

## Terms of Reference for Final Evaluation

Sushikha o Susasther mahdhomy Surokkha  
(Protection through better education and better health)

December 2020

# 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Type of evaluation</b>               | Final Evaluation  |
| <b>Name of the project</b>              | Sushikha o Susasther mahdhomy Surokkha (SSS)<br>(Protection through better education and better health)   |
| <b>Project Start and End dates</b>      | 2015 June-2020 December   |
| <b>Project duration</b>                 | Five Years  |
| <b>Project locations:</b>               | Daulatdia Brothel in Rajbari district and the Town Brothel and C&B Brothel in the Faridpur district   |
| <b>Thematic areas</b>                   | Protection, Education and Health  |
| <b>Sub themes</b>                       | Appropriate Care  |
| <b>Donor</b>                            | Save the Children Korea   |
| <b>Estimated beneficiaries</b>          | Children of sex worker and mothers living in and around the brothel community, service provider, duty bearers and Local Government. Estimated beneficiaries: Children: 5100 and Adult: 10264. |
| <b>Overall objective of the project</b> | All children living in brothels have improved access to quality education, health and protection services in a non-discriminatory environment by 2020   |

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

Save the Children Bangladesh in partnership with Save the Children Korea designed a holistic program to serve children in three brothel communities in Bangladesh, including the Daulatdia Brothel in Rajbari district and the Town Brothel and the C&B Brothel in the Faridpur district. The program was initially implemented in 2012 in partnership with three local NGOs, Mukti Mohila Samity (MMS), Karmajibi Kalyan Sangstha (KKS), and Shapla Mohilla Sangtha (SMS). Beginning in 2015, Sushikha o Susasther mahdhomy Surokkha (SSS) (Protection through better education and better health in English) was expanded and scaled up to provide integrated services in the areas of education, health, and child protection. The overall goal of this project is that all children living in brothels have improved access to quality education, health and protection services in a non-discriminatory environment by 2020

## 3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 1989 the “United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child” was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,<sup>1</sup> recognizing the rights of children to access basic services, including education, healthcare, and pathways for developing their talents and abilities. Since Bangladesh ratified the convention in 1990, two laws were passed that specifically provide protection for children and guarantee the right to live free from discrimination.<sup>2</sup> Yet children living in the brothels are not provided with special protection under these laws.

Sex work in Bangladesh is a controversial issue further confounded by ambiguous laws and policies. There are 10 brothels in the country housing approximately 100,000 sex workers, 50% of whom are estimated to be less than 18 years old.<sup>3</sup> Most sex workers live in poor health conditions with limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.<sup>2</sup> In addition to poor infrastructure, children living in brothels are exposed to physical, sexual, and psychological violence and drug abuse. Many children are often forced into the sex trade. Sex workers are marginalized from mainstream society and their children face discrimination when they attend schools outside of their own community, often resulting in high dropout rates. This leaves many children living in brothels without alternative sources of education, thus limiting their opportunities to realize their full potential and find employment outside of the sex and drug trades that surround them. The specific objectives of the project are as below:

Strategic objective 1: Increased awareness and strengthen the capacity of children and adolescents, their parents, caregivers, duty bearers and society at large to make the duty bearers accountable for the realization of the rights of children living in brothels (children of sex workers and children trafficked to brothels).

Strategic objective 2: Increased availability of and access to care and protection services (satellite clinics, referral services, ECCD, remedial classes, rescue & reintegration, child club, appropriate care) for the children.

Strategic objective 3: Strengthen the community-based mechanism to ensure the health, education, and protection services.

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF. (n.d.). Frequently asked questions on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/frequently-asked-questions>

<sup>2</sup> Save the Children. (2015). Needs assessment of children living in and around Daulatdia and Faridpur brothels. Bangladesh: Development Research Initiative.

<sup>3</sup> Save the Children. (2015a). Integrated project proposal for Save the Children Korea - Sushikha o Susasther mahdhomy Surokkha. Bangladesh: Save the Children Bangladesh.

Strategic objective 4: Strengthen the local and the national level Government mechanism to ensure care and protection services through advocacy and networking.

## 4. SCOPE OF EVALUATION

### 4.1 Purpose and key questions

The primary purpose/objectives of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of the SSS project for meeting the needs of the children living in the brothels, identify the areas of improvement for future programming, and gather lessons learned. The results will be used for future advocacy work by SCK and SCB to urge the Bangladesh government to improve the social conditions of the children living in brothel communities. The evaluation will also be used by the other NGOs working in a similar context and local government to expand coverage and improve the quality of services to be more sensitive to child rights. The specific objective of this evaluation as follows:

- To assess to what extent the SSS project has met its four core objectives and expected results (listed above) throughout the project period comparing with baseline.
- To assess which project interventions, strategies and activities have proven to be the most and least effective, and assess the quality and sustainability of these interventions.
- To explore and identify good practices that led to bring positive change for the life of children living inside and outside of the brothel community and identify the key lessons learned to improve future programming.

The evaluation questions were categorized by the Development Assistant Committee (DAC) criteria as required by the stakeholder's organizational guidelines. To design a rigorous yet feasible and appropriate evaluation, we selected the following evaluation questions:

**Question 1.** To what extent have children in the SSS Project increased their capacity to make life decisions and advocate for their rights?

Ia. To what extent are children in the SSS Project empowered to claim their rights when they are violated?

Ib. What factors present barriers and facilitators for empowering these children to make life decisions?

**Question 2.** To what extent is the child protection and other mechanism (including the CBCPC and case management system, reintegration & rescue, residential support) sustainable in program areas?

2a. How sustainable is the child protection mechanism after the phase-out of the program?

The Evaluation team will be required to undertake consultation with the SC Project Manager and the Evaluation Working Group at the commencement of the project in order to further refine the evaluation questions.

### 4.2 Scope

The donor for the project, Save the Children Korea (SCK), in collaboration with its implementing partner Save the Children Bangladesh (SCiB), seeks to engage an evaluation consultant to conduct an evaluation of the SSS project when the project end in 2020. A baseline evaluation was conducted in 2016 followed by a midline evaluation in 2018 to compare progress against specified indicators of program its effectiveness.

The evaluation will focus on both the process and outcomes. The outcome portion of the evaluation will determine the effectiveness of the SSS program for meeting the needs of the children living in the brothels. The process portion will identify the areas of improvement and gather lessons learned for organizations that may adopt this program model in the future.

Review extensively all relevant reports, studies, including documents of SSS project baseline, vulnerabilities study, midterm, donor progress reports. This should include, but not be limited to, documents provided by Save the Children. Participate in briefing and consultative meetings on the assignment at Save the Children in Bangladesh office. Develop appropriate data collection tools for the project evaluation following the proper methodology (mix method) and share the inception note with Save the Children’s key contact for further development/modification (if required).

### 4.3 Stakeholders/audiences

The key stakeholders/audiences for this evaluation are:

| Stakeholder  | Further information  |
|--|--|
| 1) SCK<br>SCiB<br>Local NGOs<br>Government   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCK and SCiB will use the evaluation findings to share with other Save the Children member organizations for similar programming</li> <li>Local NGOs and government agencies will use the findings to continue working toward creating child rights-sensitive programming</li> </ul>  |
| 2) Children living in brothel communities<br>Sex worker mothers<br>Community members and leaders<br>Teachers<br>Healthcare providers<br>Landlords<br>Extended family members<br>Local police<br>Peers not living in the brothels<br>Sex worker networks<br>Members of Child CLub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given that these groups are program participants who may be affected by future programming, the evaluation results can help to make improvements in future programming that can affect these individuals</li> </ul>   |
| 3) Similar communities in Bangladesh<br>Groups in the international development community  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar communities may use the evaluation findings for improving their communities and environment</li> <li>The evaluation findings may be useful for groups in the international development community given that child protection issues in the brothel communities in other parts of the world face similar issues</li> </ul> |

### 4.4 Use of evaluation findings

The evaluation aims to produce credible and actionable information that will enable key stakeholders, including Save the Children, local Bangladeshi NGOs, and the Bangladeshi government to better

understand the effects of the project better and identify the best practices for adoption in other contexts. The results will be primarily being used for future advocacy work by SCK and SCiB to urge the Bangladesh government to improve the social conditions of children in brothel communities. The evaluation will also be used by the local government and other national and international NGOs working in a similar context to expand coverage and promote child rights-based practices. Other key stakeholder groups who may use the findings of the evaluation or who will be affected by the results of the evaluation include future program participants, similar communities in Bangladesh, and international development groups implementing similar programs in other countries

## 4.5 Secondary Questions

| Criteria             | Definition  | Secondary Questions  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Relevance</b>     | The extent to which the program activity is suited to the priorities of the sex-workers and the children in the brothel community | <p>Q1. To what extent does the program correspond with the priorities of Bangladesh? Are the activities and outputs of the programme consistent with the intended impacts and effects?</p> <p>Q2. How relevant is the program provided by the Save the Children for the needs of the brothels in Bangladesh?</p>   |
| <b>Effectiveness</b> | A measure of the extent to which the program activity attains its objectives  | <p>Did the program/project achieve its intended outcomes and what extent the result achieved by this time?</p> <p>Q3. To what extent did educational training increase mothers' awareness regarding their child's education, child protection issues, parent counselling, and financial literacy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To what extent did mothers increase their knowledge regarding their child's education, child protection issues, parent counselling, and financial literacy?</li> <li>○ To what extent did mothers change their attitudes regarding their child's education, child protection issues, parent counselling, and financial literacy?</li> <li>○ What factors are affecting the mothers' practices regarding their child's education, child protection issues, parent counselling, and financial literacy?</li> </ul> <p>Q4. To what extent is the child protection mechanism (including the CBCPC and case management system, reintegration &amp; rescue, residential support) effective?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How effectively is the child protection mechanism operating?</li> <li>○ What factors present barriers and facilitators for strengthening the child protection mechanism?</li> <li>○ To what extent is the institutional care provided by the NGOs and the government effective for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protecting girls under 18 years of age from trafficking and abuse of child rights?</li> <li>- providing appropriate services such as food, clothes, health and educational services?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Efficiency</b>     | It measures the outputs, qualitative and quantitative, in relation to the inputs.   | <p>Q5. To what extent was the program implemented in efficient way?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>How well are resources being used?</i></li> <li>- <i>Were activities cost-efficient?</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Impact</b>         | The positive and negative changes produced by the program, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.                                | <p>What is the impact or effect of the programme or project in proportion to the overall situation of the target group or those effected? What has happened as a result of the program or project?</p> <p>Q6. To what extent have children in the SSS Program increased their capacity/empowerment to make life decisions and advocate for their rights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o To what extent do children have the capacity to claim their rights when it is violated?</li> <li>o What factors present barriers and facilitators for empowering children to make life decisions?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sustainability</b> | Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after the phase-out of the program. | <p>To what extent did the benefits of a program or project continue after donor funding?</p> <p>Q7. To what extent is the child protection mechanism (including the CBCPC and case management system, reintegration &amp; rescue, residential support) sustainable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o How sustainable is the child protection mechanism after the phase-out of the program?</li> <li>o Which assumptions are not being met to ensure the sustainability of the program?</li> </ul>  |

\*[OECD DAC Criteria](#)

## 5. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Research design and sampling

The evaluation will be theory-driven based on the framework for Child Rights Programming and the social ecological model. However, the use of evaluation findings is prioritized. Based on the utilization-focused approach, a mixed-method design will be used as an overarching evaluation design to answer two of the evaluation questions and a multimethod case study design will be used to answer the remaining two questions. Use of mixed-methods provides various perspectives and insights that cannot be achieved through separate quantitative and qualitative results.

Considering the context of the program, it will not be feasible to include a comparison group. Thus, to answer the first and the second evaluation questions regarding the capacity and awareness of children and their mothers, evaluation will use a mixed-methods design with only the intervention group. Gaining an in-depth understanding of the effectiveness and sustainability of the child protection mechanism requires collecting information on individuals, groups, systems, and processes. Case studies are useful for gathering rich data as well as for investigating the unique characteristics of each case. Thus, evaluation will use a multimethod case study design with multiple cases to answer questions three and four regarding the child protection mechanism.

## Evaluation design by key evaluation question

| Key Evaluation Question   | Evaluation Design                                 |
|---|---|
| 1. To what extent have children in the SSS Program increased their capacity to make life decisions and advocate for their rights?   | Concurrent mixed-methods design                   |
| 2. To what extent is the child protection mechanism (including the CBCPC and case management system, reintegration & rescue, residential support) sustainable in the project areas? | Multimethod case study design with multiple cases |

## 5.2 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Data collection will take place in conjunction with the SSS final evaluation to make use of existing data collection procedures and reduce additional burden on respondents. Additional questions will be added to the existing questionnaire, focus group, and interview guides used for the midline evaluation.

**Question 1:** An explanatory sequential mixed methods design will be employed to address question one. The quantitative strand will include a questionnaire that will assess empowerment and enhanced capacity in children. The questionnaire will be used as a post-test only design with children that participated in the SSS Program. The target population for this evaluation question is adolescents aged between 10-18 years. We used the population estimates for each brothel community from the 2017 census conducted by Save the Children and the percent distribution as calculated in the midline evaluation to maintain consistency across studies. Using a 95% confidence interval, 5% margin of error, 50% proportion (to be conservative) and a finite population correction, the total sample size needed is 235. We will use proportionate sampling for each brothel based on the number of children from the 2017 census conducted by Save the Children.

Proposed sample distribution

| Brothel Community | Mother     | Children   | Total      |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Daulatdia         | 286        | 286        | 572        |
| Faridpur Town     | 64         | 64         | 128        |
| Faridpur C&B      | 64         | 64         | 128        |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>414</b> | <b>414</b> | <b>828</b> |

In addition, evaluation will conduct focus group discussions with children who had participated in Child Club to understand their experiences. Two focus group discussions will take place in each brothel community (one with executive committee members of Child Club and one with general members).

**Question 2:** A multimethod case study design will be employed to assess the sustainability of the child protection mechanism in the three intervention brothel communities. Focus group discussions will assess mothers' awareness of the child protection system and willingness to provide financial



support for the continuation of services after the program end. Interviews and a SWOT analysis with the PNGO staff and government officials will examine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the future sustainability of the program services beyond the end of the program funding period. Key informant interviews will be conducted with one official from the Social Work, Education, and Health and Family Planning departments as well as from the local level and district the governments. A focus group will be conducted with the CBCPC committees in each brothel community. Key informant interviews will also be conducted with the executive directors of each of the PNGOs and one focus group will be conducted with the staff of each PNGO. Lastly, a focus group will be conducted with the SCiB staff. Up to ten participants will be invited for focus groups.

### 5.3 Data collection procedures and analysis

Data collection tools including questionnaires, focus group guides, and interview guides will be drafted in English and translated to Bengali via professional translators. Translated instruments will be reviewed by SCiB's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) team for understanding and accuracy given their familiarity with the evaluation and the program.

**Questionnaires.** Questionnaires will be pilot tested with a sample from a similar population and revised accordingly. Questionnaires will be administered in person via structured interviews on Android tablets. Questionnaires will be reviewed on a daily basis for accuracy and completeness during data collection. Identifying information will be kept in a separate digital file linked by a unique identifying number. Electronic data files will be stored in a password protected computer and retained for up to five years.

Quantitative data analysis will be conducted in SPSS/R. Analysis will include one-sample t-tests, regression analyses, and descriptive statistics. Data will be examined to ensure the assumptions of normality and is met.

**Focus group and interview and KII guides.** Focus group discussions and key informant interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed. Transcripts will be translated into English, reviewed by the evaluation team for comprehension, and finalized in conjunction with the translator and the data collection team. Transcripts will not include identifying information.

Qualitative data will be analysed in NVivo. Data will be deductively content analysed and searched for themes across groups. The Evaluation team is required to adhere to the Save the Children Child Safeguarding, Data protection and the Privacy policies throughout all project activities.

### 5.4 Ethical considerations

It is expected that this evaluation will be:

- **Child participatory.** Children should be meaningfully involved in the evaluation as a holistic process and not only as informants. Refer to the Practice Standards in Children's Participation ([International Save the Children Alliance 2005](#)); and Global Indicator technical guidance (SCi M&E handouts Package, Volume 2).
- **Inclusive.** Ensure that children from different ethnic, social and religious backgrounds have the chance to participate, as well as children with disabilities and children who may be excluded or discriminated in their community.
- **Ethical:** The evaluation must be guided by the following ethical considerations:
  - Child safeguarding – demonstrating the highest standards of behavior towards children
  - Sensitive – to child rights, gender, inclusion and cultural contexts
  - Openness - of information given, to the highest possible degree to all involved parties

- Confidentiality and data protection - measures will be put in place to protect the identity of all participants and any other information that may put them or others at risk.
- Public access - to the results when there are not special considerations against this
- Broad participation - the relevant parties should be involved where possible
- Reliability and independence - the evaluation should be conducted so that findings and conclusions are correct and trustworthy

It is expected that:

- Data collection methods will be age and gender appropriate.
- Evaluation activities will provide a safe, creative space where children feel that their thoughts and ideas are important.
- A risk assessment will be conducted that includes any risks related to children or young people’s participation.
- Informed consent will be used where possible.

The evaluation of any personal and professional influence or potential bias among those collections or analysing data been recorded and addressed or mitigated ethically

The Evaluation team will be required to obtain approval from a Human Research Ethics Committee. Save the Children will provide assistance with this process.

Considering the characteristics of the target population, it is expected that there will be potential participants with illiteracy. Thus, obtaining written consent would be inappropriate. Evaluation will obtain oral consent. A trained interviewer will read through a verbal consent form at the beginning of the survey, focus group discussions or key informant interviews. The interviewer will explain the purpose of the evaluation, potential benefits and the risks of participation, and data privacy. The interviewer will answer any questions from participants. After confirming everyone understood the information, the interviewer will sign the verbal consent form before they start the survey or interview. For children, a trained interviewer will explain the purpose of the evaluation to both mothers and children, and children will give their assent with the knowledge that they can withdraw their participation at any time.

## 6. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The evaluation deliverables and due dates are outlined below. The Evaluation lead will advise the SC Evaluation Project Manager immediately of any risks or issues that may impact on their ability to provide the deliverables by these due dates.

### Deliverables and Due Dates

| Deliverable  | Due Date                      |
|--|-------------------------------|
| The Evaluation Team is contracted and commences work   | 07 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| The Evaluation Team will facilitate a workshop with the relevant stakeholders at the commencement of the project to develop the <b>Inception report</b> :<br><br>The inception report will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ evaluation objectives and key evaluation questions</li> <li>▪ description of the methodology, data sources, draft data collection tools (preferably against the key evaluation questions) and sampling considerations</li> <li>▪ caveats and limitations of evaluation</li> </ul> | 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ key deliverables, milestones and timelines</li> <li>▪ risk and issue management plan</li> <li>▪ a stakeholder communication and engagement plan</li> <li>▪ consultation protocols for consulting with children and other vulnerable groups (if applicable)</li> <li>▪ Logistical or other support required from Save the Children</li> <li>▪ Preventative measures of COVID19</li> </ul> <p>Once the report is finalised and accepted, the evaluator/ evaluation team must submit a request for any change in strategy or approach to the evaluation manager or the steering committee.</p>  |                                |
| <p>A concise 1-page <b>Progress Report</b> is to be submitted every two weeks for documenting progress against the evaluation plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ progress over the last period</li> <li>▪ risks and issues management report</li> <li>▪ key scheduled activities and deliverables for the next period</li> </ul>  | Every two weeks                |
| <p><b>Review Data collection tool</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Survey instrument</li> <li>▪ Data collection mechanism</li> </ul> <p>[Data collection instruments are developed and translated in Bangla, evaluation team will review and finalize the tools]</p>  | 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021  |
| <p><b>Data collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Field test of the tools/ instruments</li> <li>▪ Orientation of the enumerators</li> <li>▪ Data collection</li> </ul>   | 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 |
| <p>An <b>Interim Report*</b> including a summary of formative findings from the evaluation. The focus will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary of the interim findings</li> <li>▪ Any emerging program issues or risks (if applicable)</li> <li>▪ Key tasks for the next stage of the evaluation and any proposed refinements or changes to methodology (if applicable)</li> </ul>  | 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 |
| <p>An <b>Evaluation Report*</b> (Draft Version) including the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Executive summary</li> <li>▪ Background description of the Program and context relevant to the evaluation</li> <li>▪ Scope and focus of the evaluation</li> <li>▪ Overview of the evaluation methodology and data collection methods, including an evaluation matrix</li> <li>▪ Findings aligned to each of the key evaluation questions</li> <li>▪ Specific caveats or methodological limitations of the evaluation</li> <li>▪ Conclusions outlining implications of the findings or learnings</li> <li>▪ Recommendations</li> <li>▪ Annexes (Project logframe, Evaluation TOR, Inception Report, Study schedule, List of the people involved)</li> </ul> <p>A consolidated set of feedback from the key stakeholders will be provided by Save The Children within two weeks of the submission of the draft report.</p> | 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 |
| <p><b>Data and analyses</b> including all raw data, SPSS syntax and transcript, databases and analysis outputs</p>  | 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 |

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Final Evaluation Report*</b> incorporating feedback from consultation on the Draft Evaluation Report  | 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 |
| <b>Knowledge translation materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PowerPoint presentation of the evaluation findings</li> <li>▪ Evidence to Action Brief**</li> </ul> | 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 |

\*All reports are to use the Save the Children Evaluation report template. Please also refer to Save the Children technical writing guide.

\*\* The Evidence to Action Brief is a 2-4 pages' summary of the full report and will be created using the Save the Children Evidence to Action Brief template.

All documents are to be produced in MS Word format and provided electronically by email to the SC Evaluation Project Manager. Copies of all PowerPoint presentations used to facilitate briefings for the project should also be provided to Save the Children in editable digital format.

Interested individual consultant, may submit their technical and financial proposal along with CV, TIN certificate and VAT registration copy to the following email address: [prosanta.roy@savethechildren.org](mailto:prosanta.roy@savethechildren.org). Application closing date: **January 14, 2021**.

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