# Terms of Reference for

# Local Coordinator for Safe Reopening of Schools Project

## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the physical closure of schools, child development and community learning centers. This exacerbated the pressing learning issues in the Philippines and threatened to further widen the gaps in the education of children and young people in the country. The pandemic has also forced almost three million students out of school bringing the enrolment down to 24.72 million in 2020 from 27.7 million in the previous year. The reasons for the decline included the shift to remote or distance learning, and lack of gadgets especially for online learning modality coupled with the costly yet slow internet connectivity. For these, many are clamoring to have a face-to-face learning delivery for the students even under the pandemic.

Given these, the Department of Education (DepEd) has started to consider the reopening of schools for in-person learning. But while local government units (LGUs) are ready to support the national government in addressing education needs, they also surfaced several concerns and hesitations on the reopening of schools, citing their contextual realities in terms of managing risks of wide-spread transmission, availability of health facilities and resources, and local capacities vis-à-vis other priorities, among others. These point out the need to increase local capacities, particularly for the Local Governments to adequately perform their role in supporting the safe reopening of schools, thereby partially addressing the challenges brought about by distance learning and other educational needs of children in their localities.

In this regard, Galing Pook Foundation and the United Nations Children’s Fund entered into a partnership to provide support to the LGUs and enable the latter to focus on building their capacity in developing preparedness and resiliency plans and programs to ensure that local mechanisms and systems are in place and strengthened for safe reopening of schools, consequently enhancing the local community’s level of confidence in managing the process. The project will be implemented in the provinces of Samar, Northern Samar and Zamboanga del Norte, and the City of Zamboanga.

## Scope of Work

The Local Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination and liaison work to ensure that the LGUs, the DepEd and other local stakeholders are onboard the project, and are working together for the safe reopening of schools.

## Tasks and/or Expected Outputs

The scope of work will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:

1. Tasks

* **Coordination and Liaison Tasks.** The Local Coordinator shall perform coordination and liaison work with project stakeholders in her/his assigned areas. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the local government units (LGUs), the Schools Division Office of Department Education, the participating schools, barangays and communities.
* **Provision of Assistance in the Organizing of the Safe Schools Reopening (SSR) Teams.** The Local Coordinator shall assist in the organizing or formation of the SSR Teams in her/his assigned areas.
* **Facilitate/Co-facilitate Data Gathering and Consultations.** The Local Coordinator shall facilitate/co-facilitate the gathering of baseline data and the conduct of local consultations for SSR to ensure that the plans and strategies the LGUs will develop are grounded and evidence based. S/He shall also assist in the gathering of the materials necessary in the case study/documentation of the children and youth participation in governance component of the project.
* **Capability Building Component Tasks.** The Local Coordinator shall ensure that the LGU Safe Schools Reopening (SSR) Teams are informed and attend the training, coaching and mentoring sessions. S/He shall provide facilitation assistance in the conduct of the training sessions when necessary, and provide administrative support to the assigned Consultant during the field visits and coaching and mentoring activities.
* **Documentation Support.** Document the project activities conducted in the assigned LGUs as well as those participated in by the SSR Teams assigned to her/him.
* **Other Tasks.** The Local Coordinator shall perform other tasks as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the project.

1. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

* A workplan in line with the project activities and outputs
* Activity documentation
* Monthly accomplishment report

## Minimum Qualification Requirements

* Bachelor’s degree preferably in social sciences, public health, education or development communication
* With at least three years experience in working with communities, and/or LGUs

## Duration of the Assignment

The assignment will be for eight (8) months from January 2022 to August 2022

## Reporting Arrangement

The Local Coordinator will be based in her/his area of assignment and will report to the Program Coordinator of the Galing Pook Foundation for this project.