

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Develop a Research-into-Action Brief on Safe and Inclusive Cities for Girls and Young Women: Putting Tools into Action

Assignment	<p>Writing a Research-into Action Brief on Safe and Inclusive Cities for Girls and Young Women: Putting Tools into Action for the Research Series 'Cities for Children and Youth' of the Global Alliance – Cities4Children. The brief will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition section ● Introduction to the issue of safety, inclusion and accessibility for girls and young women in cities, with main facts and data, and the purpose of the brief ● A review of recently published practical tools and guidance that focus on enabling safe and inclusive cities for girls and young women ● Brief description of each tool and guidance and case examples of their successful implementation and impact ● A comparative analysis of tools and guidance in table form which will help practitioners in identifying and choosing tools fit for purpose ● Key policy and programmatic recommendations for enabling safe and inclusive cities for girls and young women.
Location of assignment	Remote based work
Employer	Save the Children / Global Alliance - Cities4Children
Type of contract	Short-term Consultancy
Rate	3000 Euros
Application Process	<p>Applications will be received on a rolling basis. Applicants must have demonstrated expertise and knowledge in reviewing literature on urban children and young people in relation to gender, safety and inclusion and writing research and policy briefs. Interested applicants should send their CV and a writing sample, along with an email which explains how their experience makes them the right person to write this brief for us. Send applications to info@cities4children.org</p> <p>Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.</p>

Background

The Global Alliance- Cities4Children (GA C4C), led by Save the Children, comprises 27 member organizations and has been established to tackle the challenges faced by children living in urban areas, especially those impacted by discrimination and inequalities. The mission of the Alliance is to strengthen global coordination, increase knowledge, and advocate for child rights to be firmly embedded in the urban agenda so that the rights of all children are protected and realized.

As part of this effort, the Global Alliance- Cities4Children has supported the development of a series of Research-into-Action briefs on urgent issues facing children and youth in urban environments such as [air pollution](#), [child malnutrition](#), [provision of water sanitation and hygiene services](#). Each Research-

into-Action Brief provides a concise summary of research findings for practitioners on a range of topics and presents recommended evidence-based action.

The world is urbanising at a rapid pace, particularly in Asia and Africa. In 2018, 55% of the world's population was living in urban areas and this will increase to 68% by 2050, adding an additional 2.5 billion people to urban areas. An estimated 60% of urban residents will be below 18 years old in 2030. Most of this change (approx. 90%) is taking place in Asia and Africa where there is an opportunity to rethink and reshape how urban areas can be built as inclusive, resilient, and sustainable environments which respect the rights of all residents.

Urban planning and design norms that define how cities are built are largely gender blind. They seldom take into consideration the specific needs of young women and girls with regard to their safety, mobility, access, and interests. As a result, cities are seldom gender-responsive environments where young women and girls can feel safe, valued, comfortable, empowered and experience equitable access to the city. For example, a [recent study](#) analysing the everyday experiences of thousands of girls and young women in Delhi, Kampala, Lima, Madrid, and Sydney found that 80% of places accessed by participants were reported as unsafe. Another [study](#) drawing on data from 15000 young people living in six African cities found 9 in 10 girls reported having experienced some form of violence in the past year. In gender-blind public spaces such as urban streets, squares, parks, and transport, girls and young women reported experiencing verbal and physical sexual harassment, theft, and abuse. The lack of inclusive design measures such as adequate street lighting or waiting rooms, sitting areas or child friendly facilities contribute to disincentivize women to make the best use of these areas.

Other issues such as lack of gender-sensitive water and sanitation facilities in education and health infrastructure can also prevent women and girls from accessing these services. Further, increased climate change-related hazards disproportionately affect women and girls and their access to the city, its opportunities, and resources. Young women and girls tend to have limited access to and lower decision-making power on land and other natural resources and when climate hazards hit, they are among the most vulnerable and exposed to poverty, displacement, and violence. At the same time, women and girls are usually the managers of household resources and have a vast knowledge of local resilience and adaptation practices. Therefore, it is key to ensure their vision, needs and knowledge are included within plans and projects for urban design, city making and climate adaptation.

The issues of safety, inclusion and accessibility for young women and girls in urban contexts encompass multiple factors and dimensions, from the design of urban infrastructure and services to climate-related hazards, from socio-economic dynamics and opportunities to political participation and decision-making. To address these multiple dimensions and bring a gender-lens to urban planning and design, several tools and guidance material have been developed by organisations like Plan International, UN-Habitat, World Bank, and Cities Alliance. With this proliferation of tools, it can be challenging for practitioners and city authorities to find, at first glance, tools and guidance that are fit for purpose.

This research brief should provide a descriptive and comparative analysis of recently published tools and guidance developed to enable gender inclusive cities for girls and young women and discuss the relevance of these tools for making slums and informal settlements safer and gender-inclusive places. The brief should also spotlight case examples of where tools have been successfully employed and their impact with regard to enabling safe and inclusive cities for girls and young women and building

on these good practices provide actionable advice to practitioners and policymakers. Listed below are some of the tools and guidance published in recent years to be reviewed, among others.

Cities Alliance (n.d.) Women-Friendly Urban Planning Toolkit. Available at: <https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/publications/cities-alliance-knowledge/women-friendly-urban-planning-toolkit> (accessed 23 February 2023).

Cities Alliance (n.d.) CITIES FOR WOMEN: Urban Assessment Framework Through a Gender Lens. Available at: <https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/publications/publications/cities-women-urban-assessment-framework-through-gender-lens> (accessed 29 March 2023a).

Cities Alliance (n.d.) Her4Climate: Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Adaptation Plans. Available at: <https://www.citiesalliance.org/newsroom/news/results/her4climate-gender-mainstreaming-climate-adaptation-plans> (accessed 29 March 2023b).

Global Utmaning (n.d.) Urban Girls Catalogue. Available at: <https://globalutmaning.se/rapporter/urban-girls-catalogue/> (accessed 23 February 2023).

Her City – A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls | UN-Habitat (n.d.). Available at: <https://unhabitat.org/her-city-a-guide-for-cities-to-sustainable-and-inclusive-urban-planning-and-design-together-with> (accessed 23 February 2023)

Plan International (n.d.) Diverse and Empowered Girls. Available at: <https://plan-international.org/publications/diverse-and-empowered-girls/> (accessed 23 February 2023a).

Plan International (n.d.) Safe Ride. Available at: <https://plan-international.org/publications/safe-ride/> (accessed 23 February 2023b).

Terraza H, Orlando MB, Lakovits C, et al. (2020) *Handbook for Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning and Design*. 12 February. Washington, DC: World Bank. DOI: [10.1596/33197](https://doi.org/10.1596/33197).

UNDP (n.d.) Cities Alive: Designing Cities That Work for Women | United Nations Development Programme. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/publications/cities-alive-designing-cities-work-women> (accessed 23 February 2023).

Scope of Work

The brief:

- should be no longer than 8 pages in Word
- should be written in plain English
- should follow the style guide for authors (a separate document)
- will undergo an academic as well as practitioner review.

Structure and some guiding questions for the brief

SECTIONS	DESCRIPTION
Summary	100-150 words. Write a brief summary of the main messages of the brief.
Introduction (Approx. 1 pg.)	Introduction to the issue of safety, inclusion and accessibility for girls and young women in cities, with main facts and data, and the purpose of the brief. Include a concise definition section to clarify terms such as violence, harassment, gender-based violence.

<p>The Research (Approx. 2 to 3 pages)</p>	<p>A comparative and analytical summary of existing tools and guidance to enable safe, inclusive, and accessible cities for girls and young women. This should include –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A summary of each tool and guidance including information on its purpose, where it can be used, by who, strengths and weaknesses, potential impacts, uptake of tool and example of good practice and impact. 2) A comparative framework aimed at supporting practitioners and other potential users finding tools fit-for-purpose and comparison of tools/guidance using the framework. <p>The questions below are provided as prompts to guide this section. Not all questions need to be addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the purpose of each tool/guidance? Where have they been implemented and by who and what has the impact been? ● How relevant are tools/guidance for girls and young women living in informal contexts? Which ones have been used in the context of slums and informal settlements and what has been the impact? ● In what ways are the tools/guidance similar and in what ways do they differ? In what ways do they complement each other? ● What are the strengths and weaknesses with regard to each tool? ● How responsive are the tools/guidance to addressing the needs of girls and young women who are caregivers, those with disabilities, and those facing discrimination based on race, religion, sexuality, citizenship, among others. ● To what extent can the tools/guidance be used by groups of girls and young women independently? ● Which tools have online courses or other platforms which support stakeholders to use the tools effectively? ● If there has been a review of the tool's implementation, what are the main findings and recommendations? What are the emerging trends in the use of these tools – are they growing in popularity or not really being used? <p>Please make sure to refer to seminal/key tools and guidance.</p>
<p>Research-Into-Action (Approx. 2 to 3 pages)</p>	<p>In this section, please highlight successful and impactful evidence-based action. This section could address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are some good practices around implementing the tools/guidance and what has been the impact and learnings? Give examples of an initiative, organization, or a city where there has been great progress and what they did (you can use a box to clarify) ● In what ways can the tools build on, capitalize on, existing efforts, partners, and partnerships? How can they support local and national governments? How can they contribute to “the big

	<p>picture”? Can they be used to leverage funds for further assessments and project implementation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what contexts (for example formal and informal contexts, refugee camps, Global North and Global South cities, small cities, megacities, peri-urban areas) can each tool be used to serve what purpose (for example improve public spaces, drive gender-inclusive planning, improve public transport, improve safe and autonomous mobility for girls and young women , improve women’s knowledge and adaptive capacity to climate change, build capacity among girls and young women to engage in public decision-making)? Which stakeholders will find which tools useful and have the capacity to use them? <p>For examples of good practices and implementation of tools and guidance, photos, graphs, or diagrams may be used. As per Save the Children’s child safeguarding policies, please ensure that where case examples, children’s voices, and photographs of children are used, all children are portrayed in a positive, inclusive, and dignified manner. For example, avoid using overly upsetting and hopeless imagery of children and places and ensure there is diversity in the children shown. Please make sure informed consent has been obtained for images where children’s faces are visible.</p>
Conclusion (Approx. 1 page)	<p>Please provide a summary of the main points discussed in the Brief. This section could also respond to questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key recommendations for action? • What can be done to achieve impact? • How might collaboration between researchers and practitioners and local government advance the use of tools and guidance?
Further Reading (in a box)	<p>If you were to recommend 3-5 key readings for practitioners, what would they be?</p>

DELIVERABLE	PROCESS	TIMELINE*
Outline of Brief providing - brief descriptions of sections and subsections of as per structure provided above; list of key sources of evidence being referenced in the 'Research' section; list of successful and impactful evidence-based actions being referenced in the Research-into-Action section.	To be reviewed by relevant GA C4C members and one expert in the field	2 Weeks
1st Draft of Research-into-Action Brief	Editor and academic peer review: 1st draft will be reviewed by the editor and an academic peer reviewer who knows the subject. Comments will then be returned to the author to address and send a 2nd draft.	4 to 6 weeks
2nd Draft of Research-into-Action Brief	Practitioner review: 2nd draft will be reviewed by 2 members organisations of the alliance. Comments will then be returned to the author to address and send a revised draft.	2 weeks
Revised and Final Draft	Final version will be sent to a copy editor which the author will then approve for final formatting. Please highlight some key sentences that you suggest should go in the margins (for emphasis). The author will also provide, where relevant, photographs and images that support the text. See past briefs for examples	2 weeks
Copy edited and Formatted Brief	Brief will be formatted into the alliance's template. The author will provide relevant details for the publication as specified in the Guidance for Authors document such as Author Bio, Keywords, Social Media Handle. The author will review the formatted final version before it is published on the website.	1 week

* Timeline refers to the time the author will take to develop and revise the brief once feedback has been provided