

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Assessment for Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) and School Seed Grants Southern Thailand Flood Response

1. Background

Severe flooding in southern Thailand has significantly disrupted household livelihoods, access to basic goods, essential services, and education infrastructure. As part of its humanitarian response, Save the Children Thailand (SCT) plans to implement Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) and school seed grants for rehabilitation, in line with SCI Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Guidance, which prioritizes cash-based responses where markets are functioning and cash is safe, appropriate, and feasible.

In Thailand, the flood response is implemented without a dedicated humanitarian CVA Steering Committee or CVA Cluster. As such, SCT requires a robust, comprehensive market assessment that can independently inform cash transfer values, delivery modalities, and institutional grant sizing while ensuring accountability, coherence, and risk mitigation across cash-based interventions.

2. Objective

To generate evidence-based recommendations to support the design and implementation of **SCI-compliant MPCA and school seed grants**, ensuring appropriateness, accountability, and market sensitivity in the southern Thailand flood response.

3. Specific Objectives

In line with SCI CVA Guidance, the assessment will:

- Determine whether local markets can meet increased household and institutional demand without distortion
- Inform Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) or reference baskets for MPCA
- Inform appropriate grant amounts for school seed grants, focusing on light rehabilitation and restoration of learning environments
- Identify safe, inclusive, and feasible cash and grant delivery modalities
- Assess risks related to protection, fraud, access, political sensitivity, and market volatility
- Compensate for the absence of a national CVA coordination platform by providing comprehensive analysis and clear justification for CVA decisions
- Analyze existing Thai government cash, social protection, and accountability mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication

4. Scope of Work

4.1 Market Functionality and Supply

- Assess functionality of markets supplying essential household goods, services, and basic construction materials relevant for school rehabilitation

- Analyze trader capacity, supply chains, and restocking timelines following flooding
- Identify geographic, seasonal, or access-related market constraints

4.2 Price Analysis and Transfer Value Setting

- Collect and analyze prices for goods and services aligned with SCI MEB guidance (food, WASH, shelter, health, education-related needs)
- Analyze prices of key materials relevant to **school rehabilitation** (e.g. cleaning supplies, minor repair materials, furniture replacement)
- Recommend:
 - MPCA transfer value ranges for households
 - Indicative **school seed grant amounts** appropriate for different school sizes and levels of damage

4.3 Cash and Grant Delivery Modalities

- Assess feasibility and risks of delivery modalities for:
 - Household MPCA (e.g. bank transfer, e-wallets, mobile money, vouchers)
 - Institutional school seed grants
- Analyze financial access barriers for vulnerable households and schools
- Consider documentation, banking access, and digital literacy constraints

4.4 Risk, Protection, and Accountability Analysis

- Identify risks in line with SCI CVA risk framework, including:
 - Protection, child safeguarding, and GBV risks
 - Exclusion risks (e.g. undocumented households, informal settlements)
 - Fraud, diversion, and misuse risks
 - Political and reputational risks, including election-related sensitivities
 - Propose mitigation measures aligned with SCI safeguarding, accountability, and fraud prevention standards

4.5 Government Cash and Social Assistance Analysis

- Map existing **Thai government cash transfers, social protection, and flood compensation schemes**, including:
 - Eligibility criteria and coverage
 - Delivery mechanisms
 - Accountability and grievance redress systems
- Assess gaps, delays, or exclusion risks affecting flood-affected households and schools
- Provide recommendations to ensure SCT's MPCA and school seed grants are **complementary, non-duplicative, and contextually appropriate**

5. Methodology

The consultant will apply a **rapid, mixed-methods approach** consistent with SCI CVA tools and good practice, including:

- Desk review of secondary data, government schemes, and recent assessments

- Key informant interviews with suppliers, school administrators, local authorities, and community representatives
- Price monitoring in representative markets
- Use of simplified tools suitable for time and access constraints

Given the absence of a national CVA coordination mechanism, the methodology must ensure **strong analytical rigor, clear assumptions, and transparent justification** for all recommendations.

6. Geographic Coverage

The assessment will cover selected flood-affected districts in southern Thailand, including: Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat Provinces. Final locations will be confirmed jointly with SCT.

7. Deliverables

The consultant will produce:

- **Inception note** (methodology, tools, and workplan)
- **Cash Feasibility Report** (maximum 15–20 pages) including:
 - Market functionality analysis
 - Price findings and recommended transfer value range
 - Recommended MPCA modality
 - Key risks and mitigation measures aligned with SCI CVA guidance
- **Summary presentation** for SCT decision-making and donor engagement

8. Timeline

The assignment is expected to be completed within **10–14 working days**, including reporting, with the final deliverable to be submitted by 6th February 2026.

9. Reporting and Coordination

The consultant will report to the **Humanitarian Coordinator** and work closely with:

- SCT Programme and Operations teams
- SCT MEAL team (to support monitoring and post-distribution planning)

Findings will directly inform MPCA design, donor proposals, and implementation planning.

10. Consultant Profile

The consultant should have:

- Demonstrated experience in humanitarian market assessments and MPCA design
- Strong familiarity with SCI CVA Guidance and humanitarian cash standards
- Experience working in flood or rapid-onset emergency contexts
- Ability to deliver high-quality outputs under tight timelines

11. How to Apply

If you are interested in this assignment, please submit your application via email to Kittiphan.samana@savethechildren.org with the subject line:

Your Name_Assessment for MPCA and School Seed Grants

Your application should include:

- **CV or Company Profile**
- **Quotation** (including cost breakdown and any applicable taxes)
- **Workplan / Proposal** (detailing methodology, timeline, and deliverables)

Important Notes:

- Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.
- Ensure all documents are clear, complete, and aligned with the Terms of Reference.