

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR BASELINE SURVEY

Background

YMCA of Liberia is implementing a three-year peace building project under its governance pillar that is funded by the Swedish Government through its International Development Agency near Monrovia. The project overall objective aims to see that young people are active contributors to sustaining peace in Liberia through community dialogues and engagement, youth peace clubs, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM). The specific objective of the project is to ensure that at least 17,780 people are empowered and socially transformed to unlock their potential, connect to social inclusion opportunities, gain knowledge and skills to contribute to peace and lead active roles in community peace building and development initiatives as change agents. YMCA has planned to collaborate with Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) session of the Ministry of Justice to implement the project across all scopes of **Peacebuilding and Social Inclusion through Community Dialogue (PSICD) project (PSICD)**. The project is aimed at addressing the many social cohesion problems that exist amongst young people and community members in targeted project communities. While Liberians are struggling to maintain the earned peace, there are still challenges in mitigating conflict amongst youth and even community people who are less frequently engaged with each other peacefully. Some of the issues have emanated from the negative behaviours of young people and their roles in violence repeatedly and other factors such as limited youth-driven dispute resolution mechanisms; limited education opportunities for young people desiring to go to school, limited employment opportunities, economic burden of child and family care, as well as inflation. The project aims to support a peaceful environment that will create space for the active participation of citizens in development initiatives; and ensure that conflicts and disputes are managed through ADR mechanisms in a manner that will provide an enabling space for social inclusion and interactions for improved development. The goal of the project is to increase the satisfaction of community members through alternative dispute resolution and peace promotion and increase the promotion of human rights while also ensuring peaceful co-existence and harmony. The project is currently being run in eight (8) Counties; Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Cape Mount, and Lofa in 14 locations.

To be able to evaluate results achieved by the project, a baseline study is required to establish existing situation of the project intervention areas/goals at the community level that will be compared with performances, standards, and targets.

Purpose of the Baseline Study

The purpose of this baseline assessment is to assess the situation of the problem to be addressed at the onset of the project and provide data that will be used as baseline value, which would be measured against set targets.

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 credentials, understanding 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 the project.

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

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

Candidates should send their initial proposals to: application@ymca.org.lr

TERMS OF REFERENCE BASELINE STUDY

[For Peacebuilding and Social Inclusion through Community Dialogue \(PSICD\) project.](#)

I. BASELINE OBJECTIVES

This baseline study is intended to assess the situation at the onset of the project and provide data against which progress will be measured in midterm, end line, and final evaluations. First-hand data will be collected at project locations in selected counties. August 2021, Liberia Country Gender Equality Profile, and 2018-2023 (PADP) Pro-Poor-Agenda-for-prosperity-and-Development report form an integral part of this study and will be used as benchmarks, where appropriate, in the development of indicators. The specific objectives of the baseline study are the following:

- To assess current citizen's participation as well as civic trust at community level and positive youth engagement with local authorities and community members in resolving disputes for increased social cohesion (Outcome 1)
- To assess learning environment for peaceful and safe school atmosphere that will help students reach their full potential and be empowered to serve as agents of change, ensuring transformation from subjects to citizens (Outcome 2)
- To assess interpersonal relations in project intervention areas, conflict mitigation skills and social cohesion among young people who are out of school to achieve their full potentials and be agents of change. Also assess current youth involvement in peacebuilding and opportunities and challenges to their participation (Outcome 3)
- To assess the capacity of YMCA to respond to the needs of young people and be socially relevant in the communities she serves. (Outcome 4)

2. TIMING OF BASELINE STUDY

The deadline for submission of proposals through the provided contact is 11 October 2023 on or before 5PM sharp. The baseline study will take place between 16 of October and 20 November 2023. This period has been divided into the following phases in the table below:

No	Timeline	Activity
1	16 – 21 October	Desk research/review
2	23 – 27 October,;	Development of research tools and training enumerators
3	28 October – 14 November	Field research
4	15 – 21 November	Data analysis and reporting writing
5	21 – 30 November	Feedback on draft report and finalization final report

The consultant is expected to provide an overview of preliminary findings related to the different outcomes by Thursday November 20.

3. Scope of the baseline study

The baseline study will also collect qualitative data related to all of the project four outcomes. The four outcomes are listed below:

Outcome 1: Improved citizen participation and positive youth engagement with local authorities and community members in resolving disputes for increased social cohesion. (4 Counties)

Outcome 2: A peaceful and safe school environment is established for students to reach their full potential and be empowered to serve as agents of change, ensuring transformation from subjects to citizens. (4 Counties)

Outcome 3: Improved interpersonal relations, conflict mitigation skills and social cohesion among young people who are out of school to achieve their full potentials and be agents of change. (4 Counties)

Outcome 4: Improved capacity of YMCA to respond to the needs of young people and be socially relevant in the communities she serves. (2 Counties)

Baseline data will be collected in the 8 Counties mentioned in the proposal. Activities under the different outcome areas will be implemented in all 14 locations.

Districts will be identified as per the below list:

1. Lofa County – District Zorzor
2. Grand Cape Mount County – District Sinje
3. Margibi – Kakata & Unification Town
4. Bong County – District Gbarnga & Totota
5. Nimba County – Yekepa & Ganta
6. Montserrado County Todee – New kru town
7. Granda Bassa – Buchannan (Commonwealth District)
8. Grand Gedeh - Zwedru

4. Methodologies

The consultant will come up with definitions for the concepts in the indicators based on the SCORE findings. The SCORE findings and data set will furthermore be used as input for the baseline study and the final report.

In each county, two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will take place with an average of five participants. The interview questions for both FGDs will be similar and cover outcome 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as questions for the social cohesion aspect and analysis. Participants for FGD one will be citizens, including youth in and out of school and women representatives. Participants for FGD two will be representatives of local authorities, traditional leaders or people in key positions. All participants will be identified in collaboration between the consultant and YMCA. YMCA will be responsible for mobilizing participants in the counties.

5. Deliverables

The consultant will be responsible for delivering the following:

- Baseline tools;
- Baseline report;
- Database with raw data
- Targets for Indicators based on prevailing situation.

6. Consultancy and enumerators fee

The consultant will cover the accommodation and transportation costs as well as all other costs for the enumerators during their field visits and all activities of the baseline survey based on contract entered into with YMCA.