

Terms of Reference (TOR) Social Protection Study Sudan.

The Sudan Social Protection Consortium (SSPC) members seek expressions of interest from qualified consultants to undertake a comprehensive study to understand key determinants of and barriers to social protection in Sudan, affecting the human development and compromising the human capital. The data collected through this study will form the basis for understanding social protection issues, trends, challenges, gaps, and livelihood opportunities for the vulnerable Sudanese population.

Background

Sudan is expected to face high humanitarian assistance needs through September 2022 due to the macroeconomic crisis and below-average harvest driving high food prices and declining household purchasing power. The 2020/22 winter season wheat harvest continues across most wheat-producing areas but is negatively impacted by high labor and transportation costs. The harvest is estimated to be around 600,000 MT, around 13 percent lower than the five-year average. To compensate farmers for the high cost of production and the devaluation of the SDG and to encourage selling products to the Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS), the government has set the *Salam* price (preset price for in-kind payments of debts to the Agricultural Bank) at 43,000 SDG/90kg of wheat, which is 200-250 percent higher than last year. In March and April, staple food prices have continued to unseasonal increase, attributed primarily to reduced market supplies following the below-average harvest, the extremely high production and transportation costs, the devaluation of the SDG, and the above-average demand for local wheat due to the high cost and shortages of imported wheat and wheat flour.¹ The transitional government started lifting fuel and wheat subsidies and liberalising the exchange rate. To mitigate the impact of these measures, the government of Sudan, supported by the World Bank, introduced the Sudan Family Support Programme (SFSP) to mitigate the shock and adverse economic impact on the Sudanese population by providing cash transfers to 80% of the Sudanese population. However, after the political change on 25th of October 2021, several donors and World Bank suspended the allocated support and development aid funding, including the SFSP, until the political scene was stable. The suspension of financial support to the GoS has expedited the shock of hyperinflation and increased the food insecurity situation. As a result, staple food prices are approximately 100-200% higher than last year and three to four times greater than the five-year average².

Adding to the complexity, the global economic challenge resulting from the war between Ukraine and Russia has caused a significant increase in gas, petroleum, and wheat prices. The fuel price has risen since the start of the conflict and the banning of Russian oil from major international markets. This has lowered the total petrol production, contributing to increased prices. Additionally, both countries are major wheat exporters to the African continent. Between 2018 and 2020, Africa imported 44% of the continent's total wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine³. This has triggered an increase in wheat prices. Sudan has been relying on imported wheat, and the impact of the global crisis has already started manifesting. The effects are expected to worsen in the coming months due to the conflict, and the overall drought situation in the Horn of Africa region.

The overall humanitarian situation in the country is deteriorating at a fast pace. The number of individuals in need in Sudan in 2022 will be at its highest level in the last decade. According to the Humanitarian

¹ <https://fews.net/east-africa/sudan>

² <https://fews.net/east-africa/sudan/food-security-outlook/october-2021>

³ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204140041.html>

Needs Overview (HNO) 2022, 14.3 million people in Sudan require humanitarian assistance, including 8.1 million women and girls. Sudan faces the threat of climate-related shocks and natural disasters, particularly annual floods; in addition, increased intensity of conflict, hyperinflation, severe economic deterioration, and low public service provision aggravates food insecurity. According to the World Food Program (WFP), in September 2021 the inflation rate in Sudan was 365.82%, resulting in rising food prices, with staple food costs 360c-430% above the 5-year average. This has generated record-high numbers of food-insecure people. As a result, acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) rose significantly in 2021, peaking at 9.8 million people (21% of the population) with 2.7 million (6% of the population) at emergency level (IPC4). The Combined effects of conflict, economic crisis & hyperinflation, drought & floods, and poor harvests will likely lead to 18 million people (40% of the population) facing acute hunger by September 2022. Save the Children, Care International, Mercy Corp, Alight, and the Danish Refugee Council propose a cash-based shock responsive social protection programme to lessen the impact of the current economic and food insecurity situation.

The Consortium

The existing social protection situation in Sudan calls for a diverse consortium with various expertise and local knowledge. Considering this, Save the Children, Care International, Mercy Corp, Alight, and the Danish Refugee Council are joining hands to lessen the impact of the current economic and food insecurity situation. Our wide geographical footprint, varied expertise, and partnerships with local communities, CBOs, and NGOs are at the heart of our ability to deliver results on time, at scale, and with great value for money.

Purpose of the study

The study aims to generate knowledge that will contribute towards an improved evidence base for social protection programming, and interventions and strengthen advocacy efforts. The study will document the social protection trends and patterns and will identify the existing challenges regarding social protection programming, with special lenses on the age, gender and diversity of the different groups, including modalities to deliver social protection intervention in Sudan. Based on the findings, the study will provide practical recommendations to inform programming on social protection with a focus on the family level support, policy, and advocacy messages.

Key Research Questions

- What are the existing social risks to poor people, and what household mechanisms are being used to manage these risks?
 - Lifecycle Risks: hunger, disease, disability, old age
 - Economic Risks: Depleting livelihoods, unemployment, low income, inflation, market dysfunction
 - Environmental Risk: Drought, floods, rain, landslide, migration, displacement
- What are the existing state support mechanisms to mitigate effects of above mentioned social risks? Are those support mechanisms performing well? how can these support mechanisms be strengthened to ensure the social protection of the vulnerable population?
- Does Sudan have a comprehensive policy framework to address current social risks? What are strengths and weakness of the policy framework? What needs to be done to strengthen and operationalize the framework?

Methodology

The study will utilize secondary data collection and data analysis approach. This implies that the consultant should have access to social protection literature and data on Sudan. Besides, this study will also use qualitative data. The following needs to be included:

- a) Comprehensive review of literature, especially including literature and frameworks from specialized institutions such as WB, ADB, UN, INGOs, and govt. bodies/departments;
- b) **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** and **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** to capture critical trends in social protection.

Expected Outputs/ Deliverables

- Inception meeting: Between the Contractor/consultant and the Consortium Members.
- Desk review: Undertake desk review of the relevant data and info related to social protection challenges, modalities, trends, and best practices in view of the current context in Sudan
- Inception Report: An Inception Report detailing the process and methodologies, among other things to be employed to achieve the objective of this consultancy.
- Sharing of secondary data sources in references, and then sharing the separate files.
- Data Analysis: A final data analysis output report based on an agreed data analysis plan with the Consortium Members
- Preliminary findings presentation: Make a presentation to the Consortium Member based on the preliminary findings from the draft report.
- Final Main Report: Submit a hard and softcopy of the final study report to Save the Children International.
- Summary Report: Refers to a summarized version of the main report. It should not be more than five pages.

Duration of the Consultancy

The consultancy is for a period of 20 working days. The consultant must ensure that the whole process of the work, literature review, qualitative data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of the key findings, is completed within this time frame.

Confidentiality and Authorship

Ownership and copyright of all data, drafts and final products of the study will be consortium members' sole and exclusive property (represented by SCI). The consultant will submit all original documents, materials, and data to SCI. Therefore, all the study's outputs will not be disseminated in part or whole without express authority from SCI.

Qualifications & Experience

- At least a master's degree in a relevant field in Humanitarian Action, FSL and economics, public policy, international relations, political science, gender studies, development studies, and sociology.
- At least five years of professional experience in monitoring and evaluating multi-sector programming – social protection and FSL is a plus.
- A deep understanding of the Sudan humanitarian, socio-economic, demographic and climatic context.
- Experience in secondary and qualitative data analysis techniques and approaches such as content analysis and grounded theory preferred. Experience using qualitative software such as NVIVO is desired

Consultant skills and Competencies

- Excellent report-writing skills, demonstrated by a list of published articles and reports.
- Has excellent analytical, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- Knowledge and experience of gender equality and human rights sensitive approaches.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English and Arabic.
- Demonstrate excellent interpersonal and professional skills in interacting with government and development partners.

Payment Method

Payment will be tied to the submission of the study deliverables and will be paid in two phases as follows:

- 30% of the contract sum will be paid after submitting the inception report.
- 70% of the contract sum will be paid upon submission and acceptance of the final comprehensive report.

To apply for this study, applicants are expected to share the following documents:

- A 3-4 page proposal showing your understanding of the assignment and how you will conclude the work, including proposed methodologies, mode of analysis, and the number of personnel to be involved, detailed timelines, USD budget and any foreseen challenges.
- Up to date organizational/individual Consultant CVs and CVs for relevant staff.
- Cover letter.
- Traceable and contactable referees for each.
- Two sample reports from previous most relevant consulting projects (all samples will be kept confidential) or links to website where reports can be retrieved (highly recommended).

INSTRUCTIONS ON PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The offer, comprising of a Technical and Financial Proposal, should be submitted and addressed as follows: Sudan CO procurement SudanCO.procurement@savethechildren.org and cc janet.mugo@savethechildren.org. For any question/query relating to the proposal, please email janet.mugo@savethechildren.org.

Deadline for Proposals submission is 2nd July 2022, 16:00, Khartoum Time.

Any Proposal received by SCI after the deadline shall be declared late and will not be considered.