



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant for conducting data collection “Real Choices, Real Live” Study

(Location: Quang Ngai province)

I. Introduction

Founded in 1937, Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation that advances children’s rights and equality for girls. We strive to advance children’s rights and equality for girls all over the world. As an independent development and humanitarian organisation, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children’s rights from birth until they reach adulthood and enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge. For over 80 years we have been building powerful partnerships for children, and we are active in over 75 countries.

Since 2007, the longitudinal and qualitative 'Real Choices, Real Lives' study has been tracking the lives of girls and their families in nine countries around the world. As of 2021, 118 girls and their families were participating in the study which has followed the girls since their births in 2006 and will continue to collect data until December 2024 when they reach the age of 18.

In Vietnam, the Study has been running for sixteen years in Thai Nguyen and Quang Ngai since 2006, with the participation of 20 girls, and it is expected to continue until 2024. In 2023, as required by Plan Research Team, the data collection activity needs to be done and delivered result packaged on May 1st 2023.

II. Objectives

We aim to provide evidence to inform Plan International’s wider work and agenda on climate change and education, as noted above. We propose to utilise existing evidence from our [Real Choices, Real Lives](#) study and undertake additional data collection that specifically explores the impacts of climate change (and in doing so explores adaptation, losses and damages). This research will:

1. Establish the climate-induced impacts experienced by girls, their households, and their communities, with reference to how these have changed over time, whether girls think they can be adapted to and how the climate may impact on the girls’ education.
2. Understand how climate impacts shape girls’ and households’ decision-making, coping strategies and adaptive capacities, including how girls’ education is impacted in these processes.

Determine the extent to which education – and/or other sources of information – inform girls’ (and their households’) decision-making on coping strategies and adaptative capacities.

III. Methodology

3.1 Methods for Data Collection

The core RCRL research methodology is based on in-depth interviews with parents/caregivers, supported by participatory activities (annually across all girls’ families participating to 2021). Since 2013, interviews and

participatory and age-appropriate activities have also been conducted with the girls. Data collection in 2022 took a 'light-touch' thematically focused approach, with a shorter set of questions asked across girls in seven out of the nine countries.

Further, we believe that the evidence needs justify extending the interviews beyond the girls/their families to gather broader contextual insights into how climate change is impacting communities/households and affecting girls' education in the localities. The basis of the approach is summarised below:

- 1) **In-depth case studies:** Purposefully sample 2-3 'case study' girls in each country (by means of the 'education journey' mapping process outlined above). These 'case study' girls' lives and experiences will be researched through the following methods: in-depth girl interviews (across wider range of themes and issues related to climate change and education); caregiver and/or household decision-maker interviews and household inventory.
 - **Girl Interview:** The Girl Interviews will align with all RQs. The girl interviews will bring to light the ways the girls exercise decision-making and utilise coping strategies when facing climate -induced loss and damage.
 - **Caregiver Interview and Head of Household interviews:** these interviews are useful for acknowledging the ways in which climate-impacts have led to a change in livelihoods that ultimately affect girls' education, in the words of the families themselves.
 - **Household Inventory:** The purpose is to capture a 'snapshot' of the household and to capture insights from another household member. Household inventories have been completed in the same format since 2018, so this information also provides a point of direct comparison to evidence from previous years. It is anticipated the evidence will be useful for answering aspects of Research Question 1 as well as 'cross-referencing' information from the household interviews.
- 2) **Light-touch interviews across all girls:** for the remaining girls not identified as 'case study' girls, undertake shorter interviews with just the girl around specific dimensions of climate change impacts and education (which will address all Research Questions).
- 3) **Contextual data collection** activities beyond the girls/their households: to capture insights from key informants and broader community members to triangulate household experiences and understand if/how communities are being impacted and if/how they are adapting (specifically related to education).
 - **Key Informant Interview with Plan International Country Office focal point:** The purpose of a short interview with Plan International Country Office staff will be to capture information about how climate change has impacted communities where research activities are undertaken. This will be informative for Research Question 1 (and form part of the broader preparatory work for data collection also).
 - **FGD with community members:** The purpose of wider FGDs would be to capture detail on climate-related events and how these have impacted on the community (to situate the girl's household context as well as anticipating that historical data is likely to be 'scant' in describing climate events specifically).
- 4) **Observation:** Notes from the interviewers on dynamics of the interviewee's forms part of the research. However, it is not anticipated that this information will be directly relevant to questions under this specific study.

3.2 Survey location, method and sample

The location to implement the research is in Quang Ngai province:

- Hanh Duc commune – Nghia Hanh district
- Tinh Dong commune – Son Tinh district

Method	Sample size
- KII with focal point/ Country climate change person	1
- FGD Community members	1
- In-depth case study – girl interview	3
- In-depth case study – Caregiver/household interview	3
- In-depth case study – Household inventory	3
- Light touch girl interviews	9

3.3 Time frame (Tentative)

The research activity is estimated from 01st to 31th March. A detailed timeline will be explained as the table below:

Task/ Deliverable	Time frame
- Recruit data collectors/ interviewers	1 st – 6 th /03/2023
- Translate research package (Consent forms, tools, training materials) from English into Vietnamese - Prepare the documents and send out to local authorities - Safeguarding Risk Assessment	06/03-10/03
- Give a training course to data collectors/ interviewers (1 day) - Prepare for the fieldtrip	Training 1 day in the week (06-10/03)
- Implement data collection in the field (KII, FDG, Indepth – interview,)	13-20/03
- Prepare Vietnamese transcription – cross checking - Translate Vietnamese transcript in to English	20-30/03
- Delivery the result and transcript package to Research Team	31/03

IV. Key Deliverables

- The survey tool and research package are translated into Vietnamese.
- The survey is conducted in Vietnamese, recorded and write the transcript using respondents’ words in the documents (Write them for verbatim).
- The result of the survey (Vietnamese transcripts) is translated into English transcripts.

V. Ethics and Child Protection

The survey will comply with Plan International’s Ethical MERL Framework and our Global Policy on Safeguarding Children and Young People. Separate safeguarding assessment will be conducted in each country of focus prior to data collection. Appropriate, safe, non-discriminatory participation of all stakeholders will be ensured and special attention will be paid to the needs of children and other vulnerable groups. A risk assessment will be conducted by the safeguarding focal points and the consultant team before implementing the baseline survey to mitigate foreseen risks for children, youths and participants in the survey.

VI. Consultant Qualifications.

The consultant(s) will be:

- responsible for (but not limited to) undertaking the data collection under the supervision of the MERL manager from Plan International Vietnam;
- responsible for (but not limited to) guiding team members in the use of designed data collection tools, working closely with the project team during survey conduct, conducting some selected FGD and KII, and translating final reports from English into Vietnamese.
- The team should consist of three members: one researcher and two enumerators.

Required Competencies

- Demonstrable expertise (5 to 10 years) on YOUTH ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT with gender sensitizing.
- Demonstrable experience (5 to 10 years) in designing and conducting quantitative and qualitative research/evaluation of complex programs and ability to conduct high quality research, meet deadlines and respond to requests and feedback provided timely and appropriately;
- Strong knowledge of Vietnam governance context and relevant national policies (especially general education program in 2018 (according to the Circular 32/2018 / TT-BGDĐT and Decision 522 / QD-TTg of the Prime Minister)).
- Experience in undertaking participatory research and consultations
- Significant experience working with ethnic minority people in evaluation and research.
- Knowledge of gender equality.
- Knowledge of women's and children's rights: previous experience conducting research with children and vulnerable groups would be considered an asset;
- Excellent and demonstrated understanding of ethical issues in research.
- Excellent written and verbal communication and reporting skills in English.

VII. How to Apply?

Applicants should prepare and submit an application package by 17:00PM, Feb 24th 2023 via email: trung.truongvu@plan-international.org to Plan International in Vietnam.

Kindly submit the following application documents:

- Expression of interest should not exceed (04 pages), outlining how the Consultant(s) meets the selection criteria and how their project final evaluation proposal meets these TOR and the proposed evaluation methodology
- A detail implementation schedule/work plan with specific time frame
- Financial proposal detailing consultant(s) itemized fees, data collection, and administrative costs
- Copy of CV of the consultant(s)/ team members who will conduct the data collection.