

TOR: Social Research Lead (consultancy)
Just Acts socio-legal research

Reports to:	Director, Arts for Action
Fee:	Negotiable - depending on experience
Contract period:	50 days; February - May 2019
Location:	Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

About Arts for Action

Arts for Action has 15 years of experience in designing and delivering theatre and communication for development projects and programmes in South/South-East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, offering a genuinely collaborative, creative, bottom-up approach to positive change. The organisation specialises in designing and delivering interactive learning programmes, including impactful communication campaigns with a proven track record of educating communities to access their rights. As part of Arts for Action's work delivering change programmes in countries including Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, the organisation has conducted numerous social research exercises and KAP studies and have a proven track record of integrating innovative social research techniques into ongoing community-based development programmes.

Arts for Action founder and director Melissa Eveleigh is a practicing fellow with the Governance and Justice group whose track record for delivering legal aid, justice audits, paralegal, penal reform and mediation programmes is considered international best practice.



Photo: Training with the Human Drama team in Myanmar

Just Acts Facilitation Programme

WITH SUPPORT FROM IOM, I PARTNERSHIP WITH BBC MEDIA ACTION, TRANSLATORS WITHOUT BORDERS, AND GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE GROUP

Programme background

Bangladesh has a long history of hosting Rohingya from Northern Rakhine State and other parts of Myanmar. In August 2017 as a result of severe state repression and systematic targeted violence over 750,000 Rohingya fled into Bangladesh and have since settled in what is the largest refugee encampment in the world. The speed and scale of the violence caused untold loss, trauma, separation, breakdown of social structures; compounded by the lack of legal status the displaced Rohingya people experience in Bangladesh has left hundreds of thousands of people without access to social or legal protection.

Over one year has passed since the influx of 2017 and the Rohingya population have been living in makeshift camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf and heavily reliant on external humanitarian assistance for basic survival and subsistence. The establishment of the “mahzi” system by the Bangaldeshi Army at the onset of the crisis was intended to support community communication and coordination but has created an unrepresentative system of order and control. This system presides over access to information and resources and bar a few exceptions has led to systemic abuse of power and corruption.

Government Camp in Charges (CICs) were also established to support camp coordination along with formal humanitarian actors and have created a power dynamic in the camps in which disputes and protection issues are often referred with little formal oversight. Whilst the humanitarian community has done much to improve conditions in the camps and provide comprehensive services, refugee populations face significant protection threats that impact upon their safety and well-being.

Access to safe, clear, accountable pathways for addressing dispute, conflict and grave harm remains limited and constrained by systemic lack of capacity and knowledge how to apply legal protections for vulnerable members of the community. Understanding how crisis affected populations perceive concepts of “wrong-doing”, “harm”, “disputes” is critical for IOM Protection actors; as is knowing what constitutes effective remedies and restitution. This is a critical first step to enabling and empowering communities to mitigate and prevent protection threats in the short to medium term.

Programme overview

Arts for Action aims to improve protection outcomes for Rohingya and Bangladeshi crisis affected populations, through a phased approach, by a) developing a baseline understanding of knowledge, practices and behaviours of “conflict”, “disputes” and “wrong doing” driving perceptions of insecurity and safety; and b) identifying critical entry points to support informal dispute resolution and primary justice mechanisms to enhance protection. Central to this will be formulating a set of grassroots interventions that are driven by the perceptions and lived experiences of the crisis affected population.

The first phase of the programme is funded by IOM, and partners include BBC Media Action, Translators Without Borders, Unite Theatre for Social Action (UTSA), the Governance and Justice Group, BNWLA, ASK, BLAST and others.

Just Acts Phase 1: Research into Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice and Action

The Social Research Lead will be responsible for the delivery of a piece of sociolegal research that comprises the first phase of the programme.

Working through existing spaces, the research will provide rapid improvement to current legal assistance, participatory community dialogue and learning mechanisms by engaging people in culturally appropriate, understandable and transformative processes, in their language, whilst putting foundations in place for longer term legal and social empowerment of the affected community.

The proposed research will utilize a combined approach using quantitative and qualitative methods that aim to identify the difference between what people say they know or do, and what happens in practice. Additionally, research methods are participatory, enabling Rohingya perspective, knowledge and needs to guide the process. The participatory nature of the research will ensure that interventions are defined by lived experiences and not aimed at creating structures that may be at odds with how communities self-protect and that causes more harm. This aims to address pervasive protection threats in a manner that ensures the safety and dignity of the affected community.

The research will both inform the design and development of phase 2 of the programme, enable appropriate and acceptable informal justice and conflict resolution mechanisms to be programmed, and build the capacity of frontline workers to enable them to deliver activities in these subsequent phases.

Research action includes:

- a) Collaborative and inclusive research design in which Rohingya refugees and other crisis affected groups will participate in defining key questions and framing of the research based on socio-linguistic practices. Ultimately, this relates to how populations perceive and conceive of issues such as conflict, dispute, protection and justice to ensure that the research is not extractive and can identify sustainable interventions.
- b) Interactive social research workshops with crisis affected populations.
- c) Training of staff from IOM, implementing partners and other stakeholders to build capacities of humanitarian actors to utilize appropriate language and framing to address future risks and options for remedy.
- d) Surveys to collect quantitative KAP baseline data.
- e) Key Informant Interviews across a spectrum of socioeconomic, status lines.
- f) Focus Group Discussions to further explore key themes e.g.: Access to Justice, peace and conflict resolution, PSS and social cohesion, political economy and power structure analysis.
- g) Interactive creative methods such as photography and participatory video to allow crisis affected populations to tell and share stories from Rohingya perspective.

Phase 1 research will produce findings that are applicable to operational protection, site management and other key stakeholders in the humanitarian community, crisis affected communities and local authorities. In addition to being foundational to further primary justice, healing and social cohesion programming for IOM, this research will result in knowledge that can feed into the larger framework of the Joint Response, with the aim of supporting and building upon current efforts to inform, educate and support the Rohingya refugee population to manage violence, trauma and wrong doing.

Scope of work

The Social Research Lead will be responsible for collaborative research design and delivery, data management, documentation, assessment and reporting for this research exercise. They will also line manage a Social Researcher and support project partners to coordination of field researchers and data analysis.

This study aims to provide IOM and protection actors with comprehensive data and analysis of Rohingya's knowledge, attitude and behaviour towards protection, justice, power structures, healing and social cohesion. The objective of this is to enable the improvement of the day-to-day justice needs and protection situation for Rohingya refugees.

The study will:

1. Establish a KAP baseline for informal justice programming, protection knowledge building, behaviour change and communication campaigns, conflict mitigation and access to justice.
2. Recommend positive change, communication interventions and community-based initiatives that would achieve in removing barriers to just outcomes to disputes, rising tensions, and culture of impunity, and most likely to be acceptable to the community, and identify structures for the IOM to support
3. Inform the design of the subsequent phases of the Just Acts Facilitation Programme

Deliverables

1. Lead and develop work plans for the research team
2. Work with Team Lead, Translators without Borders, to design research methodology and tools
3. Ensure quality control of research conducted by researchers and enumerators
4. Oversight of data capture and data analysis
5. Written KAP study report
6. Presentation of the research findings to relevant stakeholders in Cox's Bazar
7. Raw data files

Person specification

Essential

- At least 8 years experience in social research in a development and/or humanitarian context
- Experience of mixed-methodology research projects, including KAP studies
- Experience of participatory research methods
- Experience of, or openness to, innovative approaches to social research
- Experience in training enumerators and working with local teams in culturally-appropriate manner
- Experience leading and training social research teams
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Professional working proficiency in English (written and verbal)
- Excellent research, reporting and analytical skills
- Relevant IT skills including SPSS, MS Office etc.

Desired

- Experience of conducting sociolegal research or other access to justice projects
- Experience of conducting social research in Bangladesh
- Experience working with Bengali/Chittagonian or Rohingya speaking people
- PhD in a relevant discipline, or equivalent in professional experience



Photo: Workshop with Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh

Fees and expenses

Applicant should provide a quotation for their daily rate for approximately 50 days work. This fee is negotiable. Quotations between 250 and 450 USD per day will be considered acceptable, depending upon experience.

A return flight to Bangladesh and accommodation in Cox's Bazar will also be provided.

Application process

To apply for the role, please email the following to our Development coordinator, Sarah Cassidy, at sarah.cassidy@artsforaction.org.uk by **10am GMT Monday 18th February**.

- A cover letter (max. 2 sides A4), explaining your interest in the consultancy and how you meet the person specification above.
- A copy of your CV
- A sample of work (e.g. a relevant research report)
- Contact details of 2 references, including your current/most recent employer. Please let us know whether we are able to contact your references in advance of a job offer.

First round interviews are expected to take place via Skype **w/c 25 February**; please note in your application any dates you would be unavailable that week, and outline your availability in 2019.