



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

Call for consultancy for the development of Mental Health Program for SOS Children's Villages in Liberia

Introduction / Background:

SOS Children's Villages International is a Global Organisation established in 1949 to promote and protect the interests and rights of orphaned and vulnerable children and strengthen families. SOS Children's Villages International works through member associations in over 136 countries worldwide.

SOS Children's Villages in Liberia is a member Association of SOS Children's Villages International, an international non-governmental development organisation that has been active in the field of children's rights and committed to children's need and concerns since 1981. We focus our work on children without parental care and children at risk of losing parental care and their communities.

The organisation has a wide range of programmes in Monrovia and Juah Town which include two children's villages, a youth facility, a kindergarten and a high school, a renowned medical center and two family strengthening programmes in Monrovia. SOS Children's Villages in Liberia, is a social welfare & development organisation focusing on Family Based care and Family Strengthening Programme to support orphaned and vulnerable children and families. SOS Children's Villages in Liberia **Call for consultancy for the development of Mental Health Program for SOS Children's Villages in Liberia.**

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic: Liberia recorded its first confirmed COVID-19 case on Monday, March 16, 2020. Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic had a tremendous impact on the health and wellbeing of Liberia as well as on health, social and economic systems. For instance, Liberia, as a heavily dependent country on food imports, experienced shocks in its food supplies because of the lockdown in countries such as India where most of its staple, rice, is imported. The businesses classified as non-essential were shut down, and even those that are considered as essential only operated on a short-hourly basis.

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Liberia is still actively unfolding. As the pandemic hit the current wave of new variant of the COVID-19 disease, on June 18, 2021, the Government of Liberia strategy to address the current threatening situation formulated new regulations and protocol that will assist in curbing the spread of the disease. Implementation of public health measures to achieve this goal are underway. As Liberia moves toward community spread of the COVID-19 disease, the physical effects of the infection and pre-existing mental and physical

disorders will lead to mental traumas and fear. Increased levels of stress and anxiety will also lead to social ills such as increased alcohol consumption and drug use, as well as domestic and family violence. With the unfolding sources of displacement and the stress that this brings, the mental health of co-workers, professional health workers, caregivers and their children and families, will require tailored support to ensure that they are able to effectively respond to the challenges.

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop a mental health programme for SOS Children's Villages in Liberia. The target groups of SOS Children's Villages in Liberia face mental health issues, traumatic experiences and structural risks that need to be systematically addressed in our programme work through a specialised and positive approach. Covid-19 has additional detrimental effects on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children and young people in our target group. The availability of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in disadvantaged communities and access of vulnerable groups is very limited. The capacity of child and youth care professionals (SOS employees and community members) in the area of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs to be systematically built up.

Please Note: Only shortlisted institutions will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process. If you have not been contacted within 1 month of the closing date, and please accept that your application was unsuccessful. Regret emails will be sent only to shortlisted/contacted institutions.

Prospective Institutional or individuals should apply to the email address **recruitment.hr@sosliberia.org** no later than **30 September 2021**. Kindly ensure the subject line is denoted with the heading "Call for consultancy for the development of a mental health program for SOS Children's Villages in Liberia".