

Terms of Reference

ALIGHT DCPSF funded project outcomes evaluation

Sudan | November 2022



PROJECT TITLE	Together to Build Peaceful Coexistence
PROJECT DATES	January 2021 to February 2023
DONOR	The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF)
PROJECT LOCATIONS	Abu Sineadira, Hebeail, Al aradeab administration units, Al Firdous, East Darfur, Sudan.

Background

Multiple agencies have labelled the Darfur crisis as a complex, multi-level, politicized situation that involves local, national, regional, and international levels (Transition International, Darfur conflict analysis 2020). Widespread neglect was cited as the leading cause of the conflict. The report further highlighted that this dates to the colonial policy that prevented the educated class from rising against their rulers/leaders through isolation and underdevelopment.

Since Sudan gained its independence, successive governments have paid little attention to the development of the Darfur region, which resulted in resentment towards the central government and triggered the 2003 rebellion. All this, coupled with inflation that got worse in 2018 (73%), cash and fuel shortages, and lack of essential goods, have increased the poverty level in Darfur. The report further states that the neglect led to the unavailability of social services (health, education, transportation, etc.) and poor and inadequate infrastructure that continued to present challenges such as geographic isolation and lack of market access. The region has also seen a growth in its population while its economic growth has been slow, leading to high unemployment. Due to this slow economic growth and 16 years of security instability (since the 2003 conflict), the region has experienced a crisis that has seen millions of people displaced. This insecurity also worsened the long-standing conflict between tribes or groups competing for resources, which are scarce in the region. All these factors have contributed in one way or another to making Sudan among the worst countries in Sub-Saharan Africa on the human development indicator.

ALIGHT has 18 years of extensive experience providing lifesaving humanitarian assistance in Sudan. Operational since 2014, ALIGHT's strategic priority programming has been in health, nutrition, and WASH, and it further expanded its programming to Protection and Food Security and Livelihoods (FLS). ALIGHT started its work in Darfur to respond to the 2013 crisis and later expanded its support in West Kordofan and East Sudan. ALIGHT has gained deep knowledge of the Darfur context and the complexities around its political, social, and economic realities that contribute to conflict, tensions, and new and repeated displacements through working with IDPs, refugees, and host communities.

With technical and operational backstopping support from the Country Office in Khartoum, the field offices in Nyala, Ed Daein, Kassala, and Gedaref, along with sub-offices in Gereida and Adilla, ALIGHT staff support the delivery of primary healthcare services in 30 health facilities in addition to reaching out with mobile clinic services to 6 remote communities. Water provision and sanitation services, including the construction/rehabilitation of boreholes, water yards, household, institutional latrines, and hygiene promotion messages, are also delivered in over 70 conflict-affected communities.

ALIGHT has a gradually growing component of food security and livelihoods and protection targeting South Sudanese, Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees, resettling IDPs, and hosting populations. It supports the communities with agricultural seeds, tools, extension, and protection services, including training and supporting employable skills to these marginalized communities.

Project Summary

With funding from UNDP, Alight is implementing a DCPSF 2 years project in East Darfur state called "*Together to Build Peaceful Coexistence*" in three administrative units, Alryadh, Abu sineadira Hebeail, and Alfirmous, of Al Ferdous locality. The project is implemented in coordination with a local partner, National Initiative Development Organization (NIDO), which is responsible for developing local capacity for peacebuilding and conflict prevention and mitigation.

The project focuses on building the capacity of local leaders, especially members of the native administration such as sheikhs and Umdas, to see those leaders gain the capabilities and skills to solve problems and mitigate conflict. The project also empowers women to participate more meaningfully in peacebuilding platforms and provides livelihood opportunities as peace dividends in the targeted areas. Youth are also engaged by equipping them with skills and knowledge to support them in secure employment. The project anticipates improving young people's livelihoods to help promote peace and act as a tangible dividend to local communities.

The project is expected to achieve the following outputs:

1. Community-based conflict resolution and reconciliation mechanisms (CBRMs) are in use and working effectively to resolve conflict

The critical component of this strategy was to sensitize the community on conflict resolution mechanisms and facilitates discussions on the existing forums for conflict resolution and how they can be strengthened and supported. Women's participation in all committees and meetings forums was a core methodology in the project intervention. ALIGHT used gender-sensitive strategies and approaches by paying women and men the same wage to enhance women's participation in the project. ALIGHT engaged the famous group of women called "HAKAMA" that has influenced the community on war and peace. ALIGHT engaged them with knowledge and built skills that will enable them to raise their issues and concerns, contribute their ideas on promoting peace in their community and strengthen the local women's peace committee.

2. Peace dividends for community interdependence and coexistence are delivered

Through Cash for work, ALIGHT promoted public infrastructure rehabilitation and income to the neediest people while supporting the community's restoration of crucial infrastructure. Cash for work was also linked up with skills development as targeted beneficiaries may be involved in vocational skills training in such as masonry, carpentry, etc. Rehabilitated infrastructures and locations were done with community consultations. The implementation of cash-for-work brings different groups together through a common interest in restoring community infrastructure and thus enhances social cohesion.

3. Women's organizations, including those representing pastoralist women, are empowered to meaningfully participate in local and state-level peacebuilding platforms

ALIGHT focused on sustainable intervention through the preparation of women groups, those in the urban/villages and the pastoralist to actively participate in enhancing and increasing resilience and promoted to be future leaders in their communities. Women groups were also empowered and sensitized with the knowledge of national policies and laws (FGM/SGBV), linked with the network, and received capacity development through training, workshops, etc.

4. Improved networking, coordination and learning between local and state-level peacebuilding institutions.

This intervention mainly targeted relevant authorities and actors that influence people, such as community leaders, teachers, imams, administrators, Hakama, youth leaders, and the peace centres at Al-Deian University. ALIGHT strengthened consultations and coordination with the government line ministries at the state level and all other peace-building actors through capacity-building. The training was the key to capacity building, and an advocacy platform was established with community leaders and other influential community representatives.

Rationale and purpose

The results of this evaluation will contribute to the DCPSF end-of-project final report by assessing how well the project interventions achieved the intended objectives. The review is designed to provide insight into the project's effects in changing the same indicators during implementation. The evaluation is also expected to assess the extent to which the multi-sectoral approach helped to transform the lives of the target communities and the validity of the theory of change. The external evaluation will provide a basis of evidence to inform the DCPSF consortium program strategy, with respect to the performance of partner organizations, lessons learned and best practices to set a basis for the FSL programming strategy.

Objectives of the Evaluation

The evaluation will ascertain whether the project has been performed as intended and/or achieved the expected results. The consultant is expected to provide information about success factors and recommendations for improvement areas focusing on program performance in terms of contribution to peace. These lines of inquiry will guide the framework of the evaluation:

- **Explicit peace-building efforts:** The primary inquiry will be whether this project made a relevant contribution to durable peace by deliberately and effectively addressing key driving factors of conflict among crucial conflict actors.
- **Explicit conflict prevention efforts:** The focus will be whether the project made a demonstrable contribution to reducing tensions and preventing violence, either by intervening swiftly to avert escalating violence or by addressing long-term structural drivers of conflict.
- **Impact of livelihoods recovery initiatives:** The central question of focus will be to what extent these initiatives have made a positive contribution to peaceful co-existence. The evaluation will also determine whether the livelihoods recovery initiatives were based on an assessment of peace-conflict dynamics and whether the programming choices were based on this assessment. Also, the evaluation will determine whether these initiatives engaged in critical social tensions identified as driving factors of past, current and potential conflict.
- **Assess and identify critical internal and external factors** that have contributed, affected, or impeded the programme achievements and how ALIGHT has managed these factors.
- **Determine the intended and unintended outcomes** of the Programme and provide recommendations on how the unintended negative outcomes of the Programme can be addressed.
- **To assess the extent to which Age, Gender, and Diversity** were mainstreamed; how gender equality, social inclusion, and equity issues have been considered while programming implementation.
- **Assess the project implementation concerning participation and feedback** of beneficiary communities in decision-making through relevant mechanisms established by ALIGHT.
- **Identify lessons learned, good practices and provide concrete recommendations.**

Intended Users

The intended users for the evaluation will be in particular:

- The programme implementing team, especially the FSL teams at both ALIGHT and NIDO.
- All interested parties in ALIGHT, including the project management team, technical and non-technical staff; ALIGHT Senior Management Team, Technical Coordinators, the MEAL Department; Deputy Country Director and Head of Programme and others.
- The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF) programme members, the FSL cluster and other humanitarian agencies in Sudan are working towards the same goals and objectives.
- Representatives of the UN as the donor that has funded the multi-pronged project.

Evaluation Key Responsibilities

Scope of consultancy

The consultancy will design an appropriate evaluation methodology to sufficiently address the critical questions based on their understanding of the expectations of the terms of reference. The Consultant will need to propose and adopt methods that combine qualitative and quantitative research techniques, including extensive desk review and research. For the primary research component, key informants' interviews, FGDs and Household interviews may include other I/NGOs, representatives and community members (as decided in consultation with the ALIGHT team). The Consultant is expected to propose their methodology for the evaluation that should include but not be limited to the following:

- Draft data collection tools
- Remote data collection methodology, including sampling

- Quantitative data analysis plan
- Qualitative data analysis plan
- Secondary data collection and analysis
- Production of an evaluation report
- Participate in the initial sharing of the report to ALIGHT/ stakeholders and incorporate their feedback

All data collected must be disaggregated by sex, age, and location. A detailed action plan that includes data collection instruments, clear roles and responsibilities of the Consultant, timeframe and data analysis and reports writing should be submitted by the Consultant.

Key Deliverables/Outputs

The Consultant shall be expected to produce an inception report upon commencement of the evaluation.

1. **Inception Report** will detail the agreed-upon methodologies to be employed in the evaluation to achieve the objectives outlined above. The Inception Report should also include the finalized activity plan and a structural outline of the final evaluation report. The inception report should be shared and approved by ALIGHT before the commencement of the data collection and analysis. The Inception report should contain the following:
 - A detailed methodology for implementation
 - A detailed schedule for the programme review;
 - The indicators that fall within the scope of the programme review
 - Draft data collection tools for all indicators and the means to verify them.
 - Draft questionnaires
 - Work plan that sets out the preparatory activities and specific deliverables, as well as the timeline related to the programme review
2. **Evaluation Report:** The report should address the consultancy as mentioned above objectives and contain: an executive summary, acknowledgments, introduction, including programme summary and purpose of the programme review; a detailed methodology (including limitations); key findings (covering both document review and primary research); lessons learnt, evidence-based recommendations; conclusion; and, annexes. Annexes should include, at a minimum: the consultant's expression of interest, the evaluation budget, field sites assessed, and a list of key informants. A soft copy of the report will be shared with the MEAL Manager and the report should not be more than 30 pages, excluding cover page and annexes.

The deliverables mentioned above will be accompanied by regular communication and feedback with the Programme Team and a validation workshop where the study's preliminary results will be presented to ALIGHT. After incorporating comments from the validation workshop, the report will be presented to the ALIGHT focal person, the MEAL Manager.

The assignment should be completed by the **12th of February 2023**.

ALIGHT's Responsibilities

ALIGHT will:

- ALIGHT will provide logistical and accommodation support to the consultant while in Sudan and field location ALIGHT will facilitate engagement with community and key stakeholders. The consultant will evaluate the key secondary stakeholders and sample of beneficiaries' (community) data will be collected by the
- Provide all necessary programme documents and contacts of relevant stakeholders in other NGOs and the community.
- Provide ongoing security advice and support if travelling to the field.
- Facilitate engagement with the community and key stakeholders.
- Provide all necessary programme documents and contacts of relevant stakeholders in other NGOs and the community.
- ALIGHT will also review the consultant's proposal, tools and evaluation report.
- The payments will be in three installments, 30% after the submission of the Inception report, 30% after the draft report, and 40% submission of the final acceptable report to ALIGHT/. Please note that a partial payment hold-back will be in effect until a final report has been approved by ALIGHT/.

The Consultant:

- The consultant will be responsible for paying any tax or other fees related to this assignment.
- The consultant is responsible for their working tools, such as a computer and data analysis software.
- Submit a proposal with a tentative budget on or before 1st December 2022. The Technical Proposal should contain; a complete description and explanation of the proposed methodology for the assignment, work plan, timeline, staffing, names and qualifications of allocated personnel, and any other resources that the consultant will make available to execute the task and achieve the objective including budget. The cost of the Evaluation should be summarized as follows with a detailed breakdown below:

No.	Details	Unit	Rate (US\$)	# of Units (Quantity)	Cost (US\$)
1	Consultant's fees (including data enumerators' costs)				
2	Transport cost				
3	Subsistence costs (e.g., accommodation, communication, meals, etc.)				
4	Any other costs that are critical, but not provided for by ALIGHT				
	Total				

Reporting Arrangements

The consultant will report to the ALIGHT MEAL Team, including but not limited to the MEAL Manager, Coordinator, and Deputy Country Director during the consultancy period.

Duration of assignment

The consultancy should last up to 40 working days, excluding weekends, With the deadline to submit the first drafted report by 3rd February 2023.

Activity	Est. # of days
Selection of consultant	
Desk review of relevant documents, research design development with detailed methodology and data collection tools, and writing inception report.	5
Integrate feedback from the ALIGHT inception report	3
Finalise data collection tools	4
Data collection and analysis	16
Report writing	5
Virtual validation workshop with ALIGHT	2
Integrating feedback first draft	2
Report finalisation and submission of the final report	3
Total est. number of days	40

Expected Profile of the Consultant

- A postgraduate qualification in Monitoring and Evaluation, Research, Statistics, or any other related field is required. A qualification in Food Security and Livelihood programming, Social Sciences, Gender, Peaceful coexistence and Development studies, or other related disciplines is also strongly required.
- Significant experience in carrying out evaluations in Sudan or EAGL region.
- Strong understanding of the Sudan context, the humanitarian principles and system, protection risks, and conflict dynamics in Darfur, Sudan.
- Demonstrate strong capacity to conduct qualitative data research and analysis with additional experience in questionnaire development, interview techniques and managing focus group discussions.
- Strong skills in qualitative and quantitative data analysis.
- Experience in using mobile data collection systems such as KoBoCollect will be an added advantage.
- Excellent organising, facilitating, presentation and communication skills, including good report writing in English.

Terms and Conditions

The consultant must abide by ALIGHT's standard procedures, including the Code of Conduct, Core Humanitarian Standards and confidentiality policies. All data and information collected, reports and the study methodology will be the property of ALIGHT.