

Terms of reference:

Consultant – humanitarian data system research

Context/background

The recent *If not now, when?* report highlighted that data on older people is missing or insufficient in humanitarian needs overviews and joint needs assessments conducted in humanitarian crises. This supports previous research by HelpAge Asia: *More at risk: How older people are excluded in humanitarian data*. Lack of visibility for older people and understanding of their needs has a direct impact on the support available to older people because the data collected and presented in humanitarian needs overviews informs how donors, the UN and individual agencies prioritise needs. It also shapes the humanitarian response plan and funding available through various mechanisms e.g. CBPFs.

However, we do not yet have clear solutions for how this can concretely be addressed within the humanitarian data systems. To identify these solutions, we need to strengthen our internal understanding of the data ecosystem that supplies the humanitarian needs overviews and the gaps and barriers relevant to older people. We also need to understand where the entry points are for change and what approaches we can recommend.

Purpose and scope

The primary purpose of this research is to produce a report that identifies the technical and institutional barriers to the production, analysis, and publication of evidence on older people in the humanitarian data system and identifies possible solutions.

The report will be targeted at technical audiences engaged with data collection and analysis and needs prioritisation exercises in humanitarian organisations, donors and UN agencies.

In addition, we expect the report to reinforce wider communications and advocacy on older people as an overlooked and neglected population group in humanitarian response.

The report will need to be authoritative but using simple, non-technical language accessible to a wider range of technical and non-technical audiences.

As there is an internal learning aspect to the project, the consultant will be expected to undertake 1-2 internal webinars at the end of the project to support strengthened internal understanding.

Research questions

- What are the main sources of data that inform humanitarian needs overviews and to what extent do they adequately capture and reflect the specific needs of older people?
- How is the analysis of data undertaken and to what extent is this analysis age-sensitive and in line with guidance provided in the Humanitarian Inclusion Standards?

- Is the publication of the data and information age sensitive and reflect the needs of older people?
- What approaches have been used to enhance the visibility of other population groups and better understand their needs in joint needs assessments and humanitarian needs overviews e.g., women?
- What approaches could be employed to enhance the visibility of older people and better understand their needs?

Scope of work

It is anticipated that the research would include three elements:

1. Desk research including analysis of range of HNOs and HRP's and mapping of the data sources and main tools used.
2. interviews with individuals involved in data collection, analysis, and reporting.
3. In depth case studies in 2-3 contexts to identify concrete gaps, common issues and opportunities to strengthen understanding of older people's needs in the HNOs.

Interested consultants are welcome to propose alternative or adjusted methodologies that meet the purpose and scope of the study.

Deliverables

The final deliverable for this project will be a draft report (15-20 pages) covering:

- Commentary on current practices, challenges and consequences in relation to needs prioritisation and visibility of older people in humanitarian crises
- Opportunities to strengthen practice
- Recommendations/call to action

A paper outlining initial findings will be required after stage 2 (as outlined in the scope of work).

Time requirement and duration

The consultancy is proposed to start w/c 3 May and to be completed by 2 July 2021 or earlier.

Skills and experience required

Essential

- Primary degree(s) in relevant field(s);
- In-depth familiarity with the humanitarian data system and humanitarian programme cycle;
- Strong writing skills in English with a clear, simple writing style;
- Demonstrable experience in conducting desk research, qualitative research and/or producing similar studies;

- Strong analytical and summarising skills;
- Ability to work collaboratively with others.

Desirable

- Demonstrable in-depth knowledge of ageing and needs of older people;
- Familiarity with literature on inclusive humanitarian action and relevant legal and policy frameworks;
- Experience of using research in advocacy and campaigns.

How to apply

Interested consultants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for delivery of the assignment and 1-2 examples of previous work.

The short EOI (3-4 pages) should include:

- 1) A cover letter addressing the selection criteria above
- 2) Proposed budget
- 3) CV
- 4) Contact information for 2 professional references

Safeguarding

HelpAge International is committed to safeguarding the communities with which we work, our partners, staff and any others who we come into contact with. Therefore, you will also be responsible for:

- Preventing harm and abuse from our people, operations and programmes, to anyone that encounters our work;
- Reporting all safeguarding incidents you see, hear, hear about or suspect, using our internal reporting mechanism;
- Complying with all safeguarding framework policies and practices
- Completing mandatory training courses relating to our safeguarding policy framework and complying with HR vetting procedures.