

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

TERMS OF REFERENCE - UNTFHS END OF PROJECT EVALUATION- "IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOODS OF VULNERABLE WOMEN AND YOUTH AROUND THE SENEGAMBIA BRIDGE IMPLEMENTED BY UNFPA and ITC

Hiring Office:	UNFPA The Gambia
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<p>Purpose of consultancy:</p>	<p>UNFPA seeks a qualified National Researcher to support the Lead Consultant in conducting the final, external evaluation of the two-year UNTFHS-funded project, "Localizing SDGs - Improving the livelihoods of vulnerable women and youth around the Senegambia Bridge." The National Researcher will play a crucial role in ensuring the evaluation is contextually relevant and culturally sensitive.</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>The Senegambia bridge was officially inaugurated by the Presidents of The Gambia and Senegal in January 2019. It is located entirely in The Gambia, close to the towns of Farafenni in North Bank Region (NBR) and Mansakonko and Jarra Soma in Lower River Region (LRR). The newly constructed bridge not only has the potential to transform trade in West Africa and contribute to integrating the region by connecting Mauritania with Senegal and Nigeria but also has a much wider social and economic impact on the trans-Gambia road corridor.</p> <p>The ferry terminal and the long transit periods at the bridge, particularly for truck drivers which spent up to 4 weeks in waiting queues, sustained close to 200 jobs. It had also created indirect benefits for the local economy including in catering and accommodation, repair services and retail. The increased traffic along the trans-Gambia had brought new risks related to health and exploitation of vulnerable groups including women and young people. The project supports communities and people around the bridge to cope with the adverse shocks while creating pathways for women and youth to take advantage of new opportunities.</p> <p>The 2-year project was developed to support communities and people around the newly-constructed Senegambia bridge to cope with the adverse shocks created by the bridge construction while creating pathways for women and youth to take advantage of new opportunities. The project addresses the ecosystem support along the corridor and also provides community-oriented support with specific focus on women and youth taking ownership of the project interventions in the two Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Mansakonko and Kerewan. It sought to strengthen the economic and social rights of women and young people in the two LGAs, especially those whose livelihood has been adversely affected by the construction of the Senegambia Bridge.</p> <p>The project aimed to achieve three key outcomes:</p>	
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- 1) Women and young people have increased access to economic support services.
- 2) Strengthened resilience, local capacities, mechanisms and networks to reduce the incidence of violence and conflicts over natural resources.
- 3) National capacity to utilise human security approach in planning and implementation of development programmes strengthened.

The 2-year US\$1,110,937.99 USD project commenced in January 2021 and will end in August 2024.

Purpose and Objective:

The main purpose of the final external evaluation is to assess the project’s attainment of its intended objectives, to measure its outcomes and to formulate evidence-based recommendations to inform future programming. More specifically, the objectives of the evaluation using are as follows:

- Assess effectiveness and potential measurable impact of the Project intervention on the target groups.
- Assess the implementation process (efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability).
- Analyze the accomplishments against the set outputs and outcomes.
- Assess the challenges faced during implementation.
- Assess the relevance of the project and tools developed
- Assess the progress made towards achieving the project’s goal and objectives based on the result framework, design, and monitoring data.
- Assess whether the resources (financial, human, and materials) have been used efficiently and effectively for the desired outcomes of the target group/communities.
- Assess the project’s outcomes and the sustainability of its realized results.

The results and the findings of the final evaluation will be used by:

- The project’s management to derive lessons learned on its implementation approach and processes.
- UNFPA and ITC to validate the relevance of the project’s model and use the evaluations’ best practices and recommendations for future programming.
- The project’s funder to assess the project’s relevance, coherence, and implementation approach.
- Any relevant partners interested in the thematic area to use the evaluation findings and recommendations in their programming and implementation.

Methodology:

The evaluation will use a multiple-method (qualitative and quantitative) approach for data collection, including

document review, interviews/ focus group discussions with implementing partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, participatory analysis, and observations through field visits, as appropriate. The qualitative data will be complemented with quantitative data to minimize bias. Quantitative data will be compiled through desk review of documents including implementing partner reports, to obtain relevant data on key indicators that measure change at output and outcome levels.

These complementary approaches described above will be used to ensure that the evaluation: responds to the information needs of users and the intended use of the evaluation results, participation and consultation of key stakeholders, and provides credible information about the benefits for recipients and beneficiaries (women and youth) through triangulation of collected data such as the baseline data conducted for the project which will be made available to the consultant.

The evaluation will be guided by the following:

Relevance

1. Has the programme proven to be as relevant as originally envisaged?
2. In this regard, how did the human security approach bring added value? And, how did implementing the human security principles lead to new solutions, strategies or ways of working to address the priority challenges of the programme?
3. What lessons did the programme produce to support advancing the major global agendas identified as relevant in the proposal?
4. Were there any exceptional cases or stories that demonstrated any of the above?

Effectiveness

1. To what extent were the programme's main objectives achieved in keeping with the original activities, outputs and performance indicators?
2. How would you assess the effectiveness of the management and administrative arrangements employed to implement the programme? Any best practices or lessons learned? What might you do differently?
3. What were the main challenges from a human security point-of-view during the programme period? What trade-offs were made during implementation? What impact did this have on tangible improvements in people's lives? How could they have been mitigated differently?
4. Has there been any significant progress in the promotion of human security as a result of this programme?
5. How would you assess the effectiveness of the management and administrative arrangements? Did the Programme Steering Committee and Technical Working Group function as originally planned?

	<p>6. How effectively did the programme partners collaborate?</p> <p>Efficiency and Impact</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Were the anticipated outputs generated on time and within the budget, as specified in the workplan and implementation schedule? 2. How would you rate and describe the overall impact of the programme? 3. What, if any, significant unintended impacts/outcomes (positive or negative) were there beyond the original programme plans? 4. What were the major lessons (positive and negative) learned through the programme? Are there concrete recommendations that could increase the success of future programmes? 5. Please summarize key findings from the internal and external evaluations. Were the target beneficiaries involved in the evaluation, and if so how? 6. Please list communications and public/media outreach after the operational closure of the programme. To what extent were the programme's achievements disseminated to benefit wider audiences at the local, national and global levels? <p>Sustainability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the prospect that the programme's activities and achievements will be sustained following UNTFHS support? 2. Elaborate on potential follow-up that is likely to influence whether the programme's activities will be sustained. 3. Describe any significant contributions by donors/s (outside of the UN system) and/or effective strategies employed to secure funding. 4. Has this programme and the multi-agency human security approach been replicated elsewhere using other financial resources? Explain why or why not? <p>Overall Performance Assessment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would you rate the overall performance of the programme, considering the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability of the programme? 	
<p>Scope of work:</p> <p><i>(Description of services, activities, or outputs)</i></p>	<p>The scope of the consultancy will cover Banjul, Kanifing (KMC), West Coast Region (WCR), Lower River Region and North Bank Region (NBR) as the target Regions of the project.</p> <p>The National Researcher will collaborate closely with the Lead Consultant throughout the evaluation process, with specific responsibilities including:</p>	

	<p>Questionnaire Development: Assist in developing questionnaires for beneficiaries, ensuring questions are context-specific and culturally appropriate.</p> <p>Translation: Translate questionnaires and other relevant materials as needed, ensuring accurate and nuanced translation that captures the local context.</p> <p>Stakeholder Identification: Assist in identifying key individuals for interviews and focus group discussions, both in the capital and within the project communities.</p> <p>Field Support: Accompany the Lead Consultant during field visits, providing language support and contextual insights during interviews and focus group discussions.</p> <p>Transcription and Summarization: Transcribe and/or summarize interviews and focus group discussions conducted in local languages, providing accurate English translations for the Lead Consultant.</p> <p>Follow-up: Conduct any necessary follow-up after the Lead Consultant's mission to gather additional information or clarify any points.</p> <p>Report Input: Provide input and feedback on the draft evaluation report, ensuring it accurately reflects the local context and project realities.</p> <p>The following deliverables are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Translated questionnaires and other materials. ● List of stakeholders to interview ● Organization of interviews during mission ● Transcripts or summaries of interviews and focus group discussions. ● Input and feedback on the draft evaluation report. 	
Duration and working schedule:	The duration for the consultancy will be a total of 30 working days spread over eight weeks. The evaluation starts from the day the consultant signs the contract with UNFPA. A written official communication will be communicated mid and end-day of the project.	
Place where services are to be delivered:	The consultant will not be assigned an office to complete the tasks. The Consultant is also expected to provide his/her own computer/laptop and other services needed to complete the task.	
Delivery dates and how work will be delivered (e.g., electronic, hard copy etc.):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A maximum of 15 Days –field work ● A Maximum of 10 Days –stakeholder mapping, organizing meetings, translating document, drafting questionnaires and any other support requested by lead consultant 	
Monitoring and progress control, including reporting requirements,	Continuous update on progress to the Programme Analyst Adolescents and Youth and the Reference Group. As a minimum, there should be weekly updates on progress.	

periodicity format and deadline:		
Supervisory arrangements:	The consultant will work very closely with the Lead Consultant, UNFPA and ITC. The consultant will report to the Lead Consultant and Programme Analyst Adolescent and Youth - UNFPA; but will closely work with the Reference group and ITC Programme officer. The Programme Analyst Adolescents and Youth will act as a coordination focal point between the consultants and the reference group.	
Expected travel:	Travel to the regions at the consultant's cost, cost breakdown of which should be provided on the technical proposal, project technical team will support with the identification of upcountry site visits where necessary.	
Required expertise, qualifications, and competencies, including language requirements:	<p>The following qualifications are required:</p> <p>Education and Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in social services, development studies, or related field.. <p>Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 years of experience in research, data collection, or community engagement, preferably in the context of development projects. • Proven experience in project evaluations. • Familiarity with the Gambian context, particularly in relation to gender, youth, and marginalized groups. <p>Language Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in oral and written English. • Ability to speak and understand local languages spoken in the project areas <p>Proposals should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An up-to-date CV • Detailed technical and financial proposal – including projected in-country travel, accommodation and subsistence costs. <p style="text-align: center;">Open to Gambians only.</p>	
Inputs / services to be provided by UNFPA or implementing partner (e.g., support services, office space, equipment), if applicable:	No other UNFPA services will be provided.	
Other relevant information or	<p>COA: Project: GMB09YDD Activity: UNTFHS</p>	

special conditions, if any:	Fund Code: UZJ38	
Signature of Requesting Officer in Hiring Office: Jainaba Njie Date: 15/09/2024		