Terms of Reference (TOR: Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APP II (APPEAR 12248) Mid-Term Evaluation

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY.

Name of Project	Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith APP II.
Project	MFA - 12248
Implementation Period	20 days
Funding Source	MFA
Language	English
Locations	Juba, Wau and Malakal
Type of Consultancy	Open to National and International consulting firms
Application deadline	Friday 15th November 2024 by 5:00 PM

1. Purpose of the Consultancy:

The purpose of this Term of Reference (TOR) is to provide a framework for planning and conducting the Final Evaluation (FE) for a Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) funded peacebuilding project implemented by South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) in Juba , Malakal and Wau. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to achieving sustainable and inclusive peace in South Sudan. The specific objective of the project is to support the participation and leadership of women and youth of faith in peacebuilding in South Sudan and thus strengthen local and national level conflict resolution and peacebuilding mechanisms.

FCA is committed to quality programming, and is accountable to rights holders and duty bearers, the need for end of project evaluation is key for assessing project contribution, outcome and impact. The end of project evaluation is forward looking, captures the project design, scope and provides information on the nature, extent and where possible the potential impact and sustainability of the project. It will collate and analyse lessons learnt, challenges faced, and best practices obtained during implementation, which will inform programming strategy in the next phase or response in a humanitarian context that is always evolving. South Sudan Council of Churches in collaboration with FCA is organizing the project evaluation of APP II**:**

2. Background and Description of the Project:

South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011. Since 2013, South Sudan has faced civil war, with widespread insecurity resulting in killings of thousands of people, and displacements of millions of people who are in need humanitarian support. The recurrence of the civil war in 2016 expanded the violence to other areas of the country that were not affected by the 2013 civil war, and further exacerbated the militarization of society, degraded traditional norms, and altered power dynamics resulting in extreme humanitarian suffering, profound economic and political turmoil, and widespread violence. Furthermore, this has led to widespread prevalence of structural and cultural barriers, attitudes and perceptions that continue to push the youth and women away from the decision-making processes, and ability to participate in civic life. Approximately over 2.3 million people are internally displaced due to continued armed conflict and inter-communal fighting,

worsened by economic and climatic shocks[1]. Overall, people in South Sudan continue to face the multiple compounding shocks of continued food insecurity, macroeconomic shocks, multiple consecutive years of flooding, disease (measles, malaria etc)[2] outbreaks, increased sub-national violence, and threats and attacks on humanitarian workers and assets, resulting in an overall protection crisis. South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since the country declared independence ten years ago according to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC)[3]. The over 9 years of sustained conflict at the national level broadly resulted in loss of lives, displacement, destruction of properties, and political fragmentation. As a result of the 2018 peace agreement and the creation of the coalition government in 2020, there is a reduction in violence and people have hope to experience peace at the national and regional level. However, many areas continue to see intra- and inter-communal violence, as well as violence by community-based armed militia. Peace is still fragile and there are significant concerns of a resurgence of large-scale violence. The implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (RARCISS) continues, albeit at a slow pace. Key benchmarks for the transition achieved in 2021 include the appointment of governors for all 10 states and Chief Administrators of the 3 Administrative Areas, the reconstitution of the national legislature, appointment of legislators for the national parliament and the council of States, and formation of state government. The remaining pre-transitional tasks include the critical formation and graduation of unified forces. The country has embarked on a constitution-making process, and democratic elections are slated to take place in 2023 spilling over into 2024. However, – an essential part to peace and security remains unimplemented, and there are no indicators of the political-will for holding democratic elections slated for 2024 per the provisions of RARCISS from all the parties to the agreement.

OutPut 1: Women and Youth of faith play an active role in peacebuilding at the local and national level through the establishment of local and national platforms, capacity development and advocacy support:

- A1.1. Support the functioning of the youth and women peace committees in all locations (90 members)
- A1.2. Review of the action plans and M&E Framework for the implementation of the action plans
- A1.3. Targeted Capacity building support to the Women and Youth-of-Faith Peace Committee members in all the location – mainly targeting 100 members with soft and hard skills
- A1.4. Support and facilitate the peace committees members with airtime bundles to improve coordination, early conflict reporting, and messaging
- A1.5. Provide conflict-sensitive and Trauma Healing and Resilience Building Trainings to the 80 peace Committees and Peace Ambassadors members.

OutPut 2: Output 2: SSCC Leadership and the ICCs more actively engage and directly involve Youth and Women of faith in all SSCC-APP processes and activities at national and (sub)-regional levels:

- 2.1. Facilitate Exchange Visits and Confidence Building Initiatives between faith based and non-faith based youth and women groups to facilitate learning, and increase localisation
- 2.2. Support/establish a Youth "one-stop peace center" at SSCC national secretariat and the regional offices, and equip each centre with 5 desk-top computers to connect the youth.
- 2.3. Annual Dialogue Forums for the Youth, Women, & Religious Leaders on their participation in APP (30 participants per dialogue @ location)
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- 2: 2.4. Annual Youth-of-Faith Conference for the SSCC member Churches. The Conference will bring together 60 Youth for 2 days.

OutPut 3:There is increased visibility and recognition of the positive role of women and youth of faith in peacebuilding in South Sudan:

- 3.1. Facilitate documentation of women-led advocacy success stories and best practices in South Sudan.
- 3.2. Support monitoring and "home-to-home" outreach programme for the women peace committees' home in Juba, Wau and Malakal.
- 3.3. Media Advocacy: Facilitate the production and rebroadcasting of 30 Advocacy Messages in all locations, and support One "Youth of Faith" weekly Radio Shows in 3 radio stations.
- 3.4. Support Peace Committee monthly "Peace Hour" Radio Talk Shows.
- 3.5. Commemorating Annual Events (International Youth Day and Peace Day).

During this period of implementation,APP II has greatly contributed to promotion of social cohesion, peaceful co-existence, networking, building trust and relationships,dialogue, mediation, information sharing, forgiveness and reconciliation , conflict transformationa and promoting of peacebuilding initiatives towards inclusive and sustainable peace among the SSCC youth and women of faith in Juba, Malakal and Wau.

3. **Scope and focus of the evaluation:**

The Mid- term project evaluation is in-built in the project implementation framework. The evaluation will cover the period from January 2023 to December 2024 focusing on APP II, and it will assess the effectiveness of the implementation strategy and the outcomes of the project. This will include the implementation modalities, the right holders and duty bearers' participation, replication and sustainability of the project. The evaluation will also include assessment of the project design, sustainability of the project, including assumptions and risks included in the design of the project. In addition, the evaluation will analyse the management of the project, implementation strategies and activities to ascertain the extent to which the project achieved its intended results.

The Final Evaluation will use different research methods including qualitative analysis to ascertain the impact of the project, taking into consideration what factors have enhanced and hindered the achievement of the project targets as well as documentation of achievements and lessons learnt for future programming of FCA's peacebuilding works or interventions. The analysis will include cross cutting issues i.e. gender, environmental impact, prevention and reduction of disaster risks. The evaluation will also assess whether project implementation strategy was optimum, and document the learnings and areas that require improvement in subsequent programs. In order to achieve these objectives, the evaluation will focus on the following key areas (proposed evaluation questions).

The overall objective of this Mid – term project final evaluation is to assess:

(i)   **Relevance:** (assess the design and focus of the project):
   - To what extent did the project achieve its overall objective?
   - What and how much progress was made towards achieving the outputs and outcome of the project (including contributing factors and constraints)?
   - Were inputs used realistically, appropriately and adequately to achieve intended outcome?
   - Was the project appropriate and relevant to the needs of the communities?

(ii)   **Appropriateness:**
   - To what extent have the project objectives been consistent with beneficiaries needs?
   - Was the project relevant to the targeted beneficiaries needs?
   - Was there a feedback mechanism in place to collect beneficiaries' complaints as well as addressing their complaints and provide feedback?

(iii)   **Effectiveness:**
   - The extent to which the project objectives were achieved (or are expected to be achieved) during the implementation process of the project.
   - To what extent did the project achieve its overall objectives?
   - What and how much progress has been made towards achieving the overall outputs, and outcomes of the project (including contributing factors and constraints)?
   - Where the inputs and strategies used effectively and realistically, appropriately and were adequate to achieve the project results?
   - How effective the M&E mechanism was and how much did it contribute in meeting the project results.
   - What recommendations in terms of project effectiveness are there for future peacebuilding similar intervention in the region or elsewhere in the country?

(iv)   **Efficiency:**
   - Was the process of achieving results efficient? Specifically did the actual or expected results (outputs and outcome) justify the costs incurred?
   - To what extent (how) were resources or inputs converted into results.
   - Were project resources used effectively during the implementation of the project? Was there value for money?

- Were there issues of duplication or an overlap in project activities implementation?
- What factors contributed to implementation efficiency?
- Did project activities overlap with similar interventions (funded nationally and/or by other donors?
- Is there any efficient way & means of delivering more & better results (results/outcome) with the available inputs?
- Could a different approach produce better results?
- How efficient were the management and accountability structures of the project?
- How did financial management processes and procedures affect project implementation?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the project implementation process?

(v) **Sustainability:**
- Are the project benefits likely to continue after end of the project?
- Will the community members co-exist peacefully; resolve their differences through non-violent and peaceful means after the end of the project?
- Will the established peace structures continue to function and continue to work in peacebuilding and conflict transformation even when the project has ended?
- What recommendations can you give to FCA to ensure that there will be sustainability of project outcomes even when the project has ended?
- How effective were the exit strategies, and approaches to phase out assistance provided by the project including contributing factors and constraints?
- What are the key factors that will require attention to improve prospects of sustainability of project outcome and the potential for replication of the approach?
- What major lessons have emerged?
- What are the recommendations for similar support in future?

(vi) **Impact:**
- What are the long-term effects produced by the project? (This can be directly, indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally during the implementation process).
- What are the changes produced by the project in the region, both negative and positive impacts?
- Are the project beneficiaries or the community no longer susceptible to vulnerability in case of any future eruption of a violent conflict in the community?
- What are the specific impacts on youth and women realised because of the intervention? Any lessons learnt and recommendations for future programming?

(vii) **Crosscutting Issues**:
- To what extent were ccrosscutting issues such as gender, protection and human rights, mainstreamed to and addressed during the implementation of the project?

4. Expected Deliverables:

1) **Inception report:** The consultant is expected to prepare a detailed inception report. The report must contain detailed understanding of both FCA and the consultant on how the evaluation and the evaluation questions will be addressed during the evaluation process to make sure that both FCA and the consultant have a common understanding of the evaluation process. The inception report should include summary of the evaluation design, methodology, evaluation questions, data sources, data collection and analysis tools for each data source and the measure by which each question will be evaluated. The report will include the scope of work, agreed work plan, agreed timeframe or schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables.

2) **Draft report:** The consultant will prepare a draft evaluation report that will be submitted to FCA for review and comments. This is to ensure that the evaluation meets the required quality and standards. The consultant will incorporate comments from FCA into the report to produce the final evaluation report.

3) **Submission of final report:** The final report a maximum of 25-30 pages excluding annexes will be submitted within 5 days after receiving feedback from FCA and will incorporate the comments into the final report. The report should be written in Arial font size 11, with a 1.15 spacing. The content and the structure of the final evaluation report with findings, recommendations and lessons learned covering the scope of the evaluation should meet FCA M&E Policy and requirements and should include the following:
   1. Executive summary
   2. Introduction
   3. Description of the evaluation methodology
   4. Situational analysis with regards to the outputs and outcome.
   5. Analysis of opportunities to guide future programming
   6. Key findings, including best practices and lessons learned
   7. Conclusion and recommendations
   8. Appendices: including charts, Aggregated respondents by gender, field visits, primary and secondary references, etc

5. Methodology and Duration of the Evaluation

The Mid - term project evaluation should comply with OECD DAC evaluation principles and guidelines, and consistent with OECD DAC Evaluation Quality Standards (206). This is a summative evaluation involving qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate the referenced project implementation and performance and to make recommendations for the next programming cycle.

The quantitative and qualitative data will be collected through the following methods:

1) Desk study and review of all relevant project documents including project proposal, annual work-plans, project progress report, PDM reports and annual project report.
2) In depth interviews to gather primary data from key stakeholders using a structured methodology.

3) Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with project beneficiaries and other stakeholders (Youth & Woman of faith for SSCC.
4) Interviews with relevant key informants.
5) Observations (field visits using checklist).

The evaluation will take an estimated duration of **20** days. This includes desk review and visit to the project locations in Wau, Malakal and Juba for interviews, FGDs, Observations, and report writing.

Activity	Deliverable	Time allocated
Inception Meeting Initial briefing with selected consultant.	Inception Report	1 day
Desk Review-Evaluation design, methodology detailed work plan.		1 day
Field visit and data collection (travel to Wau Malakal), and interviews in Juba		10 days
Data analysis, debriefing & preparation of draft Evaluation report		4 days
Submit draft report to FCA for comments, and feedback	Draft Report	2 days
Incorporate comments, finalize report and submit to FCA.	Final Evaluation Report	2 days

6. Required expertise and qualification

The Lead consultant must have the following expertise and qualifications:

1. Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, or Monitoring and Evaluation or Development Studies or in relevant field.
2. First level bachelor's degree with substantial hands-on experience in project evaluation maybe considered.
3. Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in evaluation of similar Peacebuilding projects. Demonstrated by evidence. e.g. recommendation letters or accessible publications
4. Fluency in English. Working knowledge of the local languages of the project locations is an added advantage.

6. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The evaluation and selection of the successful consultant will be based on the following criteria as presented in the below table:

Evaluation Criteria:	%	Required Information/evidence
Education/Qualification	10	Academic certificates from a recognised institution. Lead Consultant must be a holder of master's degree in M&E/Project Management/Social Research
Skills & Expertise	20	A minimum of 3 recommendation letters from INGOs for similar assignment conducted and successfully completed. One sample signed evaluation report in a similar or related field is a requirement.
Methodology	30	A proposed methodology that aligns with the requirements under *Section 6 Proposed Methodology of Evaluation*

Availability/Timeliness	10	Immediate availability of qualified consultant receives a full score of 10 points
Consultancy fee	30	Professional billing/fees that are guided by best pricing model for an assignment of similar nature and scope as defined above and other logistical and enabling costs e.g. airfares etc.
TOTAL	**100%**	

7. Proposed Schedule of Payments.

The consultant shall be paid the consultancy fee upon completion of the following milestones.

1) 20 % after adoption of the inception report.
2) 30 % after presentation of the draft report.
3) 50 % after the approval of the final report.

The consultancy fee will be subjected to income tax in accordance with the South Sudan Financial ACT 2017/18, section 53 of the Taxation Amendment ACT 2016. Current withholding tax rate is 20% on professional or technical fees. Other logistical and enabling costs such as airfares, stationeries and enumerators fees should be clearly marked as such.

NOTE: The contract price will be fixed regardless of changes in the cost components.

8. HOW TO SUBMIT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSAL.

Interested Applicants who meets the above requirements should submit their Technical and financial proposals (Technical and Financial + annexes listed above) through email to Procurement.Ssuco@kua.fi and with the heading "**MID - TERM EVALUATION - 12248**".
Deadline for submission is Friday 15th November 2024 by latest 5:00 PM

Note:

I. Technical Proposal (maximum 10 pages) must include an interpretation of the TOR, design and conceptualization of the assignment, proposed methodology, and work plan.

II. The financial proposal (maximum 1 Page) should be in USD Only. The proposal should clearly include technical fees, Airfare/ local transport, and other associated costs relevant to the consultancy. **FCA shall withhold 20% of the Consultancy fees per South Sudan taxation policy.**

III. Detailed Curriculum Vitae of the Lead Consultant(s) with at least 3 professional referees (official emails ONLY)

IV. One approved sample of evaluation reports from previous consultancy work with reputable organizations.

Note: *FCA has zero tolerance concerning aid diversion and illegal actions and may screen potential applicants, contractors, suppliers, consultants, etc. against international lists to ensure due diligence and compliance with Anti-money laundering and combating the Financing of Terrorism requirements.*