

Norwegian Refugee Council

Terms of Reference – *Evidence Mapping and Exploring the Wider Impact of Shelter and Settlements on Child/Youth Wellbeing and Learning*

July 2025

1. Introduction and background

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is one of the leading Shelter and Settlements (S&S) actors in the humanitarian sector. We are recognised by stakeholders for our expertise on emergency and transitional shelter, longer-term housing solutions and settlement-wide interventions such as community infrastructure and school construction. NRC provides dignified, durable and sustainable solutions that create lasting change beyond our first-line response, aiming to achieve wider impacts outside of immediate shelter outcomes in terms of education, health, safety, inclusion and self-reliance.

We also have strong expertise in Education in Emergencies (EiE) Programming. Through our EiE interventions we aim at ensuring that all displacement-affected children and youth enjoy quality, safe and inclusive learning opportunities relevant to their psychosocial, emotional and cognitive development and needs. Our strength lies in supporting them on their journey across different learning pathways, including first-line education response, structured and longer-term non-formal education provision (with a focus on out-of-school children), and support to formal education systems to ensure sustainability and support durable solutions.

NRC recognises that shelter can play a critical enabling role in a range of wider outcomes, including improved health, education, livelihoods, psychosocial well-being and protection. However, field teams frequently face challenges in capturing evidence related to these wider impacts. There is a lack of guidance on what to measure, how to measure it, and what questions to ask beyond basic shelter indicators.

Also, although shelter is a fundamental need and central to displacement response, it often receives limited dedicated funding and attention in resource mobilisation efforts. This may be partly due to the absence of clear, practical evidence demonstrating its wider contributions. Strengthening advocacy and attracting funding also depends on generating strong, field-based evidence of shelter's broader impact.

In response to this gap, NRC seeks to launch a remote consultancy to start exploring how we can support Country Offices (COs), or/and Global Staff to assess and document the wider impact of Shelter and Settlement programming across other key domains/sectors, specifically EiE, and more specifically how shelter/housing conditions impact on the wellbeing and ability to learn of children and youth in their learning journeys. Our education teams already use internally developed tools which will be reviewed as part

of the consultancy – namely the SLEC (Student learning in Emergency Checklist), the Youth Tracer Study Toolkit.

By promoting a more comprehensive understanding of shelter, beyond engineering solutions or physical outputs, we hope to help capture how shelter intersects with multiple dimensions, highlighting its role in integrated programming and applying an intersectional approach that shows how shelter supports and contributes to wider impacts.

Objective and scope of work

NRC is looking for a consultant to, complete Phase 1 of the Project to further our thinking on the wider impacts of Shelter and Settlement (S&S) interventions in humanitarian settings in relation to Education in Emergencies (EiE), develop a conceptual framework and identify where we need to make interventions in our tools and practices to measure our impact. Following Phases of the project are in planning and subject to funding and will require a separate procurement process.

The final project objective of all Phases is to develop a methodology and tools that NRC programme teams can apply to our S&S programming, to capture the wider impact of S&S at a global level and in certain country level contexts. The outcome of the whole project will be informed by this first critical Phase 1 encompassing the literature review to inception report for the following phases.

The consultant will work remotely and (1) focus on the key domain of EiE and the impact on wellbeing and learning ability for displaced school age children (6 -18- and/or youth (15-24)) where shelter interventions are hoped to have an enabling effect. (2) Map existing evidence of the relationship between S&S and EiE outcomes through a literature review and interviews with NRC staff or external actors to develop a conceptual framework outlining the relationship between shelter interventions and outcomes in the selected domain of EiE. (3) Map any tools which are already being used to measure qualitative impacts in the S&S and EiE sectors or other sectors, which could be adapted to NRC projects and contexts.

Methodology

The consultancy will follow a phased approach (of which Phase 1 is the objective for this remote consultancy):

Phase 1: Inception and Scoping

- Conduct desk-based literature review of i) relevant S&S and Education documents, such as strategies, framing papers and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Frameworks; ii) existing publications and evidence linking shelter to broader outcomes in the selected domain (EiE) of which NRC already has a draft mapping, as a starting point. iii) any cross-cutting publications on well-being or health.

- Quick review of relevant Shelter and Settlements and Education Theories and mandatory and suggested outcome indicators to understand longer term outcome ambitions in NRC.
- Based on the literature review develop a draft conceptual framework to capture the relationship between the two sectors.
- Identify current programming where shelter conditions could be influencing education outcomes (using our internal database and discussions with the global teams).
- Hold online workshops or KIIs with S&S and Education staff to discuss the area of focus, the conceptual framework and for staff to identify practical needs and information collection constraints.
- Identify existing tools and methodologies (quantitative or qualitative) being used in NRC or by other actors to measure the wider impact of programme interventions. Including existing Education tools.
- Summary report of findings and proposed methodology for Phase 2 (Inception Report).
- Deadline: End of November 2025.

The Phases below are not part of this present consultancy but are in the planning stages and subject to funding. This Phase 1 consultancy will heavily influence Phases 2-4.

- ***Phase 2: Design of Methodology and Toolkit***

- *Draft and design a practical toolkit grounded in the conceptual framework and informed by stakeholder inputs.*
- *Deliverable: Draft toolkit including methodology, guidance and tool package.*

- ***Phase 3: Pilot/Testing***

- *Collaborate with 2-3 Country Offices to simulate or pilot test the tool with staff.*
- *Facilitate feedback and validation sessions.*
- *Deliverable: Pilot/Testing summary and feedback report.*

- ***Phase 4: Finalisation and Dissemination***

- *Revise toolkit based on pilot results.*
- *Deliverable: Final toolkit with guidance*

- *Deliver a dissemination session (virtual or hybrid). This can also be in 2026.*
- *Develop a proposal for replication/scaling.*

Geographical Scope

The consultant will engage with global staff and work directly with a small number of potential pilot countries across NRC's Regions (Asia, Central and West Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, East and South Africa, Latin America and Middle East and North Africa). Final selection of countries will be based on location of Shelter/Education programming teams.

Management arrangements for Phase 1

Technical and Strategic management: Global S&S Lead/ Shelter Global Advisors and Global Education Lead/ Education Global Advisors (to ensure the toolkit fits S&S and Education context and strategy); and Consultant reporting line: Global S&S Lead (for day-to-day reporting and overall guidance). Coordination with Global MEAL Unit.

NRC will own the intellectual property rights to all materials submitted by the consultants under the contract. The consultants must therefore ensure that they have possession of any materials provided to NRC as a part of the deliverable. The rights to reproduce the reports will fall to NRC and its contracted agents. NRC will be free to reproduce the materials at will and to grant reproduction rights.

2. Critical Interfaces

- **Global Teams:** Global S&S Lead and Global S&S Advisers, Global Education Lead and Advisers/Specialists, Global MEAL Specialist, Global Lead for Evidence & Learning, Global Evaluation and Qualitative Methods Specialist
- **Country Offices:** CO MEAL Managers, S&S Specialists, Education Specialists, Heads of Programme (as relevant)

3. Suggested timeline

The remote consultancy is expected to begin in September 2025 and includes an **estimated 25 working days**. The Consultant is expected to work in accordance with the estimated timeline described below, no travel is needed.

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| 1. Inception and Mapping of evidence related to broader impacts on selected key domain | 25 Days |
| Desk-based literature review of existing evidence on selected domain | 3 |
| Inception report | 1 |
| Key informant interviews and/or workshops with COs' staff | 3 |
| Draft conceptual framework | 2 |
| CO online workshops | 4 |
| Review of any existing tools used to capture the wider impact of S&S | 4 |
| Final report | 6 |

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| Dissemination of Findings through online Webinars | 2 |
| Total | 25 days |

4. Expected outputs

- 1 x Inception report
- 1 x Final report (a consolidated report, incorporating methodology, conceptual framework, findings, and recommendations for Phase 2-4)
- 2 x dissemination sessions with stakeholders (virtual or hybrid) – can be in 2026.

5. Skills/Qualifications

NRC seeks expressions of interest from consultants and/or consulting teams with the following skills/qualifications and expertise:

- Strong understanding of Shelter and Settlements programming in humanitarian contexts.
- Proven experience of Education programming (WASH, Health, Youth, Protection, PSS experience is considered a bonus)
- Strong knowledge of MEAL, impact measurement and results-based frameworks.
- Expertise in qualitative research methodologies and tool development
- Demonstrated ability to develop operational tools and translate technical content into field-usable formats.
- Ability to work well with various stakeholders at different levels including country teams, regional office, external stakeholders.
- Fluency in written and spoken English (Spanish, Arabic and French a bonus).
- Excellent writing, communication skills, flexibility and good organizational skills.
- Understanding of international aid and development.

6. Application Requirements

Interested applicants are invited to submit the following materials:

- CV of the consultant (and team members, if applicable), highlighting relevant experience.
- Example(s) of similar work, preferably related to operational tool development or impact measurement in humanitarian or development settings.
- A brief proposal (max 2 pages) outlining the consultant's understanding of the task, proposed methodology, relevant tools or frameworks and an indicative timeline showing how the 25 working days will be structured across key phases.
- Financial proposal, including a breakdown of consultancy fees and any anticipated expenses.

Closing Date: August 11th 2025

Send applications to: amelia.rule@nrc.no

Work anticipated to be done between September 2025 and December 2025