)

1. Primary users will be members of the global child rights development/humanitarian practitioners community (e.g. through our engagement in the different inter-agency working groups and task forces at global, regional and country-level) who are interested in child-centered and child-led programming. Children and people from the communities with whom practitioner organizations work will be the ultimate beneficiaries as programming will become more ethical and empowering. They will be better listened to; better engaged in exploring and analyzing matters that concern them; and supported to tackle these themselves which will contribute to their self and collective agency. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)