

Terms of Reference for Technical Feasibility Assessment

“Strengthen the resilience and adaptative capacity of the coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change, with a particular focus on women and children”

November 2021

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1. PROJECT SUMMARY (DESIGN STAGE)

Type of evaluation	Technical Feasibility Assessment
Name of the project	TBC
Project Start and End dates	TBC
Project duration	a three-year project from Jun 2022- May 2025
Project locations:	2 districts (Go Cong Dong and Tan Phu Dong) of Tien Giang province, Mekong Delta region- Vietnam
Thematic areas	Child engagement, Health and livelihood adaptation
Sub themes	WASH
Donor	SCK
Estimated beneficiaries	TBC
Overall objective of the project	TBC

2. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a major threat to sustainable development and is child right crisis. Viet Nam is particularly vulnerable to climate change and already impacted by more irregular and intense climate variability and change. The country's diverse geography means it is hit by typhoons, landslides, flooding and droughts, weather events expected to worsen in coming years. It is estimated that approximately 70% of the population who live in coastal areas and low-lying deltas in Viet Nam, are exposed to the risk of flooding. Viet Nam has laws, strategies, plans and programmes that are consistent with the principles of sustainable development including the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC; National Strategy on Climate Change 2012-2020; The 2014 Law on National Environment Protection includes a full chapter on climate change, The Prime Minister issued Decision 2053 to endorse the Paris Agreement with a National Action plan to implement the Paris Agreement from 2020-2030 (PIPA). The Resolution (120/NQ-CP dated 17 November 2017) focuses on Mekong Delta region and its sustainable and climate development targets; National Adaptation Plan for 2021 – 2030 (NAP) as part of the action to implement its NDC and PIPA in 2020.

The Mekong Delta region with 39,000 km, which accounts for 12% of the national area, is one of the largest river deltas in the world and home to over 17.3 million people (statistics 2019), with 19% of the national population. It has a large network of rivers, canals and ditches. it is one of the world's three most vulnerable deltas to rising sea levels¹. This vulnerability is an especially significant problem due to the economic vitality of this region. Recent studies show that if sea levels increase by up to 3.3 feet, 40 percent of the Mekong Delta will be inundated, so the region would lose 40 percent or even more of agriculture and aquaculture production. By 2050, an expected rise in average temperature by 1-2 degrees Celsius will likely result in higher incidences of droughts with greater intensity and increased rainfall leading to a one-meter rise in sea levels along coastal area.

Children are usually affected by impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Access to food, water, education and healthcare is threatened and the pressure on the rural and coastal communities – resulting from loss of income and assets – increases children's exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse. Women also tend to be disproportionately impacted, further increasing negative effects on children, as they may be less able to provide sufficient nutrition and protection.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Save the Children (SC) started our work in Vietnam in 1990 and since then, we have expanded our programs to 6 key areas: Education, Health and Nutrition, Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Child Poverty, DRR and Emergency Response. We are now present in 22 provinces across the country with offices in Hanoi, Lao Cai, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh city. In the implementation of our programs, we work in partnership with government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academic and research institutions

Tien Giang is one of thirteen provinces in Lower Mekong Delta region, covering about 6.2% of the Mekong River basin, and in coastal areas in Vietnam. It has one city, two towns and 8 districts with a total natural land area of 236,663ha, with diverse ecosystem. The population is about 1.73 million people, of which, 1.45 million people are living in rural areas. The climate falls into two main seasons: wet season from May to November and dry season from April to the following year with annual average rainfall of 1,200-1,400mm². The salinity was high and penetrated into fields faster than the average, affecting the production of the province. In the dry season 2015 - 2016, the province has over 3 million ha of rice and over 123 ha of land crop production and 113 ha of fruit trees affected by saline intrusion, which is worth 4.5 million USD. Lack of water for domestic use affected 42,784

¹ <http://ihrce.org.vn/Tac-dong-cua-bien-doi-khi-hau-doi-voi-san-xuat-nong-nghiep-o-dong-bang-song-Cuu-Long-8.html>

² Tien Giang portal-Giới thiệu về Tiền Giang - Cổng Thông tin điện tử tỉnh Tiền Giang (tiengiang.gov.vn)

households in 2015 and 5,310 households in 2018 in two districts (Go Cong Dong and Tan Phu Dong). The current level of landslides is larger and tends to increase unpredictably, affecting people's houses and loss of roads and dikes. As of March 2020, 14 routes of landslides/erosions of roads and agriculture land with a length of 922m, which is worth about over 1.1 million USD to recover. For livestock, impacts of climate change lead to lack of water supply, imbalance of ecological environment (e.g., creating conditions for some harmful microorganisms to cause diseases for animals³, and reduction of pasture productivity. The consequence of this change is to reduce the resistance of livestock, which increases the likelihood of disease outbreaks, reduces the growth and reproduction productivity of livestock that lead to low production efficiency. Climate change has created erratic weather change, affecting tolerance level of some species, thereby creating. For aquaculture, in 2016, the area of aquaculture reduced by 14.3% and shrimp productive decreased by 13.7% compared to the previous year due to saline intrusion, prolonged heatwave. Local people are deeply concerned about crop failing, lack of food and income. The shortage of fresh water has been serious, people have to rent a car to travel far to get fresh water, resulting in water prices up to \$13/m³ (up from 5-10 times higher than before). Thus, total estimated damage caused by natural disasters: In 2015, it was nearly 700,000 USD, in 2016, it was 5 million USD, in 2017, it was 170,000 USD, in 2018, it was 1.6 million USD, in 2019, it was nearly 700,000 USD. The first month of 2020 is 1.3 million USD⁴. Thus, it indicates that disasters are unpredictable so improving capacity to respond to disaster and climate change is very urgent.

The two districts of Go Cong Dong and Tan Phu Dong of Tien Giang province are chosen to implement the feasibility assessment. They are coastal and rural areas frequently affected by the impacts of climate change such as saline intrusion, rising sea level and disaster events.

Go Cong Dong district has 38,414 households for a total of 139,439 people in 2020 who are exposed to saline intrusion, tidal waves, natural disasters and coastal erosion as the coast of the district spreads from north to south. The coast erosions were estimated to be 9.44m per year in maximum 1.64 m per year in average and 0.02 m per year in minimum⁵. For instance, in 2006, the coastal forest area was 1.024ha that reduced to 442ha by 2020⁶. In the dry season in 2019 -2020, the landslides occurred in 39 areas covering a length of 4.686m, a width of 1-1.5m, a depth of 1-3m, affecting canals, roads and houses of 12 households⁷. Total damage to all areas of agriculture production was up to over 6,000ha of 9,531 households worth over 8.7 million USD due to drought and saline intrusion. The situation of saline intrusion in 2019-2020 on larger rivers appeared on average 30-45 days earlier than in 2015-2016. The main economic structure of local residents is derived from agriculture, fishery and forestry (46.05%), followed by the industry (27.22%) and trades and services (26.73%) in 2020. The poor household rate accounted for 1.69% (649 households) and the near poor household rate amounted to 4.4% (1,691 households) in 2020.

Tan Phu Dong has 12,498 households in the district have main income from agriculture, fishery, aquaculture and animal husbandry, accounting for 77.6% of total economy of the district. The agriculture sector in the district have faced challenges specifically related to prolonged saline intrusion, heatwave, recurrent natural disasters. The area affected by coast erosion in the district usually has a length of 300m and the landslide level is about 20m per year⁸. The district had 221ha of rice in 2020 compared to that of 476ha in 2019 and 1.120 ha of fruit trees in 2020 compared to that of 1.259ha in 2019 and 7.110ha of aquaculture in 2020 compared to that of 7.081ha in 2019, which relies heavily on weather conditions. In dry season months of 2019-2020, there was little unseasonal rain and temperature was 1.40C higher than average. In 2016, due to the salinity effects, 20 ha of longan,

³ Nguyen Hong Thuy. 2016

⁴ According to a report of local authority in Tien Giang province

⁵ Page 6 of a study about coastal erosion in Tien Giang province, Vietnam with numerical simulation by Le Thi Phuong Thanh

⁶ A report on situation of natural resource by Province Department of environment and natural resource in 2020

⁷ A summary report on natural disaster and prevention control and search and rescue in 2020 and plan for 2021 by the district people's committee.

⁸ A report on situation of natural resource by Province Department of environment and natural resource in 2020

80ha of avocado and 40ha of lemongrass in the district suffered from 30%-70% damage. Estimated damage in agricultural production was about 8 million USD⁹. The salinity fluctuates from 5.70g/l to 15.80g/l higher than the same period last year. Drought and saline intrusion in 2020 caused water scarcity of over 9,000ha of agricultural production of 11,867 households, resulting in decreased crop productivity in the district. In 2020, due to fluctuation of temperature there was outbreak of disease damaging a total of 35.6ha of shrimp production. In 2020, the whole district has 1,010 poor households (8.08%) and 147 near poor households (1.18%), who may be more vulnerable when a disaster strikes.

Save the Children is going to start a 3-year strategy from 2022-2024 with a specific strategic goal on building resilience of children and communities to address the negative effects of climate change, environment and pandemic on their lives. With technical and financial support from Save the Children Korea, the Viet Nam Country Office is going to assess the resilience of children, local residents and local authorities in Tien Giang province to climate change and variability, the assessment is going to explore level of child engagement, collaboration of health sector with others in improving WASH resilient to climate change and climate adaptation options to livelihood diversification in the context of intensity and frequency impacts of climate change natural disaster.

4. SCOPE OF SURVEY

4.1 Purpose, Objectives and Scope

The primary purpose of the feasibility assessment is to examine the current status of community engagement especially child engagement, health risks and WASH vulnerabilities, and livelihood options and associated market linkages, gaps and barriers to filling these gaps in the context of climate change. These recommendations that will be used to identify and inform concrete activities for implementation of the project namely “Strengthen the resilience and adaptative capacity of the coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change, with a particular focus on women and children”.

The assessment main objectives:

- To explore the observed climate change, variability (past, current and future) based on climate drivers and seasonal forecasting, early warning and disaster risks, levels of vulnerability and exposure to climate change based on socio economic and meteorological parameters.
- To explore existing capacity of the natural committee for natural disaster prevention and control from provincial to commune level, departments of health at district and commune level, Department of Education and Training, existing community groups and school management, to deal with climate change and variability and natural disasters in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes and practices in the prioritized areas.
- To explore key impacts of climate change on community engagement, especially child engagement, livelihood adaptation options in connection with natural resource and water management, health and WASH practices applying a gender lens.
- To examine gaps in local governance (policies, structure, strategies, collaboration and accountability and transparency), the relevant stakeholders’ engagement including private sectors in terms of capacity, coordination, knowledge, technologies and financing, and collaborative coordination.
- To recommend concrete, gender-focused activities for improved community engagement especially child engagement, health and WASH practices, closer collaborations among relevant stakeholders, improved climate resilient livelihood options focused on natural based solutions and ecosystem- based adaptation in connection with local governance, improved seasonal forecasting, early warning system and dissemination and communication of information.

⁹ Tình hình biến đổi khí hậu, ô nhiễm môi trường - Giải pháp khắc phục - THÔNG TIN TUYÊN TRUYỀN - SO TN MÔI TRƯỜNG (tiengiang.gov.vn)

Scope: This assessment focuses on (1). Climate risks, vulnerability, exposure to climate change; (2). Existing capacity of relevant stakeholders (children, women, local authorities, farmers, teachers); (3). Impacts of climate change on child engagement, livelihood diversification, Health and WASH practices and cross cutting issues like governance, environmental protection. (4). Gaps in governance), private sectors' engagement, forecasting and early warning, capacity, coordination and knowledge, gender equality, (5). Recommendations to inform project interventions in the two districts of Go Cong Dong and Tan Phu Dong of Tien Giang province.

4.2 Intended Audience and Use of the Survey

Primary intended audience of the assessment are the project team and the local implementing partners. In addition, the feasibility assessment results will be shared with the local authorities for the purpose of informing “Strengthen the resilience and adaptative capacity of the coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change, with a particular focus on women and children” project

Stakeholder	Further information
Project donor	SCK
Primary implementing organisation	Save the Children Vietnam
Implementing partners	Province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Tien Giang with close collaboration with DOET and Women's Union, Youth Union, Natural Disaster Prevention and Control Committee, District Department of health, and other possible implementing partners that will be explored during field research.
Government stakeholders	Province people's committee, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education and Training, Department of health at province, district and commune level, Natural disaster prevention and control committee at provincial level and possible stakeholders identified during field research
Community groups	Targeted beneficiaries of two districts of Tien Giang provinces (children, smallholder famers, local authorities, the private sector)
Beneficiaries	Primary school students, farmers, staff of local authorities, local people.
International development/humanitarian research community	N/a

4.3 Key study questions

Objective 1: To explore the climate change and variability patterns (past, current and future) based on climate drivers and seasonal forecasting, early warning and disaster risks, levels of vulnerability and exposure to climate change based on socio economic and meteorological parameters.

1. What are climate change and variability patterns, disaster risks, projections related to health risk, WASH, livelihood options?

2. Which groups are the most vulnerable to climate change (by ethnicity, gender, ability, economic conditions, etc.) and how are they exposed and sensitive to disaster risks, climate change and variability?

Objective 2: To explore existing capacity of the natural committee for natural disaster prevention and control from provincial to commune level, departments of health at district and commune level, Department of Education and Training, existing community groups and school management, community members and children to deal with climate change and variability and natural disasters in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes and practices in the prioritized areas.

1. What are existing climate change adaptation capacities/practices of children, women, local people, school, local government at commune, district and provincial. Climate change adaptation/practices here include (i) altering exposure; (ii) reducing sensitivity of the system to climate change impacts and increasing the adaptive capacity of the system (OECD 2010).
2. What are contributing factors to maintain and strengthen the existing climate change adaptation capacities of the targeted communities?

Objective 3: To explore key impacts of climate change on community engagement especially child engagement, livelihood adaptation options in connection with natural resource and water management, health and WASH practices applying a gender lens.

1. How are climate change and variability impacting?
 - a. Community engagement especially Child engagement
 - b. Livelihood options and
 - c. Local people's health at present and in the future?

Objective 4: To examine gaps in local governance (policies, structure, strategies, collaboration and accountability and transparency), the relevant stakeholders' engagement including private sectors in terms of capacity, coordination, knowledge, technologies and financing, and collaborative coordination.

1. What are the current contexts, gaps and barriers of local governance, the relevant stakeholders' engagement including the private sectors in terms of capacity, coordination, knowledge, technologies and financing, and collaborative coordination to inform the project design?

Objective 5: To recommend concrete gender-focused activities for improved community and child engagement, health and WASH practices, closer collaborations among relevant stakeholders, improved climate resilient livelihood options focused on natural based solutions and ecosystem friendly based adaptation in connection with local governance, improved seasonal forecasting and weather, early warning system and dissemination and communication of information.

1. Does the option have negative interactions with other social development goals, such as health, education, food security, energy access, water and sanitation?
2. To what extent do the options reduce inequalities? And Is this option accessible particularly to vulnerable groups?
3. Does the option enhance supporting, regulating, or provisioning; ecosystem services in any way?
4. What are the strategies that the project will pursue in terms of approach to project implementation, ways of partnership with the implementing partners and the relevant government stakeholders?

5. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

5.1 Survey Design

The appointed consultant group is expected to propose a feasibility assessment design that helps answer the assessment questions.

5.2 Sampling

The consultant is expected to propose sampling methodology and sample size calculation based on their approach

5.3 Data Sources and Data Collection Methods / Tools

All primary data collected during the assessment must be disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, education and marital status. Save the Children will not provide guidance on tools and classification schemes for this minimum dataset. The appointed consultant will develop and complete tools using for the assessment in consultation with SC staff and will need to conduct field work at least 4 selected communes of two target district in Tien Giang province

Some of the related documents will be made available to the appointed consultant that provides information about project target areas information, proposed themes and documents related to the target two districts and province

Save the Children will not provide enumerators to assist with primary data collection. It will be a requirement of the appointed consultant to source additional external data sources to add value to the study, such as government administrative data. The appointed consultant should also indicate how data triangulation will be done.

The appointed consultant is required to adhere to the [Save the Children Child Safeguarding; Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying](#); and Data Protection and Privacy policies throughout all the whole process of the feasibility assessment.

Services the Supplier will provide

- Review relevant documents for the background information of this work, and agree with Save the Children on design of the study methodology and sampling method and detailed plan for study.
- Develop assessment tools/ questionnaire in consultation with key SC staff and prepare a detailed plan of implementation of the assessment, including technical design, field data collection, data entry, data cleaning and analysis and the final report to Save the Children.
- Implement the feasibility assessment in the target locations and write the assessment report (English and Vietnamese) with photos of the need assessment trip and original data analysis using the agreed report format.
- Save the Children will facilitate logistic arrangements with provincial partners and provide timely feedback on all the deliverables.
- The appointed consultant will be responsible for buying their own insurance when engaging with SC's work

Responsibilities of SC

- Contact partner to prepare for the trip
- Send staff to assist in connecting with partners and arranging logistics issues in the field
- Comment and approve the tools and questionnaires and work with the consultant to plan the details of the survey.
- Comment on the consultant's need assessment report and approve the final report

5.4 Ethical Considerations

It is expected that this assessment will be:

- **Child participatory.** Where appropriate and safe, children should be supported to participate in the evaluation process beyond simply being respondents. Opportunities for collaborative participation could include involving children in determining success criteria against which the

project could be evaluated, supporting children to collect some of the data required for the evaluation themselves, or involving children in the validation of findings. Any child participation, whether consultative, collaborative or child-led, must abide by the 9 Basic Requirements for meaningful and ethical child participation.

- **Inclusive.** Ensure that children from different ethnic, social and religious backgrounds have the chance to participate, as well as children with disabilities and children who may be excluded or discriminated against in their community.
- **Ethical:** The survey must be guided by the following ethical considerations:
 - Safeguarding – demonstrating the highest standards of behavior towards children and adults.
 - Sensitive – to child rights, gender, inclusion and cultural contexts.
 - Openness - of information given, to the highest possible degree to all involved parties.
 - Confidentiality and data protection - measures will be put in place to protect the identity of all participants and any other information that may put them or others at risk.¹⁰
 - Public access - to the results when there are not special considerations against this
 - Broad participation - the relevant parties should be involved where possible.
 - Reliability and independence - the survey should be conducted so that findings and conclusions are correct and trustworthy.

It is expected that:

- Data collection methods will be age and gender appropriate.
- Study activities will provide a safe, creative space where children feel that their thoughts and ideas are important
- A risk assessment will be conducted that includes any risks related to children, young people's, or adult's participation.
- A referral mechanism will be in place in case any child safeguarding or protection issues arise
- Informed consent will be used where possible.

The study team will be required to obtain approval from a Human Research Ethics Committee. Save the Children will provide support needed for this process.

Known limitations

The COVID-19 pandemic has had serious consequences to people, society, and economy in Vietnam so it is possible that this assessment could be affected so the appointed consultant should prepare an adaptive methodology, approach, and plan to ensure the assessment stays on schedule and meets its objectives.

6. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The feasibility assessment deliverables and tentative timeline (subject to the commencement date of the survey) are outlined below. The assessment team lead and DRR &ER Program Manager will agree on final milestones and deadlines at the inception phase.

Deliverables and Tentative Timeline

¹⁰ If any Consultancy Service Provider, Freelancer or Contingent worker will have direct contact with children and/or vulnerable adults and/or beneficiaries and/or have access to any sensitive data on safeguarding and/or children and/or beneficiaries, it is the responsibility of the person receiving the consulting service to contact the local HR team and child safeguarding focal point to ensure vetting checks and on-boarding are conducted in line with statutory requirements, local policies and best practices guidance.

No	Deliverables	Format	Tentative working days)	Timeline
1	Documentation review, desk research	Home-based	4	Fourth week of Nov, 2021
2	A meeting with the relevant SC team at the commencement of the evaluation to develop the inception report will be facilitated by the assessment team	Online meeting	2	Fourth week of Nov, 2021
3	Develop a detailed technical proposal, data collection tools in Vietnamese and English (Proposal/protocol and Tools/ inception report (English and Vietnamese) (*)	Electronic file	4	Second week of Dec 2021
4	Conduct field work		16	Third and fourth week of Dec 2021
5	Conduct qualitative data and quantitative processing and analysis in English	Electronic file	5	Fifth week of Dec 2021
6	Writing the report in English – Draft Report (*)	Electronic file	4	1 st week of 2022
7	A presentation on the validation workshop to sharing key findings with SC team and stakeholders and discuss to finalize report (VN & English) (*)	Electronic file Presentation slides	01	First week of Jan 2022
8	Revise and finalize feasibility assessment report and submission of data and analyses (English) (*)	Electronic file	01	Second week of Jan 2022
9	PowerPoint presentation of assessment findings in Vietnamese and English Full report and summary report in Vietnamese and English	Presentation slides Electronic file	03	Second week of Jan 2022
	Total		40	

¹¹All documents are to be provided electronically by email to the SC Project Manager. All survey materials, raw data, electronic data, and other information will remain the property of SC and should be transferred to SC upon completion.

¹¹ (*) Deliverable

7. EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS REQUIRED

The appointed consultant must have demonstrated skills, expertise and experience as follows:

- Master's degree or higher specialized in climate change, disaster risk reduction, community development, social sciences.
- Demonstrated experience of providing similar services in Vietnam, especially in the southern provinces.
- Have strong knowledge on climate change adaptation, the private sector, WASH and climate resilient livelihood focused on ecosystem-based adaptation and natural based solutions, children rights, gender equality
- At least 10 years of experience in conducting studies, surveys, assessment and M&E related activities, relating to children in Mekong Delta region with proven records.
- At least 5 years of experience in conducting qualitative research with children.
- A good understanding of local cultures and context is an asset;
- Working experience in private sector, Gender Equality and non-discrimination of vulnerable children in Vietnam.
- Conducting ethical and inclusive studies involving children and child participatory techniques
- Extensive experience of theories of change and how they can be used to carry out the feasibility assessment
- Strong written and verbal skills in communicating technical and/ or complex findings to non-specialist audiences (especially report writing and presentation skills)
- A track record of open, collaborative working with the communities affected by impacts of climate change
- Excellent command of English (written and oral)
- Familiar with conducting online surveys.
- Good knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel and SPSS software or other analysis software
- Excellent collaboration skills and ability to produce quality work within deadline and under pressure.

Financial Proposal

Total costs in the financial proposal must cover not only consultant fee but also all expenses related to logistic arrangements and any other applicable costs.

The Fees are inclusive of all costs, overheads and expenses, including travel from consultant's home to My Tho City – Tien Giang Province and vice versa, subsistence, accommodation, data collector, data entry fee and PIT.

VI. PAYMENT INFORMATION

- 30% of the total cost payable within 30 days of satisfactory completion of deliverables from 1-3
- 70% of the total cost payable within 30 days of satisfactory completion of deliverables from 4-9

Note: expenditures for people who join the interview and other logistic (Hire car to district and communes) will be paid by SC

VII. HOW TO APPLY

The consultant should submit a financial and technical proposal and CVs of team, recent examples of similar work, who implements this assignment through email address:

vietnam.consultancy@savethechildren.org

The deadline for responses is 17:00 on December 10, 2021