



Terms of Reference

Title	Meta-analysis Research Partner	Department/office	UK
Code	TfaC UKMRP	Start date	15 th September 2022
Type	Consultancy	End date	15 th December 2022
Line manager	Head of Methodology and Training	Post-related allowances	n/a
Consultancy focus	To produce a meta-analysis on the impact of Theatre for a Change's methodology on individuals, groups and communities in select countries and contexts.		
Number of staff	n/a	As line manager	n/a
Finances managed	n/a		

Introduction

Theatre for a Change (TfaC) uses a unique combination of participatory learning and drama to build the skills and confidence of women and girls to improve their sexual and reproductive health, and assert their rights as individuals and members of their communities.

We enable their voices to be heard by the people who currently have control over key areas of their lives, and who have the power to make long term changes to the social norms, expectations and structures that impact their lives.

TfaC began in 2003 in Ghana and the UK. In 2009, TfaC Malawi was founded. TfaC Malawi is TfaC UK's sister organisation and independently registered in Malawi; we share the same vision, mission and values, and work closely together through a partnership agreement.

In 2015, TfaC UK launched its New Partnerships Programme (NPP) with the goal of increasing impact, innovation and income through consultancy partnerships with established organisations who are rooted within and trusted by the communities they serve. NPP prioritises working with organisations who have a strong focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and share our vision, mission and values.

Since 2015, NPP has worked in 15 countries, and trained and supported 42 organisations to deliver programming using TfaC's unique approach. In 2022, TfaC launched an online learning hub to support the professional development of its facilitators, partners and trainers in a more continuous and sustainable way. For more, please see www.tfacafrica.com



The TfaC Methodology

The TfaC methodology for changing behaviour is an experiential process, where participants share experiences from their lives through techniques such as improvisation, and physical sculpting and mapping of these experiences. This is the starting point for understanding the patterns and power dynamics - particularly gender-related - which underpin these experiences. Behaviour change can then be practised by making physical changes to the way voice, movement or space are used in these key situations, all with one purpose in mind: the empowerment of the person who has been disempowered.

TfaC's methodology for advocacy is by enabling groups who have been marginalised to tell their story to those in power. The participants lead the process of determining who they want to influence, and what story from their lives they want to tell. The audience of power holders, having seen the performance, are then invited to take the role of the protagonist, who is usually the character struggling to have her rights respected and upheld. They are invited to try to make a change to her story by becoming this character in the story, and, as a result of this, power holders develop greater empathy and understanding of her situation. At the end of the performance, the power holders are asked what changes to policies or practises they could bring about to prevent this story from happening again.

For more on TfaC's methodology, please see www.tfacafrica.com/methodology

Consultancy Background

The breadth and depth of TfaC's work in Malawi, Ghana and with partners worldwide has led to numerous evaluations being conducted on its impact over the years; many of these evaluations can be found on our website at www.tfacafrica.com/impact.

But these evaluations have primarily focused on the extent to which TfaC programmatic outcomes were achieved; not specifically how TfaC's methodology has worked to achieve these outcomes. To date, TfaC has yet to conduct a comprehensive evaluation that looks specifically at how our methodology creates impact on individuals, groups and communities when used as a behaviour change and advocacy tool for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The focus of this consultancy aims to answer that question, by conducting a meta-analysis on the impact of TfaC's methodology on individuals, groups and communities in select countries and contexts. This research will enable us to fill a current gap in our body of evidence that will support the future scale up, strengthening and sustainability of our work in Malawi, Ghana and with partners around the world.



Scope of Work

TfaC is seeking to work with an individual researcher, or research team, or research body, on the assignment. The research will be co-designed and led by the research partner, and will involve the conducting of a comprehensive review of the body of evidence that TfaC has already generated about the impact of its work, in order to answer the following research question:

What impact does the Theatre for a Change methodology have on individuals, groups and communities when used as a behaviour change and advocacy tool for sexual and reproductive health and rights?

We would like to understand the extent to which this question can be answered using the current body of evidence that TfaC has generated over the years; but we would also be open to input on where existing research assumptions need checking and/or where further evidence might be needed to support the development of more conclusive research results.

The consultancy is home-based with flexible working hours. The available budget for this assignment is up to \$15,000.

Person Specification

- Social development research background, with a strong focus on gender, social norms, participatory learning, life skills, youth and adolescence
- Published evaluations of social development programmes, ideally in an African context
- Keen interest to learn about TfaC's methodology and its impact
- Open, collaborative attitude and approach to designing the research with TfaC

Time Frame

The consultancy runs from mid-September to mid-December 2022.

September and October will likely focus on defining the scope of research and carrying out review of previous TfaC evaluations and studies.

November and December will likely focus on analysis of existing data and the production of the meta-analysis.

We hope to have a dissemination event for donors, partners and potential partners sometime in the spring of 2023, at which the consultant will also be invited to present their research.



Application Process

You are invited to submit an application for conducting this assignment to ryan.borcherding@tfacafrika.com with the subject line 'Meta-analysis Research Partner'.

Please include the following in your application:

- A cover letter outlining your interest in the assignment and how your experience and skills meet the requirements
- A CV outlining relevant experience
- Two samples of published research on themes relevant to this assignment

Closing date for applications: 31st August 2022

If you have any questions about the assignment, or would like to discuss your application in advance, please reach out to ryan.borcherding@tfacafrika.com