



Tirana 28.07.2026

TERMS OF REFERENCE

External expert to support YouthCan project team in conducting of the mapping and assessment of the mental health services in project location, Tirana and Shkodra Municipalities.

SOS Children's Village Albania is a private nongovernmental and non-profit organization, which makes every attempt to offer a permanent home to the children who have lost their parents or for several reasons have no possibility to live with them. The SOS Children's Village also strongly supports the children at risk of losing their families, and the families in need through implementation of different projects aiming at the further development of their capacities.

The SOS Children's Village has started a new project titled "Youth Can for Wellbeing and Employment"

The project aims to support self-reliance of young people from diverse vulnerable group by addressing the key challenges related primary to mental health services as support and preparation of young people with skills, information and opportunities to access jobs. The project targets vulnerable youth aged 15 to 29 from care services, family empowerment programs, and marginalized communities. The project will address these issues by focusing on: **Empowering youth** with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to manage their mental health and successfully navigate the labour market, having their emotional needs addressed. **Building local capacity** through training professionals, corporates and community leaders to provide mental health care and employability support. **Creating a supportive environment** that reduce stigma, increase awareness, and foster social inclusion. **Improving youth employability and employment** by providing training, mentoring, job shadowing and job placement opportunities in both the public and especially private sector (corporate sector).

Duration of the Project: December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2029

In the framework of implementing "Youth Can for Wellbeing and Employment" Project, SOS Children's Villages Albania is looking for an **external expert to conduct the mapping and assessment of the mental health services in both project location, Tirana and Shkodra**. The main aim of this mapping and assessment is to identify existing mental health services, service gaps, and the specific mental health needs of young individuals providing strong evidence base for project implementation and base for future project interventions. The assessment will also include a survey of youth needs, available skills, and support structures, and will result in the development of informational packages tailored to each location.

The External Expert will be responsible for conducting mapping and assessment of the mental health services including relevant information on: mental health services, needs of young individuals, gaps of the services, and recommendation / proposals for future project intervention.

He/she will be responsible for designing of the methodology and data collection tools, consulting of the study results and submitting of the comprehensive report.

Requirements for the position:

- Advanced university degree in psychology, public health, social work, sociology, mental health, health policy, or a related field.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in mental health, social services, public health research, or related sectors.
- Proven experience in conducting assessments, mapping exercises, needs analyses, or research studies.
- Strong knowledge of the mental health service landscape, referral mechanisms, and psychosocial support systems in Albania.
- Experience working with vulnerable groups, including young people.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis.
- Excellent analytical, writing, and presentation skills.
- Ability to engage and coordinate with public institutions, civil society organizations, service providers, and other stakeholders.



- Fluency in Albanian and English, both written and spoken.
- Independent and reliable person.

Main responsibilities:

- Review relevant project documentation and consult with the project team during all timeframe of the implementation of the consultancy.
- Review existing literature, reports, policies related with mental health and services provided.
- Apply participatory and mixed-methods approaches, ensuring robust qualitative and quantitative data collection tailored to the context of Tirana and Shkodra.
- Develop an assessment methodology and data collection tools.
- Identify and map possible public, private, and civil society mental health service providers operating in Tirana and Shkodra and conduct interviews, consultations, focus groups, or other data collection activities with relevant stakeholders.
- Assess the availability, accessibility, quality, and inclusiveness of mental health services, particularly for vulnerable youth.
- Analyze service gaps, barriers to access, and needs.
- Identify existing referral mechanisms and opportunities for improved inter-institutional cooperation.
- Prepare a comprehensive mapping and assessment report, including findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
- Present key findings and recommendations to the project team and relevant stakeholders.
- The consultant will work under the supervision of the Project Manager and in close coordination with the project team throughout the assignment.

Expected Deliverables:

- Inception note, including methodology, work plan, and data collection tools.
- Mapping database including possible list of mental health service providers in Tirana and Shkodra
- Draft Mental Health Services Mapping and Assessment Report.
- Final Assessment Report incorporating feedback from the project team
- Presentation of findings and recommendations.

Duration of the service contract:

- This service contract is for the duration of 20 working days, to be implemented during 2026–2027 in line with an agreed work plan with SOS Children's Villages Albania.
- The distribution of working days will be jointly agreed prior to the start of the assignment and may be adjusted depending on operational needs and implementation progress.

In the framework of Safeguarding

- *Has the responsibility to protect children from all forms of abuse, abandonment, manipulation, violence and discrimination.*
- *Has the responsibility to report any suspicions, concerns, allegations or incidents regarding the safety of children immediately without delay.*
- *Ensures confidentiality and sharing of information as needed.*
- *He / she is expected to promote and support a culture of respect, dignity, trust and accountability that deters violations in line with PSHEA document.*
- *Ensures responsible use and protection of organizational assets in line with the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Guidelines and the Financial Regulations of SOS Children's Villages.*

If you are interested in the above-described position, send until **16.08.2026** to e-mail address info@soskd.org.al the:

- CV
- Application letter
- Similar proven working experience.
- Financial offer.



Candidates will be evaluated based on background, proven experience, financial offer and proposal for developing of the orientation guide.