

MEAL (Data & Innovation) Technical Advisor

- 12 month fixed term contract

Position Description

Reporting to:	Head of Program Quality and Impact	Work location:	Flexible (Remote or Hybrid)
Department:	International Programs	Budget holder:	No
Team:	Program Quality and Impact (PQI)	Direct reports:	Nil

Here you'll make a difference

At Save the Children Australia, we attract bright and big-hearted people who are inspired to make a difference. Together, we are fearless in our pursuit of making lasting change for the children and communities who need it most.

The MEAL, Data & Innovation Technical Advisor combines expertise in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) with data science, AI, and business process innovation skills. This role is tailored for a forward-thinking professional who will disrupt traditional MEAL approaches and apply emerging technologies to enhance project design, decision-making, and operations. The advisor will collaborate across teams to introduce co-design, Agile, and lean methodologies, while also focusing on practical and scalable innovation. This role will be instrumental in:

- Boosting and mainstreaming the use of data-driven insights in decision-making processes.
- Pioneering the use of emerging technologies to generate innovative data solutions and streamline processes and workflows.
- Enhancing transparency and efficacy of project reporting through data visualisation and advanced analytics.
- Building partner data and innovation capacity.

Here your skills will be valued

Role requirements

Data Analysis and Innovation

- ANCP Technical Assistance: Provide expert guidance on data analysis techniques to derive actionable insights from project data, offering tailored recommendations to improve effectiveness and efficiency.
- Leverage AI and ML to analyse complex data, derive actionable insights, and identify trends to inform decision-making and project design.
- Innovate MEAL systems through the integration of digital tools (e.g., predictive analytics, automation, AI) that enhance program quality and improve data accuracy.
- Spearhead digital transformation by introducing emerging technologies to streamline workflows, reduce inefficiencies, and scale evidence-based solutions across international projects.
- Champion data governance and ethical AI usage, ensuring all data collection and analysis adheres to global standards for privacy, security, and ethical use.
- Collaboration: Act as a bridge between the technical advisory team and the existing data capacity within SCA, ensuring synergies and leveraging mutual strengths.
- Training: Facilitate learning opportunities within the team to build capacity around data analysis, data engineering, and technology usage.

Innovative Project Design and Business Process Optimization

- Apply co-design, Agile, and lean startup methodologies to support innovative program design and improve responsiveness to local and global needs.
- Lead the development of business models that leverage technology to enhance project sustainability and impact.
- Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to embed innovation and continuous improvement into project cycles, ensuring that Save the Children is at the forefront of development and humanitarian program design.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)

- Provide technical expertise on MEAL systems that integrate both traditional and emerging methods e.g. results frameworks, logframes, outcome mapping, most significant change, adaptive management, results-based management, and theories of change.
- Advise Country Offices (COs) on developing qualitative and quantitative MEAL data collection tools and customising them to fit specific contextual needs, and in providing tailored guidance to COs on evaluation design, implementation and governance.
- Advise COs on contextualized MEAL approaches that use participatory and inclusive methods, particularly for child rights-focused projects.
- Lead in capacity-building initiatives, supporting COs and Member Offices (MOs) in adopting and scaling new tools and techniques in data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Develop tailored solutions that link MEAL systems to broader organizational goals through advanced data analytics and AI-driven insights.

Collaboration, Capacity Building, and Stakeholder Engagement

- Facilitate cross-functional collaboration between MEAL, data, and innovation teams to drive cohesive project outcomes.
- Design and deliver training programs on advanced data tools (e.g., PowerBI, Tableau, Python, R), AI applications, and digital transformation strategies to build internal capacity.
- Act as a bridge between technical advisory teams and stakeholders, ensuring the integration of data and emerging technologies into strategic decisions.
- Lead organizational learning by promoting knowledge-sharing platforms that foster continuous learning and the dissemination of best practices in MEAL and innovation.

Health, safety, security and risk management

- Be a role model for safety and security and comply with all workplace safety policy, procedure, work instructions and training
- Act safely at all times
- Report all incidents, injuries and potential hazards in a timely manner
- Participate in, and contribute to, health and safety awareness and improvements
- Be aware of, document and manage the risks associated with your team's programs and workplaces and ensure appropriate elimination or mitigation measures are applied

Child protection and safeguarding requirements

- Maintain a child safe environment at the workplace and safeguard children's rights, acting in the best interests of children at all times
- Comply with the [Child Safeguarding Policy](#) & [Code of Conduct](#)
- Demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour towards children in both your private and professional life
- Never abuse the position of trust that comes with being a part of the Save the Children family
- Maintain a safe and positive relationship at all times when working with children and young people
- Respond to any concerns for the safety or wellbeing of a child in a program in accordance with internal reporting processes

All roles at Save the Children contribute to our impact for children.

At Save the Children, every role, whether in our programs or support services, plays a vital part in our impact for children. We are committed to creating a positive impact on the lives of children and their communities, and we value the contributions of every team member in achieving this vision.

Here you'll belong

It takes all types of people to do the challenging work we do. Here are some of the specific skills and experiences you'll bring in this role:

Essential knowledge or experience

- Experience as a change agent in MEAL, data analysis and innovation, disrupting common-held practices and promoting a data-driven culture.
- Proficiency in advanced data analysis techniques, data engineering, and emerging applications.
- Strong ability to translate complex data into actionable insights and recommendations.
- Proven experience developing and implementing data strategies that enhance efficiency and decision-making processes.
- Experience in designing and conducting capacity-building initiatives in the realm of data analytics and data-driven decision-making.
- Strong interpersonal, collaborative, networking, and relationship-building skills across diverse cultures and disciplines.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to present complex information in an accessible and engaging manner.
- Demonstrated project management skills and the ability to work effectively in a remote/hybrid work environment.
- Flexibility and ability to adapt in a fast-paced environment where priorities change rapidly.
- Proficiency in data analysis software, such as Python, R, SQL, and data visualization tools like PowerBI or Tableau.

Desirable knowledge or experience

- Experience operating in an Agile project management environment.
- Experience in the international development and/or humanitarian sector.
- Familiarity with data privacy regulations and ethical considerations related to data usage.
- Understanding of MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) methodologies.
- Experience in Australian DFAT programming and MEAL requirements, e.g., ANCP and AHP.

Required qualifications and/or accreditations

- Degree in a relevant subject, e.g., Data Science, Statistics, Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, or a related field. An advanced degree would be advantageous.
- Professional certifications in data analysis, data engineering, or other technology-related disciplines would be beneficial.

Additional Information

- Any offer of employment at Save the Children Australia will be subject to a satisfactory National Police Record Check and a Working with Children Check
- Employees must sign on to Save the Children Australia's Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct
- Ongoing performance and employment will be measured against KPIs, values and demonstrated behaviours outlined above
- Save the Children Australia is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Driver's Licence: Not required **Travel:** Some required

Working with Children Check: Required **Assets:** Laptop