

Terms of Reference for evaluations

External evaluation of the III Phase of the Introduction of a Combination of Traditional and Modern Approaches to Prevent Conflict in the South of Kyrgyzstan project

1. Introduction

Women's Public Union Erayim (hereinafter WPU Erayim) is a local civil society organization that has worked since 1998 in Kyrgyzstan to contribute to poverty alleviation, civil rights protection, and promotion of economic and social welfare of people in Kyrgyzstan's urban and rural areas. WPU Erayim has worked with Bread for the World - a German, globally active development and relief agency - since 2012, who has most recently granted WPU Erayim a three-year project to contribute to interethnic unity and social wellbeing among the multiethnic society in the border regions of rural Southern Kyrgyzstan.

The Phase III of the "Introduction of a Combination of Traditional and Modern Approaches to Prevent Conflict in the South of Kyrgyzstan", started on July 1, 2019, and will end on June 30, 2022. The project budget is EUR 612.000 and the project works with children, women and men in rural communities of South Kyrgyzstan and local stakeholders. The project aims to achieve greater empowerment, ownership, responsibility and peace within interethnic communities.

This TOR sets out the responsibilities of the evaluation consultant to design and carry out project's mid-term evaluation in the Kyrgyz communities of Mady, Shark, Kyzyl-Kyshtak, Akman and Bazar-Korgon, situated in the multiethnic border region of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

2. Cause and objectives of the evaluation:

The objective of the consultancy is to conduct an external, mid-term evaluation of project implementation, producing one report of no more than 20 pages, excluding annexes. Evaluation must identify the mid-term project results (both intended and unintended) and should determine their contribution to achieving the overall goal and objectives of the project. The consultant will produce the first draft of the report and must be available for further reviews and revisions, if an as necessary, to align the final product with the requirements and priorities of the TOR.

The intended user of the mid-term review is WPU Erayim, which seeks for qualitative and quantifiable evidence towards understanding continued relevance and efficiency of project strategies and approaches.

The evaluator must, therefore, should place equal emphasis on the evaluation and learning elements under this assignment.

WPU Erayim expects the evaluator to identify appropriate tools and methodologies for the evaluation in coordination with the partner and Brot für die Welt, however there are some expectations with regards to methodology and conduct:

1. A participatory approach will be taken not just in collecting primary data and developing the methodology but with regards to the actual outcomes of the evaluation process which should be as much of a learning process as possible given the timeframe and available resources.
2. Assessment of design and relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the programme and the level of achievement of envisaged programme results and outcomes.
3. It is expected that consultants will focus on impact achieved and to some extent planned and unplanned outcomes, backed up by quantitative and qualitative data.
4. To develop recommendations on improving efficiency, sustainability, and peacebuilding impact of future programs.
5. Identification of key recommendations and lessons learned through the evaluation process of the project
6. Assessment of both the positive and negative impacts of the project on the neighboring villages.

3. Project Summary

Main goal of the project is to improve the social wellbeing and the future prospects of the population in the south of the Kyrgyz Republic.

- **Objective 1:** The 6 SHG Associations act as overarching structures for capacitating and strengthening SHGs (providing consultancy, networking and resources to SHGs) and actively participate in decision-making at local level.

Indicators

1.1 Upon completion of the project, the 6 SHG Associations become able to run their activities sustainably without financial support from any other organization and improve the capacity of remaining SHGs, at least 30% (13 out of 44) of which get included to the Associations;

1.2 30 special events and 10 short projects were implemented in cooperation with local government bodies, civil society and business sector during the project period in order to improve living conditions of local residents and strengthen inter-ethnic harmony.

1.3. The SHG Associations have made at least 15 proposals to the 5-year strategic plans developed by the project area rural districts based on the 2018-2022 Development Program adopted by the Kyrgyz Government.

- **Objective 2:** The practice of amicably solving conflicts and disputes among citizens within the project area by means of mediation, legal and psychological assistance is established.

Indicators

2.1. At least 60% of individuals who turned to the project with the requests of assistance in protecting their rights and resolving conflict issues were able to reach a solution acceptable to all parties/resolve their dispute out of court with the help of the project lawyers and 12 family/community mediators.

2.2. At least 10 out of 25 ToT-graduates (at least 80% women) use the acquired knowledge in family and community mediation in follow-up workshops in their local communities, which take place within 2 months/period of time after completion of the training.

- **Objective 3:** The access to pre-school education of children and families in the project area and quality thereof has substantially/significantly increased.

Indicators

3.1. According to evaluation of the Children Departments of the Kara-Suu and Bazar-Korgon districts, the 40 maternal schools have fulfilled their annual plans on achieving official education standards adopted in 2012 by 50-70%. (Resolution 742 of the Kyrgyz government adopted on 23.10. 2012).

3.2. The development scales (psycho-motoric, psycho-social, life and cognitive skills) of children attending different age groups of 40 maternal schools have increased from 18-25 points to an average of to 55-60 points within six months and to 92-95 points within a year.

3.3. Two Maternal School Resource Centers established in the Osh and Jalal-Abad oblasts (province) contributed to the creation of 30 maternal schools in the project area and nearby villages.

Project's direct beneficiaries are:

- Citizens of various ethnicities living in the six municipalities in 2 of the overall seven regions (oblast) in Kyrgyzstan: Mady, Shark, Kyzyl-Kyshtak (Osh region) and, Bazar-Korgon, Akman rural districts, Ch. Aitmatov municipal territorial unit of the Jalal-Abad city (Jalal-Abad region):
- 712 members of 80 adult SHGs (sex: 90% female, 10% male; ethnicity: 67% kyrgyz, 28% uzbek, 3% turk and 2% other ethnic groups; social status: 65% poor, 5% extremely poor, 30% middle);

- 318 members of 6 SHG Associations (sex: 90% female, 10% male; ethnicity: 65% kyrgyz, 30% uzbek, 3% turk and 2% other ethnic groups; social status: 62% poor, 10% extremely poor, 28% middle);
- 606 members of 60 children SHGs composed of schoolchildren (sex: 58% female, 42% male; ethnicity: 67% kyrgyz, 23% uzbek, 8% turk and 2% other ethnic groups; social status: 60% poor, 10% extremely poor, 30% middle);
- 1661 children attending 40 Maternal Schools (sex: 82% female, 18% male; ethnicity: 60% kyrgyz, 35% uzbek, 3% turk and 2% other ethnic groups; social status: 65 % poor, 3% extremely poor, 32% middle).

Indirect beneficiaries are:

- Families of members of 140 SHGs consisting of adults and school students (about 840 persons);
- 2110 parents of children attending 40 maternal schools;
- 3628 (22%) vulnerable families and 1788 (0,86%) social orphans living in the Mady, Shark, Kyzyl-Kyshtak, Bazar-Korgon, Akman rural districts and Ch. Aitmatov municipal territorial unit of the Jalal-Abad city (out of 196,458 people);
- Executive and legislative bodies of the Mady, Shark, Kyzyl-Kyshtak, Bazar-Korgon, Akman rural districts and Ch. Aitmatov municipal territorial unit of the Jalal-Abad city that are covered by the project;
- 309 teachers and 4841 students of educational institutions located in the project area;
- Residents of the project area (about 196,458 persons).

The project is funded by the Bread for the World. **Brot für die Welt** is a globally active development and relief agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany. In more than 80 countries all across the globe it empowers the poor and marginalized to improve their living conditions. Key issues of its work are food security, the promotion of health and education, the access to water, the strengthening of democracy, respect to human rights, peace keeping and the creation of integrity.

4. Key Evaluation Questions

Evaluation must follow and be fully in line with OECD-DAC criteria. Key evaluation questions are drafted accordingly, but may be revised in close collaboration with the contracted evaluator, to ensure it is fully aligned with the OECD-DAC criteria:

Relevance:

- Does the project respond to beneficiary needs and interests?
- Are the project objectives and activities in line with country context, needs and priorities?
- To what extent have the country and beneficiary contexts changed from project inception to date, and have they affected project relevance?
- Has COVID-19 affected the relevance of the project design and activities?

Coherence:

- What is the degree of compatibility of the project with other initiatives in the field?
- To what extent has the project explored complementarity and coordination with other actors?
- Is the project consistent with the organizational mandate, culture, and activities of WPU Erayim?

Effectiveness:

- To which extent did the intervention achieve, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and results?
- What are the most important results and impacts that can be attributed to the project?
- Did the project reach and engage its target groups meaningfully?
- Were the implementation methodologies, scales and approaches appropriate and effective?

Efficiency:

- What was the degree of cost efficiency of project activities?
- Has the project progressed according to the budget and time estimates?
- What was the extent of COVID-19's impact on the project timeline?

Impact:

- How has the project influenced the beneficiaries, stakeholders, and what capacities has it built?
- Did the project contribute to a larger impact and agenda (e.g. inter-ethnic confidence building)?
- What are the impacts of the project, positive or negative, on key target groups and issues?

Sustainability:

- What are the post-project sustainability prospects for the services and opportunities created by the project, such as the maternal schools?
- How likely are the project benefits to remain after the project ends (e.g. conflict resolution, confidence building, etc.)?
- Has COVID-19 affected the sustainability of project results?

Project management:

- What was the degree and quality of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agency, target groups, and project stakeholders?
- How successfully did the project adapt to changed context and circumstances under the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What was the process and quality of monitoring, evaluation, and learning at the project and the organization?

5. Evaluation Design, Implementation, Timeline

It is expected for the evaluator to use different methods, ensuring maximum participation of project beneficiaries and stakeholders in data collection. Evaluation methods and methodologies must be fully described in detail in the section of methodology of the applicants' offers.

The evaluator must accommodate the following tentative timeline:

- Inception Phase (6 days) - the consultant will review documentation, plan the field work together with the WPU Erayim, and produce the Evaluation Inception Report with a clear evaluation methodology, toolkit and work plan.
- Data Collection and Field Visit (10 days) – the consultant will gather data through group and individual interviews and field visits to at least three target locations. At the end of the mission, presentation with preliminary findings and recommendations will be presented to the Brot für die Welt and WPU Erayim.
- Analysis and Reporting (14 days) – the consultant will prepare the draft evaluation report based on the analysis of findings, and will submit the report to the Brot für die Welt for review and comments. After this process ends, the consultant will proceed with production of the final evaluation report.

The evaluation will cover the following localities: Mady, Shark, Kyzyl-Kyshtak village districts of the Kara-Suu district of Osh province; Bazar-Korgon, Akman village authorities and Jalal-Abad city of the Jalal-Abad province. Evaluation period is from 24 August 2021 till 24 September 2021.

Anticipated timeline of the assignment is as follows:

- Evaluation design, methodology drafted and approved – August 24 - 25, 2021
- Evaluation plan developed and approved – August 26 – 27, 2021
- Evaluation inception report presented – August 28 - 29, 2021
- Field work – August 30 – September 08, 2021
- First draft report with key findings and recommendations – September 10, 2021
- Commentary by Brot für die Welt and WPU Erayim – September 15, 2021
- Final report based on provided comments – September 24, 2021

7. Key qualifications of the evaluators

Expected qualifications of the evaluator are as follows:

- At least 5 years of experience in conducting participatory impact evaluation.

- Demonstrated experience of working on gender analysis, reintegration of ex-combatants, livelihoods programming including agriculture, business, and markets will be considered an advantage.
- Working command of Kyrgyz, Uzbek, and Russian languages will be considered an advantage.
- Knowledge and experience of local grassroots peacebuilding.
- Extensive Knowledge and experience to work in a complex conflict environment.
- Relevant degree / equivalent experience related to the evaluation to be undertaken.
- Experience in field data collection and analysis.
- Good communications skills, culturally sensitive and experience interviewing, conducting surveys, data management and analysis, finance, focus groups.
- Ability to write clear and concise reports in English or Russian.
- Understanding of donor requirements.
- Ability to manage the available time and resources and to work to tight deadlines.
- Independence from the parties involved.
- Availability and ability to travel to South Kyrgyzstan.
- Availability and ability for a debrief meeting with the donor organization (Bread for the World).