

**Survey to understand and amplify children with disabilities
priorities and experiences regarding their human rights**

Terms of Reference



Introduction

Able Child Africa is a UK based INGO working with and alongside partner organisations in Africa to achieve equal rights for children and young people with disabilities. We are the leading UK NGO working exclusively with and for children with disabilities in Africa, who are some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

This document outlines the Terms of Reference (ToR) for consultancy work required to conduct a survey to understand and amplify children with disabilities priorities and experiences in regard to Human Rights. The survey will be conducted across Able Child Africa's Network members, who comprise of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) based in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Background

The World Health Organisation estimates that than one billion people—approximately 15% of the global population—are persons with disabilities. In Article 31 of the CRPD, States commit to collecting appropriate information to enable them to formulate and implement policies in a form that is disaggregated as appropriate to identify and address barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights. According to research carried out by UNICEF (2021), there are 240 million children with disabilities in the world; half of which do not complete primary school. Many are invisible, stigmatised, hidden by their families and abandoned by their governments. Children with disabilities, especially in humanitarian settings, are among the poorest members of the population and one of the most marginalised and excluded groups in society.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006), adopted in 2006, further strengthened the rights of children with disabilities with a dedicated article on children (art. 7). This outlined the obligation on States to ensure the realization of all rights for children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children, to promote their best interests, and to ensure their right to be heard and taken seriously. It incorporates, within its general principles (art. 3), respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and their right to preserve their identities and introduces a general obligation (art. 4) to consult with children, through their representative organisations, when developing relevant legislation and policies.

These Conventions focus on the disparities faced by children with disabilities and call for improvements in their access to services, and in their participation in all aspects of life. In order to achieve these goals, there is a need for improved data collection internationally. The current lack of accurate data impedes the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that would improve the lives of children with disabilities. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities encourages States to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention (art. 31).

It is with this backdrop that Able Child Africa Network has commissioned qualitative research so as to gather **the voices of children with disabilities** in different contexts in Africa.

Deliverables

Able Child Africa is looking for a consultant to serve as Qualitative Research Specialist for an evaluation of the voices of children with disabilities within different contexts from 6 African countries. Working in collaboration with Able Child Africa Network, the consultant will develop a qualitative survey and draft a report on the survey's findings.

The consultant will oversee the design of a child-friendly disability inclusive survey and will oversee the qualitative research design, implementation, data analysis and evaluation of the results.

Objectives

- In collaboration with the Able Child Africa Network members and the Network Manager, refine the survey questions and work with accessiblesurveys.co.uk to design an inclusive survey.
- Prepare baseline and final reports detailing the guiding research questions, research process, and preliminary findings of the qualitative research and integrate in overall evaluation report.

Personal Specification

- The impact evaluation consultant is expected to have qualitative field research experience and professional credentials as well as a strong track record of conducting comparable field research.
- The consultant should have relevant experience in monitoring, evaluation, and data generation.
- The consultant will preferably have experience designing on surveys for persons with disabilities or ideally children with disabilities.
- Preference will be given to consultants who have lived experience and are based in Africa.

Terms

Time: The survey will need to be complete by **12th February 2024**. We expect this to be no more than 10 questions.

The final report of the survey must be complete by **29th March 2024**.

Location: The work is expected to be completed remotely.

Budget: The maximum budget for this work is **£1,000**. This budget is inclusive of all costs associated with completing this work.

Application guidance

Applicants should send their CV (1 page) and proposal (2 pages max) outlining their approach and experience. Applications should be sent to info@ablechildafrica.org.uk with the subject line ***Survey on Voices of Children with Disabilities in Africa***.

The deadline for submissions is **25th January 2024** and interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held between **29th and 30th January 2024**

If you have any questions ahead of submitting a proposal, please contact info@ablechildafrica.org.uk.