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**Terms of Reference**

**for**

**Mid-Term Review of the Right2Grow Programme South Sudan**

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| **Programme** | Right to Grow  |
| **Key Partners**  | Save the Children International (SCI), SPEDP ,CIDO,World Vision International (WVI),ACF,UNIDOR and CRC. |
| **Project locations** | Bor,Nyirol,Leer,Fashoda,Koch,Panyijiar,Panyikan,Mayendit,Akobo,Pibor,Melut,Paguir and Pariang. |
| **Project Goal**  | Every child is able to reach their full potential |
| **Project Outcomes**  | 1. Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and WASH practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners.
2. Representative and empowered civil society organizations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition.
3. National government and decentralized entities adopt and mainstream an integrated, multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition in policies, action plans and budget allocations.
4. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.
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| **Project lifespan**  | 5 years: 2021 – 2025 |
| **Donor**  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs – The Netherlands  |
| **Mid Term Review Start and End Dates**  | From April, 1st – May 5th, 2023 |

### **Introduction**

South Sudan continues to face overlapping crises, including floods, conflict and food insecurity, which contribute to persisting high levels of malnutrition. Preliminary results from the FSNMS Round 28 and the 2022 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) surveys show that children between 6 and 59 months suffering from acute malnutrition remain at an average of 16 per cent in the lean season, surpassing the emergency threshold of 15 per cent and thus considered very high.122 No improvement has been recorded since 2019, when the GAM prevalence was at an average of 16.2 per cent in the lean season. Admission of children and women with acute malnutrition has increased by 24 per cent compared to 2021.123 Urgent action and investment is required to curb the impact of aggravating factors, safeguard the gains made and prevent any deterioration of the nutrition situation in South Sudan.

An estimated 2.2 million people, including 1.5 million host community, 315,500 returnees and 390,000 IDPs, will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2023. Out of 1.4 million children under age 5, 353,600 children will suffer from SAM, 1 million will suffer from MAM and 737,800 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) will have acute malnutrition. An estimated increase of 172,900 children and PLW suffering from acute malnutrition is expected in 2023. Furthermore, 26,560 (7.9 per cent) out of 337,120 refugees residing in 11 counties in South Sudan will need treatment for acute malnutrition, including 5,140 SAM children, 14,350 MAM children, 4,337 acutely malnourished PLW and 2,730 patients with HIV or tuberculosis.

Right2Grow believes that all Children Under 5 (CU5) years are well nourished, changes in mindset and behavior are required at all levels - from the household up to the state. To bridge the gaps between promising national policies and realities, mutual efforts of all nutrition and WASH stakeholders are needed. Stakeholders should speak a shared language, and work in mutually reinforcing and interconnected ways, building and sharing evidence, knowledge, and expertise -so that all relevant decision-makers can jointly and effectively address undernutrition in a multisectoral, gender sensitive and inclusive way **(medium-term impact),** while applying people-centred and community-led approaches. Success in this domain will also pave the way to open up the civic space, a critical precondition for the success of the SDGs - so that every child will be able to achieve its potential **(ultimate goal).**

Right2Grow is implemented in 3 States of South Sudan namely Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity States. Right2Grow programmme is implemented by strategic partners (SCI, WVI, ACF), and with Strategic local civil society – (UNIDOR, CRC and CIDO). The programme is also supported by non Right2Grow civil society namely: Jonglei Civil Society Network, Voice of Women and none violent Youth Initiative.

### **Purpose of the Mid-Term Review**

The purpose of the midterm review is to inform Right2Grow consortium, the donor and other project stakeholders on the result of the implementation after 2.5 years. The mid-term review will address four main objectives, defined in careful consideration by Right2Grow partnership and programme partner, to best document the lessons of the programme and inform future work. The main objectives of the mid-term review are:

1. To enable the Right2Grow partnership to learn about its successes and areas for improvement in South Sudan.
2. To inform possible adjustment of Theory of Change and planning for 2024-2025, including the adjustment of targets and indicator framework;
3. To inform strategic decisions for increased impact and added value in 2024-2025 and beyond;
4. To Meet the accountability requirements of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The MTR will look at programme implementation in South Sudan (advocacy), as well as at processes (partnership structure, collaboration, cost assessment, governance, power balance) at in-country level, at consortium level and the interlinkage between those levels.

The MTR will focus on two-folds a) Programmatic focusing on: Theory of Change, context analysis and risk analysis (including SEAH, fraud and corruption), achievements to date on the output and outcome indicators that are linked to the Strengthening Civil Society and thematic Result Framework basket indicators, crosscutting themes (gender, youth, climate), challenges, lessons learned and good practices, sustainability. (b)Partnership collaboration focusing on: leading from the south, partnership with the Ministry and the Embassies, lessons learned and good practices

**Joint learning** is a key component of the mid-term review. It is expected that the mid-term review will provide input for internal reflection and stimulate adaptation. Through participatory reflection, validation, dissemination and linking and learning meetings during the review period, the mid-term will contribute to strengthening the work of the Right2Grow and stimulate innovation.

**Specific Objectives of MTR:**

**At country level:**

1. To assess country programme progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 5-year outcomes and targets (as set during the baseline phase) as per DSO and FNS Results Frameworks, and to reflect on how the country consortia are contributing to the realization of the TOC;
2. To inform country programme 2024-2025 planning by identifying key recommendations, lessons learnt, opportunities to build on our strengths, and options to extend our influence;
3. To assess and provide recommendations on country programme strategies regarding:
	1. risk mitigation (including SEAH);
	2. sustainability (what is the likelihood that the programme results will be sustainable, in terms of systems, institutions, policies, financing) and institutionalization;
	3. operationalisation of programme principles (do we live up to our own principles?);
	4. capacity strengthening (Is the programme sufficiently sensitive and responsive to capacity strengthening needs? Is the country capacity strengthening plan effective and likely to lead to sustained capacity improvements in the long-term?)
4. Assessment of finance expenditures and financial resource management, including the risk of possible fraud (e.g. appropriateness of budget planning, whether grant allocation is appropriate (according to partners), whether there are any bottlenecks in the system of financial disbursement between consortium, national lead partner and consortium partners;
5. To assess (and strengthen) the collaboration with the Embassies and other strategic partners;

**At the consortium level:**

1. To assess to what extent the governance and functioning of the full consortium supports the achievements of the objectives of the TOC at country.
2. To assess South Sudan consortium ways of working, linking and cross thematic collaborations
3. Identify recommendations for enhancing the consortium’s impact in 2024-2025 and beyond;
4. To assess the extent to which the Right2Grow South Sudan consortium management mechanisms and internal coordination processes contribute to the overall performance of the programme, including staff resourcing, governance, transparency, accountability, leading from the south, and the partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
5. To assess the extent to which the existing partnership structure (Country coordination mechanisms, Country lead roles, Country management roles) and costs have influenced delivery of Right2 Grow, and make relevant recommendations for the second half of the project;
6. To assess to what extent all Technical Working Groups (TWGs) function as intended, what their added value is for the partnership, and what promoting and hindering factors are in this regard;
7. To assess how the programme principles are being operationalised at consortium level;
8. To assess strengths and weaknesses and provide recommendations for the strategic direction of the programme including:
	1. Gender and inclusion
	2. Innovations
	3. Shift the Power
	4. Adaptive management and financial decision-making for 2024-2025 (e.g. fund allocation between different elements of the programme).

9. To provide recommendations on how to improve the consortium’s support and contribution to the realization of the TOC.

**Methodology**

The methodology will be developed by the consultant including qualitative approaches listed below to gain a deeper understanding of the project outcomes. The consultant shall also develop relevant tools to respond to key indicators as presented in the inception report.

* Desk Reviews. The consultant will have to collect secondary data through reviewing relevant key project documents in WASH and Nutrition. Satisfaction survey report, annual reports, project proposal, capacity assessment results, TOC and the Result framework.
* Key informant interviews. The consultant will collect primary data from key ministries officials, consortium staff members, steering committee members local authorities and chiefs in locations.
* Focus Group Discussion. The consultant will organize FDGs for beneficiaries of the project that include women and men boys and girls who project benefited from the WASH and nutrition project activities structure.
* Outcome harvest. Through review of Right to grow documents, the consultant will be expected to identify and validate Outcome statements.

The MTR will also utilize the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria by assessing the project’s achievements in terms of its Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability. This MTR is therefore expected to provide answers to the following list of evaluation questions upon in consultation with the consortium in the inception report:

**1. Theory of Change, context analysis, and risk analysis**

1.1. To what extent is the overall programme South Sudan Right2Grow ToC guiding in the programme’s delivery, and what can be said about its quality and validity at mid-term?

1.2 To what extent is South Sudan Right2Grow ToCs appropriate to adaptations of the overall programme ToC, and how relevant is South Sudan Right2Grow ToCs to guiding South Sudan programmes?

1.3 To what extent are the actors targeted in the ToCs sufficiently concrete (civic and political actors, youth and women leaders, government and donor/international actors)?

1.4 How are programme adaptations being made to South Sudan Right2Grow ToCs, in response to contextual changes, risk analyses, assumption changes, or programme implementation monitoring, especially in contexts of COVID-19, food crises, conflict, climate change or where democracy is backsliding?

**2. Achievements to date on the intermediate and outcome level**

2.1 What have been the main (intermediate) outcome results achieved at mid-term in relation to the following (1) the Consortium, partner networks and local civil society organizations are effective enablers of change, (2) community members (youth and women, etc) are influential actors of change, (3) government agencies collaborate on the basis of trust and make commitments towards nutrition and WASH for children under five years, and (4) Donors making commitments towards humanitarian-development nexus. What can be said about the sustainability of these results?

2.2 What can be said about the relationship of outputs achieved to the higher-level programme outcomes in terms of plausible contribution?

2.3 Which of the programme interventions appear to be particularly effective in producing anticipated outputs, and are most likely to contribute to programme outcomes?

**3. Partnership collaboration**

3.1 To what extent has collaboration between the different Consortium Partners created added value in South Sudan? To what extent is collaboration with other partners - outside the R2G Consortium?

3.2 What have been the strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership in terms of the organizational aspects of programme delivery?

3.3 What has been the added value of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and separately, of its embassies, to the Partnership?

**4. Challenges, lessons learned and good practices**

4.1 How have power imbalances in the Partnership been addressed, and how is Leading from the South/localization being advanced in the Partnership? To what extent are the Right2Grow Consortium Partners, local partners and other Right2Grow actors making progress on their diversity and leadership agendas?

4.2 What are the main challenges, lessons learned and good practices emerging regarding the Partnership collaboration?

4.3 What are the main challenges, lessons learned and good practices emerging regarding the implementation of programme interventions? What substantive learning can be draw from the programme implementation to date in terms of assumption held and evidence gaps emerging around the relevance and effectiveness of interventions?

4.4 What are the main challenges, lessons learned and good practices emerging regarding the monitoring of programme interventions, especially interventions aimed at capacity building through empowerment of local community under Outcome 1, and mutual capacity development under Outcome 2? To what extent are the monitoring and reporting system and requirements useful for learning and strategic policy-level exchange within the Partnership?

4.5 Is there evidence that recommendations internal reflection processes are being followed-up and there is learning from evaluations and reviews?

**Intended users and key audience of the MTR Report.**

1. Members and partners of the partnership. The findings will be used by consortium members and to steer and adapt, and to identify successful strategies and lessons learned. Insights from the final evaluation will provide insights into which approaches need to be started, continued, revised or stopped for which target groups.
2. Programme participants and stakeholders in each country. Engaging directly with this audience ensures downward accountability and for learning, inspiration and motivation.
3. Evaluation report will be shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (the primary donor of the programme) and the Dutch development sector in particular.

**MTR Authority and Responsibility**

The MTR taskforce will have the overall responsibility throughout process of the Evaluation as seen:

1. Overall coordination of MTR preparations, execution and completion.
2. Ensures availability of budget for MTR.
3. Finalize MTR Terms of Reference for approval by CSC.
4. Oversee recruitment of MTR consultants.
5. Ensure country team preparations for MTR.
6. Coordinate interview schedule and local and national level.
7. Provide relevant documents required during MTR process.
8. Provides quality assurance of MTR process.
9. Organize validation workshop.
10. Ensures final report is timely and in line with agreed format.
11. Provide regular updates to Global Project Cycle support team.

 **Indicative timeliness and product**

The data collection phase is to be confirmed between the consultant and Save the Children, but ideally would start in April 2023, with the final report deadline to Save the Children by the first week of May 2023 .

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| Phase | Deliverables | Payment | Working days indication |
| Inception phase  | Draft inception report |  | 5 |
| Tools development phase | *Deliverable 1:* final inception report including budget, methodology, Evaluation matrix (evaluation questions, methods, data source and data collection) approved by consortium team. | 30 % of total budget |
| Data collection phase | Desk review, KIIs and Focus Group Discussions with key stakeholders and with community in project implementation sites in South Sudan. |  | 20 |
| Data analyses phase | Presentation of initial findings in South Sudan and draft of the report |  | 5 |
| MTR report phase | MTR Draft Report, for comment by Consortium team in South Sudan. |  | 2 |
| *Deliverable 2:* Learning /Validation session in Juba | 30 % of total budget | 1 |
| *Deliverable 3:* Final MTR Report | 40 % of total budget | 2 |
| Total |  | **100%** | **35 days** |

**Guiding principles and values**

Adherence to Save the Children Code of conduct, Child Safeguarding practices and confidentiality when interviewing or photographing children. Gender mainstreaming is key to Save the Children and the donor; therefore, the lead consultant will have to ensure that the research team is gender balanced, ensuring that females are available to interact with female beneficiaries and male interact with male beneficiaries. The consultant will also consider principles of impartiality, independence, objectivity, participation, collaboration, transparency, reliability, privacy, and utility throughout the process.

**Qualification and requirements.**

Required

* Master’s degree in social sciences and advanced skills in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies;
* Proven track record in the evaluation of advocacy programmes, gender meaningful and inclusive youth participation gender-transformative lobbying and advocacy, youth-inclusive policymaking and legislation, particularly in long-term assignments such as this one, that have been implemented in multiple countries;
* Knowledge of child rights, gender-transformative lobbying and advocacy, intersectionality, youth-inclusive policymaking and legislation and collaborative programming;
* Proven experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis for evaluations;
* Proven experience working in the South Sudan;
* Ability to work independently, take initiative and respond appropriately to constructive feedback; and
* Experience in sharing and discussing review findings with clients, in-country partners and beneficiaries, and within an international research network.
* Have proven experience in layered and complex evaluations;
* Have a strong methodological background in multi-country evaluations; and

Preferred

* Strong understanding of humanitarian and survey ethics and a commitment to ethical working practices
* Advanced English writing skills.
* Experience of working in insecure environments in South Sudan and managing security risks
* Action-oriented and evidence-based approach and strong drive for results;
* Have a strong and proven experience to facilitate and stimulate learning sessions.
* Highly developed self-management, and communication skills.

**Submission of application**

Interested candidates/institutions should submit a technical and financial proposals and two samples of reports in which the main consultant or the firm has authored. The proposal should clearly explain understanding and interpretation of the TOR. Applications should Southsudantenders@savetheChildren.org not later than **31st March 2023**. The technical and financial proposals should not exceed 10 pages.

In the submission, candidates should consider the budget will cover a maximum of 35 full consultancy days. In the financial proposal, the consultant should indicate the team composition and daily fees including 20% withholding tax. All operation, accommodation, transportation and field logistics cost will be covered by Save the Children, and need not to be included in the Financial proposal.

Interested candidates/institutions should submit their application to Southsudantenders@savetheChildren.org

**Submission:** All completed bids should be submitted to the below email address:

Southsudantenders@savetheChildren.org and deadline is **31st March 2023.**

**Annex 1-Evaluation criteria**

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| **SECTION 1 - ESSENTIAL CRITERIA** |
|  | ***INSTRUCTIONS – Bidders are required to complete all sections of the below table.*** |
| ***Item*** | **Question** | **Bidder Response** |
| ***1*** | **MANDATORY CRITERIA: Supplier accepts Save the Children’s ‘Terms and Conditions of Purchase’ included within Appendix 1 of the ITT, and that any work awarded from this tender process will be completed under the attached ‘Terms and Conditions of Purchase’** | **Yes / No** | **Comments / Attachments** |
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| ***2*** | **MANDATORY CRITERIA: The Supplier and its staff (and any sub-contractors used) agree to comply with SCI and the IAPG’s policies and code of conducts listed below.** | **Yes / No** | **Comments / Attachments** |
| **1) Child Safeguarding Policy** |  |  |
| **2) Anti-Bribery & Corruption Policy** |
| **3) Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery Policy** |
| **4) Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy** |
| **5) Anti-Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Policy** |
| **6) IAPG Code of Conduct** |
| **7) Conditions of Tendering**  |
| ***3*** |  | **Yes / No** | **Comments / Attachments** |
| **MANDATORY CRITERIA: The Supplier confirms it is not linked directly or indirectly to any terrorism related activity, and does not sell any Dual-Purpose goods / services that may be used in a terror related activity.** |  |  |
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| ***4*** | **MANDATORY CRITERIA: The bidder confirms they are not a prohibited party under applicable sanctions laws or anti-terrorism laws or provide goods under sanction by the United States of America or the European Union and accepts that SCI will undertake independent checks to validate this.** | **Yes / No** | **Comments** |
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| ***5*** | **MANDATORY CRITERIA: The Supplier confirms it is fully qualified, licensed and registered to trade with Save the Children (including compliance with all relevant local Country legislation).** | **Yes / No** | **Comments** |
| **This includes the Supplier submitting the following requirements (where applicable):** |  |  |
| **- Legitimate business address** |  |  |
| **- Valid Tax registration number & certificate** |  |  |
|  **Valid Operating License** |  |  |
|  **Valid certificate of incorporation.** |  |  |
|  **Valid Tax Compliance Certificate.** |  |  |
|  **SECTION 2 – CAPABILITY QUESTIONS** |
| ***Instructions – Bidders are required to complete all sections of the below table.*** |
| ***Item*** | **Question** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
| ***1*** | Master’s degree in social sciences and advanced skills in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies- **If yes, Bidder should attach Poof of qualification.** |  |  |
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| ***2*** | Proven track record in the evaluation of advocacy programme, gender meaningful and inclusive youth participation gender-transformative lobbying and advocacy, youth-inclusive policymaking and legislation, particularly in long-term assignments such as this one, that have been implemented in multiple countries- **If yes, Consultant should attach proof of previous experience in under taking similar assignment.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
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| ***3*** | Proven experience working in South Sudan- **If yes, consultant should attach proof of experience in conducting similar evaluation/s in South Sudan.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
|  |  |
| ***4*** | Ability to work independently, take initiative and respond appropriately to constructive feedback and be proactive in conducting evaluation in consultations with the Mid-term Review task force and able to submit quality report as per the agreed timelines. **If Yes, consultant to clearly detail how he/she will achieve this deliverable.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
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| ***5*** | Experience in sharing and discussing review findings with clients, in-country partners and beneficiaries, and within an international research network**- If yes, attach proof of experience.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
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| ***6*** | Have proven experience in layered and complex evaluations after appropriate ethical review processes and Consultant should confirm whether they have conducted multi-sectoral evaluation in WASH, Nutrition, Food security and Child Protection. **If yes, attach proof.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
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| ***7*** | Have a strong methodological background in multi-country evaluations. **If Yes, Consultant should explain in detail the methodological approach he/she will employ to conduct this evaluation.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
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|  **SECTION 2 – SUSTAINABILITY QUESTIONS** |
| ***Instructions – Bidders are required to complete all sections of the below table.*** |
| ***Item*** | **Question** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
| ***1*** | Does bidder commits to employ workforce (gender-balanced) staffed from the local community / region from both gender of female and male**. If yes, please indicate in terms of percentage and attach proof.**  |  |  |
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| ***2*** | The Bidder to confirm it is registered / has its primary operations in close proximity to the programming location. **If yes, please indicate the physical address and attach proof.** | **Bidder Response** | **Attachment(s)** |
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