

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

Terms of Reference for combined Mid-Term Evaluation of projects 'Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APP II (APPEAR).

AND

Enhancing Sustainable Peace and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Boma and Jonglei

Project Information:

Country of operation:	South Sudan
Name of Project	Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APPEAR II.
	AND
	Enhancing Sustainable Peace and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Boma and Jonglei
FCA Projects Numbers and budget codes	Projects 12248 and 12247
Implementation Period	Both projects started on 1 st January 2022 and will end on 31 st December 2025
Funding Source	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
Language	English
Locations	Juba, Wau and Malakal and Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area
Type of Consultancy	Open to National and International consulting firms

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is Finland's largest international aid organization with more than 70 years of experience in development work. We work with the poorest people, regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnic background, or political convictions.

Our operations include long term development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and advocacy, and we operate around three thematic areas: Right to Quality Education, Right to Livelihood and Right to Peace.

Finn Church Aid is a member of the ACT Alliance (ACT), an alliance of faith-based development and humanitarian aid organizations. FCA is a certified against the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) of quality and accountability. All our work must comply with these International Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards.

FCA operates in three thematic areas: education, livelihood and peace. These specific projects fall under the Right to Peace thematic area to empower people and local communities in fragile situations

to contribute positively to preventing conflict, building sustainable peace and strengthening structures that support peace at all levels of society

Finn Church Aid (FCA) received funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA), to implement two projects titled:

1. Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APPEAR II.
2. Enhancing Sustainable Peace and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Jonglei State and GPAA

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

Project “Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APPEAR II” aim to ***achieve a holistic conflict transformation processes and initiatives Supported; and Local peacebuilding structures and conflict resolution mechanisms strengthened*** while project “Enhancing Sustainable Peace and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Boma and Jonglei” want to see that ***Women and Youth of faith play an active role in peacebuilding at the local and national level through the establishment of local and national platforms, and capacity/advocacy support***

2. RATIONALE OF THE ACTIVITY:

A. Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APPEAR II.

South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011. Since 2013, South Sudan has faced civil war, with widespread insecurity resulting in killings of thousands of people, and displacements of millions of people who are in need humanitarian support. The recurrence of the civil war in 2016 expanded the violence to other areas of the country that were not affected by the 2013 civil war, and further exacerbated the militarization of society, degraded traditional norms, and altered power dynamics resulting in extreme humanitarian suffering, profound economic and political turmoil, and widespread violence. Furthermore, this has led to widespread prevalence of structural and cultural barriers, attitudes and perceptions that continue to push the youth and women away from the decision-making processes, and ability to participate in civic life.

To respond to the conflict situation in the country, the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) reorganized itself and started promoting peace in the country. In early 2015¹, SSCC voiced the need for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan and began to take a stronger position as a unified church body against the violent conflict. This increased engagement materialized in a church leader’s retreat in Kigali, Rwanda where church leaders developed a vision and a call to contribute to the solving of the conflict in South Sudan. The retreat resulted in the Kigali Statement of Intent, later developed into a concrete Action Plan for Peace (APP) and publicly launched in August 2015, forming the backbone of SSCC’s peace

¹ https://cpn.nd.edu/assets/260577/sscc_position_paper_on_a_peaceful_resolution_to_the_conflict_in.pdf

programming, consisting of three core strategic pillars namely; Advocacy, Neutral Forum, and Reconciliation. APPEAR project is implemented jointly by FCA and SSCC

SSCC creates a platform for consultation and collective action by churches in South Sudan on issues of common interest and functions. Over the years, the church in South Sudan has had an influential role in resolving conflicts, reconciling parties, and building trust and confidence between communities. To this effect, the SSCC has facilitated grassroots to international level advocacy that contributed to South Sudan peace processes. These included diaspora engagement activities, facilitation of Track II diplomatic negotiations, and public outreach to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflicts.

B. Enhancing Sustainable Peace and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Boma and Jonglei.

Over a decade after independence and six years after the signing of the revitalized peace agreement, people in South Sudan continue to face critical humanitarian conditions. The humanitarian crisis in the country has persisted due to a combination of sporadic armed clashes and intercommunal violence, food insecurity, public health challenges and climatic shocks. These factors have severely affected people's livelihoods and hampered access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and health services. In 2024, the economic crisis, the conflict in neighbouring Sudan and widespread flooding deepened people's needs. Protection concerns remain high, especially for women and girls.

Conflict and insecurity continue to be significant drivers of people's needs. Incidents of violence attributed to conventional parties to the conflict remained relatively low due to general compliance with the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. However, entrenched patterns of violence involving armed youth, such as cattle raiding, border disputes and retaliatory attacks, were predominant drivers of violence.

FCA seeks to conduct a mid-term evaluation study to understand how and to what extent project activities achieved the stipulated outcomes including contribution of the project towards the overall goal of

- 1) Achieving sustainable and inclusive peace in South Sudan.
- 2) Achieving sustainable peace and stability in Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA)

3. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION.

The main purpose of the evaluation to assess the project's progress, identify challenges, and recommend adjustments for improved implementation and impact.

Findings and recommendations from the evaluation will help FCA to assess project's progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments to ensure they stay on track to achieve their outcomes and overall goals. The evaluation will be used as a check-in point to determine if the two projects are effective, efficient, and relevant, and to provide recommendations for improvement. The targeted users of the evaluation are the implementing partners, FCA, targeted project beneficiaries and other duty bearers.

4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION:

Assess Project Progress and Performance:

- Examine the projects alignment with the needs of the target population and their contribution to the intended goals.
- Evaluate the extent to which the projects are achieving their intended outcomes and outputs in the country's evolving context.
- Assess how well the projects are utilizing their resources (time, money, personnel) to achieve their objectives.
- Determine the projects potential for long-term impact and their ability to continue functioning after the end of the initial funding or implementation period.

Identify Challenges and Lessons Learned:

- Identify obstacles and bottlenecks that hinder projects implementation and progress.
- Analyse the successes and failures of the projects to identify best practices and areas for improvement.
- Assess the projects' ability to adapt to changing circumstances and unforeseen challenges.

Informing Future Actions:

- Provide concrete recommendations for adjustments to the project's design, implementation strategies, and monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Inform the design and implementation of similar peacebuilding projects in the future.
- Promote a culture of learning and accountability within the organization and among partners.

Specific Focus Areas:

- Examine the projects impact on gender equality and the participation of marginalized groups.
- Assess the level of community participation and ownership in the projects.
- Evaluate the projects' ability to minimize potential harm and unintended consequences related to conflict.

5. SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

- Timeframe: this evaluation will cover a period from 1st January 2022 to December 2024.
- Geographical Coverage: The project locations are GPAA, Wau, Malakal, and Juba in South Sudan.
- Target groups to be covered: this evaluation will cover the target primary beneficiaries as well as duty bearers.
- Thematic Scope: The evaluation will cover project's thematic areas as per the results framework. In addition, under the evaluation criteria, the evaluation will cover effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, and sustainability.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND QUESTIONS.

The evaluation will seek to answer to the following key questions.

Evaluation Criteria	Mandatory Evaluation Question
Effectiveness A measure of the extent to which a project attains its objectives / results (as set out in the project document and results framework).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent were the intended project goal, outcomes, and outputs (project results) being achieved and how? 2. What and how much progress has been made towards achieving the overall outputs, and outcomes of the project (including contributing factors and constraints)? 3. Where the inputs and strategies used effectively and realistically, appropriately and were adequate to achieve the project results? 4. How effective was Monitoring and Evaluation these projects. 5. What recommendations in terms of project effectiveness are there to improve the current and future peacebuilding similar intervention in a similar context?
Relevance The extent to which the project is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group and the context.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent do the achieved results (project goal, outcomes, and outputs) continue to be relevant to the needs of the community? 2. Was the intervention designed in ways that respond to the needs and priorities of the learners? If so, how? 3. Are the assumptions that went into the design of the project still relevant?
Efficiency Comparing actual results (outputs) with planned results (inputs) and assessing how well the team met deadlines, stayed within budget, and utilized resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent was the project efficiently and cost-effectively implemented? 2. Were activities cost-efficient? 3. Were objectives achieved on time? 4. Was the project implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternatives?
Sustainability concerned with measuring whether the benefits of a project are likely to continue after the project/funding ends.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What strategies are in place to ensure the projects' achieved results, especially any positive changes in the lives of the community (project goal level), be sustained after this project ends in 2025? 2. What were the major factors which influenced the success or setback of sustainability of the program or project?

Impact Assesses the changes that can be attributed to a particular project relating specifically to higher-level impact (both intended and unintended).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent has the project contributed to the peace in South Sudan? 2. What difference/changes has the project made to the lives of the target groups? 3. How many people have been positively affected by the project interventions?
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7. METHODOLOGY

Evaluation Design

The evaluation will adopt a blended approach that allow collection of both primary and secondary qualitative and quantitative data, using varied research designs. This will enable a deep and broad understanding of project results over the implementation period. In this regard, quantitative and qualitative methods will complement each other to assist in triangulation of findings. Towards this end, the evaluation will use a cross- sectional survey design, complemented by desk review of secondary data including previous case studies conducted. For the cross-sectional design, data will be collected using focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs) and a questionnaire survey.

Review of Data Collection Tools: A review of the data collection tools will be conducted jointly with the Program Team to ensure that all the necessary questions that need to be asked are incorporated in the tool. The tools will then be uploaded to FCA central Kobo Collect server through use of FCA provided tablets/phones.

Mobilizing and Training of research assistants:

All research assistants will be within the FCA existing database, mobilized and trained on the methodology, the tools, documentation, and oriented on FCA code of conduct as well as child safeguarding and the concept of informed consent. A dedicated session will be held on child participation to support research assistants with practical tools and techniques to ensure meaningful and age-appropriate participation of children in the study.

Data Analysis:

Data cleaning process will happen at all levels of data collection. During the development of the tool, restricted skip logics will be introduced to harmonize on the flow of questions during data collection. Secondly, data will be exported to both SPSS and Excel for further cleaning and analysis. For advanced visualization during analysis, Microsoft Excel will be used.

Sample Size Determination:

This evaluation will be conducted in Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Wau, Malakal, and Juba. The evaluation will utilise the fixed sample-size determination formula (below) to determine the household sample sizes required at settlement level. At 95% confidence interval and a 5% margin of error, a minimum of 747 project beneficiaries and duty bearers will be targeted for participation

in this evaluation. The respondents in this evaluation will be targeted based on the supported communities.

The evaluation determines the sample size of respondents using the Raosoft formula allowing for a margin error of 5%.

$$x = Z^2 \cdot r(100-r)$$

$$n = N \cdot x / ((N-1)E^2 + x)$$

$$E = \text{Sqrt}[(N - n)x / n(N-1)]$$

The beneficiaries will be clustered and Cluster sampling techniques for identification of the sample size will be employed. Respondent's reach will be guided with support of research assistants as guided below.

Sample size distribution:

Methodology	Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA)	Wau	Malakal	Juba
KII with project beneficiaries	340	155	160	40
KII with Duty bearers	27	10	10	5
FGD with project beneficiaries	3	2	2	1

Ethical Considerations and Do No Harm

The evaluation will adhere to all research and humanitarian law and standards. All team members will sign the non-disclosure, child safeguarding policy aimed at protection of all children from all forms of harm or abuse and other FCA ethical policies. Among other things, consent will be secured from the respondents before interviews and all the information gathered from the respondents will be treated with outermost confidentiality. Moreover, the respondents will be informed that their participation is on a purely voluntary basis, and they will be free to leave at any time without victimization. The specific safeguard measures are hereunder explained:

- **Training in Ethics:** All the team members will be trained in research ethics and accountability for the affected persons.
- **Protecting human subjects in research and evaluation:** The consulting team will endeavor to minimize the harm and risk they could inadvertently cause through interviewing refugees and accorded the study subjects the respect, beneficence, and justice.
- **Informed consent and voluntary participation:** Data will only to be solicited from consenting adults who will be eligible to participate based on pre-specified criteria and sampling requirements. The evaluation will be conducted in a language respondents understand, and informed of their ability to participate or withdraw from evaluation without repercussions

- **Confidentiality:** The survey design prevents traceability of survey participants, by minimizing the collection of personal details that could provide unique identities of the participants. During analysis, data will be anonymized, and no specific statements were attributed to any respondent
- **Data sharing:** Transparency and accountability will be exercised to all evaluation stakeholders, by making the evaluation as participatory as possible, ensuring replicability.

8. FACILITATORS (EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE):

The data collection shall be led by FCA field M&E teams and project officers with technical support from the Area coordinators and M&E Coordinator, respectively.

9. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES FROM THE CONSULTANT

- Questionnaire Development:** The consultant is expected to develop all the evaluation questionnaires considering the evaluation scope, criteria, and the sample framework.
- Data Collection:** Finn Church Aid will conduct quantitative and qualitative data collection with remote support from the consultant.
- Data Analysis:** The consultant will lead the data analysis process including desk review of relevant project documents.
- Inception report:** The consultant is expected to prepare a detailed inception report. The report must contain detailed understanding of both FCA demonstrate an understanding on how the evaluation will be conducted including the evaluation design, methodology, evaluation questions, data sources, data collection and analysis tools for each data source and the measure by which each question will be evaluated. The inception report should include the scope of work, work plan and timeframe of the action.
- Draft evaluation report:** The consultant will prepare a draft evaluation report that will be submitted to FCA for review and comments. The consultant will incorporate comments from FCA into the report to produce the final evaluation report.
- Submission of final report:** The final report should reflect a maximum of 25-30 pages excluding annexes. The report should be written in Times New Roman font size 11, 1.15 spacing. The structure of the final evaluation report should meet FCA M&E Policy and requirements and should include the following:
 - Executive summary
 - Introduction
 - Description of the evaluation methodology
 - Situational analysis with regards to the outputs and outcome.
 - Analysis of opportunities to guide future programming
 - Key findings, including best practices and lessons learned
 - Conclusion and recommendations
 - Appendices: including charts, Aggregated respondents by gender, field visits, primary and secondary references,

The proposed evaluation start date is within the month of **August 2025** for an estimated duration of **40 days**. This includes desk review and visit to the project locations in Wau, Malakal and Juba for interviews, FGDs, Observations, and report writing.

Activity	Deliverable	Time allocated
Inception Meeting Initial briefing with contracted consultant.	Inception Report	1 day
Desk Review-Evaluation design, methodology detailed work plan, submission of inception report and incorporation of comments	Draft Report	5 days
Field visit and data collection: travel to Wau Malakal, GPAA, and Juba		25 days (7 Malakal, 7 Wau, 7 GPAA, 4 Juba)
Data analysis, debriefing & preparation of draft Evaluation report		3 days
Submit draft report to FCA for comments, and feedback		4 days
Incorporate comments, finalize report and submit to FCA.	Final Evaluation Report	2 days
TOTAL REQUIRED NUMBER OF DAYS		40 days

10. REQUIRED EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATION:

The Lead consultant must have the following expertise and qualifications:

1. Master's degree in fields of Peace and Conflict Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation, Development Studies. In lieu of a master's degree, an undergraduate degree with extensive experience of at least 10 years in project evaluation may be considered.
2. Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in evaluation of similar Peacebuilding projects. Demonstrated by evidence. e.g. recommendation letters or accessible publications
3. Fluency in English. Working knowledge of the local languages (local or classic Arabic) of the project locations is an added advantage.

11. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The evaluation and selection of the successful consultant will be based on the following criteria as presented in the below table:

Evaluation Criteria:	%	Required Information/evidence
Education/Qualification	20	Academic certificates from a reputable institution. Lead Consultant must be a holder of master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation, Development Studies. In lieu of a master's degree, an undergraduate degree with extensive experience of at least 10 years in project

		evaluation may be considered. A detailed curriculum vitae of the lead consultant must be included.
Skills & Expertise	15	A minimum of three work samples of similar assignments conducted. Sample evaluation reports should be signed/approved copies.
Methodology	25	A proposed methodology that aligns with the requirements under <i>the Proposed evaluation criteria mentioned in page 07 and methodology in page 9 – 10</i> . Evaluation questionnaire should be included as annex to the technical proposal. (The questions provided under the proposed criteria were only examples. The Consultant can restructure or add more questions in the evaluation questionnaire).
Availability/Timeliness	10	Consultants should indicate readiness and availability of taking up the assignment within the mentioned time frame.
Consultancy fee	30	Professional billing/fees that are guided by the best pricing model for an assignment of similar nature and scope as defined above and other logistical and enabling costs e.g. airfares etc.
TOTAL	100	

12. PROPOSAL OF PAYMENT:

The consultant shall be paid the consultancy fee upon completion of the following milestones.

- 1) 20 % after adoption of the inception report.
- 2) 30 % after presentation of the draft report.
- 3) 50 % after the approval of the final report.

The consultancy fee will be subjected to income tax in accordance with the South Sudan Financial ACT 2017/18, section 53 of the Taxation Amendment ACT 2016. Current withholding tax rate is 20% on professional or technical fees. Other logistical and enabling costs such as airfares, stationeries and enumerators fees should be clearly marked as such.

13. SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSAL.

Interested Applicants who meet the above requirements should submit their Technical and Financial proposals (Technical and Financial + annexes listed above) through email to Procurement.Ssuco@kua.fi with the heading “MID - TERM EVALUATION of projects “Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APPEAR II” and “Enhancing Sustainable Peace and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Boma and Jonglei”. **The deadline for submission is Monday 22nd September 2025 at 1700 hours South Sudan Time.**

Note:

- I. Technical Proposal (maximum 10 pages) must include an interpretation of the TOR, design and conceptualization of the assignment, proposed methodology, and work plan.
- II. The financial proposal (maximum 1 Page) should be in USD Only. The proposal should clearly include technical fees only. FCA shall withhold 20% of the Consultancy fees per South Sudan taxation policy.
- III. Detailed Curriculum Vitae of the Lead Consultant(s) with at least 3 professional referees (official emails ONLY)
- IV. One approved sample of evaluation reports from previous consultancy work with reputable organizations.

“FCA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.”

Note:

- *FCA has zero tolerance concerning aid diversion and illegal actions and may screen potential applicants, contractors, suppliers, consultants, etc. against international lists to ensure due diligence and compliance with Anti-money laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism requirements.*

Note: Only the successful bidder will be notified. If you don't get a notification from FCA within one week after the closing date, consider your quotation unsuccessful.