Job Title: Research Assistant

Salary: £2,400 per 3 month assignment

Period: Two fixed term contracts: August to November 2019 (3 months); May-July 2020 (3 months)

Working Hours: 2.5 days per week (20 hours per week)

Location: StreetInvest Twickenham office (some home working may be negotiated)

Line Manager: Director of Programmes/Programme Manager TBD

Key Relationships: CINI (Regional Coordinating Partner), StreetInvest Programmes Team

How to apply: Please send CV and cover letter outlining your relevant skills and experience to info@streetinvest.org as soon as possible

BACKGROUND

StreetInvest is an NGO with the vision of putting a trustworthy adult into the life of every street-connected child. To achieve that, StreetInvest convenes the Global Alliance for Street Work, a network of organisations who share this vision. StreetInvest operates through Regional Coordinating Partners (RCPs) in Asia, East Africa and West Africa and has emerging networks in the UK and Central America.

StreetInvest’s four pillars of work, delivered with and through its regional networks, aim to: inform (through data collection and research); influence (through awareness raising and advocacy); build (through training and capacity building) and strengthen (through network and organizational development).

As part of its ‘Inform’ strand, StreetInvest has an emerging methodology for participatory ‘Vulnerability and Service Mapping’, to provide a snapshot of the vulnerabilities that street-connected children face on the street, and the extent to which services and support exist, are accessible to them and respond to their needs. The participatory methodology builds on that used by ‘Growing Up on the Streets’, the largest longitudinal study in to the lives of street-connected children in Africa.

In partnership with the RCP for India, CINI, StreetInvest has secured funding from Wellcome Trust to implement Vulnerability & Service Mapping across 5 wards of Kolkata, where health inequalities and access to services have emerged as a particular concern. This will be undertaken over the period July 2019 to July 2020 and allow street-connected children to directly advocate for and inform the development of health services to suit the realities of their lives.

THE ROLE

StreetInvest are seeking a research assistant(s) to undertake 2 assignments to support this project at two crucial points:

1. Methodology and tools development – August-November 2019
2. Analysis and report writing – May-July 2020

We welcome applications for one or both of these assignments.

This is an opportunity for a dynamic and values-driven research assistant with a commitment to rights-based approaches and participatory methods, to support the implementation of a ground-breaking study.

You will work remotely with the Research Coordinator, Project Manager and Research Director based in Kolkata, and closely with StreetInvest’s Programmes Team in the UK.
The core objectives of the study are:

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<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
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<td>Enumeration</td>
<td>- A sector-endorsed quantitative headcount of street-connected children in each of the 5 wards, using StreetInvest’s sector-endorsed methodology, disaggregated by age, gender and activity.</td>
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| Vulnerability mapping | - A participatory quantitative study (Rapid Situation Assessment survey) to produce baseline data on the vulnerabilities of street-connected children within a child rights framework.  
                          - A participatory qualitative study (Focus Group Discussions) to produce rich insights into the specific experiences of vulnerability within a child rights framework. |
| Service mapping      | - Desk research documenting the government position in relation to street-connected children.  
                          - Desk research to collate a database of formal and informal services and support targeted at street-connected children.  
                          - A participatory qualitative study (semi-structured interviews) with Ward Level Child Protection Committee members - to provide insights into the availability, accessibility, and appropriateness of support and services for street-connected children. |

**Responsibilities**

**Assignment 1: Methodology and tools development**

You will take a central role through the early stages of implementation including design of methodology and tools, planning and desk research:

- Ensure that StreetInvest’s methodology and approach is clearly communicated to and understood by the RCP and that the framework for enquiry is complete.
- Develop and implement a code of ethics for the research project and ensure that this is shared and upheld by all parties.
- Undertake desk research into national level structures for the upholding of street-connected children’s rights and access to services in India.
- Support the RCP in undertaking desk research in to regional and local structural indicators.
- Work with the RCP to clarify implementation in line with research objectives and methodology.
- Work with the RCP to develop suitable tools for data collection and storage, including surveys, FGDs, interview questions and databases.
- Establish a protocol for data sharing between the RCP and StreetInvest including translation mechanisms.
- Establish and/or review research objectives, methodology, budget development and timeframes.
- Be responsible for the recording, documenting and administration of these activities.
- Act as the day to day point of contact for the RCP with responsibility for supporting the RCP in effective management of the research in the early implementation stages.
Assignment 2: Analysis and report writing

You will drive the collation and analysis of research findings and produce a two final reports

- Work with the RCP to collate and organize data collected by surveys, FGDs, interview and desk research
- Work with the RCP to ensure that all outputs are available in both English and Bengali
- Work with RCP (including street champions and young health researchers remotely) to analyse findings
- Lead on the production of three reports:
  1. Headcount report
  2. Vulnerability and service mapping report
  3. Health inequalities report
- Work with StreetInvest programmes team to refine and package the methodology for replicability and scale.

Other (both assignments)

- Carry out any other duties with the scope, spirit and purpose of the job.
- Abide by all StreetInvest’s policies, regulations and procedures.
- Support the management of the relationship with the RCP during the assignments
- Where appropriate, to represent StreetInvest and the project on national and/or international platforms.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

**Essential Experience**

- Research in academia (degree level or higher), or practice.
- Direct experience of participatory qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies, particularly with children.
- Experience working cross-culturally and supporting colleagues remotely

**Essential Skills and Knowledge**

- Excellent organisational skills with the ability to coordinate activities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to think critically
- Good literacy, numeracy and IT skills including excellent written English
- Sensitivity to cultural differences and the ability to work in a wide variety of cultural contexts
- Understanding of, and commitment to, human rights principles

**Essential Aptitude**

- Innovative, creative and proactive with an analytical and solution-oriented approach
- Determined and committed to high quality standards
- Ability to establish effective working relationships at all levels internally and externally quickly
- Ability to meet deadlines and work calmly under pressure
- Commitment to StreetInvest’s strategic direction and core values
- Self-motivated, and able to work independently, setting and achieving personal goals and operational targets

**Desirable**

- Relevant degree/qualification in International Development, child rights, sociology or other relevant field
- Experience of International NGOs and working in developing contexts
- Knowledge/ interest in street children and rights based and child-centred approaches
- Good knowledge of spoken and written Bengali