



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy for GBV and Trauma Assessment of Conflict-Affected Children

ECW Project – BAY (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) States

Background

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent humanitarian organization dedicated to protecting the rights of displaced and vulnerable populations. In Nigeria, NRC implements integrated programmes across Education, Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS), Protection, Shelter, WASH, and ICLA, with a strong focus on strengthening resilience and supporting durable solutions.

Nigeria continues to face protracted conflict in the North-East, particularly in BAY states State, resulting in widespread displacement, disruption of education systems, and heightened protection risks for children. Conflict-affected children, especially girls, face significant exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), trauma, toxic stress, and other psychosocial distress factors that affect their wellbeing, learning outcomes, and ability to access and remain in school. These risks are further compounded by weakened protection systems, limited availability of psychosocial services, and stigma surrounding GBV disclosure.

Under the Education Cannot Wait (ECW), Multiyear Resilience Project, NRC aims to strengthen safe, inclusive, and protective learning environments for conflict-affected children. To inform programme adaptation and strengthen safeguarding and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) responses, NRC will undertake a comprehensive assessment to examine the prevalence and patterns of GBV risks affecting school-aged children, assess levels of trauma and psychosocial distress among learners, and identify gaps in available services and referral pathways.

In line with its localization commitments, NRC also seeks to strengthen collaboration with local women-led organizations (LWOs), GBV service providers, and trauma-focused organizations capable of providing specialized counselling and survivor-centered services. This consultancy, implemented by GLO in collaboration with the Localization Working Group (LWG), will conduct a rapid GBV and trauma risk assessment, map available services, and support the development of stronger referral pathways between NRC programmes and specialized local actors.

As part of this effort, a comprehensive assessment is required to:

- Examine the prevalence and patterns of GBV risks affecting school-aged children.
- Assess trauma and psychosocial distress levels among conflict-affected learners.



- Identify service gaps and referral pathway functionality.
- Inform programmatic adaptation, safeguarding measures, and integrated MHPSS responses.

Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a participatory, child-sensitive GBV and trauma assessment in selected LGAs of the BAY States under the ECW project. It will also generate actionable recommendations to strengthen prevention, response, and education-integrated protection programming. Specifically, the consultancy will:

1. Assess GBV and trauma risks affecting conflict-affected children in NRC operational areas.
2. Map available GBV and psychosocial service providers, especially local and women-led organizations capable of delivering specialized counselling.
3. Identify barriers to access for survivors, including children and adolescents.
4. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms between NRC and local actors under the localization framework.
5. Provide recommendations for safe referral pathways and programming adjustments.

Objectives

The consultancy will:

1. Assess the nature, prevalence, and drivers of GBV risks affecting conflict-affected children in and around schools.
2. Evaluate trauma exposure and psychosocial wellbeing among learners.
3. Examine safeguarding systems, reporting mechanisms, and referral pathways.
4. Identify barriers to safe access and retention in education, particularly for girls and vulnerable groups.
5. Strengthen localization by actively engaging local CSOs through the Localization Working Group.
6. Disseminate findings at BAY state levels to inform adaptive programming.

Scope of Work

The consultant will:

- 1. Design the assessment framework**
The consultant will design and implement the assessment framework, including adapting relevant rapid assessment tools developed by UNICEF to the Nigerian

context while ensuring full compliance with ethical standards, child safeguarding requirements, and survivor-centered approaches.

2. Conduct stakeholder engagement

As part of the process, the consultant will conduct stakeholder engagement in collaboration with the Localization Working Group, including consultations with local women-led organizations, GBV specialists, and other relevant actors to ensure contextual relevance and local participation.

3. Data collection and analysis

The consultant will collect and analyze both qualitative and observational data through service mapping, focus group discussions with community groups, key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders, and safety observations in selected locations.

4. Develop a GBV and trauma service landscape analysis

Based on the findings, the consultant will develop a comprehensive analysis of the GBV and trauma service landscape, identifying qualified counselling providers, assessing the availability and capacity of local services, and highlighting gaps in child-focused trauma support.

5. Develop practical recommendations

The consultancy will also produce practical recommendations aimed at strengthening referral pathways between NRC programmes and specialized local service providers, identifying partnership opportunities with local women-led organizations, and outlining key areas where capacity strengthening may be required to improve access to specialized counselling and survivor-centered support for conflict-affected children.

Methodology

The assessment will adopt a mixed-methods rapid assessment approach guided by tools from UNICEF GBV Rapid Assessment Toolkit. The consultancy will utilize a range of structured and participatory data collection tools tailored to the assessment objectives. These tools are provided in detail and annexed to this document for reference. A summary of the tools is provided below:

Rapid Assessment Tool 2 – GBV Service Mapping Tool



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Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To map availability of existing GBV response services, and document information about them. The tool will help the consortium to:• Identify which services are currently available for adult and child GBV survivors in a geographical area;• Identify key service gaps; and• Develop a directory of services and begin the process of developing inter-agency referral protocols.
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Rapid Assessment Tool 6 – GBV Risk and Safety Focus Group Discussion Guide

Purpose	<p>To use semi-structured in-depth discussions with different groups of females and other community members to learn about GBV risks and responses. This tool will help the consortium to learn more about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perceptions of GBV risk and safety solutions in the community;• Types of GBV community member are concerned about; and• Community responses to sexual violence.
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Rapid Assessment Tool 7 – GBV Risk and Safety Key Informant Interviews

Purpose:

Purpose	<p>To collect information from different community members and camp management actors/local authorities about service-related GBV risks in the setting.</p> <p>These interviews provide the consortium with an opportunity to learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different perceptions of girls’ and women’s risk and safety in the community and among authorities;• Danger zones in the setting;• Existing strategies for improving safety; and• Specific risks associated with basic services such as shelter, food, water and security.
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Rapid Assessment Tool 10 – GBV Risk and Safety Observation Guide

Purpose:

Purpose	<p>To assist in the collection and recording of observations related to girls' and women's safety and security in a camp or community to help build an understanding of the GBV situation. The tool may be used in one of two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To triangulate information generated through other rapid assessment activities – for example, to complement information collected in focus group discussions and key informant interviews; or• As a primary information collection method in insecure environments where asking community members questions about the GBV situation might put them at risk – for example, in settings where there is a military presence within a camp or community.
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Deliverables

- a) The consultant will deliver an inception report within two weeks of contract signing detailing the following:
 - Methodology
 - Workplan
 - Data collection tools and ethical considerations. *(for approval prior to field deployment)*
- b) Data collection and analysis, the consultant will submit a draft assessment report for review and feedback, and subsequently a final assessment report incorporating all agreed revisions.
- c) The consultancy will also include preparation and delivery of area-level dissemination presentations in the BAY States.
- d) The consultant will produce a concise summary brief (5–8 pages) highlighting key findings and actionable recommendations and submit the cleaned dataset together with full documentation of the methodology used.

Duration

The consultancy will be conducted over a total duration of 6 weeks. The estimated level of effort will be determined based on the approved methodology and scope of field engagement. The assignment will include field travel to selected LGAs in BAY States, comprehensive stakeholder consultations with relevant actors, and the organization and facilitation of two dissemination workshops, one in each state, to present findings and validate recommendations.

9. Consultant Qualifications

The consultant/consulting team should demonstrate:

- Proven experience in GBV and child protection assessments in conflict settings.

- Expertise in trauma-informed and MHPSS-sensitive research.
- Experience working in the BAY states in Nigeria.
- Strong understanding of education in emergencies.
- Demonstrated capacity for participatory and child-friendly methodologies.
- Proven ability to facilitate multi-stakeholder dissemination workshops.
- The consulting team composition should include a GBV specialist, Child protection/psychosocial expert, data analysts and field enumerators.

10. Ethical and Safeguarding Considerations

The consultancy will adhere strictly to established Gender-Based Violence (GBV) ethical and safety standards, including:

- Application of the **Do No Harm** principle throughout all stages of the consultancy.
- Ensuring confidentiality and the adoption of survivor-centered approaches.
- Compliance with child safeguarding standards.
- Obtaining informed consent from all participants prior to engagement.
- Establishment and utilization of appropriate referral mechanisms for participants requiring immediate support.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria and corresponding weightings, to ensure a balanced evaluation of technical quality, capacity, ethical compliance, and value for money as indicated below:

<u>Evaluation Criterion</u>	<u>Standards</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Technical approach	<p>Assessment of the bidder's understanding of GBV, trauma, and child protection in conflict-affected settings, and the quality and feasibility of the proposed assessment methodology. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundness and appropriateness of the research design (qualitative and quantitative methods) • Relevance and sensitivity of tools for assessing GBV risks, trauma, and psychosocial wellbeing of children 	40%



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integration of child protection, MHPSS, and education perspectives• Contextual sensitivity to conflict-affected environments and vulnerable populations (including IDPs, returnees, and host communities)• Clear and feasible workplan, timelines, and deliverables• Inclusion of validation, stakeholder engagement, and dissemination processes	
Team Capacity and Experience	<p>Evaluation of the qualifications, skills, and relevant experience of the proposed team. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated expertise in GBV, child protection, trauma-informed approaches, and MHPSS• Experience conducting assessments involving children in humanitarian or fragile contexts• Familiarity with ethical research involving children and survivors of GBV• Experience in Nigeria (or similar contexts) and understanding of protection and education coordination mechanisms• Clarity of roles, responsibilities, and level of effort for each team member	30%
Ethics and Safeguarding	<p>Assessment of the bidder's approach to ethical research practice and safeguarding, given the high-risk and sensitive nature of the assignment. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong ethical framework for research involving children and GBV survivors• Robust safeguarding, child protection, and do-no-harm measures• Clear protocols for handling disclosures of violence, abuse, or trauma• Informed consent and assent procedures tailored to children	15%



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data protection, confidentiality, and secure data management• Established referral pathways for GBV, MHPSS, and protection services	
Cost/ Value for Money	<p>Evaluation of the financial proposal in terms of cost-effectiveness and realism, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment of costs with the technical approach and complexity of the assignment• Transparency and clarity of the budget• Cost efficiency while ensuring high-quality, ethical, and safe data collection• Adequate allocation for safeguarding measures, training, and specialized expertise	15%
TOTAL		100%

Attach your CAC, TCC, Company profile Including CV of staff and Evidence of similar experiences to your application and make submissions to the following email and as per the detailed tender document to: NG.tenders2@nrc.no .

The application should be titled: “07/NRC-NAT/NG/2026– “Consultancy for GBV and Trauma Assessment of Conflict-Affected Children– BAY States” in the e-mail subject.