



Baseline Assessment for Strengthening Resilience in Agriculture, Livelihood and Markets (STREAM)

Program Context

Western Equatoria (WES) and Unity State (US) are among the states in South Sudan mostly affected by recurrent conflicts. These states face a multitude of challenges resulting from the combined effect of prolonged violence and economic shocks which have resulted in displacements, loss of livelihoods, loss of property and assets, destruction of infrastructure and dysfunctioning markets among others. These shocks have also been seen to increase inter-communal tensions as there is increased pressure exerted on available limited resources. In response to some of these shocks, households have been forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms which continue to undermine both their immediate and long term economic opportunities.

1) Program to be Evaluated

Strengthening Resilience in Agriculture, Livelihoods and Markets through Local Institutions in Mundri East & West and Koch (STREAM), SDC Funded is a three phase seven years' program, with the first phase starting as of 1st December 2020 to November 30th 2022 upon completion this phase, phase two will start as of 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2025 and Third phase starting as of 1st December 2025 to November 2027

2) Purpose of the Baseline survey

Mercy Corps is seeking a qualified consultant to conduct a baseline assessment of SDC funded **Strengthening Resilience in Agriculture, Livelihoods and Markets** through Local Institutions in Mundri East & West and Koch (STREAM), SDC Funded, 1st December 2020 to November 30th 2022. **Hence the Terms of Reference has been developed to attract interest from consultants to undertake a baseline. This baseline is being undertaken with funding from SDC and will be conducted to determine pre-project conditions from which a comparison can be made and also for the purpose of informing the Project Implementation Plan, monitoring progress, evaluating performance, contributing to learning and research. It will be essential to gain in-depth understanding of the challenges related to food security, livelihoods and markets.** Below are the purposes for baseline survey using (Market system development (MSD) Lenses:

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

Refer to the attached scope of work.



Objectives of Baseline Survey.

The overall objective of this baseline survey is to collect baseline data for a set of indicators outlined in the project monitoring and evaluation plan. The baseline report will be used as a basis for monitoring and measuring progress over the course of project implementation.

1. To establish the current status of project indicators. This will serve as a basis for setting targets and measuring milestones on outcomes.
2. To assess and document new knowledge, context analysis and relevant findings that will influence the project's design and thus ability to contribute to its impact in the community.
3. To identify and document key challenges affecting the communities intended to be served by the program in food security, livelihoods and markets in Mundri East, Mundri West and Koch.
4. Collect data on proxy indicators or key areas which contribute to the conceptualization of the each of the indicators being base-lined, based on feedback from the thematic reviews

3) Program Background & Relevant Documents

Mercy Corps aims to make strategic investments in Mundri East and Mundri West Counties of Western Equatoria (Legacy Amadi) State and in Koch County of Unity State. Mercy Corps' goal for the target regions aligns with Mercy Corps' global mission to build secure, productive and just societies. STREAM's Overall Goal is that vulnerable households, youth and women in Mundri East, Mundri West and Koch Counties in South Sudan have improved well-being making use of the skills, knowledge and enabling environment facilitated by the Programme. The Phase 1 of the STREAM Programme will focus on one key objective: *to improve food security of 6,350 households through enhanced gender equitable market access and increased agricultural production and off farm and non-farm livelihood opportunities.*

The Main Objective of the project is "Vulnerable households, youth and Women in Mundri East, Mundri West and Koch Counties in South Sudan have improved their wellbeing by making use of the skills, knowledge and enabling environment facilitated by the programme".

The main outcomes of STREAM are:

5. **Outcome 1:** Increased food production yields among male and female smallholder farmers in 6,350 targeted farm households
6. **Outcome 2:** Increased income for 2,000 male and female youth households engaged in non- farm livelihood opportunities and agro-processing opportunities and off-farm agro-processing opportunities
7. **Outcome 3:** Strengthened market systems and local institutions to ensure gender equitable access to financial services, livelihood inputs and extension services for 6,350 households.



SUCCESS FACTORS:

- The consultant will implement a sampling procedure which is representative of the consortium life of project target population. It is important that the baseline achieves a statistically acceptable sample size for the respective project participant categories.
- At least lead consultants with a Master's degree in food security or related area and over 5 years of significant food security-related research/work experience.
- Applied qualitative and quantitative research experience.
- Market system development approach assessment skills is an added advantage.
- Significant experience of undertaking desk reviews, as well as assessments and/or evaluations.
- Experience performing food security programme surveys within South Sudan will be a major advantage.
- Proven publication record related to food security (attach at least one research sample).
- Ability to provide evidence of producing high quality assessment/evaluation reports in English, and working within tight timeframes (understanding of relevant local languages will be an added advantage).

More details refer to the attached baseline scope of work.

Deadline for submission: 12th March 2021

Apply to: Mercy Corps Juba Office

All applications documents should be submitted in person.

Or by email: ss-apply@mercycorps.org while copying kaguret@mercycorps.org and lgideon@mercycorps.org

