**THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION, WORLD SERVICE**

**SOUTH SUDAN COUNTRY PROGRAM**

***TERMS OF REFERENCE***

**UPR East and Horn of Africa Phase 2 project**

**South Sudan Evaluation**

**Program Title:** LWF RBA (rights-based approach) Local to Global

Country program: LWF South Sudan

**Type of Evaluation:** End of Project Evaluation

# Project Period to be Reviewed/Evaluated:

# July 2018 – October 2020

**Date of Evaluation:** November 2020 to January 2021

# Geographical area.

**Funding agency:**

**South Sudan**

Unity State: Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps,

Eastern Equatoria State: Magwi

Central Equatoria State: Juba

Bread for the World (BfdW), Church of Sweden (CoS), Finn Church Aid (FCA)

# Background

LWF launched the 1st phase of the UPR East and Horn of Africa project in 2015 with an aim to improve realization of human rights for refugees, IDPs and host communities in 4 countries in the region: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. This regional project follows a local to global approach, to link concrete actions at local level to national and international advocacy. This project is part of a broader Local to Global initiative of the LWF, which is being implemented in over 12 countries since 2015. The second project phase started in May 2018 for a period of 3 years.

This advocacy project engages with several human rights frameworks and mechanisms, in particular the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a UN mechanism that involves a government acceding to a peer review of the human rights situation in its country. The periodic nature of the review process, the inclusion of evidence from civil society and the voices of affected communities alongside the claims of government have observably yielded results in various countries. The Projects rights-based approach (RBA) involves a closer ‘join-up’ of local, national and global levels, within and across LWF, with related agencies and other partners. The specific target groups, project areas and human rights priorities have been defined in each country depending on the context and the overall portfolio of the LWF country program, but the project follows the same model (local, national and international objectives and indicators) in all 4 countries.

At the end of the first phase of the UPR project, an external end of project evaluation exercise, modelled along a peer review system, was conducted in 2017. The evaluation report published illustrated that the RBA L2G had a positive impact on the community while enhancing the organisation’s visibility and reputation. The report further identified points of good practise and learning as well as areas that needed improvement. Notably, the project successfully laid the foundations for measurable improvements for the realisation of human rights on the ground, contributed to effective functioning of UPR coalitions; broadened dialogue between community, civil society and Duty Bearers at local level and; provided Rights Holders with platforms to place questions and receive responses from highest level of local government officials. Consequently, these findings prompted BfdW as well as CoS and FCA to support the second phase for the project whose implementation is currently ongoing in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda.

It is for this reason that Lutheran World Federation, seeks to engage the services of a consultant(s) to undertake an end of project evaluation for the project dubbed “UPR ACHIEVING IMPACT (EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA), continuation”. The project’s implementation has been ongoing since 1st May 2018 with an end date of 30th April 2021 (with a possibility for extension to June 2021, due to challenges experienced during implementation because of restrictions occasioned by Covid-19 pandemic).

Due to the health measures in place following the Covid-19 pandemic, the set-up for this evaluation has been adjusted, to ensure we follow the restrictions in place. Instead of having 1 or a team of consultants travel to all the project locations, and as international travel is extremely challenging in the current context, **LWF will recruit consultants locally in each of the 4 countries, with one lead consultant responsible for overall coordination.**

The lead consultant has been identified in Uganda and will be responsible for overall coherence of the evaluation methodology, and to compile the country evaluation reports into one regional evaluation report. The local consultants in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan will be responsible for the country project evaluation: they will participate in regional coordination meetings with the lead consultant, will conduct the evaluation in country, and will produce a country-based evaluation report.

# Brief description of the project

**2.1. Problem description**

Communities in East and Horn of Africa experience an array of development and human rights challenges including massive displacement of human populations, poverty trap, unsustainable livelihood and lack of access to basic social services (health, education, access to water, etc.). Additionally, experiences such as discrimination; sexual gender based and domestic violence; violation of children’s rights and chronic insecurity in the context of conflict and climate change are rife. These challenges often have appreciable implications for the human rights of local communities and refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). LWF has been present in the region for several years through its World Service country programs, implementing humanitarian assistance and development programming, focusing in part of refugees and IDPs.

Resultantly, the East and Horn of Africa UPR project seeks to address some of the pertinent human rights issues affecting the Displacement Affected Population (DACs) in particular refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the hosting communities. Observably, right holders and in particular, women, vulnerable and marginalized communities, refugees and IDPs, are more susceptible to denial, restrictions as well as violation of their human rights. They are often disempowered or marginalized; resources are not allocated to them (or they are denied access to resources they have used for centuries) or legal and policy frameworks do not exist to guarantee those rights. Even where resources and frameworks exist, there is no political will or capacity to implement them. Those who bear a duty of ensuring that communities have access to basic rights are not held to account, nor (sometimes) enabled to have the capacity to deliver. These basic rights are the focus of much of LWF current programming in the region.

**2.2. Project Objective and desired outputs**

Each of the four (4) countries comprising this regional project has identified priority issues, which they aim to address, in line with their context and existing country program priorities, all linked to an overall goal and specific objectives to be achieved at local, national and international level.

 **Goal**: Key target groups are able to access their fundamental Human Rights in priority

thematic areas, and in target communities and localities.

 **Project outcome**:

Duty-bearers are taking concrete measures to implement UPR recommendations in

priority thematic areas, and in target countries and localities, giving strengthened access to fundamental human rights.

 **Project Objectives**

* **Local**: Refugees, IDPs, host and post-conflict communities living in the project areas have improved access to their fundamental human rights
* **National**: Local and national civil societies have increased their advocacy engagement with the national legal, policy and institutional mechanisms through the UPR process (depending on contexts)
* **International**: Governments fulfil their commitments under the Universal Periodic Review (or other international frameworks) and international mechanisms are used to effectively monitor implementation

**2.3 Country-specific objective and desired outcomes**

LWF South Sudan programmatic area on Protection and social cohesion focuses on engaging duty bearers and rights holders at the local and national level in ensuring human rights are promoted and protected. The project activities are being implemented at the local level in the areas of Magwi and Ajuong thok. Emphasis has been put on advancing human rights (children and women’s human rights inclusive) through capacity building and engaging rights holders in advocacy initiatives with the aim of empowering them to claim their rights and encourage community participation.

At the national level, a network of Civil Society Organizations known as the South Sudan Civil Society coalition on UPR (SSCSC-UPR) Plays a key role in monitoring the implementation of the UPR recommendations received by the Government of the republic of South Sudan guided by a four themed implementation matrix on peace & reconciliation, Women & girls, Children & education, Development & humanitarian access. The coalition is also engaged in advocacy through media engagement, round table discussions and joint initiatives with the governments inter-ministerial committee contributing towards influencing national laws and policies. At the international Level, the SSCSC -UPR drafts and submits stakeholders reports on the UPR & treaties and participation at international level advocacy platforms geared towards ensuring that the government fulfills its human rights obligations.

# 3. Scope of the evaluation

This participatory evaluation will focus on the local, national and international components of the UPR East and Horn of Africa project in each of the 4 countries, as well as in Geneva (for the global advocacy and coordination components), and will also look at the regional framework of the project, as a new way of working within LWF.

# Objectives of the evaluation

The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess the progress made towards achieving project goal and impacts based on the project design and strategy in order to better inform future LWF WS programming and identify potential gaps and area-specific opportunities/focus for program planning and improvement.

Specifically, the evaluation will determine the following;

1. R**elevance and suitability:** To what extent is the project well focused in addressing the identified human rights issues experienced by the right holders? Are the human rights priorities identified been by the country program relevant for the target communities? What about the activities put in place at local and national levels? Were the interventions and strategies realistic, adequate and appropriate in order to achieve the planned results? Did the project align to the broader LWF strategy? Is the project relevant to the specific context of the country program?
2. **Impact and results:** To what extent did the project bring about change for the target population/right holders? To what extent have the target communities been empowered to lead advocacy efforts to claim their rights? Can we see concrete changes in the lives of rights-holders thanks to this initiative? What are the available sources of verifiable evidence of impact and results achievement? To what level was the results attributable to the projects intervention?
3. **Efficiency**: To what degree were the results (output) achieved in a timely manner? Have financial and human resources been allocated sufficiently and strategically to achieve project outcomes? How cost effective were the strategies and tools used in the implementation of the project? Did the actual or expected results (outputs and outcomes) justify the costs incurred and represent value for money? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the project management approach? Was there appropriate balance of activities between global, regional and country levels? Were there critical factor influencing efficient implementation of the project?
4. **Effectiveness of the regional project model and RBA L2G methodology:** Assess the extent of integration of the RBA L2G methodology within the organizational set-up at local, national and global level? What were the major factors (enabling or hindering) that influenced achievement or non-achievement of the project’s outcomes? To what extent was collaboration with UN, civil society and other partners effective, complementary and in line with project objectives? To what level was partnership building; development and dissemination of technical tools; communications and advocacy (visibility and effectiveness) approaches and modalities effective and impactful.
5. **Sustainability and Replicability** - The extent to which the interventions are institutionalized at individual and organizational level? How are the benefits of the project likely to be sustained after the completion of the project? What are key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of sustainability of project outcomes and potential replication of the approach? What illustratable lessons have emerged, and how these can help inform future planning, programming and potential for replication.

VI. Propose **recommendations for the next phase of the UPR project in the region**, as well as for potential new initiatives in other areas especially in the context or regionalization, while taking in to account the specific contexts of the countries.

# Methodology

 The successful consultant shall provide a detailed methodology that supports a participatory approach. The methodology will be conscious of the multi-cultural and national nature of the rights-holders, hence data collection tools must be suitable and sensitive to the diverse communities and nationalities that will form part of the respondents.

In the previous phase of the UPR East and Horn project, a team of 2 consultants conducted the evaluation in Geneva, as well as in the 4 countries, including travel to field locations to meet with community members, partners, staff members etc. This team of consultants then drafted one evaluation report for the project.

Taking into account the current restrictions and health measures linked to Covid-19, this usual set up of contracting a consultant or a team of consultants to conduct the external evaluation is being challenged. Indeed, international travel is complicated, with some countries still not allowing international travel in or out, and with domestic travel also challenging to some of our project areas.

Taking into account these challenges, LWF proposes the following suggestions for the upcoming evaluation:

* Avoid international travel for consultants or LWF staff as much as possible.
* Recruit local consultants in each country, with one lead consultant coordinating the overall process remotely and ensuring that one coherent evaluation report is drafted for the project
* In each country the evaluation will follow the local health measures and restrictions, and the evaluation methodology will be adapted as needed (online interviews instead of face-to-face etc.)

This is why LWF will be recruiting a consultant in each country, to conduct country-based evaluations in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. One lead consultant, who was already identified in Uganda, will also be responsible for the overall coordination of the evaluation process, and for compiling one regional evaluation report. It is expected that the country-consultants will coordinate with the lead consultant ahead of conducting the country-based evaluation so there is coherence in the evaluation methodology applied in each country, taking into account the specificity of each context, and the specific Covid 19 restrictions in place in each country.

* In relation to the **global level coordination (Geneva)**:

It is expected that relevant stakeholders be interviewed in the LWF headquarters through online interviews (due to the current health measures in place).

* With regards to the **4 country programs:**

Taking into account the current restrictions and health measures associated with the Covid-19, it is expected that a hybrid methodology of both virtual and physical evaluation undertaking to be employed. The consultant is expected to engage in physical meetings in Juba and in the field locations (Magwi & Ajuong Thok) following COVID -19 national guidelines as put forward by the Ministry of Health and LWF’s Standard Operating Procedures on safe community activities. Inter-state travel both by road and air in South Sudan does not require a COVID 19 medical certificate and therefore the Consultant shall travel to the field location observing SOP’s by United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). A Peer learning process could still be designed even in the context of the Covid-19 restrictions however the Covid-19 risk in South Sudan is considered to be high and therefore essential travel to South Sudan should be on grounds of humanitarian aid, work and medical reasons to mention but a few. All passengers are required to present medical certificates with Negative test results and subject to quarantine for 14 days.

# Evaluation timeline

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| **Action** | **Date** |
| Recruitment of the consultants |  By 1st week of November 2020  |
| Coordination meeting among the 4 consultants | 1st week of November 2020  |
| Inception report by consultant | 2nd week of November 2020 |
| Conduct evaluation in all 4 countries | November/December/January 2021 |
| Draft evaluation report for each country | December/January 2021 |
| Lead consultant to compile and draft 1 report | January 2021 |
| Evaluation report finalized | January 2021 |
| Key findings to be integrated in the next project cycle  | February 2021 |

1. **Deliverables**
	1. **Inception report**: following selection and discussion with the country-based consultants from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, the Consultant will prepare an inception report outlining the key scope of the work, proposed schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables. Moreover, the report shall detail the evaluators’ understanding of the TOR, methodological approach cognizant of the COVID-19 restrictions and other ethical considerations as well as proposed evaluation tools. A reference group will review this report and provide for any requisite modifications to be included prior to beginning the evaluation. (Max 10 pages, including annexes)
	2. **Country**-**based evaluation reports** shall be drafted by each consultant and shared with the lead consultant for compilation
	3. **A draft regional evaluation report** shall be submitted by the lead consultant and subjected to a validation forum (maximum 30 pages excluding annexes)
	4. **Final Regional Evaluation Report**: a combined draft evaluation report will be shared with the reference group, and preliminary findings fed to inform plans for project extension. (maximum 30 pages excluding annexes)

Overall, each consultant will coordinate the collection and collation of data from each of the four countries, with an oversight by the lead consultant to ensure coherence and consistency. The evaluation will be carried out in conformity with the principles, standards and practices of LWF, which respects and puts the affected community at the centre of every intervention, embraces community participation and safeguards against any possible harm.

# Desired Consultant’s profile

This consultancy is open to individual consultants or consultancy companies with the relevant experience and with presence in South Sudan.

Specifically, the Consultant shall possess the following competencies/qualifications

* Minimum education qualification of Master’s degree in relevant disciplines preferably in Human rights, international development, humanitarian studies or related fields.
* Strong understanding of humanitarian and human rights based approach to programming.
* Specialized certification and proven knowledge and understanding of MEARL methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative data analysis skills and participatory data collection approaches.
* Strong understanding of the socio-political environment of each of the country and regions where the project is being implemented.
* Understanding of how to link grass-roots projects to local, national and global advocacy.
* Demonstrable technical and human resource capacity to undertake the consultancy within agreed upon timelines while meeting the agreed upon standards

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# How to apply

Interested candidates should send their applications online to consultancy.southsudan@lutheranworld.org to be received not later than 30th Oct 2020. The application should include a technical and financial proposal (Inclusive of the consultancy fee) Curriculum Vitae with two references and a one-page expression of interest highlighting previous experiences. Airfare and accommodation while in the field shall be covered by LWF.

***LWF will shortlist applications on a rolling base, this position is needed urgently, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.***

***Child Safeguarding:***

***LWF is a child safe organization and is fully committed to promoting the realization of children’s rights including the right to protection from violence and abuse. We therefore, have particular responsibilities to children we work and come into contact with to keep them safe from any harm or risk. In line with LWF policy, any appointment is contingent on thorough criminal record checks.***

*October 2020*