



Norwegian People's Aid

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## End of Project Evaluation Consultancy

*Project: Partnership for Building Resilience and Enhancing Livelihoods (BREL- Year2) of Conflict Affected Households in South Sudan*

<b>Position:</b>	End of Project Evaluation Consultancy
<b>Responsible To:</b>	Program Manager (Operational)
	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator (Technical)
<b>Location:</b>	Six Counties- Bor South, Terekeka, Awerial, Yirol East, Yirol West and Mvolo
<b>Provisional Time Frame:</b>	30 Days- Including weekends for data collection and Final Report
<b>Tentative Start Dates:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January – 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022

### INTRODUCTION:

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) South Sudan is an International Non-Governmental Organization involved in humanitarian, relief and long-term development cooperation in South Sudan. NPA has been working in South Sudan since 1986 and currently runs three programmes: Civil Society Development, Rural Development and Emergency Response.

Since 2020, NPA has been implementing the project titled "Partnership for Building Resilience and Enhancing Livelihoods (BREL) of conflict-affected households in South Sudan". The project which is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) will run for five years and is scheduled to end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The project is currently in its second year of implementation which comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

The BREL project is designed to improve the resilience of target households in six counties (Bor South, Terekeka, Awerial, Yirol East, Yirol West and Mvolo) of South Sudan to shocks (economic, natural and conflict related) and contribute to enhancement of livelihoods through improved household production and increased/diversified income sources. The overarching focus of the project is *to implement of series of interventions that promote household/community food security, build the resilience and livelihoods of conflict affected households in South Sudan*. This is being done by strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers, groups, associations and local actors to provide an enabling environment for target households to engage in improved and more sustainable climate agriculture hence contributing to improved household production and productivity. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the BREL project is being done by NPA in collaboration with local government authorities, local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), National Non-Governmental Organization (NNGOs), pastoralists/agro-pastoralists, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), fisherfolk households, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), farmer producer groups, farmer association groups/cooperatives, village and market committees and value chain actors. NPA is working in consortium with 10 national NGO's in this project. The BREL project builds on previous projects implemented by NPA in the target locations.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The overall objective of the BREL project is *“improved food security, livelihoods and incomes of conflict affected households in South Sudan”* with three specific outcomes:

### ***Outcome 1: Improved food production and productivity through transfer of sustainable agricultural practices and technologies***

To increase agricultural productivity, NPA is implementing integrated strategies that increase availability and access of locally produced certified seed (sorghum, groundnuts and cowpeas) of high performing varieties as well as improved tools, focusing mainly on ox-drawn implements. The project also focuses on increasing the number of rural enterprises (agro-dealers) selling agricultural inputs to reach smallholder farmers, especially those in remote areas. A farmer demand-driven agricultural extension system has been put in place to increase farmers' knowledge and practice for more effective utilization of improved agricultural inputs. To capitalize on productivity gains arising from investments made in increasing smallholder producers' access to improved agricultural inputs, this initiative aims at strengthening post-harvest management and market linkages focusing on farmers and fisher folk. The project promotes handling, storage, conservation and processing technologies for post-harvest crop, livestock, fish and non-timber forestry products. Furthermore, the project is supporting local food production by improving access to improved, diversified and adaptive agricultural inputs. NPA is scaling up on seed production through private sector partnerships as a means of contributing to sustainable seed production and access in the target locations. The project is strengthening the capacity of CSOs to influence by supporting the establishment of agricultural associations, organizations or cooperatives, and by also assisting them to improve their management procedures and performance. Given the poverty that women face in the South Sudan context, the project is supporting accelerated use of technologies among women and strengthening the adoption of labour-saving technologies to mitigate the burden on women and improve their access to appropriate and sustainable production and post-harvest tools and equipment.

### ***Outcome 2: Improved Conflict mitigation, Natural Resource Management capabilities and resilience***

The project aims to enhance the capacity of local government, community structures and traditional leaders to monitor and mitigate conflict along key fault lines. The project is building the capacity of peace committees and traditional leadership structures to act as agents of “peace” in the target areas. Through peace conferences, the project is creating platforms for community members to discuss and come up with solutions that generate peace and mitigate conflict. The project is facilitating the formation of natural resources management committees (with representation by both men and women) for management of natural resources, conflict mitigation and risk management at community level. Furthermore, the project is building the capacity of communities and their institutions, including women groups to identify risks and hazards as the basis for developing natural resource management plans at the community level. The project seeks to secure women and men's access rights to land and other resources by enabling communities to actively participate in the making of policies and decisions affecting their livelihoods. The project is also enhancing the capacity of primary stakeholders to access and improve the existing land and resource use systems and develop new ones (if necessary) for community-based resource management with a focus on sustainability and empowerment of the poor, women and other vulnerable groups.

### ***Outcome 3: Increased and Diversified Income for youth and women***

The project is supporting livelihoods and entrepreneurship through vocational and agriculture training and in-kind support, integrated with peacebuilding and psychosocial support activities for at-risk and vulnerable groups. The project is also supporting youth groups with revolving funds and trainings on entrepreneurship. The activities contributing to the achievement of this result focus on increasing smallholder producers' ability to reduce post-harvest losses, improve storage and add value and strengthen linkages with markets. The project is promoting use of improved grain drying methods and household grain storage facilities constructed with locally available materials. Women farmer groups or mixed groups with 60% women are being prioritized because processing of the crops targeted by the project is usually done by women, using methods which are extremely labour-intensive and time consuming. Therefore, labour-saving technologies can have a very significant positive impact on their livelihoods. The project is promoting the fabrication of tools and equipment (agricultural hand tools, ox ploughs, beehives, post-harvest drying and storage structures, livestock shelters, fish-smoking ovens, fuel-efficient stoves, etc.) by local artisans and blacksmiths.

## PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of the assignment is to assess the extent to which in 2021, the BREL project achieved the delivery of the planned outputs and outcomes as well as progress towards achievement of the respective objectives, while highlighting enabling factors and challenges encountered. The evaluation also seeks to render accountability to beneficiaries, stakeholders and to Norad as the donor.

**The specific objectives of the evaluation include:**

- i. To assess the project's performance and achievements vis-à-vis the project's overall objectives and ascertain the impact of the project amongst the target beneficiaries.
- ii. To generate lessons learned from the implementation of the project activities that will be useful during implementation of similar projects.
- iii. To develop specific recommendations for major stakeholder groups (Line ministries, local leaders, beneficiaries and NPA/ Partners/ Donors). An action plan for major stakeholder groups shall be developed to promote sustainability and long-term impact to the beneficiary communities.

The evaluation is expected to provide data on the performance of project interventions as per the DAC Criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability). The findings and recommendations will contribute to a learning process which will enable the BREL partners (NPA and its 10 partners), the donor (Norad), other project stakeholders (line ministries and its directorates) and other partners (NGO/ UN Agencies) to draw lessons in order to improve the quality of service provision to target communities. The findings of the evaluation will also inform NPA and its implementing partners on the effectiveness of beneficiary accountability system and mechanisms used during the project implementation.

## METHODOLOGY:

The anticipated methodology for this survey is participatory entailing both qualitative and quantitative methods. Additionally, the evaluator will use existing literature (primary and secondary sources) to enrich the evaluation findings. The methodology must clearly show how the participatory approaches will be used

in collecting data and how triangulation will be carried out to refine the findings. The evaluation consultant is expected to provide a detailed description of the evaluation methodology in addressing all the components of the terms of reference. The methodology description will constitute a critical part of the assessment and suitability of the consultant.

NPA and its partners will be part of the evaluation process. However, the consultant will provide leadership and bear responsibility of the process, the findings, recommendations and the content of the final report.

The proposed methodology should ensure that all the data collected is disaggregated by Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD). The design and implementation of the evaluation should ensure that principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are considered and acted upon throughout, and that the meaningful participation of the most vulnerable groups and other key stakeholders is promoted in the design and implementation processes.

## LINE OF INQUIRY:

During this evaluation, the consultant is expected to consider the DAC Criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability) as outlined below and as laid out in the DAC principles for evaluation of development assistance.

### Relevance

- How do beneficiaries perceive the project and how have the activities implemented improved their lives? Are there any successful stories of change?
- To what extent was the project able to adapt and provide appropriate responses to context changes, emerging local needs and priorities of targeted conflict affected households?
- To what extent did the BREL project address the identified needs of the community?
- How well does the project goal and objectives align with the national Government and NPA priorities?

### Effectiveness

- Did the BREL project deliver on outputs and outcomes as planned?
- To what extent are the BREL project activities contributing to the overall project goal and what were the major factors influencing the achievement of the project objectives?
- Are the (or were the) activities and their delivery methods effective? Are there aspects that could have been done differently?
- To what extent is the BREL project producing worthwhile results (outputs, outcomes) and/or meeting each of its objectives?
- What opportunities for collaboration have been utilized and how have these contributed to the project effectiveness?
- How has the consortium approach (NPA in partnership with the 10 national NGOs) including the related structures worked in the project?
- How has the project influenced the appropriate stakeholder community, and what capacities has it built?
- How have the target populations been involved at all stages of the project and empowered throughout the project implementation?

- How far has greater equity been achieved between women and men; boys and girls; and between other groups?

## Efficiency

- Has the BREL project been delivered on budget?
- Do the outcomes of the BREL project represent value for money?
- Was the project implementation (modality) cost-efficient, while not compromising quality?
- Are there opportunities that the BREL project would have reached more beneficiaries with the available budget or reduce costs while reaching at least the same number of beneficiaries without compromising quality?
- Was the project design timely in responding to the needs on the ground?
- Were the activities timely implemented compared to the project work plan?
- Were funds available on time during implementation of the BREL project activities?

## Impact

- To what extent have the planned objectives and outcomes in the project log frame been achieved?
- Is the BREL project impacting positively on key groups and on issues that have been identified as key in the project design – particularly peace and security, food security and nutrition, income activities, gender, youths, and environment?
- What range of outcomes (intended and unintended) has the project contributed to, bearing in mind social, economic, environmental and cultural considerations?

## Sustainability

- Is there evidence that the conflict-affected households supported through the BREL project are likely to continue and scale-up their livelihood activities after the project phases out?
- What significant changes have occurred in people's lives (especially the farmers, VSLA groups, vegetable groups, seeds producer groups etc) and to what extent are these likely to continue?
- What strategies are in place to ensure the sustainability of the project activities? Are the strategies being put into action by both NPA and its partners?
- What mechanisms has NPA and partners put into place in order to sustain the key programme outputs and outcomes?
- How has the programme worked with local partners to increase their capacity in a sustainable way?

## SCOPE OF WORK AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

The scope of the evaluation of the year 2 of the BREL project is limited to collecting data and generating information based on the project documents and the results framework that will be used to assess the performance of the project. Particularly for impact level indicators, this may also include reference to credible secondary data sources with time and relevance to the project overall goal. To accomplish the scope of work, the consultant shall;

Scope of work	Expected deliverable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold a consultative meeting with NPA staff and management in Juba, staff of implementing partner organizations at field level and other key stakeholders including government departments of Agriculture and rural development.</li> <li>Work with NPA staff to develop questionnaires, prepare the sample size, identify and train the survey enumerators on use of mobile data collection tools (tablets/ smartphones), survey questionnaires and methodology.</li> </ul>	Inception report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KII) and conduct household interviews through use of household questionnaires with direct project beneficiaries and stakeholders (representatives from all livelihoods sectors i.e. fisheries, pastoralists, agricultural workers, blacksmith workers, associations of rural women and producer organizations, local women's groups, community leaders and service providers).</li> </ul>	Raw data <i>(Quantitative data presented in form of analyse excel sheet and qualitative data presented in words documents for possible future use).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a validation workshop comprising of NPA, key stakeholders, relevant government departments in the project locations and in Juba upon completion of the data collection processes.</li> </ul>	Preliminary report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a detailed final evaluation report of not more than 30 pages. The report should contain clear and detailed values of all project indicators at impact, outcomes and outputs level. These values should be presented in a matrix/table and should form part of the executive summary of the report.</li> </ul>	Final evaluation report <i>(Including list of Annexes)</i>

## Reporting

The consultant will be required to report on a regular basis to the M&E Coordinator on the progress of the assessment.

## Conditions of Work

- During the period of this job, the consultant will be based in NPA field offices with frequent travel to field locations for data collection supervision and monitoring. He/she will be required to spend nights in far-off counties. NPA will cover the travel and accommodation costs.
- The consultant will be required to abide by NPA security procedures and other relevant policies, such as Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, which are outlined in the consultancy contract.
- All raw data collected and reports generated will remain the property of NPA and the consultant will have no rights of ownership after the end of the survey.

## Timeframe

This assignment is expected to take approximately 30 days starting 10<sup>th</sup> January – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The consultant is expected to accomplish the task in the period provided. The timeframe assumes data collection with electronic handsets, and as such does not include time for data entry. For applicants intending to propose data collection using paper questionnaires please indicate this clearly in the proposal

document. The overall work should be completed in not more than 30 days including the final approved report.

## Qualifications and Experience

### Required

The successful candidate should:

- Have an advanced university degree or the equivalent, with advanced education in Agriculture, public health, development studies, economics, social sciences qualitative and quantitative research studies, M&E with at least five years of experience in conducting similar research for food security and livelihood (FSL) and nutrition, with a specific competency in humanitarian emergencies setting.
- Experience in conducting Evaluation for multi-year project in South Sudan or else where
- Have significant experience in undertaking FSL/ nutrition or resilience surveys using quantitative and qualitative methods (Design and Methodologies, staff recruitment and training, field supervision and data analysis/write up).
- Be familiar with the use of mobile data collection tools (MDC) and able to upload and manage cloud data as required by the organization.
- Familiar with statistical data analysis tools such as SPSS, STATA or any other relevant tools
- Able to work in difficult and hostile environment
- Have experience in negotiating tangible ideas with opposing parties
- Able to manage work stress while keeping high performance
- Able to travel long distant in rough roads with minimal nutritional support
- Be fluent in English with excellent writing and presentation skills
- Experience in conducting trainings
- Experience/exposure to similar contexts

### Desired

- Previous experience in South Sudan of similar job is desired
- A local South Sudanese consultancy firm with competent skills in conducting similar tasks is an added advantage

### All Applicants Should Include the Following:

- Technical proposal:  
The technical proposal should include;
  - Brief explanation about the lead and associate consultants with particular emphasis on previous experience in this kind of work
  - Understanding of TOR and the task to be accomplished
  - Proposed methodology
  - Draft work/implementation plan
- Copies of reports of previous work conducted.
- A written submission on understanding of TOR, methodology / approach the consultant will use; time and time-bound activity schedule, financial issues (budget, number of people he/she will hire, costs per activity line – people, logistics etc.)

- Organizational (if it is a company applying) or personal capacity statement (if it is an individual that will hire data collectors)
- Resume and 3 references

### **The evaluation criteria are based on technical and financial criteria**

- Education background of lead/ co associates
- Years of experience in conducting similar tasks
- Known reliability in delivery of timely and quality services
- Relevant field/ country experience
- Relevant sector specific technical experience & qualifications
- Relevant monitoring and evaluation experience
- Cost/ budget

### **Submission**

Interested applicants should submit application by email to [rss-tenders@npaid.org](mailto:rss-tenders@npaid.org). Alternatively, hand delivery to the NPA South Sudan Head Office, Martyrs Street (opposite UNICEF) Juba.

**Applications submitted after 5:00PM on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, will not be considered.**