

Scope of Work

Solicitation Number: US3965.01.22

Consultancy Title: Family Strengthening Package (Approach, Guidance and Tools)

Date Issued: 1/18/2022

Inquiry Date: 1/21/2022

Proposal Deadline: 1/28/2022

Location: Global, home-based

Duration: 6 months

Number of days: 50

Background

As part of its Vision 2030 agency strategy, CRS is investing in six strategic change platforms to achieve results at scale. One of these key strategic change platforms is Strengthening Families-Thriving Children Strategic Change Platform 5 (SCP5). This Strategic Change Platform is a bold initiative to support vulnerable children to thrive in safe, healthy, and nurturing families, create more resilient and supportive communities, and work with our Catholic partners, civil society and governments to establish policies and systems that strengthen families. SCP5 also aims to influence governments, donors, Catholic actors and other regional and global stakeholders to redirect resources and support to strengthening families and family-based care.

The platform is implemented across CRS country programs and works around the world to influence other countries, regions and global actors to change practices, policies and resources in support of family strengthening and family care. One of the platform's flagship initiatives, Changing the Way We CareSM (CTWWC), brings together CRS, Maestral International and other organizations to amplify a global movement to prevent children from entering orphanages and to place children currently in orphanages into safe and nurturing families. Since 2018, the initiative has been active in five demonstration countries (Kenya, Guatemala, Moldova, Haiti and India) and uses learning from those countries to influence regionally and globally.

In Zambia and Kenya, SCP5 has also initiated a three-year family strengthening initiative through the Inclusive Family Strengthening (IFS) project in Zambia and integrated within CTWWC in Kenya. With this initiative, CRS is working to build families' resources and skills to care for children - especially children with disabilities. To prevent separation and support the reintegration of children into family care, CRS has aimed to develop and/or improve inclusive models of family care specifically designed for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are more likely to experience maltreatment, in general, with research showing that children with disabilities are three-to-four times more likely to experience violence than their non-disabled peers and are more likely to be institutionalized, with fewer numbers being effectively reintegrated. Furthermore, children with disabilities and their families may struggle to access support services and are, therefore, often the last ones to benefit from care reform. With the new family strengthening activities under IFS, CRS hopes to prevent separation, especially for children with disabilities, and promote successful reintegration.

Purpose

CRS is seeking qualified candidates to produce a **Family Strengthening Package** that includes CRS's approach, guidance and tools to support family strengthening programming, including for children with disabilities, being implemented by CRS country programs around the globe.

The *Strategic Change Platform 5: Strengthening Families for Thriving Children* believes that children thrive when their families provide safe and nurturing care within supportive neighborhoods and communities. **Family strengthening** refers to programs, strategic approaches and deliberate processes of empowering families with the necessary capacities, opportunities, networks, relationships and access to services and resources to promote and build resilience and the active engagement of parents, caregivers, children, youth and other family members in decisions that affect the family's life.¹ CRS is particularly interested in building upon the *Changing the Way We Care's* Family Strengthening Framework and experience from CTWWC demonstration countries to further articulate its family strengthening approach when working to prevent unnecessary family separation and to support separated children's (re)integration into the care of their family or family-based alternative care.

The Consultant will refine and articulate CRS's family strengthening approach and develop accompanying guidance and tools. The Consultant will:

- Build upon *Changing the Way We Care's* Family Strengthening Framework through work with the technical teams and other key stakeholders² to expand upon and refine definitions, principles, approaches, frameworks and activities/interventions which encompass CRS's family strengthening approach based on a review of internal and external materials and resources and relevant published and grey literature;
- Reference *Changing the Way We Care's* Family Strengthening Framework to articulate CRS specific and recommended approaches and interventions at the primary/universal, secondary and tertiary prevention levels including community level interventions that raise awareness, promote social connectedness/cohesion, reduce stigma and change/influence social norms and behavior;
- Identify existing and, as needed, adapt/develop guidance and tools for stand-alone family strengthening programming to be used throughout the project management cycle (design, start-up, implementation, and closeout or exit/ transition strategy). Some examples of tools include:
 - *Design phase*- tools to identify drivers/risks of family separation that the program aims to address; tools to identify and map existing and needed workforce and services (both formal government and CSO services and community support resources and mechanisms); tools/guidance to help decide what specific combination of interventions to implement (household economic strengthening, positive parenting, peer support, case management, early childhood development, nutrition support, etc.)
 - *Start-up phase*- tools for participant identification and selection, risk assessments, referral network mapping, workforce capacity assessment, etc.
 - *Implementation phase*- tools/guidance to identify and assess participants in need of more intensive services (tertiary level); tools/guidance for 'case management lite'
 - *Closeout phase* – tools to support the development of exit/transition strategies that are planned for during the design phase and updated throughout the project management cycle until the exit/transition phase.
- Develop, in collaboration with the MEAL Senior Technical Advisor, a monitoring and evaluation framework including clearly articulated indicators, tools and guidance for family strengthening programming.

¹ Adapted from the CTWWC family strengthening framework and originally informed by Family Strengthening Policy Center. (2004). *Policy Brief No. 1: Introduction to Family Strengthening*. National Human Services Assembly.

² TBD

- Make recommendations as to how to address programming gaps in CRS’s approach to family strengthening for prevention of separation and in support of separated children’s (re)integration into the care of their family or family-based alternative care.

Activities and deliverables

Activities	Deliverables	Timeline	Expected Days
Orientation meeting for assignment overview	Inception report & work plan	Week 1	1
Desk review & KIIs (approx. 10)	Summary of findings & recommendations	Month 1-2	10
Draft outline of CRS Family Strengthening approach document for review by the review ³ team	Agreed upon outline for the CRS Family Strengthening approach document	Month 2	2
Draft the CRS Family Strengthening approach document following the agreed upon outline for review by the review ⁴ team	First draft of CRS Family Strengthening approach document	Month 2-3	7
Incorporate feedback	Final draft of CRS Family Strengthening approach document	Month 3	3
Draft outline of guidance for review	Draft of guidance outline	Month 3	3
Draft guidance and tools for review taking into account feedback received on the outline	First draft of guidance and tools	Month 3-5	18
Incorporate feedback from first review and circulate 2 nd draft of guidance and tools for review	2 nd draft of guidance and tools	Month 5	3
Incorporate feedback from second review and finalize	Final draft of guidance and tools	Month 6	3
TOTAL DAYS			50

Communication

During the procurement process which includes both the solicitation and evaluation stages, all communications will be directed to Kathleen Mackin – Procurement Specialist at kathleen.mackin@crs.org.

During the consultancy itself, the consultant will report to Senior Technical Advisor (STA) Family Strengthening and Alternative Care, and regular meetings will be scheduled so that updates on progress and any issues can be shared.

Key Working Relationships

The consultant is expected to work with the following individuals internal and external to CRS:

- Senior Technical Advisor (STA) for Family Strengthening and Alternative Care
- SCP5- IFS Program Manager

³ Members of the review team TBD

⁴ Members of the review team TBD

- SCP5 and CTWWC teams and other CRS staff involved in family strengthening programming (i.e. Disability inclusion, ECD, etc.)
- Social Services Director and Social Service Department team members

Clarifications

Questions must be submitted via e-mail to kathleen.mackin@crs.org no later than close of business 21, January 2022. The solicitation name indicated above (Family Strengthening Package- Approach, Guidance and Tools) must be included in the subject line. Responses will be provided to all known offerors.

CRS is under no obligation to respond to questions that are not received prior to the aforementioned deadline.

Application instructions

Applicants must submit a cover letter and CV that demonstrates qualifications and a list of clients/projects that he/she has supported in undertaking in family strengthening work. Please include established daily rate. Short listed applicants will be asked to submit a 2-4 page summary of their approach to conducting the assignment and completing the deliverables.

Proposal Deadline

All proposals must be received by CRS (to kathleen.mackin@crs.org) no later than 28 January 2022 [11:59 PM EST for electronic submission]. The solicitation name indicated above must be included in the subject line.