

### Terms of Reference

#### Integrated End-line and Baseline Evaluation for Food Security Projects in Magwi County, implemented by Fondation Caritas Luxembourg

Fondation Caritas Luxembourg (FCL) is currently looking for a suitable candidate to conduct an integrated end-line and baseline survey of a development project focused on food security, as per these Terms of Reference.

#### 1. Organizational background

Fondation Caritas Luxembourg (FCL) was established in 1932 and is today one of the largest Luxembourgish NGOs providing human services. Its mission is to fight against injustice, misery and poverty, to prevent them in the medium and long term, and to mitigate their consequences. Since 1993, FCL has also been engaged in international projects, using public and private donations to implement development and humanitarian projects in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Congo, Haiti, Syria and South Sudan.

Registered under South Sudan's Rehabilitation and Relief Commission (RRC) No. 639, FCL has been present in Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan, since 2006, carrying out emergency, rehabilitation and development projects with the support of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, United Nations agencies, private donors, etc. Fondation Caritas Luxembourg is fully registered in South Sudan and both implements projects directly and through local partners. Its focus areas are: food security, nutrition, health, humanitarian relief, vocational training, women's empowerment, and community empowerment.

#### 2. Project

This evaluation, composed of an end-line evaluation and of a baseline survey, is set to cover two consecutive projects taking place in largely overlapping geographical areas of Magwi County and focused on similar interventions related to agriculture and nutrition. Both projects are directly implemented by an FCL team in South Sudan. The FCL field team is based in Palotaka, Magwi County, which will equally serve as the base for the evaluation.

The first project, which was implemented between 2016 and 2020, is entitled: **"Strengthening food and nutritional security and improving the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations in Eastern Equatoria State"**. The project was initially planned to cover 10 villages in former Ayaci County but was finally extended to two more villages in Torit West County as well.

Its objective was to improve food security and sustainable livelihoods for 1 000 households<sup>1</sup> by enhancing agricultural production, diversifying income sources, improving nutrition and promoting

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<sup>1</sup> This number of beneficiaries had been far surpassed by 2020.

safe hygiene and sanitation practices among the households. More specifically, the project sought to achieve the following results:

- a. Agricultural and animal production has been improved and diversified in a sustainable way and farmers have benefited from new additional income sources.
- b. Technical and organizational capacities of local farmers groups have been strengthened to represent and defend the interest of their members.
- c. Nutritional and health status of the most vulnerable population groups has been improved through the adoption of better nutrition, hygiene and sanitation practices.
- d. The local partner's capacities to defend the needs of the population and to meet donors' requirements have been strengthened.

The consecutive project, which is planned to begin in 2021 and end in 2025, is entitled:

**“Strengthening the capacity of rural communities to increase agricultural production, manage resources, and improve nutrition in Eastern Equatoria”**. It will be implemented in 4 payams and 6 Bomas.

It aims to sustainably improve the accessibility, availability, diversity and management of food for vulnerable households and communities. The results to be achieved are the following:

1. The capacities of communities to prevent, monitor and treat malnutrition are strengthened
2. The production and processing of diversified and highly nutritious food is increased
3. The community adopts safer WASH practices
4. The quantity and quality of food produced through agro-ecological practices is increased
5. The community management of natural resources and of local production is improved

The project aims to cover 5000 households.

### 3. Objectives and approach of the end-line evaluation

The overall objective of the end-project evaluation is to provide FCL, its implementing partners, donors, and other stakeholders with sufficient information to make an informed judgment as to the performance and overall impact of the project. The final evaluation is expected to assess the extent to which results were achieved against the indicators and goal/purpose set at the outset. It is also expected to speak to the prospects for sustainability of the benefits brought about by the project interventions and established groups.

In carrying out the end-line evaluation, the researcher shall be inspired by the six evaluation criteria proposed by the OECD (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability), and propose a methodology – mostly but not only qualitative methods – to

effectively respond to each dimension.<sup>2</sup> The evaluator is also expected to assess whether the project has addressed gender equality in terms of access, decision-making, and capacity-building. More generally, the report should generate lessons learned and recommendations, as well as highlight key good practices in the project. The evaluation mission shall take place in a participatory manner, taking into account the different stakeholders involved in the project at different levels (state, village, community).

#### 4. Objectives of the baseline survey

In turn, the baseline survey should collect demographic, nutritional and agricultural data that can be used as a benchmark for the future 5-year project in relation to the project objectives, results and their respective indicators.

The baseline should enable accurate monitoring and evaluation of impact, by presenting the 'pre-intervention' scenario that can be used as a yardstick against which changes in the beneficiary population's livelihoods and nutritional circumstances can be measured. Indeed, this study should provide a complete picture of the agricultural and nutritional environment in the project locations, covering:

General demographic data of the location for planning purposes

- Food consumption, sources and availability
- Agricultural production
- Income source
- Assets owned
- Access to services
- Child health, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation

In particular, the indicators listed below should be measured and analyzed in the baseline study (for the 8 *Bomas* selected):

- Number of beneficiaries classified as having a "poor" Food Consumption Score (FAO)
- The food shortage period
- The number of households classified as having a balanced diet
- The number of children suffering from acute (SAM and MAM) malnutrition
- Number of women who practice exclusive breastfeeding for children 0-5 months old
- Number of beneficiaries having improved their hygiene practices
- Number of beneficiaries having improved their nutritional practices
- Area of land equipped for irrigation
- Number of vulnerable households that know and apply at least two agro-ecological crop treatment techniques

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<sup>2</sup> OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation, "Better Criteria for Better Evaluation Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use", <<http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/revised-evaluation-criteria-dec-2019.pdf>>.

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- The number of households able to produce during at least two seasons
- The number of vulnerable households that grow a diversity of plants (e.g. fruits)
- Number of producers who adopt at least one additional good post-harvest practice
- Number of organizations / cooperatives that implement a marketing strategy
- Number of functional water management committees

The data collection methodology for these indicators has already been defined in detail and shall be made available to the evaluator.

With a view to limiting the inconvenience to survey/interview participants and to arriving at a full picture of FCL's past and potential impact in the region, it is **important that the baseline and end-line data collection exercises be carried out in an integrated manner**. The evaluation shall benefit from the fact that the two projects overlap in six out of eight *Bomas*. The baseline survey shall cover 5% of the project beneficiaries (250 households).

### 5. Deliverables and schedule of deliverables

	Number of days of work	Deadlines
<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Concept note, including full methodology and questionnaires to be used	3	
<b>Deliverable 2:</b> Training enumerators	2	
<b>Deliverable 3:</b> Data collection mission,	5	
<b>Deliverable 4:</b> Draft report (approx. 30 pages, without annexes)	5	
<b>Deliverable 5:</b> Final evaluation report, integrating comments received	3	

### 6. Duration of the contract and other arrangements

The total duration of the contract shall not exceed 18 days, including travel. The contract shall begin February 10, 2021, and shall not end later than March 15. The work will be supervised by the Head of Mission of Caritas Luxembourg in South Sudan.

### 7. Qualifications of the desired candidate

- A minimum of 5 years' experience in evaluation, 5 of which in the development sector
- Experience using mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) approaches to research
- Excellent English writing skills

**8. Call for proposals**

If you fit the required profile, please send the following documents to the address [secretariat@caritasluxssd.lu](mailto:secretariat@caritasluxssd.lu) by midnight on Feb 7, 2021.

- Your CV and list of 3 references
- 2-3 pages detailing your competencies specifically applicable to this assignment and your approach to reaching its objectives (enumerators needed, methodology, etc.)
- Your financial proposal