

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR EXTERNAL ENDLINE EVALUATION

Following the first phase of the Peacebuilding and Reconciliation through Community Dialogues (PRCD): Strengthening Social Cohesion and Civic Trust across Five Counties project (2017 – 2021), the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) and ZOA continued the implementation of phase two (2021 – 2022). The PRCD II project pursues to address peacebuilding and reconciliation issues through community dialogues in Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba and Lofa Counties in eight locations (West Point, Robertsport, Sinje, Kakata, Unification Town, Ganta, Yekepa and Zorzor). The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), through the Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia. The foremost objective of the venture is to contribute to strengthened conflict resolution and reconciliation initiatives at local and national level with specific objective as follows: ‘Strengthened social cohesion and civic trust within and between communities and between population and local government in five counties’

As the project approaches its end point, requests for an end line evaluation of results achieved requires the measure of outcome and impact or compare **performances with set standards and targets**. The purpose of this endline evaluation is to assess the impact and higher-level change of the intervention and determine whether the project achieved its targets and if structures are in place to sustain results.

Applicants should study the Terms of Reference below and submit an initial proposal to YMCA of Liberia which could lead to an invitation to attend an interview.

The initial proposal should include the following details:

- (1) a cover letter setting out your qualifications, experience and suitability for this task, as well as two suitable contacts who can give a professional reference on your recent work as a consultant or in a salaried role;
- (2) your CV;
- (3) a one- or two-page document detailing the methodology that you would use, the number of days work and timeline.
- (4) A detailed budget.

In advance to submitting the initial proposal, applicants can write to YMCA to request the project log frame and an overview of output level progress for reference.

Candidates must have extensive knowledge of, and experience in, peacebuilding efforts in Liberia as well as a proven track record in Monitoring and Evaluation and similar consultancies.

A shortlist will be drawn up of prospective candidates who will be invited for interview.

Candidates should send their initial proposals to: application@ymca.org.lr with Cc to the below:

Amanda K. Armah (Monitoring & Evaluating Officer) Email: amanda@ymca.org.lr

Charles Marshall (Project Manager, YMCA Liberia) Email: charles@ymca.org.lr

Marleen Spieker (Program Quality Manager), ZOA –Liberia (m.spieker@zoa.ngo)

TERMS OF REFERENCE EXTENRAL ENDLINE EVALUATION

‘Peacebuilding and Reconciliation through Community Dialogues (PRCD) II

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In April 2021, YMCA of Liberia in collaboration with ZOA Liberia undertook the implementation of the PRCD II venture in eight project locations (West Point, Robertsport, Sinje, Kakata, Unification Town, Ganta, Yekepa and Zorzor) across five counties (Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba and Lofa) in Liberia. The Twenty-One (21) months project is funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia and aims to create non-violent spaces where meaningful reunion and reconciliation can take place, and in which social cohesion and intergroup harmony can be fostered. Erected on this source, the project also aims to increase teamwork and civic trust between communities, civil society and government through enabling positive and inclusive encounters and dialogues. The PRCD II project reinforces progressions of reconciliation and conflict resolution in Liberia at individual, family, community and institutional / local governmental levels.

In fulfilment to reach the goal of ‘strengthening conflict resolution and reconciliation initiatives at local and national level’ and the specific objective of ‘strengthening social cohesion and civic trust within and between communities and between population and local government in five counties’, ZOA and YMCA made credible efforts to focus on five outcomes as state below:

- **Outcome 1: Improved psychosocial well-being and enhanced interpersonal relations within families and the community**
- **Outcome 2: Local leaders and government officials adhere to and act upon good governance principles**
- **Outcome 3: Improved civic participation and positive engagement with local government**
- **Outcome 4: A peaceful and safe school environment is established for students to reach their full potential**
- **Outcome 5: Increased capacity of YMCA to independently implement similar projects**

Under outcome one, trainers and facilitators have been trained on the principles of Community Based Socioterapy (CBS) and on how to facilitate sociogroups. 4 cycles with in total 464 sociogroups are implemented. Each sociogroups has between 12 and 15 participants and sessions run for a period of 15 weeks. CBS is where the issues of the family are shared and hands – on ideas/ lessons are learned for improvement to those affected by daily troubles in the homes and communities. Stories shared / told by individual members helped to build members of the group thus providing strength to other members on how they have overcome their own situations. Between **5,472** and **6,840** Liberians across eight project locations will have participated in CBS by the end of this project.

Under outcome two, principles of good governance awareness among local leaders and government authorities was conducted through their participation in an adapted version of CBS. CBS for leaders & authorities contributed towards bridging the gap between citizens, local leaders and the government at

county level. The core of activities under this outcome is ensuring connection and reciprocal communication between aforementioned stakeholders, increased awareness of participants on their own behavior as duty-bearers and links to trust and expectations of citizens, and to uphold and act upon good governance principles.

Under outcome three, the principles and phases of CBS were used under this outcome as a methodology to raise increasingly positive attitudes and behavior of local authorities and leaders, to have an adoptive continuous dialogue between them and community leaders and to encourage enhanced communication with citizens. To bring this to realization, citizens participated in regular CBS sessions in which they learn how to approach authorities and to voice their concerns through a platform call a Community Leadership & Civic Trust Forums (CL&CTF). Building upon this, YMCA and ZOA propose to continue with the Community Leadership & Civic Trust Forums (CL&CTF) which has been a space for information sharing and exchange, thereby enhance transparency, accountability and mutual trust. The community Leaders and Civic Trust Forum meet on a quarterly basis with participants of 30 people inclusive of local leaders and local government authorities who come together and discuss issues of accountability and decision making concerns along with other matters that affect them as people for their local leaders to hear and take corrective actions. The members of this forum have had the opportunity to participate in a regular radio talk show and air positive and challenging results from their meeting and also receive feedback from listeners

Under outcome four, a peaceful and safe school environment is established for students to reach their full potential. Peace club activities have been established in 40 schools aimed at contributing towards improved behavior of students that reflected a more positive school environment. On a volunteer basis, students form part of the peace clubs in selected schools with a number of 25 per peace club structure, and adapted positive behavior through trainings that promoted peaceful co-existence on and off campuses. This has been aimed at developing a young generation of peaceful Liberians who have had the skills to positively engage in social, economic and political spheres. In addition to this, CBS was piloted in all 40 schools to ensure that students access the methodology for increased positive behavior in making decision and discovery for themselves improved relations and respect for all. The students attended 15 weeks of sessions during this pilot period.

Under outcome five Increased capacity of YMCA to independently implement similar projects is aimed for. This outcome was aimed looking beyond the project period which could probably allow that YMCA will be able to implement a similar PRCD II project scope autonomously. As such, ZOA Liberia provided support to YMCA during the project cycle in order to increase their capacity in several areas, which included the implementation of a systems audit, strengthened capacity in MEAL, report writing, handling of Code of Conduct matters and beneficiary accountability and further institutionalization of CBS.

In January and February 2018, a baseline study was carried out that provided data on a set of indicators related to each of the outcomes in line with the project's logical framework. Between July and September 2019, a midterm evaluation was conducted which reviewed progress against targets, preliminary impact and provided recommendations for the improvement of the project. In addition the The end line evaluation is expected to build further upon this. Besides, in October 2022 an in-depth, qualitative evaluation of the CBS components will be carried out by an external consultant exclusively.. Also during

the course of the project cycle a bottom-up indicator survey was conducted. The data from this survey covers most of outcome

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE EXTERNAL END LINE EVALUATION

The goal of the external endline evaluation is to assess the impact of the intervention and provide learnings. While specific measurement against the logical framework is important, the aim of the endline evaluation will as well look beyond this and see how the project has functioned within the broader peace building landscape inside catchment areas. To this end the evaluation should be structured around the **OECD DAC principles of effective evaluations**.

The main categories the evaluation should however cover should be:

- Relevance: did the intervention do the right things?
- Coherence: How well does the intervention fit?
- Effectiveness: did the intervention achieve its objectives?
- Efficiency: How well were resources used?
- Impact: What difference does the intervention make?
- Sustainability: Will the benefits last?

Furthermore, the evaluation is expected to assess linkages between the 5 project outcomes, to evaluate whether the Theory of Change is valid and to look into the cross-cutting themes (gender and inclusion, conflict sensitivity and anti-corruption). Since the COVID-19 pandemic and current economic condition has largely interfered with programming, YMCA expects the consultant to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on programming and project outcomes.

The project is implemented in eight project locations in five counties: Grand Cape Mount (Sinje and Robertsport), Margibi (Kakata and Unification Town), Montserrado (West Point), Lofa (Zorzor) and Nimba (Ganta and Yekepa). Data collection for the end evaluation is expected to take place in at least five out of eight project locations covering all five counties.

3. METHODOLOGY

The consultant will develop the methodology and approach to carry out the endline evaluation. YMCA and ZOAC will provide input and assist in reviewing the methodology and tools before providing approval. The following aspects should at least be considered in the methodology:

- The use of secondary data, such as project reports, field mission reports, the baseline study, mid-term evaluation and any other relevant document.
- Collection of qualitative and quantitative data among project stakeholders, which include CBS trainers, facilitators and participants, peace club members and mentors, CL&CTF participants and project staff. A Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Belief (KAPB) survey from previous endline in PRCD1 has been used to establish baseline values and could be built upon to assess progress against targets. The consultant is expected to employ similar methods to provide endline values. Qualitative methods will be used to add to the quantitative data and to gain a more holistic understanding of the project impact.

With the reduction of the pandemic in Liberia, the above-mentioned methodology aspects might be feasible, in particular primary data collection which includes field travel and face to face meetings. YMCA therefore request of the consultant in adapting methodologies and timelines according to the evolving situation. In the development of the methodology, it is key to consider government regulations and restrictions, and to always adhere to COVID-19 safety and preventive measures as to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19.

4. DELIVERABLES

The consultant is responsible for providing the following deliverables:

- Inception report submitted the week after contract award to confirm the methodology and logistics behind the rest of the consultancy.
- Draft evaluation report, structured around the OECD guidelines for effective evaluations, but also explaining the methodology and limitations. The report should not exceed 20 pages (excluding annexes) and the detailed structure/chapter headings should be agreed with YMCA.
- A revised and final evaluation report after any clarifications have been provided.
- The project logical framework including end line values
- Presentation of results and discussion of findings for project staff and other relevant stakeholders.
- Excel spreadsheet with quantitative and qualitative data gathered during the evaluation.

5. TIMELINE

The deadline for submissions is:

- The deadline for submission of bids is **September 1,, 2022**
- The contract is expected to be awarded **September 19, 2022**
- The deadline for the inception report is **October 3, 2022**
- The deadline for the first draft of the report is **November 18, 2022**
- The final report and presentation should be completed before **December 5, 2022**

6. BUDGET

The following guidance notes are to help with the preparation of the budget in line with expectations.

- YMCA has considered to put out \$ 8, 000, 00 USD as the threshold amount for this evaluation.
- The budget must include all costs incurred by the consultant; including the hiring of enumerators, accommodation, transportation and other requirements of the evaluation.
- Implementation of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.
- Data is expected to be collected in all five counties in at least five out of the eight project locations.