

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Impact Evaluation of the Program: “Swim for Life Program for children of Quang Binh Province”, period from 2021 – 2025

Evaluation Type:	Final Impact Evaluation
Date of Issue:	6 March 2026
Deadline for submission:	10 March 2026
Field Mission:	16 March – 6 April 2026
Draft Report Submission:	13 April 2026
Final Report Submission:	17 April 2026

#### 1. Introduction

Established in 1998, Golden West Humanitarian Foundation, an organization renowned for its innovative approaches to safeguarding lives in post-conflict areas, initially focused on the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war. However, in 2013 during their research on the impacts of flooding in Vietnam's central provinces, they uncovered another public health crisis: child drowning. This revelation led to the inception of Swim for Life Vietnam, a program dedicated to survival swimming education and drowning prevention.

Through the first half of 2014, Swim for Life Vietnam was created, operating in Quang Binh Province as part of Golden West's Children's Education Division. In August 2014, we began work on pools at two primary schools (one in Dong Hoi city and one in Quang Ninh district), constructing the pool enclosures, pools and shower/changing areas.

In September 2014, we began training our first cadre of swimming teachers. Our goal was to establish several pools, train an initial cadre of teachers who shared our vision, and to use these pools as pilot programs that would assist Vietnamese officials, educators and parents to better understand the risks to communities and build broad support for survival swimming programs.

Golden West and Swim for Life started to support the construction of two pools at two different schools in Quang Binh. We worked closely with the Provincial Department of Education and Training (DOET), and educators and administrators at the two schools, providing our skills and resources to meet their goals and objectives.

Swim for Life worked hard to ensure that our swimming programs were viewed as successes for the community. We provided the seed money to get the programs started and then relied on Vietnamese efforts to carry them forward.

Our mission is to eliminate preventable drowning in Vietnam by preparing school-aged children to be safe in and around the water. Our programs include Learn to Swim, Water Safety Education, and Community Awareness.

## 2. Program Summary:

Program title:	<b>“Swim for Life for children of Quang Binh Province”,</b>
Local partner:	Quang Binh Provincial Department of Education & Training (DOET)
Funded by:	Golden West Humanitarian Foundation
Implemented by:	Swim for Life Vietnam
Locations:	Districts: Le Thuy, Quang Ninh, Dong Hoi, Ba Don, Quang Trach, Minh Hoa
Duration:	5 years (2021-2025)

Based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Golden West in Viet Nam and the Quang Binh DOET, and the results from pilot years starting in 2014, Golden West worked with Quang Binh DOET to implement this program during the period of January 2021 to December 2025 on the basis of approved funding sources. The project supports the development of general education locally, while focusing on drowning prevention capacity building through technical, management, coordination and supervision of education staff involved in the project. The direct beneficiaries of the project are primary school students from project schools and neighboring schools. These efforts are aimed to support local people and authorities in meeting challenges teaching children survival swimming, and improving their ability to survive in water.

### 2.1 Main objectives and results of the project:

#### **Overall objectives:**

- Create an environment for children to practice safe swimming/survival swimming, safe techniques to rescue drowning victims, and basic first aid to prevent drowning
- Improve safety in the water environment, reduce the risk of drowning for children
- Raising awareness on the risk of drowning and the importance of safe swimming for children; mobilize the participation of authorities and local communities (teachers, parents, students, businesses, citizens ...) in drowning prevention activities.

#### **The expected results of the project**

##### a. Learn to swim

- 85% of students supported to learn to safety swim / survival swim successfully completed the swimming course, meeting the following criteria: swimming 25 m or more; treading water or back-floating for 120 seconds, completing a water safety knowledge test with 8/10 correct answers; know one of the basic indirect rescue skills of using floating objects such as sticks, ropes and others...etc.

- 100% of swimming teachers / swimming instructors at schools / swimming pools belonging to the supported project area will be trained on how to teach survival swimming / safety swimming and able to teach swimming to students to a high standard.
- Ensure swimming pools receive technical instructions on swimming pool operation, maintenance and water / chemical treatment.
- 100% of swimming pool supervisors are trained in swimming pool operations, safety, and water treatment.

#### b. Water safety education

- 90% of primary school students are taught knowledge of water safety, how to prevent drowning, self-help skills and saving others when in danger in water.
- 85% of school activities coordinators, teachers/teachers in charge are instructed/trained on knowledge of water safety and able to re-teach the students of the school.
- Support schools to organize communication events on water safety education to equip children with knowledge and skills on drowning prevention.

#### c. Raise community awareness

- Survey/assess the need to install drowning warning signs in hotspots of previous drowning accidents
- Install communication boards located at schools or densely populated areas providing information and content on drowning risks and the importance of safe swimming for children.
- Broadcast drowning updates and messages to disseminate knowledge on drowning prevention via local loudspeakers and encourage participation of local authorities and communities (teachers, parents students, students, businesses, citizens ...) in drowning prevention activities.

### 2.2 Objectives of the Evaluation

This evaluation is initiated to assess the results of the project/program performance, measure effects and impacts, sustainability, possibility of co-funding by all stakeholders to generate an owned future program, provide recommendations for the program.

#### ***The primary objectives of this evaluation are:***

- Assess achievement and impact of project outcomes against expected results indicators. Detailed key questions and issues will be analyzed in a participatory, collaborative and systems-based approach.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current project approach; Highlight lessons learned from project implementation and outcome achievements
- Develop specific recommendations in collaboration with major stakeholder groups and local implementing partners
- Evaluate the project design, project proposal, project management and implementation.

### 2.3 Questions to be answered by the Evaluators:

#### ***Effectiveness***

- To what extent have the project's objectives (outcomes/expected results) been achieved?
- What factors supported or impeded the achievement of the project objectives?

- How effectively has the project been able to work with formal and informal stakeholders, government agencies and members of local bodies in order to achieve outcomes/ objectives?
- How the project engaged with difficult, poor/remote, and vulnerable children, groups ...etc. and how their experiences differed?

### ***Impact***

- Which positive, lasting effects and behavioral changes can be perceived from the perspective of educational system and behavior change?
- Were there any unintended effects of this project?
- What significant changes have occurred in the awareness of children and direct beneficiaries because of the project/program.

### ***Relevance***

- How consistent were the project activities and effects achieved with the needs of the beneficiaries and the requirements of the local government/partners?
- Are the activities and outputs consistent with intended impacts and effects?
- How well did the project adapt to changing external contexts over time?
- How compatible are the (intended) project results with the policies and strategies of the local and or national Government?

### ***Efficiency***

- Which alternative approaches might have led to similar results at lower cost?
- To what extent were the results achieved on time and with a minimum of resources?

### ***Sustainability***

- Which evidence indicates that the achieved effects will continue after the completion of the project?
- To what extent are project's partners willing and able to take ownership of established processes and systems?
- How has the project been able to support and build capacity of key target audiences (teachers, school managers participating in the project)?

## **2.4 Target readers of the evaluation report:**

The results of the evaluation will be documented in the report with reliable and accurate assessment, and it should provide recommendations for future programming and extension to new locations. This report will be primarily used by donors, and local partners (DOET)

## **2.5 Targeted groups to be considered:**

- Children, aged 6-15 participated in the program/project,
- Teachers, school managers
- Parents and community members
- Implementing partners (e.g. DOET)

## **2.6 Timeframe:**

This evaluation is expected to take place from **16 March to 6 April 2026**. The report must be submitted before **17 April 2026**.

## **2.7 Geographical coverage:**

Depending on the methodology and information, data provided, the locations to cover the evaluation will be identified to ensure the adequate information can be collected.

## **3. Scope and Methodologies:**

### **a. Scope of Consultant's works:**

- Review relevant documents to be provided by Swim for Life (SFL) and/or local partners if applicable
- Work with the SFL team to finalize data collection tools, outline the report and detail the schedule of field data collection.
- Prepare a detailed evaluation plan including technical design and preparation of materials on field data collection, data entry, data review and analysis, as well as reporting and presentation of the final report to SFL, and Golden West
- Provide training for field data collectors if mobilizing collectors, and provide quality control during data collection.
- Analyze statistically the data collected from survey/ assessment. The analysis will generate holistic statistics information by target groups following performance indicators. Statistics will be divided by gender and target groups.
- Draft and finalize the report to reflect comments and inputs from related stakeholders.

### **b. Methodologies.**

- The consultants will be expected to develop a detailed methodology for data collection, data management and analysis and budget estimation in their proposal. It is expected that the consultant uses a participatory approach with participation of representatives of target groups as mentioned above.
- The consultants are recommended to use different data collecting methods (both qualitative and quantitative), such as (but not limited to):
  - o Desk review: review the relevant documents, including the project proposal, resources and results, documentation, reports, and other relevant research.
  - o Direct observation
  - o Key informant interviews
  - o Questionnaires
  - o Focus group discussions: The information from different sources will be triangulated to increase its validity.
- The consultants need to consult with the stakeholders and SFL staff for their initiative findings as well as for the reports
- The consultants could also identify and suggest additional or excluded stakeholders that they feel are important to involve to ensure they get the information they need to answer the Evaluation Questions.

## **4. Report writing:**

The consultants will work with SFL team to develop an evaluation report template with suggested contents. The report must be in English and Vietnamese languages.

**5. Required Competencies:**

- The consultant team should demonstrate expertise in impact evaluation, mixed method research, designing and conducting quantitative and qualitative research/evaluation, meet deadlines and respond to requests and feedback provided timely and appropriately.
- Strong knowledge of Vietnamese governance context and relevant national policies.
- Experience in child drowning prevention is preferred
- Excellent and demonstrated understanding of ethical issues in research.

**6. Budget:**

The consultant is required to propose the budget (including Personal income tax) together with the technical proposal. The budget should include number of days and daily rate.

**7. How to apply:**

Applicants should submit an application package by **10 March, 2026** via email to SFL at: [swim4life-info@goldenwesthf.org](mailto:swim4life-info@goldenwesthf.org)

The package of application must include:

- Resume, cover letter, Proofs of past relevant work and a technical offer
- Budget and technical evaluation proposal
- Recent examples of similar reports written by the applicant