

Terms of Reference

Conflict Analysis for the Strengthening Inclusive Partnerships for Smallholders in Rain-fed Areas (SIPRA) programme

March 2024

Index

1. Background	3
2. Objective and expected results	4
3. Methodology	4
4. Ethical considerations	6
5. Authority and Responsibility	6
6. Timing and deliverables	7
7. Consultant's Qualifications	8
8. Supervision and Management	9
9. Quotation Requirements	9
10. Tender and Selection Criteria	9

1. Background

ZOA is an international relief and recovery organization formed in 1973, supporting vulnerable people affected by violent conflict and natural disasters in fragile states, by helping them to realize peaceful, dignified, and resilient lives. ZOA works with refugees, IDPs, host communities and returnees, especially farmer and pastoralist communities, youth, and school children. The sectors covered by ZOA include emergency response, peacebuilding and social cohesion, natural resource management, food security and livelihoods, WASH/integrated water resource management, basic education and civil society strengthening with a focus on small producer associations, persons with disability organizations, youth, and women social and economic groups. ZOA has been operational in Sudan since 2006 and currently is working in North Darfur, South Darfur, East Darfur, and Gedaref.

ZOA is leading a consortium of NGOs including World Relief, SOS Sahel, Euroconsult Mott McDonald, and Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCIDI) implementing the Strengthening Inclusive Partnerships for Smallholders in Rain-fed Areas (SIPRA) programme, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme aims to bring about transformative change for smallholders. The SIPRA theory of change relies on a bottom-up and inclusive process that empowers people at all institutional levels to take responsibility for their development (auto-promotion), become stewards of natural resource management, and actively seek opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships with investors. Innovation and climate resilience, to combat systemic bottlenecks and address the realities of climate change, are mainstreamed throughout. It will establish inclusive partnership modalities between organized producers with sustainable, climate-smart production and a motivated private sector with fair modalities for engaging with producers, focusing on empowered women and youth. Through strengthened agro-MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) sourced by large agri-businesses, investors and sellers' reach will sustainably be linked to smallholder producers. An enabling business and policy environment will continually be fostered through advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders and knowledge institutions on systemic barriers impacting actors in the value chain. Driving the programme is the food systems approach and market-driven strategies which will select nutrition-sensitive value chains that are in sustainably high demand, and linked to state, national, and possibly export markets. The overall goal of the SIPRA programme is to improve household food and nutrition security and sustainable, resilient, and fair economic development of smallholders and SMEs in the rain-fed agriculture areas in Darfur and South Kordofan by 2026. SIPRA is currently being implemented in twenty-one localities across seven states namely, Central Darfur, and East Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile, and Gedaref. The population of the targeted localities is 1.6 million, direct target group is 120,000 people (24,000 producer households). SIPRA assumes 15% of the population will

benefit, which is close to 240,000 persons. The programme started on September 1st, 2022, and will run until August 31st, 2026.

A **gender and age sensitive conflict analysis** was to be conducted in the four (4) SIPRA states to help the program to be implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner, doing the least harm and where possible contributing to peace and social cohesion. However, the outbreak of war in Khartoum in April 2023 which has spread to Darfur and Kordofan has changed the dynamics of the conflict analysis. The original assessment started in the first week of April 2023 only for the process to be disrupted by the conflict in Khartoum after data collection has been carried out in South Kordofan (a report is being developed for South Kordofan). Going forward, the conflict analysis will now factor in the current conflict, economic and climate factors, and how they'll influence the SIPRA program.

2. Objective and expected results.

The objective of this assignment is to deliver a gender and age-sensitive conflict analysis for 4 states with an emphasis on the intervention localities (see above section 1)

The **expected results** of this assignment are:

- Development of the methodology to conduct the conflict analysis.
- Conduct of the conflict analysis in line with the methodological requirements below (3).
- Reporting of the main findings per State (with locality-specific information). The consultant will write one report with different sections for the different States.
- Presentation of the main findings of the conflict analysis during the validation sessions at the State level.

3. Methodology

We expect the consultants to develop and present in the inception report the methodology and the tools for the conflict analysis. Taking into account the current (fluid) security situation the consultant needs to present a realistic methodology with scenario A (current situation) and scenario B (deteriorating security situation). However, the proposed methodology needs to include the following:

The conflict analysis needs to include at least grounded information about:

- General context information about the State and locality (location, description of population groups including presence of IDPs due to current and/or past conflict)
- What are the main conflicts in this State/locality (current/latent)? For each identified conflict:

- What are the main causes (drivers and triggers) of each conflict?
- What is/are the level(s) of the conflict (local/state/national/international conflict)? How is the conflict connected to conflicts at other levels?
- Who are the stakeholders in the conflict (including (inter)national stakeholders where relevant) and what are their roles and interests?
- When did the conflict start and what is the situation at the moment?
- What are the effects of this conflict on the communities (e.g., displacement, lack of trust, access to water/land/markets) and the security at large? Please take into account specific groups (women/youth/ethnic minorities etc.).
- NB: Pay specific attention to conflicts related to natural resource management (water/land), climate change, and to food security/economic interests. However other types of conflicts also need to be included in the conflict analysis.
- What are existing connectors and capacities for peace, with a specific emphasis on Food Security/Food Systems? Where are groups currently still able to manage Food Security and Livelihoods resources peacefully and what are enabling factors?
- What kind of support (e.g., food security, shelter, protection, etc.) has been provided during/after the conflict, and by whom (which actor)?
- The conflict analysis should be done in a participatory way, including different stakeholders (communities where possible including women and youth groups, resistance committees, etc., local government and native administration, local project staff from consortium partners and local partners) in the collection of data, analysis, and validation.
- The conflict analysis will use a **qualitative** methodology including the following:
 - Desk review of relevant documents (specific ZOA documents¹, documents of other SIPRA partners, but also available conflict analysis reports of other organizations and reports on FSL challenges in the current context of war, as input and to avoid duplications)
 - Key Informant Interviews with local government, representatives of Peace and Reconciliation Committees (PRC), Youth representatives, women representatives, community leaders, SIPRA staff, farmers and pastoralists unions, peace centres, emergency response committees, peace and security forces, religious leaders, local artists including poets, singers, musicians, Hakamat, etc.
 - Focus Group Discussions with PRC members, community members (male and female, young male, and female), etc.
 - Sensemaking and validation workshop with different stakeholders at State level at the end of the fieldwork in that State.
- The conflict analysis needs to be **age and gender-specific**, so the methodology needs to take this into account. This implies among others including women and youth (male and female) in FGD and KII and including their perspectives on conflict and the causes of conflict, security, and opportunities for peace.

¹ E.g., Political Economy Analysis for South Darfur (2021)

- In order to be conflict sensitive the conflict analysis needs to take into account the perspectives of different ethnic groups in the States/localities.
- As part of the SIPRA project a Food Systems Resilience Assessment (FOSRA) has been conducted for the different States prior to the war in early 2023. Findings from the FOSRA, where still relevant, need to be consulted for the conflict analysis to create efficiency and synergy.
- The conflict analysis needs to include East Darfur, Central Darfur, South Darfur, , White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, and South Kordofan. The focus will be on the state-level analysis but also include information about the 21 specific localities where the project will be implemented. Fieldwork needs to be in all 7 States and in the 21 localities where possible, taking into account the security situation.
- The lead consultant is expected to work with local consultants and project staff for data collection. We do not expect the lead consultant to travel to the study areas, but he/she will be responsible for supervising data collection, quality control, and analysis.

4. Ethical considerations

The consultant would comply with the ZOA's code of conduct including measures to safeguard the rights, safety, and confidentiality of the individual and communities interviewed, particularly secure permissions needed to interview or gather information about children and young people and provisions to store and maintain security of collected information and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality. The consultant shall respect differences in culture, local customs, religious beliefs, and practices while applying needs assessment methods and tools. ZOA code of conduct (which includes the child protection and PSEA policies) will be shared with the consultant during the contracting stage and the consultant is obligated to adhere to the code of conduct and adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

5. Authority and Responsibility

Consultant's Roles and Responsibilities

General

- Prepare and submit the conflict analysis proposal and the inception report with detailed methodology, sample size, research tools, and work plan including logistics plan for review, feedback, and approval by ZOA. This methodology should take into account the current security situation (scenario A) and scenario B (security situation deteriorating).
- Propose local consultants for fieldwork in the 7 states. These local consultants should be based in the states and able to do the data collection/fieldwork.

- Train the ZOA/SIPRA staff/local consultants who will be involved in the data collection for the conflict analysis in the different states.
- Ensure the safeguarding policy is adhered to by his/her team throughout the contract period.
- And any other duties relevant to the study

Secondary information analysis:

- Desk review of relevant and recent reports specific to the target states, localities, and village clusters to have a clear understanding of the context and conflict situation, and the SIPRA project.

Primary information analysis:

- Lead and supervise the data collection by ZOA/SIPRA staff and/or local consultants, with support from ZOA.
- Organise (together with local consultant/staff) validation sessions with relevant stakeholders at the State level at the end of data collection in the 4 States.
- Share draft reports and present conflict analysis findings to ZOA and other SIPRA staff.
- Submission of quality final report after all the comments and recommendations from ZOA and SIPRA staff have been addressed.

ZOA’s Roles and Responsibilities

General

- Support the consultant in achieving the objective of the TOR.
- ZOA is responsible for hiring the consultant.
- Share existing relevant information such as SIPRA project documents, Political Economy Analysis of South Darfur etc.
- Provide timely, clear, and relevant feedbacks on the inception report and the draft and final conflict analysis report.
- Nominate for each State a focal person (from the ZOA/SIPRA staff) to be the linking pin and respondent for the lead consultant.
- Coordinate with relevant stakeholders to ensure adequate support is provided at national, state, locality, and village cluster levels.
- Release budget as per the agreed budget disbursement schedule
- Orient consultant on safeguarding policy

6. Timing and deliverables

Task	Timeframe	Delivery dates (2024)
Submit inception report including the methodology and tools, and time planning for the conflict analysis	5 days	April 28, 2024

Field work	7 x 5 days	5 May– June 21, 2024
Submit draft report	10 days	3 July 2024
Receive and incorporate feedback on draft report	5 days	8 July 2024 may
Validation session in collaboration with ZOA Peacebuilding expert (virtual or in-person to be determine)	1 day	11 July 2024
Validation session per each state as the situation permits. (Virtual in collaboration with ZOA Peacebuilding expert)	7 days	15-24 July 2024
Submit final report; the final report should respond to the questions and requirements mentioned in section 3. The consultant will deliver 1 report with specific chapters per state, and per state locality specific information. Total number of pages excluding annexes: 50	5 days	31 July 2025
Total days	68 days	

7. Consultant's Qualifications

The consultant must have undertaken similar works in Sudan and should have the following:

Academic Qualifications:

- The consultant must have a minimum of a master's degree in social sciences from an accredited institution in any of the field of Social Sciences, Humanitarian, Governance, Advocacy with a minimum of 5 years' proven experience of conducting similar assignments.

Experience Qualifications:

- Professional experience at a national and/or international level in gender and age-specific conflict analysis.
- A good understanding of Sudan's context socially, politically, and economically in addition to the community structure and setting, in particular Darfur and Kordofan region.
- Excellent track record in designing and conducting multi-methodological and interdisciplinary approaches, participatory research, and analysis.
- Ability to conduct high-quality conflict analysis, meet deadlines, and respond to requests and feedback provided timely and appropriately.
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills to clearly synthesize and present findings, draw practical conclusions, make recommendations, and prepare well-written reports promptly.

- Excellent facilitation skills, coordination, negotiation skills, and oral and written communication skills in English (particularly report writing) and spoken communication skills in Arabic.
- Demonstrated capacity to work both independently and as a team, in person and online.
- Network of experienced local consultants in the States in which the conflict analysis will be conducted.

8. Supervision and Management

ZOA will supervise and support with a conflict analysis team that will be assigned to this task at the Country Office level, South, East, and Central Darfur, White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, and South Kordofan. The consultant is expected to work and closely interact with the relevant staff assigned at the different levels on a continuous basis.

9. Quotation Requirements

The consultant is expected to submit:

- Technical proposal that includes: Workplan, CV of the lead consultant, explanation of why the consultant is best suited for this assignment, and proposed methodology. The consultant should provide a detailed budget for the assignment, separating professional fees, and administrative fees, indicating payment terms and the validity of the bid.
- Financial proposals: resources needed, associated costs, relevant taxes applicable, and payment schedule.
- 3 references and share a publication of previous work (in soft copy).
- If applying through a firm, the application should include the firm profile and evidence of tax payments.
- Consultant/s have an option to either partner with other consultant/s across the targeted localities.

10. Tender and Selection Criteria

- Tenders/offers will be accepted from consultants as well as from commercial companies, NGOs, or academics.
- The consultant is responsible for the assessment team and local consultants' travel itinerary and security in general.
- The selection of the best offer from the candidates will be based on a Combined Scoring method where the technical proposal will be weighted a maximum of 70 points and

combined with the price offer which will be weighted a max of 30 points out of 100 points.

The technical proposal evaluation will take into account:

- The consultant's background and qualifications 30%
- Relevant experience in sector and country 25%
- Proposed methodology 25%
- Timeliness of the work plan 20%

Deadline:

Applications should be submitted electronically to ZOA Sudan using the following e-mail address: **Joseph Ashong, joseph.ashong@zoa.ngo by 15th April 2024.**

Applications received after the deadline and information not requested will not be considered.