

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

Sint Maarten, Dutch Caribbean

*Child Resilience and Protection Project*

Assignment Title: Consultancy to assess violence in and around schools, day care centres and after school programmes in St. Maarten and to design a contextualized violence prevention programme.

**Deadline for the Expression of Interest: 10 December 2021**

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): NL-UNICEF NL-190520-CS-CQS

UNICEF the Netherlands has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Child Resilience and Protection Project on Sint Maarten, Dutch Caribbean*, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include an assessment of the prevalence and causes of violence within and around schools and child-centred learning environments in Sint Maarten, the development of a contextualized and targeted violence prevention policy and strategic action plan for schools and the provision of training and capacity -building opportunities for selected personnel to facilitate their active participation in rolling out the action plan.

UNICEF the Netherlands now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The required qualifications and competencies of the Senior Consultant should include:

- A Post Graduate Degree in Development Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy, Public Administration, Behavioural Sciences or Child and Youth Development Studies with at least 10 years of relevant professional experience developing, implementing and assessing violence prevention programs. Specific experience in developing, managing or evaluating school-based violence prevention programmes is an asset.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the social-ecological or public health models of violence prevention.
- Demonstrated experience of developing, managing and evaluating similar violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean.
- Demonstrated ability to produce analytical reports.
- Demonstrated experience of working collaboratively with government agencies, civil society organizations and international development agencies.
- Demonstrated experience in research design and development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

The required qualifications and competencies of the Junior Consultant/Research Assistant should include:

- A Post Graduate Degree in Development Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy, Public Administration, Behavioural Sciences or Child and Youth Development Studies with at least 3 years of relevant professional experience developing, implementing and assessing violence prevention programs. Specific experience in developing, managing or evaluating school-based violence prevention programmes is an asset.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the social-ecological or public health models of violence prevention.
- Demonstrated experience of developing, managing and evaluating similar violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean.
- Demonstrated ability to produce analytical reports.
- Demonstrated experience of working collaboratively with government agencies, civil society organizations and international development agencies.
- Demonstrated experience in research design and development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.16 and 3.17 of the [World Bank procurement regulation for IPF Borrowers](#) setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a subconsultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualification-based selection method set out in the [World Bank procurement regulation for IPF Borrowers](#).

Further information can be obtained from Mr. Henry Charles of UNICEF the Netherlands via the following email address: [hcharles@unicef.nl](mailto:hcharles@unicef.nl).

For more information about the Child Resilience and Protection Project:  
[www.unicef.nl/trustfundsintmaarten](http://www.unicef.nl/trustfundsintmaarten) and [www.unicef.nl/procurement](http://www.unicef.nl/procurement).

Interested firms are requested to provide information about their relevant experience and qualifications. From the firms that have submitted an Expression of Interest, UNICEF the Netherlands selects the firm with the best qualifications and relevant experience and invites it to submit its technical and financial Proposals for negotiations.

**Expressions of interest must be delivered in PDF to the following email address: [procurement@unicef.nl](mailto:procurement@unicef.nl) by 10 December 2021, close of business Eastern Standard Time. They may be addressed to: UNICEF the Netherlands, Attn. Mr. Henry Charles.**

Consultancy to assess violence in and around schools, day care centres and after school programmes in St. Maarten and to design a contextualized violence prevention programme.

## Terms of Reference

**Deadline for Expressions of Interest: 10 December 2021**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Consultancy to assess violence in and around schools, day care centres and after school programmes in St. Maarten and to design a contextualized violence prevention programme.</b>
<b>Location of Assignment</b>	<b>St. Maarten (Dutch side)</b>
<b>Language (s) Required</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Duration of Contract</b>	<b>107 Working Days</b>
<b>Deadline for Submission of Technical and Financial Proposal</b>	<b>16.00 hours EST on 7 January 2022</b>
<b>Estimated date of project commencement</b>	<b>February / March 2022</b>

## 1. Background and Rationale

On September 6, 2017, Hurricane Irma devastated the island of St. Maarten, negatively impacting the island's economic and physical infrastructure, and posing significant safety, livelihoods, health and wellbeing challenges for the population and Government of Sint Maarten. Among the immediate challenges of the post-disaster landscape was the need to mitigate the hurricane's impact on child safety, wellbeing and psychosocial support systems and services.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, UNICEF the Netherlands (UNICEF-NL) supported the government of St. Maarten, particularly on school safety, psychosocial support and child protection services. In 2018 and 2019, UNICEF-NL collaborated with the World Bank Trust Fund, and the Government of Sint Maarten implemented a successful recovery program. Building on the successful outcomes of the previous project, a follow-up project is currently being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Sint Maarten, UNICEF-NL and the Trust Fund for St. Maarten that is administered by the World Bank.

Through this new project, UNICEF the Netherlands aims to support St. Maarten's government to strengthen education and child protection systems to address and respond to the needs of children and adolescents resulting from natural disasters and external shocks. A key component of this multi-faceted project is the development of contextualized school-based violence prevention programmes that are compatible with the legal obligations of the Government of Sint Maarten to provide safe spaces, peaceful and nurturing environments for children.

Consistent with this mandate, the Government of Sint Maarten and UNICEF the Netherlands propose to develop a comprehensive and integrated strategy to mitigate school-based violence. This strategy will be in two phases. The first phase involves the development of a violence prevention policy and strategic action plan which articulates the goals and objectives, core values, key priorities and evidence-based, results oriented interventions to mitigate the prevalence and incidents of school-based violence in Sint Maarten. Phase one will also involve the selection and training of key stakeholders to create awareness and facilitate implementation of the policy and strategic action plan. The second phase of the strategy is the institutionalization of violence prevention and peacebuilding. This phase involves the development of appropriate curricula and stakeholder support for the integration of peacebuilding and anti-violence education in formalized learning environments. These Terms of Reference include phase one only.

## 2. Purpose

UNICEF-NL seeks to engage the services of a suitably qualified research consultant or consulting firm with relevant technical expertise in developing and implementing violence prevention strategies and programmes, based on an assessment of the situation, to undertake phase one of the strategy. The suitable individual or firm will be required to demonstrate their capacity to develop and implement a fit-for-purpose methodological approach to assess the prevalence and causes of violence within and around schools and child-centred learning

environments in Sint Maarten.

### 3. Scope of Work

The assignment will be undertaken under UNICEF-NL supervision and in close collaboration with the Government of Sint Maarten through the Ministry of Education, Culture and Youth and Sport (MECYS) and other relevant stakeholders. The scope of work will include the following components:

1. Conduct a **mixed method assessment** of the prevalence, nature and causes of physical, psychological and sexual violence in and through schools, day care centres and after school programmes (including online) in Sint Maarten. In conducting this assessment, the consultant (s) must include the following tasks:
  - a. Conduct a desk **review**.
    - i. The desk review shall cover two core aspects: 1) technical reports containing data on the trends and patterns of violence in and around schools, day care centres and after school programmes in Sint Maarten, 2) causal analysis reports, reports on previous reviews of school-based violence prevention initiatives undertaken in Sint Maarten during the past five (5) years.
    - ii. The desk review should also include a review of approved toolkits, handbooks and other pertinent literature on school-based violence prevention strategies utilized within the Kingdom or the wider Caribbean, including by agencies, such as UNICEF, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).
2. Conduct **key informant interviews and focus group discussions** with

students, teachers, parents, representatives of MECYS, law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders to collate their shared knowledge of and perspectives on school-based violence in Sint Maarten.

3. Based on the review under 1, identify relevant violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean region and present a technical brief on learnings and best practices from these programmes and any available academic studies on such programmes. Arrange for virtual collaboration, and if possible, field visits to these programmes for the staff and stakeholders of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.
4. Based on the research findings, design a contextualized and targeted violence prevention policy and strategic action plan for schools, day care centres and after school programmes in Sint Maarten based on the lifecycle approach. This policy and action plan must include built-in strategies to facilitate sustainability.
5. Provide training and capacity -building opportunities for selected personnel to facilitate their active participation in rolling out the action plan.
6. Facilitate a pilot coaching initiative for a group of teachers from at least three (3) of the most affected schools and one (1) after school programme to implement anti-violence and peacebuilding strategies for their schools and after school care programme.

## 4. Project deliverables

The consultant will be required to:

- Submit an Inception Report with a detailed work plan, research methodology and stakeholder engagement strategy.
- Produce a policy brief of a maximum 35 pages (but preferably less) on school-

- based violence in Sint Maarten, including a summary of which 3–5 pages present relevant violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean region including learning and best practices from these programmes.
- Produce a 20–30-page document in English describing the contextualized and targeted violence prevention policy and strategic action plan for schools, day care centres and after school programmes in Sint Maarten.
  - Facilitate training for at least 60 individuals to be identified by the Government of Sint Maarten who will be commissioned to facilitate the rolling out of the violence prevention policy and action plan.
  - Facilitate a pilot coaching initiative for a group of teachers from at least three (3) of the most affected schools and one (1) after school care programme to implement anti-violence and peacebuilding strategies for their schools and after school care programme.

The detailed deliverables are presented in below table.

Deliverables	Indicative timeframe
<p><b>1. Inception Report.</b> The Inception Report must include a detailed project implementation plan, including timelines for deliverables and the methodology to be utilised.</p>	5 working days
<p><b>2. Policy brief.</b> Produce a maximum 35 page policy brief on school-based violence in Sint Maarten. The report must include quantitative data results depicting prevalence, trends and projections. The report must also include results of a causal analysis identifying the factors and extenuating circumstances contributing to school-based violence in Sint Maarten. The report must include findings on the assessment of existing violence prevention programmes in schools, day care centres and after school programmes. The report must also present pertinent recommendations to improve, upscale and revamp such programmes, wherever necessary. The report must also include information about relevant violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean region including learning and best practices from these programmes.</p> <p>Present the report to key stakeholders and validate findings.</p>	35 working days
<p><b>3. Policy and strategic action plan.</b> Co-create with a small team of representatives from the education sector and representatives from relevant Civil Society Organizations and young people a <u>draft</u> 20–30 page draft</p>	45 working days

<p>policy and strategic action plan in English describing the contextualized violence prevention programme for schools, day care centres and after school programmes in Sint Maarten. The policy and action plan must include a justification, a conceptual framework, core values, clearly defined objectives, expected results/outcomes, and a Monitoring and Evaluation strategy.</p> <p>The policy and action plan must emphasize the active participation of children and young people, including children and young people in vulnerable circumstances in the conceptualization and implementation of interventions.</p> <p>The consultant shall present the findings to key stakeholders, validate the report and deliver a final version.</p>	
<p><b>4. Training.</b> Train 60 persons, selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Justice, Student Support Services Division (SSSD), University of Sint Maarten in the peacebuilding and violence prevention interventions outlined in the Policy and Action Plan. The trainees will be commissioned to facilitate implementation of the violence prevention policy and action plan.</p>	10 working days
<p>5. Facilitate a <b>pilot coaching initiative</b> for a group of teachers from at least three (3) of the most affected schools and one (1) after school programme to implement anti-violence and peacebuilding strategies for their schools and after school programme.</p>	12 working days
<p>Total</p>	107 working days

## 5. Qualifications and Competencies required for completion of the Assignment

The consulting firm or consulting team shall include at least one (1) Senior Consultant and one (1) Junior Consultant or Research Assistant who possess the requisite technical expertise and skills to conduct the tasks as per the Terms of Reference. The required qualifications and competencies of the Senior consultant should include:

- A Post Graduate Degree in Development Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy, Public Administration, Behavioural Sciences or Child and Youth Development Studies with at least 10 years of relevant professional experience developing, implementing and assessing violence prevention programs. Specific experience in developing, managing or evaluating school-based violence prevention programmes is an asset.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the social-ecological or public health models of violence prevention.
- Demonstrated experience of developing, managing and evaluating similar violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean.
- Demonstrated ability to produce analytical reports.
- Demonstrated experience of working collaboratively with government agencies, civil society organizations and international development agencies.
- Demonstrated experience in research design and development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

The required qualifications and competencies of the Junior Consultant/Research Assistant should include:

- A Post Graduate Degree in Development Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy, Public Administration, Behavioural Sciences or Child and Youth Development Studies with at least 5 years of relevant professional experience developing, implementing and assessing violence prevention

programs. Specific experience in developing, managing or evaluating school-based violence prevention programmes is an asset.

- Demonstrated knowledge of the social-ecological or public health models of violence prevention.
- Demonstrated experience of developing, managing and evaluating similar violence prevention programmes in the Caribbean.
- Demonstrated ability to produce analytical reports.
- Demonstrated experience of working collaboratively with government agencies, civil society organizations and international development agencies.
- Demonstrated experience in research design and development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

## 6. Ethical and other Considerations

- The selected consultancy company will be expected to abide by UNICEF's ethical research standards.
- UNICEF-NL and the Government of Sint Maarten will hold the copyright to all the data, data analysis reports, assessment tools and published and unpublished documentation created throughout this assignment.
- All documentation must be first reviewed and approved by UNICEF-NL and the Government of Sint Maarten before it is published, broadcasted or disseminated.
- Any use of official symbols of the Government of Sint Maarten and UNICEF-NL's logo must be first approved and used in accordance with relevant regulations, protocols and branding guidelines.