**Consultancy: Evaluation of basic English language, IT and vocational skills training programme in South Sudan**

**Closing date** – 31/01/2017

**Terms of Reference**

Africa Educational Trust (AET) is seeking bids from experienced consultants to deliver a high-quality evaluation of our work with returnees in four states of South Sudan.

**Background**

AET is a specialist organisation dedicated to providing education and training opportunities in conflict affected regions of Africa. AET has been working in South Sudan since 1994 and is one of the longest standing education organisations in the country.

The Community and Returnee Education (CARE) project is a three-year project (1st February 2014 – 31st January 2017), funded by the Baring Foundation and being delivered by AET and Resource and Open Learning (ROLE) Centres. The project seeks to support South Sudanese returnees rebuild their lives back home basic English, IT and vocational skills training in four states (Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Lakes and Jonglei) in South Sudan. The project objectives were:

* 2,000 urban returnees and host community members from four states of South Sudan will be better able to communicate with and integrate into ‘home’ communities and access education and employment opportunities
* 60 households will have increased income potential through improved livelihood opportunities
* Increased public awareness and support for returnees across two states of South Sudan
* Increased capacity of 12 local organisations and government bodies and 20 local tutors/trainers to support education and training needs of returnees

**Purpose of the Final Evaluation**

The purpose of the Final Evaluation is to assess the extent to which the delivery of the PEC project has achieved its planned objectives, and to identify lessons for future projects.

**Scope of work**

The objectives are to:

* Assess the relevance of the original objectives in terms of whether they were achievable and whether they met the needs and priorities of the target group
* Assess whether the project activities generated the planned outputs and were they delivered on time? How were work plans adapted during the life of the project? Did the project activities represent good value for money?
* Assess the achievement of outcomes and objectives and the overall impact on the lives of beneficiaries and on local communities
* Review significant achievements the project has brought about. Which approaches worked particularly well and why and which less well and why. Any unexpected or unintended outcomes – both positive and negative?
* Gather feedback about the project from people affected by the activities and provide an opportunity for them to participate in analyzing project achievements
* Assess the attitudes and perceptions of stakeholders (e.g. teachers, PTAs, Police, Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs), parents, district education officials) about the protection of children in the focal areas
* To what extent has the project contributed to the achievement of broader local policies, conventions, good practice or targets in the country.
* Whether the positive outcomes of the project are likely to continue after the end of the project
* Make recommendations for future interventions and projects

The evaluator should focus on the outcomes and sustainability of the project.

**The Final Evaluation Process**

The final evaluation will take place in February 2017.

The review will be led by The Consultant in conjunction with AET and ROLE Centre staff and should include the following **activities:**

A desk review of project information provided by AET

Interviews with staff from ROLE Centres and local partners to collect information on achievements and impact and difficulties faced during implementation, including management, monitoring and reporting

Focus Group Discussions and Interviews with key project stakeholders and beneficiaries in the field

The Consultant will discuss preliminary findings to each ROLE centre before preparing their report

Internal consultants should submit the draft reports to AET and ROLE Centres for written comments before finalising the report, to minimise the chance of inaccuracies and to maximise ownership of the findings

**Outputs of the Final Evaluation**

The Final Evaluation should result in a report of no more than 30 pages for the main body, including an Executive Summary. The report should address the areas listed in this TOR. The report should include a good level of critical analysis and the report’s authors should support their analysis of a project’s achievements with relevant data and state how this has been sourced. Recommendations should also include details as to how they might be implemented.

**Required Skills and Competencies of the Evaluator**

* Strong background in education and development
* Strong background in utilising qualitative and quantitative research methods
* Experience of working with vulnerable children, preferably with street-connected children
* Thorough knowledge of child protection issues and concerns
* Experience of using participatory methods especially with children and young people
* Experience of conducting evaluations or research in East Africa

To apply please send a CV and brief proposal on how you will address the Terms of Reference to j.coxall@africaeducationaltrust.org.