

Terms of Reference for the Value Chain and Environmental Risk assessment in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal

Location: Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal, South Sudan
Type of Contract: Consultancy
Duration: 2 months (15 January to 15 March 2024 - negotiable)
Post Level: International Consultant
Languages Required: English, Arabic

Background

Alliance2015 is a strategic network of seven European non-government organisations engaged in humanitarian and development action. Alliance2015 members are ACTED/France, Ayuda en Acción/Spain, Cesvi/Italy, Concern Worldwide/Ireland, HELVETAS /Switzerland, People in Need/Czech Republic and Welthungerhilfe/Germany. Founded in 2000 to foster and nurture collaborations for greater scale and impact towards the Millennium Development Goals, Alliance2015 is a strategic and operational network of European-based international NGOs, working towards the broader vision of Agenda 2030 and a world free from poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality. In South Sudan, Alliance2015 is represented by the following members: Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Concern Worldwide and Acted.

Since 1993, as an international non-governmental organization, ACTED has been committed to immediate humanitarian relief to support those in urgent need and protect people's dignity, while co-creating longer-term opportunities for sustainable growth and fulfilling people's potential. In South Sudan, ACTED has been operational since 2007 and up until today employs a flexible approach which acknowledges the coexistence of the need for emergency response, and early recovery resilience building with the potential for further stabilization of communities through long-term programming. ACTED static and mobile teams provide emergency food and shelter relief, WASH assistance, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management services to displaced communities in refugee and IDP camps, as well as in informal settlements. At the same time, ACTED works with the communities towards long-term resilience through variety of livelihood interventions focused on improved agricultural practices, provision of agricultural inputs, building up productive infrastructure,



market linkages and access to capital through saving groups. Acted works across 3 areas: Greater Equatoria, Western Bahr-el-Ghazal and Upper Nile.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) has been working in today's South Sudan since the late 1990's. Since the country's independence in 2011, Welthungerhilfe has implemented 87 projects ranging from rapid disaster relief to reconstruction and long-term development cooperation projects with local partners, with an overall volume of over EUR 420 million. Through 19 projects in five states (Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity State, Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria), we supported 700,000 people in 2022 alone. Welthungerhilfe receives institutional grants from German federal funds (GFFO, BMZ, GIZ), UN (WFP, FAO, SSHF) and the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF). WHH SSD primary areas of work in South Sudan are food security, agriculture, food systems, nutrition, WASH and infrastructure rehabilitation, under the overarching umbrella of climate resilience and adaptation.

Concern Worldwide started working in South Sudan in 1985 (mainly in Yei), became fully operational in 1998 with an emergency response in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Concern has been implementing long term and short-term Food Security and Livelihoods, Climate Sensitive, Income Generation, Health and Nutrition programmes in NBeG. Concern has established linkages with grassroots communities, and productive working relationship with the local leaders and synergies with other stakeholders to build resilience of communities.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of consultancy is to assess a) key value chains and market opportunities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (Aweil North, West and Centre) and Western Bahr-el-Ghazal (Jur River) b) the environmental impact of identified value chains and market opportunities and include findings and recommendations in a final report. The outcomes of the assessment will inform Alliance 2015 members' positioning with regards to relevant programming in the area.

The value chain and climate risk assessment will have the following specific objectives:

- Identify the climatic shocks prevalent in the geographical area as well as the value chain options relevant to the area. Identify key actors and stakeholders involved in the agricultural value chain, such as farmers, input suppliers, processors, distributors, and retailers.
- Identify bottlenecks, inefficiencies, and areas for improvement to enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase farmers' income.
- Explore potential market opportunities to promote market linkages and improve access to better prices for farmers.
- Identify and understanding the specific climate risks faced by the agricultural sector in South Sudan, such as droughts, floods, pests, and diseases.
- Recommend strategies to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity, such as



implementing climate-smart agricultural practices, diversifying crops, improving water management, and promoting sustainable land use practices.

- Identify potential opportunities for climate mitigation, such as adopting agroforestry practices, promoting renewable energy use, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities.
- Identify common trade routes and how they get affected by the climatic shocks e.g floods, drought among others.

Scope

The VCA and environmental study will look at markets and value chains in identified areas in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal (Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Jur River in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal), identifying key value chains and market opportunities, considering livelihood opportunities, private sector development opportunities and environmental impacts of identified value chains.

The assessment will therefore cover two main components:

Component 1: Value chain and market assessment. The value chain study will include all crops and nature-based livelihoods activities of the communities. It also includes a stakeholder mapping to identify possible partnership areas to improve productivity and marketability of the crops and nature-based products. The consultant/firm is also expected to conduct lessons learned workshop/FGDs with A2015 members to identify key areas of potential for future interventions based on the Alliance 2015 members' experience with value chains in the selected areas.

Component 2: Climate risk vulnerability and capacity assessment of selected value chains. Climate change poses various risks to the efficient functionality of the food systems. This study component will focus in identifying various hazards, both natural and human made, identify gaps and propose preventive or mitigative measures to ensure sustainability of the selected value chains within the context of existing food system players. The capacity assessment identifies the existing resources, gaps and strengths available to address the risks identified. Stakeholder engagements will be key to ensuring the success of this component.

Methodology

The firm/ consultant is ultimately responsible for the development of the overall methodological approach and is expected to propose methodologies that the firm/ consultant considers most appropriate to achieve the aims of this assessment.



Alliance2015 partners suggest mixed methods as the methodological approach for this exercise. In addition, the selected methodology should consider the inclusivity and engagement of relevant stakeholders involved in markets/value chains. To this end, the consultancy should involve:

- Literature review and desk study of relevant documentation of value chains and markets in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal;
- Key informant interviews (KIIs) and stakeholder consultation with local authorities (at national, state and county level), key humanitarian and development actors (in particular those involved in agricultural value chains in GBeG), selected private sector representatives in GBeG and Juba;
- FGDs with Alliance2015 members' teams to develop lessons learned from ongoing programming in market and value chain projects in Greater-Bahr-el-Ghazal;
- FGDs with IDP and host community members to understand livelihood opportunities and challenges with regards to identified value chains;

Expected Deliverables

Alliance2015 partners expect to receive a final assessment report by the agreed timelines above, with an initial draft two weeks before the end of the consultancy. Travel to South Sudan and to Project locations to implement the assessment is essential, as interviews with key stakeholders and FGDs with the community will have to be conducted in person in order to deliver a report of high quality, and at the expense of the consultant.

The following are the main deliverables of this consultancy:

- Production of a detailed inception report and workplan showing proposed stages of the work (first week of the assessment)
- A draft of the assessment report two weeks before the end of the consultancy;
- A final assessment report (formatted and edited) responding to the specific objectives of the consultancy and to Alliance2015 feedback on the draft, including a stakeholder mapping, policy analysis and environmental risk assessment (maximum 25 pages, plus annexes, if relevant) by the end of the consultancy;



REPORTING

Milestone	Weeks after commencement
MoM Kick-Off Meeting to discuss inception report	1
Contents page showing proposed content of final report	1
Workplan & inception report	1
Fortnightly activity summary	2, 3, 4, 5
Final Project Report – Draft	6
Final Project Report	8

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that the duration of the assignment will be in total 8 weeks. Suggested activity timeline is shown below:

Activity Description	Wk	Wk	Wk	Wk	Wk	Wk	Wk	Wk
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kick-off Meeting, MoM, Contents page showing proposed content of final report, detailed workplan	X							
Field Activities		X	X	X	X			
Draft report submission						X		
Review process							X	
Final report submission								X

It is to note that accommodation, transportation, communications, extra staffing (enumerators) and insurances and security costs are at the sole responsibility of the consultant.

Required Skills and Experience

- Demonstrated experience in conducting value chain and market assessments with a focus on agricultural value chains,
- Experience with analysing the environmental impact of markets and value chains. Experience with conducting climate risk vulnerability assessments is an asset.
- Masters degree in economics, agriculture, environment, social sciences or related



field

- Strong writing and facilitations skills;
- Fluency in English and excellent writing and communication skills;
- Fluency in Arabic highly desirable;
- Fluency in local dialects is an advantage;
- Proven ability to operate under strict deadline and high level of discipline and professionalism;
- In addition, previous experience working in or on South Sudan is a particular asset

How to apply

Cover letter: A short (maximum 1 and ½ pages) letter addressing suitability for the assignment and current contact information and the dates of availability for the assignment

Consultant's Profile: (2-4 pages) through:

- a summary of how you expect to conduct the research including the workplan and expected challenges
- a brief explanation about the consultant with particular emphasis on previous experience in this kind of work. Provide a sample of a previous academic or professional writing.
- demonstration of understanding of the TORs and the tasks to be accomplished.
- Supporting evidence showing relevant experience (i.e. previous assessment reports)
- The Consultant must demonstrate that s/he has suitably qualified and experienced experts among its key personnel, who have the appropriate level of academic and professional qualifications and expertise gained in similar projects and countries to recognize and to deliver with respect to the technical management requirements.

Financial Proposal:

- A financial proposal for the consultancy fully explaining how the task will be accomplished; covering daily consultancy fees in USD, inclusive VAT (including an indication of the expected number of working days) and a proposed budget for the development of data collection tools, enumerator /assistant costs, insurances, flights and communication costs. The financial proposal is expected to be inclusive of all costs to be incurred by the consultant/firm in order to achieve the objectives of this ToR.