

## Terms of Reference (ToR) for endline evaluation of Strengthening the Economic and Social Resilience of Vulnerable Youth (SERVY) Project in The Gambia

### 1. Background

In 2019, SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia in partnership with SOS Children's Villages Finland secured funding from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement a four-year (2019 to 2022) Youth Empowerment Project in both schools & communities of Lower River and Central River Regions (LRR & CRR) of The Gambia. The project aims at Strengthening the Economic and Social Resilience of 600 Vulnerable youth between the ages of 15-35 in LRR & CRR. The project has three (3) expected outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Increased market-relevant technical skills for vulnerable youth in selected regions
- Outcome 2: Increased in employment or self-employment of vulnerable youth in selected regions
- Outcome 3: Improved social and life skills for vulnerable youth and community structures in selected regions.

### 2. Purpose of the end-line evaluation

The purpose of the endline study of the project **Strengthening the Economic and Social Resilience of Vulnerable youth in The Gambia (SERVY)** is to inform SOS National Office, SOS Finland, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA, Finland), and other relevant stakeholders including Partners, the Project performances (its coherence, impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability), and to document lessons learnt and to provide recommendation for possible future projects

### 3. End-line evaluation Overall Objectives

- The overall objective of this evaluation is to 'assess the project performance and results achieved against the set targets in the results frameworks, at output, outcome and objective level'. Moreover, the evaluation is expected to assess and make recommendations on the management and organizational structure of the project team in regard to the implementation of the project.

### 4. Specific Objectives

The main focus of the endline study will be:

- To make an independent assessment of the performance of the programme, paying special attention to coherence, impact, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the programme against its objectives;
- To assess the delivery of the project against its logframe, its accountability and potential achievements of the project and impact;
- Document the current figures of the Objectively Verifiable Indicators as found in the logframe;
- To identify key gains success stories and lessons learned for the propose of providing practical recommendations for the stakeholders and for the future programming.

## 5. Expected Results

The expected results of the endline are:

The coherence, impact, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project are assessed and discussed:

- The Performance Indicators Tracking Table (PITT) are updated;
- Analysis on whether planned results have been delivered as perceived by all stakeholders;
- Assess if management was able to adapt to achieve purpose; and how well it was supported in this by key stakeholders;
- Assess how the project resources were used to achieve the results;
- Assessment of stakeholder participation in the preparation, management and implementation of the programme and the level of ownership at institutional level and civil society level;
- Relevant recommendations are identified in order to ajust the implementation of the project in the remaining period.

## 6. Evaluation Scope/Criteria

The Consultant shall verify, analyse and assess in detail the issues referring to the five evaluation criteria of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) evaluation process (coherence, impact, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability). The Consultant is also requested to verify, analyse and assess, where relevant, the integration and impact of cross cutting issues in the project, notably gender, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), access to microfinance (MFI) products and Youth Start-up Funds, migration, sexual and reproductive health, environment, child protection and

safeguarding. etc. The evaluation will follow the structure as per the SOS Children's Villages and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) guidelines for evaluations:

The proposed endline shall be conducted by a team led by a Consultant with planned outcomes as follows:

<b>Coherence</b>	<p><b>HOW WELL DOES THE INTERVENTION FIT?</b> The compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution. The extent to which other interventions (particularly policies) support or undermine the intervention, and vice versa. Includes internal coherence and external coherence: Internal coherence addresses the synergies and interlinkages between the intervention and other interventions carried out by the same institution/government, as well as the consistency of the intervention with the relevant international norms and standards to which that institution/government adheres. External coherence considers the consistency of the intervention with other actors' interventions in the same context.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>This criterion examines the extent to which the benefits received by the intended beneficiaries brought about change in their performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the contribution of the project to the overall objective?</li> <li>• What impact has the implementation of the project brought about in terms of strengthening of institutional and human resources capacity of the beneficiaries?</li> <li>• What is the level of achievement of results within the set time frame?</li> <li>• Were there unanticipated results (positive/negative) yielded by the project and what were the consequences on the achievement of the purpose?</li> </ul>
<b>Relevance</b>	<p>To what extent does the project objectives and design respond to beneficiaries priorities and needs</p>

<b>Effectiveness</b>	<p>This is the analysis of whether the set objectives have been achieved as intended by the stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were the intervention points correctly selected and served to meet the set objectives?</li> <li>• Were the set objectives realistic and implementable?</li> <li>• Were these objectives adapted, where necessary, during the course of the programme implementation?</li> <li>• What was the extent to which beneficiaries actually benefited from the project?</li> </ul>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>Could the results have been achieved by other means, at a lower cost and within the same timeframe?</p> <p>Were the objectives achieved at a lower cost (financial, human and organisational)?</p>
<b>Overall quality &amp; sustainability</b>	<p>This criterion refers to the ability and capacity of beneficiaries to implement the outcome of an activity once the core support is stopped and verifies whether the design and orientation of project activities are based on the principle of building sustained capacities in beneficiaries. The analysis should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ownership of the objectives and achievements.</li> <li>• To what extent has the project improved the institutional capacity of the local authorities (financial and administrative).</li> </ul>
<b>Community Value Added</b>	<p>The extent to which the project adds benefits to what would have resulted from project's interventions in the same context.</p>

## 7. Methodology

Both primary and secondary data will be gathered on various indicators of end-line evaluation using both quantitative and qualitative tools. Focus Group Discussions, Key informant interviews and or semi structured interviews, survey questionnaire will be used to assess status of project objectives, indicators, outcomes, processes and cross-cutting issues and to come up with real answers. The secondary data will also be used to complement the

information obtained through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and survey questionnaire.

The final evaluation report needs to be strongly evidence-based. The evaluation shall be implemented in accordance with the key evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency impact and sustainability. These will be assessed against the expected project outcomes and outputs by evaluating the extend of achievement of the indicator targets in the project logical framework.

## 8. Expected Deliverables

- ✓ Draft an **inception report** which responds to the scope of work and incorporates appropriate overall assessment protocol, including methodology and a detailed work implementation plan. The report should be presented to SOS Gambia for comments and revise as necessary prior to commencing field work;
- ✓ Work collaboratively with division and field programme teams to **pre-test the evaluation** data collection instruments to ensure that all key aspect of programme areas are adequately covered;
- ✓ Sample and **collect data** in the intervention communities;
- ✓ Draft a comprehensive **evaluation report** including a clear set of actionable recommendations;
- ✓ Submission of all **datasets including evaluated logical framework** and relevant annexes;
- ✓ **Incorporate feedback/comments** from programme management teams and key stakeholders (including all relevant counterparts) and prepare a final report;
- ✓ Produce **final evaluation report** incorporating feedback from the reviewers). This final report should include the raw data of the quantitative and qualitative assessment with a summary/extract for debriefing;
- ✓ **Present** a one hour assessment summary/review of the evaluation report

## 9. Conclusion & Recommendations

Drawing on the findings above and the lessons to be learned, this aspect of the evaluation would examine whether or not the Project was impactful. Should the findings of the evaluation have some some issues to be re-oriented then the consultant would draw up

recommendations for the future direction of the Project for stakeholders, with specific emphasis on the activities to be carried out after the project. The proposals drawn up should be summarised in a revised recommendation matrix/Framework.

## 10. Time Frame

This will be conducted within one month (4 Weeks) and this will be exclusive of the advertisement period which will run in the local Newspapers for a period of 2 weeks.

No.	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Notification of Consultant.	Human Resources Manager	31 January 2023
2	Contract signature	National Director & Consultant	1 February 2023
3	Review of SOS & project's specific documents / Literature Review	Consultant	6th February 2023
4	Submission and validation of consultant's inception report.	Consultant	10 February 2023
5	Conduct of end line studies	Consultant	24th February 2023
6	Share the first draft of the report	Consultant	3 March 2023
7	Debriefing and Validation of Findings	Consultant	10 March 2023
8	Submission of Final Report	Consultant	15 March 2023

## 11. Qualifications and Skills of Consultant

- Consultant with degree in Development Studies, Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and / or Research Studies relevant to the assignment;
- Strong skills and experience in evaluation;
- Demonstrate knowledge of Youth Employment, Community Development, Project Management and Social & Life Skills enhancement including Sexual Reproductive Health;
- General professional experience of at least 12 years' experience in an area relevant to the assignment, of which 5 years should be in Monitoring and Evaluation and Research Studies in Development Projects;

- Proven experience and evidences with the evaluation of projects;
- Fully conversant with the principles of project cycle management and implementation, and aid delivery methods;
- Demonstrated experience in undertaking project evaluations and in preparing development programmes and projects;
- Excellent communication and writing skills in English.

## 12. Submission of bids

To facilitate the submission of proposals, the submission duly signed can be done electronically in PDF format and sent to [job.apply@sosgambia.org](mailto:job.apply@sosgambia.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted. The titles of submitted documents should clearly state "Technical & Financial proposal for Strengthening Social and Economic Resilience of Vulnerable Young people in Lower River and Central River Region of The Gambia Endline Evaluation in the Gambia by the company/consultant title". Therefore the bid package includes;

- Technical proposal
- Financial proposal
- CVs of the research team member(s) including current geographical location(s)
- Three references (at least two of them must be familiar with your work)
  - An example of a recent/relevant evaluation report (if available for public use)

## 13. Language of Contract

The working language of the assignment is English, knowledge of local languages will be an advantage.