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|  | Description: VSF logo |  |

**Expression of Interest for Project Mid-Term Review**

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| **Project Title** | **VWB/VSF ‘Strengthening food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations in South Sudan’** |
| **Donor** | **Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada)** |
| **Implementing Partners** | **VSF Canada in partnership with VSF Germany and VSF Suisse** |
| **Grant Contract No.** | **D-001643** |

1. **Overview**

VSF Canada, through VSF Germany and VSF Suisse is implementing a two-year project funded by the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada - GAC). The Project is taking place in two states in South Sudan, Warrap and Northern Bahr El Ghazal. The project aims to support the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in the targeted areas of Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap States, South Sudan. It is designed to increase food production in the short-term to help avert a food crisis that is threatening South Sudan, and it will increase sustainable food production capacity and household incomes from agriculture and fisheries products. The project targets directly 11.000 Households (66.000 individuals) in the two project locations.

1. **Context and Project Rationale**

The Project is taking an integrated approach to food production. Through better seeds and tools, including the use of animal traction, the project is promoting increased production of cereal crops, and reduce post-harvest losses. Irrigation of vegetables is as well promoted to maximize production during the dry season. The production of small ruminant animals and vaccination/treatment of livestock constitute part of the project. An investment in small livestock is important because it yields quick returns – for example chicken can be eaten in as few as 10 weeks. In herding communities, family and community assets are tied up in animals, and in turn those animals account for virtually all income and nutrition.

The Ultimate Outcome of the project is to strengthen the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations in the target areas. It is designed to increase food production in the short-term to help avert a food crisis that is threatening South Sudan, and it will increase sustainable food production capacity and household incomes from agriculture and fisheries products. The project has three Intermediate Outcomes (Results)

* Result 1: Increased crop/livestock/fisheries production for vulnerable populations (women, men, girls and boys) through improved access to agriculture and fisheries inputs, training and extension services
* Result 2: Increased income from agriculture and fisheries for vulnerable populations (women, men, girls and boys) through improved post-harvest technologies, marketing capacity and facilities
* Result 3: Strengthened capacity of local and regional organizations to protect livelihoods and increase resilience and food security of vulnerable populations (women, men, boys and girls)

1. **Location of the Survey**

The midterm evaluation/review or assessment will be carried out in projects' targeted areas at the same time in the below specified counties:

3.1 Warrap State

* Gogrial East County (Pathuon East and Toch East Payams)
* Gogrial West (Kuac North and Kuac South Payams)
* Tonj North County (Manlor and Awul Payams)

3.2 Northern Bahr El Ghazal State

* Aweil North County (Mayen Ulem, Malual East and/or Malual Centre Payams)
* Aweil East County (Mangar Tong, Madhol and/or Baac Payams)
* Aweil West County (Gom Juer West, Ayath East and/or Gom Juer East Payams)

1. **Period and Duration of the Survey**

The assignment is expected to commence latest **24th October 2016** and would be completed within **21 days** with the completion and submission of the final and revised report (including Annexes) no later than the **30th November 2016.** Because of this urgency, VSF may revise these dates to the earliest convenience and once a suitable consultant is found even before the end of this advertisement period.

1. **Objectives**

The Mid-Term Review will assess the progress of the project against stated outputs and intermediate outcomes as of October 2016, as well as identify issues and recommend corrective measures for improved project delivery for the remaining project duration. It will also highlight issues and challenges affecting effective and efficient implementation of outputs and their contribution to project outcomes and impact and recommend whether results obtained thus far warrant an extension of the project.

1. **Scope of the Assignment**

The Mid-Term Review exercise will assess the GAC funded project for ‘strengthening food security and livelihoods of vulnerable people in South Sudan’ according to standard evaluation criteria, as elaborated below.

**Relevance**

* Assess the contribution of the project towards the achievement of project objectives and outputs.
* Analyze whether the project’s community based approach addresses the needs and demands of the beneficiaries in a disaggregated manner (for men and women), and the community response.
* Assess the relevance of the tools / instruments / inputs applied by the project for creating assets for the poor, and increasing agricultural production.
* Assess the relevance and effect of technical assistance for the community members.

**Effectiveness**

* Review whether the project has accomplished its outputs. In particular, the mission should review:
  + Area selection criteria and its implementation;
  + Targeting strategy for the identification of project beneficiaries including men, women, boys and girls;
* Any emerging effect of the project on beneficiaries (men, women, boys and girls) including on household income generation / assets formation from project interventions;
* Assess the performance of the project so far with particular reference to qualitative and quantitative achievements of outputs and targets as defined in the project documents, work-plans, performance monitoring matrix and with reference to the project baseline;
* Based on the progress so far and on-the-ground situation, suggest / recommend any changes to the project strategies and its implementation approaches.

**Efficiency**

* Assess whether the project has utilized project funding as per the agreed work plan to achieve the projected targets.
* Analyze the role of the project governance structures including the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Project Management Unit (PMU), Beneficiary selection committee etc. and whether the structures are optimally being used for decision making (and their subsequent influence on implementation/success of the project).
* Assess the timeline and quality of the reporting followed by the project.
* Analyze the performance of the Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism of the project and the use of various M&E tools.
* Assess the efficiency of the mechanism for the transfer of project inputs and resources to selected beneficiaries and communities.
* Assess the qualitative and quantitative aspects of management and other inputs in the project vis-à-vis achievement of outputs and targets.
* Identify the factors and constraints which have affected project implementation including technical, managerial, organizational, institutional and socio-economic policy issues in addition to other external factors unforeseen during the project design.

**Sustainability and Impact**

* Assess preliminary indications of the degree to which the project results are likely to be sustainable beyond the project’s lifetime, and provide recommendations for strengthening sustainability.
* Assess the sustainability of the project interventions in terms of their effect on the environment.
* Analyze the emerging impact on the beneficiaries and communities in terms of food security, income and asset enhancement.
* Based on the findings (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact) as well as taking into account new initiatives as well as emerging trends, recommend whether an extension of this project is warranted.

**Network /linkages**

* Evaluate the level and degree of involvement and engagement of beneficiaries and stakeholders, (government and donor partners etc.) in the implementation of the project.
* Examine the synergies and potential overlap between VSFs Food security programme with other GAC funded partners as well as other similar initiatives by NGOs in the project areas and propose strategy to enhance complementarities.
* Assess the alignment of the project with the overall VSF Programme direction, identifying linkages and opportunities for achievement of goals
* Assess the project’s knowledge management strategy,
* Assess the project’s outreach and communication strategy

**Lessons learnt/ Conclusions**

* Analyze areas for improved programme planning, especially with respect to setting targets, relevance and capacity of institutions for project decision making and delivery.
* Identify significant lessons or conclusions which can be drawn from the project in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability (impact) and networking. Special attention may be given to the overall context under which the project is implemented.

1. **Methodology**

The consultant will be expected to propose the most appropriate consultative and participatory approaches for this assignment.

1. **Output of the Assignment**

The consultant is expected to provide a draft/preliminary and a final report with annexes. The final report will be a maximum of 25 pages (including all annexes); the format of the report will be shared and discussed directly with the CDs and VSFC Program Manager, field Team Leader and Area Coordinator. The final report will address the objectives and topics described in the paragraphs above, giving special attention to the overall data analysis and recommendations for current and future similar food security interventions. The report shall be presented in both Hard and soft copy. The consultant will also complement electronic reports with visual images from the results of field assessment tools, include photographs or other materials that visually illustrate gender equality issues.

1. **Qualifications/Necessary skills and Experience of the Consultants**

* A post-graduate degree in monitoring and evaluation or another relevant field.
* Alternatively, a training in the field of agriculture or related field.
* At least 5-10 years’ experience in conducting similar studies.
* Proven track record and ability to liaise with many different groups at different levels; including policy makers, grass-root civil society organizations, field workers, technical experts, etc.
* A broad knowledge on food security programs and their relationship to socio-political factors.
* Conceptual and analytical skills.
* Knowledge of participatory approaches and tools.
* Fluency in English is a must, Arabic an asset.
* Excellent time management skills, with an ability to deliver high-quality outputs on time.

1. **Application Guidelines**

Interested and qualified professionals (individuals, Consulting Agencies, Firms or Institutions) should submit their applications including the following:

* 1. **Technical Proposal** (including Work plan & Methodology)
  2. **Financial Proposal** (Proposed Budget)
  3. **Profiles** of Firm/Consultants (CVs) and Introduction Letters
  4. References and List of previous works

The Documentation requested above shall be sent via e-mail to: [johnbosco@vetswithoutborders.ca](mailto:johnbosco@vetswithoutborders.ca) cc [careers@vetswithoutborders.ca](mailto:careers@vetswithoutborders.ca)

1. **Deadline for Applications 15th of October 2016**

**Notes:**

* Please DO NOT send original documents and/or heavy attachments
* Additional information will be required only in case of pre-selection and short-listing.
* Applications will be assessed on a continuous basis and once a qualified individual or institution is identified the opportunity will be closed.
* Please indicate the earliest you can commence the assignment