1. Background and Justification

From 2018-2021, UNESCO Jakarta with the funding support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands implemented the project “Strengthening Safety of Journalists and Professional Journalistic Standards in the Philippines,” to foster an enabling environment for sustainable, free, independent and professional media in the Philippines where journalists can practice their profession safely with high professional and ethical standards.

The safety and security of journalists in the Philippines is one of the most precarious in Asia and the Pacific. According to UNESCO’s data and its Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, between 2006-2017, there were 75 recorded cases of killings of journalists in the country. Based on these numbers alone, the Philippines has the third highest number of killed journalists in the world after Iraq and Syria.

Therefore, there is a strong need to address the safety of journalists’ situation in the country in a holistic manner. As the leading UN agency with a specialized mandate to promote free flow of ideas through words and images, UNESCO has been supporting the promotion of freedom of expression and its corollaries including press freedom, access of information, and safety of journalist in the Philippines since early 1990s.

The project is expected to contribute to the strengthening of safety of journalists in the Philippines through capacity building trainings. The project followed a gender sensitive approach, providing focus on women journalists. The main outputs of the project were:

a. Capacity-building workshops to strengthen journalists’ digital and physical safety skills,
b. Capacity-building workshops to strengthen journalists’ skills on professional standards and ethical journalism.

Moreover, the project is expected to contribute to the following:

a. Sharing of good practices and experience between journalists in the different regions in the country.
b. Awareness-raising on the importance of free-independent and professional media especially in conjunction with international days such as World Press Freedom Day (03 May) and International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (02 November).

2. Objectives

The overall purpose of this final evaluation is to determine the relevance and the fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of this project. Furthermore, the evaluation aims to inform programme stakeholders on the status of implementation, output delivery, and progress towards its objectives and generate recommendations for potential future projects in a new framework agreement framework. More specifically, the evaluation aims to:

1. Assess the efficiency of output delivery and related achievements and challenges in the implementation of the project to meet its objectives under the ultimate vision;
2. Assess the effectiveness in achieving the defined objectives and to what extent conditions are put in place that facilitate sustainability or a longer-term impact, and;

3. Review the project’s strategies and identify opportunities, challenges, good practices, and lessons learnt that will be useful for strengthening and enhancing similar interventions for the design of the potential next phase of the project.

The evaluation shall provide recommendations for improving the programme’s working methods and processes; and in relation to project continuation or closure and the criteria for selecting new projects.

3. Outputs
The expected outputs under this contract are:

1. Interim report on the proposed evaluation framework and detailed evaluation methodology.

4. Scope
The evaluation of the project requires a structure consisting of certain criteria depending on the resources of evaluation, such as relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project outcomes. The following questions are indicative and shall be refined during the inception phase of the evaluation:

1. Relevance
   - To what extent are the project in the Philippines and outputs aligned with UNESCO's organisational mandate as defined in UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (document 37 C/4) and 2022 – 2029 (document 41 C/4) and its associated UNESCO biennial programme 2020-2021 (document 40 C/5) and 2022-2023 (document 41C/5)?
   - To what extent are the project outputs contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16.10), UNESCO's global priority on Gender Equality and UNESCO's global cross-cutting Strategies and Action Plans on Least Developed Countries?
   - To what extent do the project's activities and outputs align with the needs and demands of key stakeholders and target groups in the Philippines as reported in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 (PDP 2017-2022)?
   - How relevant has the project been as an instrument promoting reform initiatives and development policies indicated in the Philippine Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists?

2. Efficiency
   - What have been the key outputs of this project in terms of research, awareness-raising and capacity development in promoting press freedom, freedom of expression and safety of journalists in the Philippines?
   - Is output delivery on schedule? How did COVID-19 impact the implementation of the project, and were there any (unforeseen) delays? What have been the main challenges in delivering the projects’ outputs?
   - What has been the nature and quality of interaction and collaboration at the national and regional levels?
3. Impact
   • What have been the key outcomes resulting from the project?
   • What are the main factors that have facilitated or obstructed the delivery of outcomes?
   • Which activities and use of the produced output were the most/least effective in contributing to the project's objectives and why? What are their common quality aspects and challenges?
   • Are adequate monitoring tools and mechanisms in place and functional? Do they allow communication and exchange of lessons learned between the project and related initiatives?
   • Are the established quality assurance mechanisms adequate?

4. Sustainability
   • What main factors facilitate or threaten the project's financial, political, and institutional outcomes?
   • More specifically, what are the main challenges in safeguarding the sustainability of regional institutional partnerships through the project?
   • What is the potential for mobilising further partners and donors and synergies/complementarities with initiatives undertaken by other development agencies and partners?

5. Activities and Methodology
   Under the overall supervision of the Director of UNESCO Jakarta and direct supervision of the Programme Specialist for Communication and Information, the Contractor shall build blocks of evaluation of this project. The contractor will assess the interventions according to the following criteria: Relevance, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Cross cutting issues such as gender, environment, accountability, and do no harm will also be part of the analysis.

   To this end, the Contractor shall perform, but not limited to, the following tasks with indicated methodology:
   1. Develop a self-assessment report of the project completed by the relevant project team and based on additional data provided by the responsible programme specialist as necessary;
   2. Conduct a desk study consisting of reviews of any relevant documents to the project, for instance, but not limited to, strategy documents, operational procedures, meeting minutes and presentations, mapping of activities, project documents, periodic progress reports; mission reports, UNDAF in the Philippines, UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (document 37 and 40 C/4) and UNESCO biennial programme (document 40 and 41 C/5);
   3. Reconstruct an Overall Intervention logic/Theory of Change for the project and how the project contributed efficiently to it;
   4. Develop questionnaires and surveys addressed to various stakeholders (e.g. Ministries, National Commissions, universities, researchers’ networks, working partners) and analyse the survey results
   5. Conduct interviews, discussions and meetings with project responsible officers, in-presentia or via online platform teleconference (Teams or Zoom). Interviews with representatives from the Donor (i.e. Government of Netherlands), UNESCO Jakarta Office, project partners such as Mindanao Institute Of Journalism, Center for Media
Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), Asian Institute for Journalism Education (AIJC), which will be arranged either on-site or via teleconference;

6. Submit to UNESCO for approval:
   a. Inception report – containing the evaluation framework, detailed evaluation methodology, project/programme sample, work plan and logistical arrangements by **Friday, 30 September 2022**.
   b. Draft Evaluation report of a maximum of 50 pages (including annexes) by **Monday, 31 October 2022** to be structured as follows:
      1. Executive Summary (usually not more than three pages);
      2. Programme description;
      3. Evaluation purpose;
      4. Evaluation methodology;
      5. Findings;
      6. Lessons learnt;
      7. Recommendations;
   c. Final Evaluation Report of 30 – 50 pages (including annexes) incorporating the appropriate comments and suggestions received by the reference group on the draft final report by **Friday, 18 November 2022**.

   The methodology must consider the participants’ safety throughout the evaluation process as well as research ethics and quality assurance. The evaluation will follow UNESCO’s evaluation policy and will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlines in the UNEG ethical guidelines for evaluation.

6. Inputs
   - UNESCO will provide the Contractor with information, advice, regional science network or pool of experts’ access as necessary and relevant to the activities to be provided for this contract.
   - UNESCO will provide feedback and evaluation on the final approach and methodology, findings, conclusions, lessons and recommendations identified during the evaluation process.

7. Logistics

   The external evaluation consultant will be responsible for own logistics, office space, administrative and secretarial support, telecommunications, printing of documentation and methodological tools such as survey. UNESCO Jakarta will facilitate the evaluation process to whatever extent possible by providing contact information such as email address.

   UNESCO Jakarta will assist the consultant in providing documentation, setting up meetings and providing security clearance documents (if needed). The external evaluation consultant is responsible for all travel-related costs, including transport to and from interviews. The travel costs should be included and itemized in the financial proposal.

8. Timing and Reporting
The contract period for this activity will be from 5 September 2022 to 30 November 2022 with the following reporting timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Tentative Due date</th>
<th>Payable Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Inception report - containing the evaluation framework, detailed evaluation</td>
<td>5.8.a</td>
<td>30 September 2022</td>
<td>30% of the contract value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>methodology, project/programme sample, work plan and logistical arrangements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Draft Evaluation report</td>
<td>5.8.b</td>
<td>31 October 2022</td>
<td>50% of the contract value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Final Evaluation report</td>
<td>5.8.c</td>
<td>18 November 2022</td>
<td>20% of the contract value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Eligibility
The call for proposal is open to individual consultants or institutions with the following profile:

- Expertise in evaluating the development assistance projects.
- Ten (10) years or more experience in programme and project evaluation relevant to policymaking. The consultant will also have a strong record in leading and/or conducting the evaluation.
- Advanced university degree in education, media, mass communication, communication research, programme management and/or other development-related fields.
- Working experience with United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organisations, or similar entities. Previous engagement with UNESCO will be an advantage.
- Good understanding and application of UN mandates in Human Rights and Gender Equality.
- Proficiency in writing and speaking English. Knowledge local languages is desirable.
- No previous involvement in the implementation of activities under review.

10. Minimum Content of Proposal and Submission
The interested applicants should submit:
1. Cover letter and a portfolio of conducting past similar works, including links to the reports when possible.
2. Technical proposal with the work plan, including the short-bio of the evaluator(s).
3. Financial proposal following the format in Annex III.
4. Complete the information required in Annex II to Annex IV.

Your offer proposal should reach the following email address no later than 19 August 2022.

UNESCO - Office of the Director
ejakarta@unesco.org
Ref.: JAK/QUO/22/CII/014
Review and Evaluation of UNESCO Project “Strengthening Safety of Journalists and Professional Journalistic Standards in the Philippines”
Attn: Ms. Ana Lomtadze (Communication and Information)
Closing Date and Time: 29 August 2022.