

Terms of Reference

Consultancy for the Research on the impact of MIND CRAFT innovation on bullying and cyberbullying reduction in 10 pilot schools from Romania – MIND CRAFT Project

About World Vision Romania

World Vision Romania (WVR) is part of World Vision International, a humanitarian, development, and advocacy organization working with children, families, and communities to support their well-being and long-term resilience. WVR has extensive experience in designing and implementing child protection, education, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions, with a strong focus on evidence-based programming and systems-level impact.

Project background and rationale for the research

The MIND CRAFT initiative is a school-based intervention designed to improve adolescent mental health and well-being by addressing bullying and cyberbullying and strengthening the behavioural and environmental conditions that shape students' sense of safety, belonging, and participation in school life. The intervention applies a multi-layered model, combining:

- Peer-led youth activation (Youth Activators and Youth Hubs)
- Whole-school engagement with parents and teachers
- Structured intergenerational dialogue (Schoolyard Talks)
- A complementary digital component (REThink serious game)

The project will be implemented across 10 pilot schools in Bucharest, Dolj and Vaslui, reaching approximately:

- 1,200 students aged 10–19 (primary end-users)
- 100 directly engaged youth Activators and Hub Members (intermediate users)
- 200 adults - parents, teachers, school staff - (intermediate users)

The underlying assumption is that strengthening peer dynamics, promoting pro-social norms, and improving adult response capacity will contribute to safer school environments, reflected in reduced exposure to bullying and cyberbullying and improved student well-being.

Purpose of the Research

In line with Grand Challenges Canada requirements, the research component is designed to generate rigorous, measurable, and publishable evidence of impact, with a clear definition of the project's primary outcome. The research will quantify "Lives Improved" as:

The number of students aged 10–19 who experience a measurable reduction in bullying and/or cyberbullying victimization following exposure to the MIND CRAFT intervention. This will be measured exclusively using the Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire (OBVQ) as the primary outcome measurement tool (TBC). A student will be considered to have experienced a life improvement if, between baseline and endline, they demonstrate a meaningful reduction in victimization frequency, defined as a shift of at least one category on the OBVQ scale, with particular emphasis on movement below recurrent bullying thresholds (e.g., from weekly or monthly victimization to rare or no experiences).

The research will aim to quantify the number and proportion of students achieving this improvement (target: minimum 20% of participants), while assessing the effectiveness of the intervention in reducing bullying and cyberbullying victimization; generating robust evidence suitable for dissemination and publication in peer-reviewed journals and contributing to the global evidence base on school-based, youth-led mental health and bullying prevention interventions

Role of Secondary and Enabling Outcomes

In addition to the primary outcome, the research will assess a set of secondary and enabling outcomes, which reflect the mechanisms through which the intervention is expected to produce impact. These include:

- Bystander intervention behaviours among students

- School climate improvements

These outcomes will not be used to determine “Lives Improved”, but will serve to capture mechanisms of change, particularly shifts in peer norms and behaviours; assess environmental and relational changes within the school ecosystem; support interpretation and triangulation of the primary outcome findings. This approach ensures a clear analytical distinction between:

- Impact (reduction in victimization)
- Pathways (behavioural and environmental change)

Research Approach and Evidence Generation

The study will adopt a mixed-methods, quasi-experimental design, combining:

- Quantitative data collection at baseline and endline to measure changes in bullying and cyberbullying victimization
- Qualitative research to explore perceptions, experiences, and social dynamics around bullying and cyberbullying within schools

A distinctive feature of the research is the integration of a youth-led qualitative research component, whereby selected youth participants (e.g., Youth Activators and Hub Members) will be engaged and trained to contribute to:

Data collection (e.g., peer interviews, participatory mapping, school-level inquiry)

Reflection on findings from a youth perspective

Co-interpretation of results related to bullying dynamics, peer norms, and school climate

This participatory approach strengthens the validity and relevance of findings, the depth of understanding of school-level dynamics and the alignment between intervention and lived experiences of young people.

The evaluation will focus on:

Measuring individual-level behavioural change in bullying and cyberbullying victimization

Aggregating results to estimate total Lives Improved

Exploring relationships between primary outcomes and enabling factors

Data will be disaggregated by relevant variables (e.g., age group, gender, disability, school, vulnerability status) to better understand differential effects across subgroups.

Contribution of the Research

This research will generate robust, context-specific, and practice-relevant evidence by:

-Providing baseline and endline data on bullying and cyberbullying victimization among students

-Testing the effectiveness of a youth-led, whole-school intervention model

-Integrating youth-generated qualitative insights into the understanding of change processes

-Producing findings that meet the standards for peer-reviewed publication, contributing to both national and international evidence bases

-Informing programme adaptation, policy dialogue, and future scaling of the model

By combining rigorous quantitative measurement with participatory qualitative inquiry, the research aims to not only demonstrate impact, but also deepen understanding of how meaningful change occurs within school ecosystems.

Scope of Consultancy

The Research Consultant will design, coordinate, and oversee the implementation of the MIND CRAFT research component, ensuring methodological rigor, alignment with donor requirements, and production of high-quality, publishable evidence. The consultancy will cover the following components:

1. Research Design and Ethical Approval

Develop a comprehensive research design, including:

- Study methodology (mixed-methods, quasi-experimental pre–post design)
- Sampling strategy and participant groups
- Measurement framework aligned with primary outcome: reduction in bullying/cyberbullying victimization (OBVQ), Secondary outcomes: bystander behavior, school climate

Define:

- “Lives Improved” operationalization and analysis plan
- Minimal Important Difference (MID) thresholds
- Data disaggregation strategy

Prepare full research protocol for ethical review, including:

- Consent/assent procedures for minors
- Safeguarding considerations
- Data protection and confidentiality measures

The Consultant will either lead the process of obtaining ethical approval or, where approval has already been initiated or granted, review and align the existing protocol, incorporate necessary methodological refinements, and ensure full compliance with all approved ethical procedures throughout implementation.

Deliverables:

Inception Report (Detailed research design and methodology; study framework aligned with “Lives Improved”; sampling strategy; data collection plan and timeline; analysis plan including MID thresholds; data disaggregation approach; ethical considerations; safeguarding and data protection measures; detailed workplan)

Ethical Approval Documentation (Full research protocol submitted to a recognized university ethics committee; consent/assent procedures; safeguarding protocols; data protection plan; official proof of ethical approval obtained, or, where approval is already in place, documented review and validation of the existing ethical approval and protocol alignment)

2. Measurement Tools Finalization and Adaptation

Secure and formalize permission for use of the Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire (OBVQ) - TBC

Review, adapt, and finalize all measurement tools, including:

- OBVQ (primary outcome), or an adapted/alternative validated tool measuring bullying and cyberbullying victimization, where permission constraints apply- TBC
- Student Bystander Behavior Scale (SBBS) - TBC
- School Climate Profile (SCP) - TBC

Ensure cultural and linguistic adaptation to Romanian context

- Age-appropriate versions (10–14 / 15–19)
- Harmonization across tools for coherent analysis
- Customize SCP tools to reflect project-specific dimensions (intergenerational connectedness, response mechanisms)

Where standard tools (e.g., OBVQ) cannot be used in full due to licensing or timeline constraints, the Consultant will develop or adapt a functionally equivalent measurement module, ensuring conceptual alignment with OBVQ constructs (frequency and types of bullying/cyberbullying victimization)

Deliverables:

Measurement Toolkit and Instrument Adaptation Package (Final adapted and validated tools including OBVQ, SBBS, SCP (tools to be confirmed); cultural and linguistic adaptation documentation; age-group adaptations; finalized questionnaires and survey instruments; data collection manuals; evidence of OBVQ usage permission secured, or justification and documentation of alternative tool selection/adaptation)

3. Baseline Data Collection and Interpretation (May)

Develop and finalize baseline data collection tools and protocols, data collection guidance

Train project staff as enumerators for quantitative data collection, including ethical data collection practices, tool administration, data quality assurance

Support rollout of baseline data collection (early May) across all participating schools

Oversee data cleaning and validation

Conduct baseline data analysis and interpretation, including descriptive statistics, initial insights on bullying prevalence and school climate, identification of key patterns to inform implementation

Deliverables:

Baseline Dataset and Analytical Report (Cleaned and validated baseline dataset; descriptive statistical analysis; initial interpretation of bullying/cyberbullying prevalence; baseline school climate and bystander behaviour insights; disaggregated findings; key implications for programme implementation)

4. Youth-Led Qualitative Research Component (June)

Design the youth-led qualitative research methodology, including participatory tools (e.g., peer interviews, mapping, reflective exercises), ethical and safeguarding protocols adapted for youth researchers

Train selected youth (Youth Activators/Hub Members) to:

- Collect qualitative data
- Facilitate peer discussions
- Document findings safely and ethically

Provide ongoing guidance and supervision for data collection, reflection and interpretation processes

Integrate youth-generated data into the broader research framework

Deliverables:

Youth-Led Qualitative Research Outputs (*Qualitative research tools and methodology; documentation of youth-led data collection; synthesized findings from participatory research; thematic analysis reflecting student perspectives; integration of youth insights into overall research narrative*)

5. Endline Data Collection and Analysis and Synthesis (December 2026–January 2027)

Update and finalize tools and protocols for endline data collection

Conduct refresher training for enumerators (project staff)

Oversee implementation of endline data collection (December–January)

Ensure data quality control, consistency with baseline methodology

Conduct full endline analysis, including pre–post comparisons, measurement of individual-level change in victimization

Conduct integrated analysis combining Quantitative findings (primary and secondary outcomes), Qualitative insights (including youth-led research outputs)

Analyse the relationships between outcomes (e.g., bystander behaviour and victimization), differences across subgroups (age, gender, school, vulnerability), evidence of cascading effects within schools

Deliverables:

Endline Dataset and Comparative Analysis (Cleaned and validated endline dataset; pre–post comparative analysis;

individual-level change analysis; calculation of “Lives Improved” based on OBVQ thresholds; disaggregated results; triangulation with secondary outcomes and qualitative findings)

6. Reporting, Publication and Knowledge Outputs (January 2027)

Develop a comprehensive final research report, including:

- Methodology
- Findings (primary and secondary outcomes)
- Interpretation and limitations
- Implications for scale

Ensure the report is publication-ready, meeting standards for submission to peer-reviewed journals

Support preparation of academic manuscript(s), if required, data visualization and clear presentation of results

Deliverables:

Final Research Report (Publication-Ready) (Comprehensive report including methodology, results, and discussion; integrated quantitative and qualitative analysis; interpretation of primary and secondary outcomes; limitations and methodological reflections; clear articulation of impact pathways; formatted and structured for submission to a peer-reviewed journal)

7. Advocacy and Policy Recommendations

Translate research findings into actionable recommendations, including school-level practice improvements, policy-level recommendations for education and child protection systems

Contribute to advocacy briefs, stakeholder presentations, evidence for national scaling and institutional uptake

Deliverables:

Advocacy and Policy Recommendation Brief (Concise synthesis of key findings; evidence-based recommendations for schools, education authorities, and child protection actors; implications for scale-up; actionable guidance derived from research findings; stakeholder-oriented messaging)

Quality Requirements for Deliverables

All deliverables produced under this consultancy must:

Ensure scientific rigor and methodological soundness, aligned with accepted research standards for quantitative and qualitative studies

Be ethically compliant, particularly in relation to research involving children and adolescents (informed consent/assent, safeguarding, confidentiality, and data protection)

Use validated and contextually adapted measurement tools, ensuring reliability and relevance to the Romanian school context

Be clearly structured, transparent, and reproducible, including detailed documentation of methods, tools, and analytical approaches

Provide clear linkage between research questions, methods, findings, and conclusions, particularly in relation to the definition and measurement of “Lives Improved”

Include robust data analysis and interpretation, with appropriate disaggregation (e.g., age, gender, school, vulnerability status)

Integrate quantitative and qualitative findings coherently, including youth-led research outputs

Be accessible and usable for multiple audiences, including practitioners, policymakers, and academic audiences

Meet standards required for peer-reviewed publication, including clarity of argument, methodological transparency, and analytical depth

Generate actionable insights, supporting programme improvement, scaling decisions, and policy and advocacy efforts

Methodological Approach

The consultancy will be grounded in the following principles:

1. Mixed-Methods and Outcome-Oriented Design

The research will combine quantitative and qualitative approaches to measure both:

Primary outcomes (reduction in bullying/cyberbullying victimization, as measured through OBVQ and used to define “Lives Improved”)

Secondary and enabling outcomes (e.g., bystander behavior, school climate), used to understand mechanisms of change

2. Youth-Centered and Participatory Research Approach

Young people will be engaged not only as respondents, but as active contributors to the research process, including through: youth-led qualitative data collection, participatory reflection and interpretation of findings. This approach strengthens the validity, relevance, and depth of the research.

3. Evidence-Informed Measurement and Analysis

The research will use:

- Validated instruments (OBVQ as the primary measurement tool - TBC)
- Complementary tools to capture behavioral and environmental changes (customized SBBS and SCP – TBC)
- All tools will be contextually adapted to Romanian school environments (urban, rural, underserved contexts) and to diverse student populations, including vulnerable groups (Roma, LGBTI, migrant/refugee, girls, youth with lived mental-health challenges, socio-economically disadvantaged youth) in order to ensure cultural and linguistic relevance while maintaining methodological integrity.

4. Systems and Whole-School Perspective

The research will reflect the project’s multi-layered intervention model by examining:

- Individual-level behavioral outcomes (students)
- Peer dynamics and social norms
- School-level environment (climate and connectedness)

5. Ethical and Safeguarding-Centered Approach

The research will prioritize:

- Protection of children and adolescents throughout all stages of data collection
- Safe participation, confidentiality, and responsible data handling
- Compliance with ethical approval requirements from a recognized academic institution

6. Analytical Rigor and Transparency

The research will ensure:

- Clear definition and measurement of “Lives Improved”
- Consistent application of baseline and endline methodologies
- Transparent documentation of analytical methods, assumptions, and limitations

7. Iterative Learning and Adaptive Use of Findings

While maintaining methodological consistency, the research will:

- Incorporate early insights from baseline findings
- Allow for refinement of qualitative components (e.g., youth-led research tools)
- Support ongoing learning to strengthen both implementation and analysis

During the consultancy, the selected consultant will work closely with World Vision Romania project staff.

Location	Remote
Planned Start date	April 27 th , 2026, TBC
Planned End date	January 31 st 2027
Estimated Level of Effort	232 hours
Contracting party	The selected consultant will be contracted by World Vision Romania.

	<p>The selected Consultant will be contracted by World Vision Romania through either a Service Agreement or a Copyright Assignment Agreement, depending on the legal status of the Consultant. During the pre-contracting phase, the selected Consultant will be required to submit proof of legal status, such as a Trade Registry Certificate (Certificat Constatator) or an Extract from the National Register of Associations and Foundations (Extras din Registrul Asociatiilor si Fundatiilor), as applicable to their legal form, or an equivalent official document.</p>
<p>Payment terms</p>	<p>The total available contract value is 55,000 RON (including VAT, where applicable) and will be disbursed in 2 performance-based instalments, upon successful completion and approval of deliverables, as follows:</p> <p>60% of the total contract value Upon successful completion of baseline phase deliverables (by end of June), including: Development and submission of the Inception Report (research design, methodology, measurement framework, workplan) Submission of Ethical Approval Documentation from a recognized university Finalization of the Measurement Toolkit (including OBVQ authorization, adapted tools, and data collection protocols) Delivery of enumerator training (project staff – quantitative) and youth training (qualitative research component) Completion of baseline data collection (May) Submission of the Baseline Dataset and Analytical Report, including initial findings and interpretation Initial outputs from the youth-led qualitative research component, as applicable</p> <p>40% of the total contract value Upon successful completion of endline phase deliverables (by end of January), including: Updated tools and protocols for endline data collection Delivery of refresher training for enumerators Completion of endline data collection (December–January) Submission of the Endline Dataset (cleaned and validated) Submission of the Endline Analysis and Synthesis Report, including: Pre–post comparative analysis Individual-level change analysis using OBVQ Calculation of “Lives Improved” Integrated analysis of quantitative and qualitative findings Submission of the Final Research Report (publication-ready) Submission of the Advocacy and Policy Recommendations Brief</p> <p>All payments are conditional upon formal approval of deliverables by World Vision Romania.</p>
<p>Project focal point</p>	<p>Technical: Alexandru Lita, MERL Expert Technical: Chiriac Ilona, CP&MHPSS Technical Advisor Contractual and Managerial Lead: Florina Drăguliu, Project Manager</p>
<p>Application deadline</p>	<p>April 20th, 2026, 5 PM</p>

Responsibilities of the Contracted

The selected Consultant is expected to:

- Perform all tasks in accordance with the signed contract, Terms of Reference, and approved Technical and Financial Proposal, as well as World Vision Romania policies (including safeguarding and child protection standards)

- Deliver all agreed research deliverables within the established timeline and required quality standards, ensuring methodological rigor and alignment with the defined measurement framework (including “Lives Improved”)
- Lead the design, coordination, and implementation of the research process, including baseline and endline data collection, tool adaptation, and data analysis
- Ensure full compliance with ethical standards for research involving children and adolescents
- Develop and apply robust data collection and analysis protocols, ensuring:
- Deliver and facilitate training sessions for project staff (quantitative data collection/enumerators), Youth participants (qualitative, participatory research methods)
- Oversee and support the implementation of the youth-led qualitative research component, ensuring ethical engagement and meaningful participation
- Conduct rigorous data analysis, including pre–post comparative analysis, individual-level change analysis using OBVQ, calculation of “Lives Improved”, integration of quantitative and qualitative findings
- Participate in regular coordination and check-in meetings with the project team, and provide timely updates on progress
- Proactively communicate any risks, delays, or constraints that may affect implementation, and propose mitigation measures
- Collaborate closely with WVR technical staff to ensure alignment with project objectives, contextual relevance, and usability of findings for programme and advocacy purposes
- Ensure that all research tools, instruments, datasets, and deliverables developed under this consultancy are original, properly referenced where applicable, and do not infringe any third-party intellectual property rights (including securing appropriate permissions for the use of standardized tools such as OBVQ)
- Acknowledge and agree that all deliverables produced under this consultancy, including but not limited to research protocols, datasets, tools, analyses, and reports, shall be the exclusive property of World Vision Romania. Full intellectual property rights, including the rights to use, reproduce, adapt, publish, and disseminate the materials, are transferred to World Vision Romania upon full payment under the contract
- Support the development of publication-ready outputs, ensuring that findings meet standards for submission to peer-reviewed journals
- Refrain from using, reproducing, or sharing any materials, data, or findings developed under this assignment for purposes outside this consultancy without prior written consent from World Vision Romania

Time frame:

Activity/Milestone	Efforts estimate (hours)	Estimated Deadline	Location
Contract start & inception meeting with WVR team (alignment on methodology, expectations, deliverables, timeline)	4	27 April 2026 (TBC)	Remote
Research Design & Inception Report (study design, methodology, sampling, measurement framework, analysis plan, workplan)	28	Draft: within 7 working days from contract start Final: within 10 working days	Remote
Ethical Approval Package Preparation & Submission (protocol, consent/assent, safeguarding, data protection) or, where ethical approval has already been initiated or obtained, review, alignment, and documentation of compliance with the approved protocol	4	Submission: by early May 2026 Approval expected: May 2026	Remote
Measurement Tools Adaptation & Finalization (OBVQ authorization, or adapting an equivalent validated instrument for measuring bullying/cyberbullying victimisation; SCP and SBBS customization, tool harmonization, data collection instruments)	20	Final tools: before baseline (early May 2026)	Remote

Enumerator Training (Quantitative – WVR staff) (training design + delivery + materials)	14	Before baseline (early May 2026)	Online
Baseline Data Collection Oversight & Quality Assurance	16	Early–mid May 2026	Remote
Youth Training for Qualitative Research Component (methodology, ethics, facilitation guidance)	14	After baseline (early-mid May 2026)	Online
Baseline Data Cleaning, Analysis and Report	28	By end of June 2026	Remote
Ongoing Support for Youth-Led Qualitative Research (light-touch supervision, guidance, integration)	16	June–November 2026	Online
Endline Tools Update & Refresher Enumerator Training	8	November 2026	Remote & Online
Endline Data Collection Oversight & Quality Assurance	16	December 2026 – January 2027	Remote
Endline Analysis, Lives Improved Calculation & Integrated Analysis (quantitative + qualitative synthesis)	28	January 2027	Remote
Final Research Report (Publication-Ready)	28	By end of January 2027	Remote
Advocacy & Policy Brief Development	8	By end of January 2027	Remote
TOTAL LEVEL OF EFFORT (hours)	232		

World Vision Romania staff has the responsibility to coordinate the activities and logistics for organizing the activities. World Vision Romania will monitor the quality of the activities and give feedback accordingly.

Required experience and skills of the Consultant:

World Vision Romania (WVR) invites applications from qualified non-governmental organizations, companies, authorized individuals, academic institutions, or other legally registered entities, as well as individual consultants (natural persons). Applicants must either hold valid legal tax registration and the capacity to issue invoices in accordance with Romanian or applicable national legislation, or, in the case of individual consultants without such registration, have the legal capacity to enter into a contract for assignment/transfer of intellectual property rights (copyright assignment agreement – contract de cesiune drepturi de autor) in line with applicable Romanian legislation. Applicants must demonstrate proven expertise in research design, implementation, and analysis, particularly in relation to adolescent populations, school ecosystems, mental health, and bullying prevention.

Required Experience and Skills:

Education: Advanced degree (PhD Students minimum, PhD Degree strongly preferred) in psychology, sociology, educational sciences, public health, statistics, child development, or a related field

Professional Experience: Est. 3-5 years of relevant experience in designing and implementing research and/or evaluations with national and international organizations, particularly in areas such as:

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Child protection

Bullying and cyberbullying prevention

Education and school-based interventions

Adolescent well-being

Demonstrated expertise in: designing and implementing mixed-methods research (quantitative and qualitative), pre–post or quasi-experimental study designs, sampling strategies and field research coordination, data analysis (including statistical analysis and qualitative thematic analysis), working with validated measurement tools and adapting them to context

Strong understanding of: Measurement of bullying and cyberbullying (e.g., victimization, perpetration, frequency), Bystander intervention behaviors, School climate and connectedness, use and interpretation of standardized tools (e.g., OBVQ or similar instruments)

Experience Working with Adolescents (10–19 years old): Proven experience conducting research with adolescents, including age-appropriate and ethical data collection approaches, understanding of adolescent development and peer dynamics

Experience with participatory or youth-engaged research approaches: Demonstrated experience in designing and implementing qualitative research methodologies, facilitating participatory or youth-led research processes, integrating qualitative insights into broader analytical frameworks

Ethics and Safeguarding in Research: proven experience in preparing and submitting research protocols for ethical approval, applying ethical standards in research involving children and vulnerable populations, ensuring data protection, confidentiality, and safeguarding compliance

Training and Capacity Building: training enumerators or project staff on data collection methodologies, building capacity of non-research staff in research implementation, training youth or community participants in participatory research methods

Data Analysis and Reporting: conduct rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis, interpret findings clearly and accurately, produce high-quality analytical reports

Diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality principles: research with vulnerable and underserved groups (e.g., children with disabilities/SEND, minority groups, rural populations)

Communication Skills: strong written and spoken English skills, with the ability to present complex findings clearly and tailor communication to different audiences (technical, programmatic, policy)

- **Legal & Administrative Requirements:** Applicants may include non-governmental organizations, companies, authorized individuals, academic institutions, or other legally registered entities that hold valid legal tax registration and have the capacity to issue invoices in accordance with Romanian applicable national legislation, as well as individual consultants (natural persons) who can legally enter into a contract for the assignment of intellectual property rights (copyright assignment agreement – contract de cesiune drepturi de autor) in accordance with applicable legislation.

Selection process

The selection will be conducted based on a technical and financial evaluation of submitted proposals.

Interested applicants are requested to submit all the following:

1. Technical Proposal (5 pages max, Calibri, 11, EN, template of choice), including:
 - Proposed research design and measurement approach, including study design (mixed-methods, pre–post approach), measurement framework aligned with “Lives Improved”, approach to adapting and applying measurement tools, integration of a youth-centered and participatory research approach, including youth-led qualitative research, considerations for ethical compliance, safeguarding, and data quality
 - Proposed workplan aligned with the TOR timeline
2. Financial Proposal, including total cost (RON, including VAT, where applicable) and costs breakdown (template of choice). **The Financial Proposals who exceed the maximum allocated budget, will be rejected and will not enter the evaluation phase.**
3. CV(s) of the consultant or team members, clearly indicating roles and responsibilities (if applicable) – EN/RO
4. Relevant portfolio / examples of previous work, particularly research studies, evaluations, or publications (preferred). Examples of work may involve school-based research, Mental health / MHPSS, Bullying/cyberbullying, Youth participation or qualitative research (EN/RO, max 3 examples of previous work, if applicable; links to publications or reports may be included, with a short description of relevance)
5. World Vision Romania’s Registration Form completed by the applicant.
6. World Vision Romania’s Code of Conduct signed by the applicant.

All interested applicants are invited to submit their proposals or address any clarification questions via e-mail to olga_cojocari@wvi.org, **no later than 20 April 2026, 05:00 PM**. The e-mail subject line should be: “MIND CRAFT – Curricula Consultancy Application”. **Failure to submit all the 6 documents mentioned above, in the mentioned**

deadline, will disqualify the applicants, who will not enter the evaluation phase. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process by e-mail after the contract is concluded with the selected applicant.

Proposals submitted will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Area	Category	Sub-criteria	Maximum Score	
Technical proposal	1. Understanding of Assignment & Project Context	1.1 Understanding of MIND CRAFT approach: demonstrates clear understanding of peer activation model, youth-led approach, intergenerational component (youth–parents–teachers), and school ecosystem dynamics	5	
		1.2 Understanding of research purpose: demonstrates understanding of the role of research in measuring impact (Lives Improved), mechanisms of change, and contribution to evidence and scaling	6	
	2. Technical Approach & Research Design Quality	2.1 Overall research design Clarity, coherence, and feasibility of proposed mixed-methods design (pre–post approach, integration of quantitative and qualitative components)	6	
		2.2. Measurement framework Clear alignment with “Lives Improved” (OBVQ), appropriate selection and adaptation of tools (e.g., school climate, bystander behavior), and logical outcome structure	6	
		2.3 Youth-led and participatory research approach Quality and feasibility of engaging youth in qualitative research; ethical and meaningful participation approach	6	
		2.4 Data collection and analysis approach Robustness of data collection plan, enumerator training approach, data quality assurance, and analytical methods (pre–post, disaggregation, triangulation)	6	
	3. Workplan feasibility	3.1 Workplan clarity and sequencing Logical sequencing of activities aligned with TOR milestones	5	
		3.2 Timeline realism Feasibility of deadlines and allocation of effort (aligned with 232 hours)	5	
		3.3 Risk awareness & mitigation Identification of potential risks (delays in ethics approval, school access, data collection challenges) and proposed mitigation measures	5	
	4. Ethics, Safeguarding & Data Quality Approach	4.1 Ethical approach Clarity and feasibility of obtaining ethical approval; consent/assent procedures; safeguarding considerations	5	
		4.2 Data protection and quality assurance GDPR compliance; data management; consistency between baseline and endline; data validation processes	5	
	5. Experience and Past Work	Portfolio of previous work (mandatory scoring rule) - 1 relevant example provided → 3 points - 2 relevant examples → 6 points - 3 relevant examples → 10 points	10	
	Total Maximum Score Technical Proposal			70
	Financial proposal*			30
	Total			100

**The financial proposals will be evaluated based on a comparative scoring method, with a maximum score of 30 points allocated to the lowest-priced offer. The proposal with the lowest total price will receive the full 30 points. All other financial proposals will be scored using the following formula:*

$$Pf(n) = (\text{Minimum Price} / \text{Offered Price}) \times 30,$$

where Pf(n) represents the score of the evaluated financial proposal, Minimum Price is the lowest price submitted among all eligible offers, and Offered Price is the price of the proposal being evaluated. This method ensures a fair and transparent assessment of value for money across all submissions.

Child Safeguarding and Protection Requirements

All individuals engaged under this consultancy, including consultants, subcontractors, and any associated personnel, are required to comply with World Vision Romania's Child Protection Policy and Behaviour Protocols. Upon successful selection, the Consultant will be required to formally sign and adhere to these policies as part of the contractual agreement.