I. BACKGROUND

Children are particularly vulnerable to conditions of environmental degradation such as air pollution, inadequate supply of potable and clean water, the emergence of vector-borne diseases (i.e. malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, plague, pandemics) and land subsidence or sinking land areas due to excessive extraction of groundwater. Other threats to children’s health and lives include a set of environmental hazards such as exposure to chemicals either through their immediate environments or food intake, the various manifestations of climate change (e.g. extended droughts, floods caused by heavy rains, heat waves, ocean level rise), and electronic wastes caused by the growing importance and utilization of the digital environment. These conditions are major contributors to childhood deaths, illnesess and disability especially among marginalized communities, including many developing countries in Southeast Asia.

Unfortunately, these negative environmental issues do not only affect children’s health but a set of other rights of children. Environmental issues, when left unaddressed, create higher risks for violence against children (VAC). Such is the case when children are forced by their circumstances to leave their homes either to fetch water in places distant from their homes or when agricultural families send their children to live with relatives or alternative caregivers due to loss of livelihoods caused by droughts, heavy flooding, and other climate-related disasters. These children are at high risk for different forms of VAC on periods that they are away from their homes. Issues of environmental crisis, coupled with lack of education, also increase cases of child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, among others, as families find ways around limited resources for survival.

In rural and upland areas, children in indigenous and ethnic communities are at heightened risks for community-level violence. Disputes in access to and management of natural resources also cause conflicts either within families or between communities and multinational companies. And these cause a variety of stressors that impact children’s mental health. In such cases, children are not able to exercise their rights to education and play because they are forced to either join their parents and adult relatives or become human rights or environmental rights defenders themselves to fight the pressures for their community’s displacement and cultural sustainability. When children take on the roles of human rights/environmental defenders, they are at heightened risk for different forms of violent retaliation. And even with the UN’s call for states to “provide a safe and empowering context for initiatives organized by young people and children to defend human rights relating to the environment”6 in March 2019, many adult stakeholders of children’s rights and environmental rights lack the skills and knowledge to provide support and protection to children human rights/environmental rights defenders.

With children and young people initiating calls for decisive climate action by adults, private companies, governments, and intergovernmental bodies; and the UN Human Rights Council Resolution on realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment in October 20203, there is a need to facilitate the capacity-building of adult stakeholders of children’s rights and environmental rights towards the realization of children’s right to a healthy environment. There is also a huge need to broaden people’s awareness on environmental issues so as to be able

---

2. https://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1
to change the way people perceive and manage natural resources. The impacts of different environmental issues to children and their families require transformative actions of all stakeholders towards social and intergenerational equity.

Moreover, there is a need to educate children not only about their rights to a healthy environment but also with skills that will enable them to generate solutions to climate emergencies that are expected to emerge in their time. The Global Climate Strikes initiated and also hugely participated by children and young people since 2019 and CRC Asia’s gathered recommendations of children on issues of children’s right to a healthy environment reflect that children are crucial agents of change in the fight against climate change. They are aware of the natural environment-related risks they and their communities face and have shown their capacities in generating innovative solutions to environmental problems. Interestingly, the children participants at the 2 activities co-led by CRC Asia with its partners in 2019 recognize the need for collaborative action by different communities, including among children. They emphasized that the provision of platforms for exchange among children in different countries and situations will allow for their understanding of the impacts and interconnection of their actions towards the natural environment.

It is also important to involve children on issues of environment because children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards. The child delegates of the 2019 Asian Children’s Summit called for immediate action and support for children’s mental health and psychosocial well-being caused by, among other things, environmental issues. They specifically expressed concern over the trauma experienced by children during natural disasters and the general feeling of uncertainty in the futures of children due to the swift approach of more climate-related risks to their health, their families' livelihoods, and their communities' food security.

In partnership with Terre des Hommes (TDH) Germany, CRC Asia is implementing a project that aims to contribute to the full realization of children’s right to a healthy environment through the creation of an enabling environment for children and civil society organizations to participate and advocate for the right of the child to a healthy environment. CRC Asia and TDH recognize that there are many related child-led advocacy actions and campaigns of children human rights/environmental rights defenders in Southeast Asia. However, these are often either undocumented, unpromoted, and unsupported by a broader audience.

In this regard, CRC Asia, with the help of a Writer/Researcher is expected to produce a publication that maps out and promotes the advocacy actions and campaigns of children human rights/environmental rights defenders from Southeast Asia (i.e., Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Hongkong, Taiwan). These actions may be done individually or collectively by the children.

II. ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

The details of the publication are as follows:

A. Communication Objective:
   To present environment-related advocacy actions and campaigns of at least 5,000 children human rights / environmental rights defenders in at least 10 countries/territories in Southeast Asia
B. Target Audience:
   Main: Policymakers/government representatives of ASEAN

   Secondary: Partner organizations of CRC Asia, Terre des Hommes, and families/households in Southeast Asia

III. TASKS OF THE WRITER/RESEARCHER

The Writer/Researcher may be an individual or a team.

The Writer/Researcher is expected to conduct research, develop the manuscript of the publication, and provide guidance to the Layout Artist in close coordination with the CRC Asia Secretariat.

Scope of Work
1. Conduct research (through desk research, interviews, and other means) about the advocacy actions and campaigns of children human rights/environmental rights defenders in Southeast Asia,
2. Prepare an outline of the publication to be consulted with CRC Asia and/or Terre des Hommes
3. Develop the manuscript of the publication based on the agreed outline, with instructions for layout artist and proper citation of sources
4. Edit the manuscript based on the comments from CRC Asia and/or Terre des Hommes (up to 3 revisions)
5. Secure the permission of groups and individuals who are leading the advocacy actions and campaigns prior to publication of the texts and/or images
6. Provide instructions to the layout artist
7. Provide comments on the layout, including on the revisions

III. DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

The Writer/Researcher is expected to deliver the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Deliverables/Project Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} week of October 2021</td>
<td>Proposed outline of the publication manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} week of October 2021</td>
<td>First draft of the manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} week of November 2021</td>
<td>Second draft of the manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} week of November 2021</td>
<td>Third and final draft of the manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Signed/documentated release forms of texts and/or images to be used in the publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} to 4\textsuperscript{th} week of December 2021</td>
<td>Comments on the layout (up to 3 drafts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A Layout Artist may be asked to begin layout work prior to the finalization of the publication.
IV. QUALIFICATIONS

The Writer/Researcher:

- Must have experience in producing published materials in English
- Must have knowledge of child participatory approaches
- Must have an understanding of the importance of children’s participation in issues that directly or indirectly affect them
- Must have no records of violations of child rights and fraud
- Familiarity with child rights and climate action advocacy preferred

V. PAYMENT

The Writer/Researcher will be paid Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Five Pesos and 95/100 (PhP260,905.95), inclusive of taxes.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents on or before 29 September 2021 to labayan@crcasia.org:

1. Letter of interest addressed to:
   
   Ms. Amihan Abueva,
   Regional Executive Director
   Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia)

2. Curriculum Vitae of Team Leader and Members, if applying as a team; and
3. Samples of similar work