



Terms of Reference

Regional child-sensitive social protection investment case and fiscal space analysis

31 May 2023

Background

Crises are increasingly facing countries in East and Southern Africa (ESA), including climate-induced, economic, and health emergencies. In these crises, children are always hardest hit. Families are pushed further into poverty as their parents are forced into displacement or lose income, which limits children's access to health, education, proper shelter, and nutritious food.

The economic shock that has followed the COVID-19 pandemic has already set back over a decade of progress in reducing child poverty. In sub-Saharan Africa, 20% of the population are facing food insecurity and are undernourished, more than double the share in any other region of the world.¹ This is even more pronounced in ESA where social protection measures for children are already far lower than the global average. Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the regions of the world with the largest share of children in the population and the greatest need for social protection, yet it has among the lowest coverage and expenditure rates (0.4% of GDP).²

The deprivations that millions of children suffer from not only hampers their future, but also undermines productivity, economic growth, and social cohesion in ESA countries. However, multiple reports have documented evidence that social security and cash transfers support realization of children's rights and enhance child development, and may therefore be a good investment for the future GDP and economic development of a country.³ Based on this evidence, prioritizing basic income security for children is one of the most economically and socially sensible investments that governments can make. Child-specific benefits for families are needed in the fight against child poverty, and to mitigate impacts of future crises – including the climate crisis.

Save the Children's approach in ESA includes strengthening the child-sensitivity of existing social protection programs by helping make existing government programs more child sensitive, and improving impact for children from government social safety net programs. Save the Children also pilots evidence-based approaches, and convenes civil society advocacy for increased government investment in expanded child-sensitive social protection with attention to costing and sustainable financial analysis. This work falls within Save the Children's global thematic areas of work on Child Sensitive Social Protection and Public Investment in Children.

¹ IFPRI (2023) Global Food Policy Report

² ILO (2022) World Social Protection Report 2020-2022

³ SCI (2023) [Economic Case for Investing in Children: Literature review and analysis](#)

Scope

Save the Children's ESA Regional Office seeks a consultant to develop an investment case for child-sensitive social protection (CSSP) from a review of available literature. The process will entail these critical steps:

1. Desk review of literature on the benefits of investing in child sensitive social protection (CSSP) schemes such as child grants and allowances. Among others, the consultant is expected to review cost of inaction analyses, cost benefit analyses, rate of return analyses, programme evaluations and any other grey and scholarly literature which explores the social, economic and human capital benefits of investing in CSSP in the short and medium term. Core countries of focus will include Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, and/or Tanzania, based on availability of data. These countries have been selected due to the commitment of these governments to social protection policy, and progress already by these governments to increase investments in children. The study should evaluate the value to society as a whole or GDP via human capital investments and, separately, the direct benefits and costs for program participants along with the indirect benefits and costs to government or taxpayers.
2. Comparative analysis of benefits/rate of return for different CSSP approaches (universal, categorical, and poverty-targeted). The main objective is to gather evidence on which approaches are most beneficial and cost-efficient in the long term. Conclusions should document both efficiency from a costing perspective and impact considering thematic area, for example outcomes linked to nutrition compared to health, impact on political or participatory rights, etc.
3. Examine measures focus country governments have taken to create more fiscal space to enhance or implement child-focused social security and benefits. Governments should prioritize investment in children by creating more fiscal space for child-focused social protection, aiming towards at least 1% of their country's economic output (GDP).⁴ The analysis should feature good practice examples from the countries reviewed in this regard, and contextualize investments given financing and governance challenges often faced in the LMIC setting.
4. Identify financing options to scale up child-sensitive social protection (CSSP) measures and benefits. For example, the consultant should explore the feasibility of increased domestic public resources considering limitations in these countries to strengthen tax/GDP ratio. Alternative or emerging sources of funding such as climate risk financing, loss and damage facilities developed by UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or other disaster risk management schemes could be considered. Other sources to be explored may also include alternative debt instruments, restructuring, or rebalancing existing aid flows towards social assistance. This is not an exhaustive list. The consultant is expected to deliver a nuanced set of conclusions for each country researched.
5. Develop a concise investment case for CSSP, on a country-by-country basis, drawing on examples from comparable countries in the region, if applicable.

⁴ SCI (2020) [A Foundation to End Child Poverty](#)



6. Finally, the research will be presented in a roundtable launch event in November 2023, in person in Nairobi, Kenya. The consultant will be expected to work closely with SC's Regional Child-Sensitive Social Protection Technical Advisor in the preparation of materials and delivery of key findings. The consultant will also be expected to support in the development of advocacy messages based on key findings of the research.

Specific deliverables

1. Submit proposed detailed methodology for subsequent deliverables, with attention to feasibility for future replication
2. Deliver an analysis of investments in social safety nets or social security focused on children in targeted ESA countries, with attention to comparison between universal or categorially-targeted compared to poverty-targeted programs, and an investment case for optimal approaches in each country studied
3. Based on review of existing national government financing of these programs, provide specific fiscal policy options for delivery of child outcomes most linked to future economic growth and development for each country, considering target audiences in government
4. Support the ESA Regional Office in the dissemination of the report, including presentation of results, messaging, or related external communications as needed

Indicative timeline

Deliverable	Timeframe
1. Detailed methodology	Within 5 business days of contract signing (approx. end June 2023)
2. CSSP investment case	August 2023
3. Public financing options	October 2023
4. Final revised report and launch event	November 2023

All deliverables will be reviewed by the Regional Child-Sensitive Social Protection Technical Advisor before considered complete.

Working locations

The research will be an analytical desk review only, and as such the consultant can be based remotely. However it is strongly preferred that the consultant is based in an ESA country, and would be able to travel to Kenya for the launch event.

Required qualifications and experience



Bidders must submit a proposal which covers the methodology proposed, demonstrates understanding of the scope of work, includes a timeline for the completion of the consultancy which does not exceed 6 months, and provides sample performance of previous similar analyses conducted in ESA countries. Bidders must submit proof of expertise in at least in two similar research studies. Both individuals and firms are encouraged to apply.

Qualifications

- Individuals working on this assignment must have a university degree, preferably at an advanced level, in a subject area relevant to social protection or public policy, public finance, or economics; extensive work experience relevant to this post may be considered as a replacement for formal qualifications; not all team members must demonstrate similar experience in ESA countries, however it is essential that the experience is present in the team

Experience and skills

- Proof of at least 2 similar research studies should be submitted with the proposal, these may come from outside of ESA if proof of similar experience in social protection analyses or other fiscal or public finance research in ESA can be demonstrated
- Leading edge understanding of optimal analytical options for developing an investment case, and demonstrable experience in public finance, is a requirement; experience engaging with ministries of finance or influencing public policy is considered an advantage
- All communications and deliverables will be submitted in English, strong oral and writing skills, as well as clear delivery of technical analyses, is expected

Application requirements

- Provide a detailed proposal outlining the proposed most effective methodology to undertake each stage of the analysis
- A scope of work, outlining timelines for each of the deliverables
- A financial proposal for the proposed scope of work detailing a budget to cover the entire exercise
- Samples (2-4) of previous related assignments, as described above
- Outline the qualifications of the proposed technical team/s that will engage in the analysis, CVs should be attached
- Completion of all child safeguarding and ethics requirements, including compliance with SC policies as directed

9. Submission of application

Interested candidates/institutions/firms should submit a technical and financial proposal as mentioned above to esaro.tenders@savethechildren.org. Candidates/institutions/firms who did not fill the evaluation criteria in Annex 1 and did not attach requested supportive documents will not be considered for evaluation.



Submission: All completed bids should be submitted to the below email address:

esaro.tenders@savethechildren.org and deadline is Thursday 14th June 2023 by 5:00pm CAT

In case of any clarifications, please address it to esaro.rpu@savethechildren.org.

Annex 1-Evaluation criteria

SECTION 1 - ESSENTIAL CRITERIA			
INSTRUCTIONS - Bidders are required to complete all sections of the below table.			
Item	Question	Bidder Response	
		Yes / No	Comments
1	MANDATORY CRITERIA: Supplier accepts Save the Children's 'Terms and Conditions of Purchase' included within Appendix 1 of the ITT, and that any work awarded from this tender process will be completed under the attached 'Terms and Conditions of Purchase'	Yes / No	Comments
2	MANDATORY CRITERIA: The Supplier and its staff (and any sub-contractors used) agree to comply with SCI and the IAPG's policies and code of conducts listed below.	Yes / No	Comments
	1) Child Safeguarding Policy		
	2) Anti-Bribery & Corruption Policy		
	3) Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery Policy		
	4) Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy		
	5) Anti-Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Policy		
	6) IAPG Code of Conduct		
	7) Conditions of Tendering		
3		Yes / No	Comments
	MANDATORY CRITERIA: The Supplier confirms it is not linked directly or indirectly to any terrorism related activity, and does not sell any Dual-Purpose goods / services that may be used in a terror related activity.		
4		Yes / No	Comments

	<p>MANDATORY CRITERIA: The bidder confirms they are not a prohibited party under applicable sanctions laws or anti-terrorism laws or provide goods under sanction by the United States of America or the European Union and accepts that SCI will undertake independent checks to validate this.</p>		
5	<p>MANDATORY CRITERIA: The Supplier confirms it is fully qualified, licensed and registered to trade with Save the Children (including compliance with all relevant local Country legislation).</p>	Yes / No	Comments/Attachments
	<p>This includes the Supplier submitting the following requirements (where applicable):</p>		
	<p>- Legitimate business address</p>		
	<p>- Valid Tax registration number & certificate</p>		
	<p>Valid Operating License</p>		
	<p>Valid certificate of incorporation.</p>		
	<p>Valid Tax Compliance Certificate.</p>		
SECTION 2 – CAPABILITY QUESTIONS			
<i>Instructions – Bidders are required to complete all sections of the below table.</i>			
Item	Question	Bidder Response	Attachment(s)
1	<p>Individuals working on this assignment must have a university degree, preferably at an advanced level, in a subject area relevant to social protection or public policy, public</p>		

	finance, or economics; extensive work experience relevant to this post may be considered as a replacement for formal qualifications; not all team members must demonstrate similar experience in ESA countries, however it is essential that the experience is present in the team		
2	Leading edge understanding of optimal analytical options for developing an investment case, and demonstrable experience in public finance, is a requirement; experience engaging with ministries of finance or influencing public policy is considered an advantage	Bidder Response	Attachment(s)
3	Proof of at least 2 similar research studies should be submitted with the proposal, these may come from outside of ESA if proof of similar experience in social protection analyses or other fiscal or public finance research in ESA can be demonstrated	Bidder Response	Attachment(s)

SECTION 2 - SUSTAINABILITY QUESTIONS

Instructions – Bidders are required to complete all sections of the below table.

Item	Question	Bidder Response	Attachment(s)
1	Does bidder commits to employ workforce (gender-balanced) staffed from the local community / region from both gender of female and male . If yes, please indicate in terms of percentage and attach proof.		
2			



Save the Children

	<p>The Bidder to confirm it is registered / has its primary operations in close proximity to the programming location. If yes, please indicate the physical address and attach proof.</p>		
--	---	--	--