

## Terms of Reference

### Research on Protection and Amplifying voices of civil society

#### 1. Introduction:

PROTECT is a multi-faceted international aid project funded by the UK Governments' Department for International Development (DfID). PROTECT, seeks to foster open societies based on expanded and protected civic space and stands for: Protecting Rights, Openness and Transparency-Enhancing Civic Transformation. The work is delivered by a consortium of specialist NGOs and expert organisations, led by ARTICLE 19 with partners Internews, the International Centre for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) and the Humanist Institute Development Cooperation (Hivos). PROTECT works in Kenya, Malawi and Myanmar

Article 19 lead on two areas of work (i.e. activity streams – AS) for PROTECT as following

**HOLISTIC PROTECTION.** Under this stream of work, we support initiatives/ or mechanisms that protect journalists, HRDs and other civil society actors from precarious safety and security situations, facing legal and digital censorship, physical danger, gender-based threats and high levels of impunity

**RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE:** this stream will amplify voices of civil society, particularly women, stigmatised or marginalised the tools to fight back, build strong counter narratives and reframe key debates.

In each country, there has been a scoping study to better understand of the general 'landscape' of civic space in targeted countries and assess the feasibility of a range of innovations that aim to expand and protect civic space in each country, which will complete in Mid-March 2019. To further understand what innovations should be focused in each country and assess contexts of these innovations in greater details and how these innovations bring about changes in the country that contribute to the achievement of the PROTECT's goals, a more thorough research is planned.

#### 2. Objectives of the research

The research is planned to achieve following objectives

- Provide ARTICLE 19 with a deeper understanding of how proposed innovations will work within the two activity streams mentioned above in Kenya, Myanmar and Malawi
- Propose prioritized interventions for each activity stream in each country
- Propose synergies between different activity streams<sup>1</sup>
- Provide knowledge on how changes happen within ASs and the linkages between outcomes from the ASs to the overall impacts of the PROTECT
- Assess the potential to replicate prioritized innovations and synergies in respective regions and globally

#### 3. Research questions:

Overall, research in target countries should address the following broad questions

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<sup>1</sup> PROTECT has five different activity streams of which two are researched in this study. Selected researchers will be briefed about other activity streams and introduced to other researchers responsible for other activity streams.

1. What issues might arise in your specific AS over the next four years that PROTECT should be prepared to address as a consortium?
2. What opportunities and gaps exist for innovative engagement in your specific AS? What are recommendations for the focus and priority areas of your specific AS?
3. What are potential points of 'synergy'<sup>2</sup> between different ASs under which a number of innovations both in country and cross countries converge toward shared results? How PROTECT partners can work together to realise these synergies?
4. Is it possible to replicate innovations and synergies regionally and/or globally? If so, how?
5. How relevant are prioritized innovations and synergies to current country, region and global contexts?
6. What drives changes in your specific AS and the potential roles for PROTECT partners in influencing these changes? Who are beneficiaries of, partners and adversaries (and their interests and ability) to drive these changes?
7. What are causal relations between these innovations and synergies and the PROTECT's outcomes and impact?

Apart from the above broad questions, each activity stream in each country will have specific questions. Specific questions are planned to be made available for **KENYA** after the validation workshop on 20 – 22/3, **MALAWI** after 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March, **MYANMAR** after 3-5<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 4. Research deliverables

By the end of the research, following deliverables are aimed

Each researcher for each AS will produce

1. Research plan include methodological framework, tools and detailed work plan
2. A report to answer all research questions (a report template to be developed by the R-MEL WG)
3. PowerPoint presentations to share the research main findings
4. Summary of recommendations for the focus of the AS he/she is responsible for, synergies between the AS and other ASs, their potentials for replication, and change pathways for the AS
5. Presenting finding at validation workshops
6. Attending skype calls and or meetings to transfer/share knowledge from the research to other researchers and PROTECT partners to help PROTECT to refine ASs and explore areas of synergies and how they work

#### 5. Scope of Work

In each country (except for Myanmar for Holistic Protection), we need a researcher for each AS for each country who has expert knowledge on Protection and/or civic space. Timeframe for the research can be found in section 10.

Each researcher will develop a detailed work plan and methodology of and tools for their country to explain how he/she is going to conduct the research. Researcher(s) is expected to conduct desk

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<sup>2</sup> More specific pinpoints to where potential synergies exist will be provided to researchers for Kenya on the week beginning 25/3; Malawi on the week beginning 1/4 and Myanmar on the week beginning 8/4

review and field work to gain comprehensive data for the overall research questions, and AS and country specific research questions.

During the research, researcher(s) are expected to discuss and share ideas with other researcher(s) for other ASs in that country (preferably also with those for other countries). In doing so, researchers are expected to work together to identify potential synergies between different ASs in their study country and/or cross target countries<sup>3</sup>, and explore how PROTECT partners implement these synergies.

During the research period 3 skype calls and/or meeting with researchers in each country will be organised: a kick off meeting/calls at the beginning, a check-in call/meeting during the field work, and a feedback- call (after the draft report submitted).

Moreover, a validation workshop is organised for each country (i.e. Kenya, Malawi and Myanmar scheduled in the week beginning 3/6; 10/6 and 17/6 respectively). Researchers are expected to join the workshops. They are expected to present findings from their AS at these workshops. Moreover, during the workshops they will play an active role in informing discussions about prioritizing innovations, identifying and or developing synergies and how changes happen within ASs and across ASs with other researchers, local partners and PROTECT partners.

In each country, apart from the research on Holistic Protection and Reclaiming the Narratives, other research on other AS by other partners of the PROTECT are undergoing too. Researchers for ARTICLE 19 are expected to cooperate with other researchers in an effort to identify synergies between different ASs.

Following the field work, skype calls and validation workshops, researcher(s) will consolidate findings in a report to answer research questions outlined in this TOR. Other deliverables are listed in section 4.

## **6. Stakeholders:**

We expect the researchers to use her/his country knowledge to identify relevant informants from a variety of backgrounds suitable for selected activity streams in each country if information from the previous research (i.e. country scoping research – research phrase 1) is not sufficient. Input for selection of informants may also be provided by key internal stakeholders as below.

- **Internal stakeholders:**
  - PROTECT Country Coordinator and country teams
  - Relevant activity stream experts in lead partner organisations
  - Where relevant, expert partners
  - PROTECT's Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Working Group (R-MEL WG)
- **External stakeholders:** To be identified during initial discussions between researchers and above-mentioned internal stakeholders

## **7. Methodology:**

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<sup>3</sup> Exploration on synergies cross countries of the PROTECT's geographical cover is preferred but not compulsory. However, researchers are encouraged to collect suitable data that help PROTECT partners to discuss possible cross country synergies.

Overall, both qualitative and quantitative approaches are encouraged to be used. Each researcher(s) might want to use specific approaches and tools for their respective AS, however, across three target countries methodologies for each AS need to be compatible to allow compatibility of the same innovations across countries. In addition, by using same methodology for each AS allow the PROTECT to collect contextual baseline data for future monitoring and evaluation work.

When being selected, researchers will suggest methodology and tools suitable for the country of their research and activity streams they are responsible for. However, these methodology and tools must be approved by the R-MEL WG.

Before the research commences, Article 19 will provide the selected researchers/expert partners with relevant reports and reading materials that provide background knowledge of the context of the activity streams, proposed innovations in each stream, and key questions for researchers to answer.

## 8. Requirements for researchers

ARTICLE 19 looks for a total of 5 researchers as table 1 show below. If candidates express interest in conducting research more than one country if he/she can demonstrate that he/she has suitable knowledge and experience to do so.

Research areas	Number of researchers for Kenya	Number of researchers for Malawi	Number of researchers for Myanmar
HOLISTIC PROTECTION	01	01	0
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE	01	01	01
Total	02	02	01

Specific requirements for researchers as following

- Expert knowledge on one of above mentioned areas (i.e. Protection or civic space)
- Experience of working with marginalised groups, ideally including facilitating engagement in decision making processes for development/advocacy programmes
- Experience of working in developing countries (preferably in Kenya, Malawi and Myanmar)
- Strong qualitative research skills. Ideally with an ability to analyse complex qualitative data to provide an insightful and actionable report. Experienced in conducting in-depth interviews with experts, target beneficiaries, and senior decision makers e.g. government officials, CEOs/private sector, media organisations, economists. Specific skills should include:
  - Strong interviewing skills, including the capacity to conduct semi-structured interviews, to question and probe on key issues. Ability to pick on body language and other non-verbal clues
  - Utilising specialised qualitative techniques (e.g. projective techniques) to help elicit responses and uncover new insights from respondents.
  - Can demonstrate ability to work on complex themes.
  - Ability to consider power dynamics, gender relations and sexual identity in research and innovations
  - Experiences of intersectionality and how this can be applied to the research and recommendations for inter-activity stream interventions

## 9. Research time frame

Following are key provisional dates (with some flexibility)

Tasks	Kenya	Malawi	Myanmar
Country research team members identified	18/3	18/3	18/3
Contract signing	18-25/3	18-25/3	18-25/3
Kick off skype call (s) with all researchers or with some researchers	25/3	1/4	8/4
Fieldwork and research	1/4 – 12/5	8/4 – 19/5	15/4-26/5
Check-in calls with research teams – fieldwork update – may vary depending on researchers' work plan for different ASs	8/4	15/4	22/4
Submission of first draft of report	13/5	20/5	27/5
Comments provision for first draft	13-20/5	20-27/5	27/5 – 2/6
Calls with research team or individual researchers (clarifying comments for the report)	21/5	28/5	3/6
Revision period	21/5 - 28/5	28/5 – 4/6	3 -10/6
Submission of second draft of report	29/5	5/6	11/6
Validation meetings	w/b 3/6	w/b 10/6	w/b 17/6
Final report (after validation workshops)	w/b 3/6	w/b 10/6	w/b 17/6

## 10. Research budget

Gross fee for each researcher for each AS for each country is GBP 9,000. This amount excludes expenses for researchers to conduct the research such as transportation and accommodation, which is paid basing on agreed budget with selected candidates.