



Terms of Reference for:

Comprehensive Assessment on Public and Private Veterinary Service Delivery System in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States

For the Project Titled: Integrated Development and Resilience Initiative in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States (IDRI- SKBNS)

Duty Station: South Kordofan State (Abassiya, Rashad, and Abu-Jubeiha Localities) and Blue Nile State (Gissan, Wad- Almahi and Tadamon Localities) – VSF-Germany and its Partners for this Project have Offices in Damazine, Kadogli, Dalanj, and Abassiya to support the logistics arrangements for this study.

Duration of Appointment: Not to exceed 30 days

Expected Start Date: August 2022

1. Background

This project intends to improve the well-being and resilience of people affected by accumulated crises through a one health approach that aims to sustainably improve food and nutrition security, increase access to WASH and health services, strengthen the target communities' NRM practice, and promote peaceful coexistence in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Most of the current interventions in the target states focus on providing humanitarian assistance, even though this is relevant and needed, however there is a pressing need to consider recovery interventions so as to promote dependency reduction and increase resilience of the communities to withstand future shocks. VSF-G and partners have established presence in the target areas and (based on their expertise) have been implementing multi-sector and multi actor relief projects addressing FSL, WASH, Health, Nutrition, Protection and Education needs of the target people. So, this project builds on the assessment results of VSF-G and partners on prioritized needs for intervention in the target areas, and lessons learned from previous and ongoing interventions. The security situation has been mostly stable in the localities targeted by the project; which is conducive to introduce development programs, and it also enables VSF-G and partners to closely manage implementation of the project activities. Additionally, the political transition is supportive of implementing development programs, as well as the project is in line with the national and state-level strategic objectives. The protracted conflict and the deterioration of the macroeconomic situation in Sudan have negatively affected the capacity of poor households to secure their basic needs such as food, health, shelter, education and protection. In addition, the limited access to livelihood opportunities, increased risks of poverty, social exclusion and violent conflict. The local capacities and infrastructure in the target areas are limited, deteriorated and require strengthening and rehabilitation to cope with the high demand on the available services and resources. The project will enhance resilience through a one health approach and contribute to a humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Sudan through performing the following: implementing a multi sector project to provide holistic response to

the needs and priorities of the target communities; establishing a strong project management structure; sharing experience and expertise among VSF-G and partners to effectively and efficiently address identified needs; and by accounting for the considerable change in the operational context (political and economic) while developing this project (opportunities and challenges).

Overview of the Project Results, Indicators, Targets and Activities Relevant to the Intended Study

| Project Result Statements | Indicators | Targets | Activities |
|--|---|--------------------|--|
| Project Goal: The overall objective of the project is to improve the well-being and resilience of people affected by accumulated crises through a one health approach that aims to sustainably increase food and nutrition security, improve access to WASH and health services, strengthen the target community NRM practice, and promote peaceful co-existence in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States | | | |
| Outcome 1: The food and nutrition security of conflict-affected communities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States has improved through increased availability, access to and utilization of food, and rebuilt sustainable and resilient livelihoods | 1.1. 80% of smallholder farmers/pastoralists in the target areas (at least 50% women) who state that they have increased their production by 30% through utilization of the provided support package by the end of the project duration | 80% | |
| | 1.2. Decrease of malnutrition prevalence rates among the target communities (GAM below 5%) by the end of the project duration (BL data TBD, as at June 2021: BN: 5.31%, SK: 5.08%) | GAM < 5% | |
| | 1.3. 1,000 vulnerable people (including 5% disabled) who are employed/practicing IGAs after participation in a vocational training/micro-grant/IGA program | 1608 | |
| Output 2.2: Target pastoral and agro-pastoral communities' access to veterinary services have improved as a result of the project interventions | 2.2.1 Number of rehabilitated and equipped veterinary facilities (station clinics/centers, mobile clinics, private veterinary pharmacies) | 4 | A2.2.0 Conduct comprehensive assessment on public and private veterinary service delivery system in the two states |
| | 2.2.2 Number of farmers and pastoralists having access to veterinary services for their livestock | 60 | A2.2.1 Rehabilitation and equipping of 6 animal health facilities A2.2.2.1 Support 4 private |

| Project Result Statements | Indicators | Targets | Activities |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| | 2.2.3 Number of livestock treated and vaccinated through supported veterinary facilities | 500,000 | veterinary pharmacies/centers through competitive cost share modality A2.2.2.2 Support the line ministry with two pilot mobile vet clinics mounted on land cruiser vehicle and pro-vision of equipment and links with the 4 supported private veterinary pharmacies A2.2.3 Training of 30 veterinary staff on epizootics control and disease surveillance A2.2.4 Provide logistics and technical support for strategic livestock vaccination campaign to vaccinate 500,000 heads of livestock through cost recovery mechanism |

1.1. Overview of the Intended Veterinary Service Assessment

The project will conduct a comprehensive assessment on public and private veterinary service delivery system in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile States through an expert consultant to identify existing capacities, challenges and opportunities to build on. This assessment will contribute to inform project planning and implementation in terms of selection of approaches/modalities, to support sustainable animal health service delivery system in the two states. The assessment involves secondary review of quantitative and qualitative data, service mapping, interviews of key informants, focus group discussions, and direct observation for qualitative data collection.

2. Objectives of the Assessment

- 2.1. To map and determine the human, physical and financial resources available to effectively provide veterinary services to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the two states (both public and private)
- 2.2. To assess the capacity of the technical authority to address current and new veterinary challenges based on scientific principles, including: preparedness, prevention, detection and control of animal diseases, addressing veterinary public health risks (e.g. zoonoses), food safety, and improving animal welfare
- 2.3. To analyze the sustainability of veterinary services delivery in terms of existence of well established:
 - Cost recovery mechanisms/revolving funds to support public veterinary service provision; and

- Links between public veterinary authorities and non-government stakeholders (private veterinary practitioners/pharmacies/organizations/etc.) to support the development of the livestock sector
- 2.4.** To explore challenges and opportunities for strengthening sustainable veterinary service provision systems in the two states

3. Scope of the Assessment (i.e. key assessment areas/topics)

- 3.1.** Mapping of existing public veterinary facilities (i.e. including the Directorate of Animal Resources and its different departments, and different representation of Animal Resources and other government veterinary facilities existing at the different local levels), considering the following elements:
- Professional and technical staffing
 - Education and training of veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals
 - Current status of physical structures and assets (i.e. equipping)
 - Management of veterinary facilities (policies, standard operating procedures, systems, etc.)
 - Operational and emergency funding (i.e. cost recovery, etc.)
 - Services provided and catchment population
- 3.2.** Mapping of existing private veterinary facilities (i.e. private veterinary pharmacies, etc.), considering the following elements:
- Professional and technical staffing
 - Education and training of veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals
 - Current status of physical structures and assets (i.e. equipping)
 - Management of veterinary facilities (policies, standard operating procedures, systems, etc.)
 - Funding sources and financial sustainability
 - Services provided and catchment population
- 3.3.** The existence of, and institutional capacity, at the state and locality level, to perform the following:
- Emergency preparedness and response
 - Surveillance and early detection
 - Veterinary laboratory diagnosis
 - Animal production food safety
 - Monitoring and reporting (i.e. existence of a system)
- 3.4.** Numbers, functionality and follow-up of veterinary paraprofessionals at rural community level (i.e. community-based animal health workers)
- 3.5.** Links and coordination mechanisms between key veterinary stakeholders including UN agencies, NGOs, and engagement with the private sector
- 3.6.** Key rules and regulations for veterinary authorization and collaboration between public and non-governmental stakeholders (private sector, NGOs, etc.)

4. Duty Station

The main duty stations will be Damazine and Abassiya in Blue Nile and South Kordofan States, respectively. The consultant is expected to carry out the assessment in Damazine, Wad-Almahi, Gissan, Tadamon, Kadogli, Abassiya, Rashad, and Abu-Jubeiha Localities. VSF-G has offices in Damazine, Dalanj, and Abassiya as well as our partners have offices in Kadogli; which the consult can utilize in order to carry out his/her plan for the baseline study.

5. Process of the Assignment

| No | Activity | Key outputs |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Preparation by the consultant and his/her team and the field team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of assignment methodology Development of the work plan (i.e. schedule) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment methods and instruments developed (e.g. Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Key Informant Interview (KII), Direct Observation (DO), checklist, etc.) Assessment work plan developed |
| 2 | Validation of the assignment methodology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assignment instruments and work plan finalized in consultation with VSF-G |
| 3 | Field work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out project site visits to perform data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented FGDs, KIIs, DO, etc. |
| 3 | Data analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured and interpreted data used to draft the assessment report |
| 4 | Submission of draft report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report delivered to VSF-G for appraisal and comments |
| 5 | Submission of final report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report delivered to VSF-G (i.e. with VSF-G inputs reflected) |

6. Assignment Deliverables

The consultant will be responsible to provide the following deliverables:

- 6.1. Inception report with the assignment methods, tools for data collection and work plan proposal;
- 6.2. The assessment draft reports (one for Blue Nile and one for South Kordofan);
- 6.3. The final reports in hard and soft copies; and
- 6.4. High quality photographs documenting the study process.
 - The reports should be submitted in English language and should be of high quality to share with donor and interested third parties.
 - Each report of maximum 30 pages in word format submitted within two working days after receiving feedback on the draft report and incorporating VSF-G comments
 - The reports should be structured to address the four main objectives for this assessment; and to reflect findings that are relevant and useful for the project implementation and decision making.

7. Tasks of the Consultant

- 7.1. Review and analyse secondary data;
- 7.2. Develop appropriate methods and tools that encourage participation;
- 7.3. Develop a realistic sampling technique;
- 7.4. Perform data collection from a representative sample;
- 7.5. Documentation of the assignment process (i.e. photographs, videos, etc.);
- 7.6. Perform data gathering, structuring and interpreting;
- 7.7. Prepare the draft and final reports; and
- 7.8. Present and discuss the results of the assignment.

8. Timeframe for the Assignment

The actual duration of the assignment will be determined based on the approved plan of the consultant. The overall duration of the assignment, including the submission of the final report should not exceed 30 days and should be accomplished by **mid-September, 2022**.

9. Profile of the Consultant

The assignment will be contracted to a consultant with experience and capacity to carry out similar assignments, including the following:

- 9.1.** A university degree at the post-graduate level in veterinary medicine, public health, health systems, or other relevant field of study;
- 9.2.** He/she should possess relevant experience and a record in carrying out similar assignments, in Sudan or similar context;
- 9.3.** He/she should have experience in conducting focus group discussions, key informant interviews and surveys;
- 9.4.** He/she should have excellent communication, analytical and report writing skills (in English); and
- 9.5.** He/she should be comfortable with the necessary computer skills.

10. Consultant Proposal

Potential consultants should review this ToR and develop a proposal that outlines appropriate methodology, tentative duration of the study exercise, logistical requirements for the study and the overall cost broken down into components. Specifically, the proposal should contain three main elements:

- 10.1.** Technical design;
- 10.2.** Financial offer;
- 10.3.** An Annex section should include the consultant resume and other relevant documents including qualifications, recommendation letters, etc.

The technical and financial proposals will be used as a basis for the preparation of the contract between VSF-G and the consultant.

11. Price Proposal and Schedule of Payment

The consultancy fee will be determined on a lump sum basis. The lump sum amount must be all-inclusive and the contract price must be fixed regardless of changes in the cost components. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), travel fees to the duty station and the field locations and accommodation will be included in the lump sum. The payment will be made at two phases.

- 40% upon signing the contract
- 60% upon completion of the assignment and acceptance of the final report by VSF-G

The consultant is obliged to pay tax for government from the total amount of agreement as per the working income tax policies and procedures of the government of Sudan.

12. Assessment in-Kind Provisions by VSF-G

- 12.1. Project documents;
- 12.2. Mapping of the project sites and target communities; and
- 12.3. Briefings as required.

13.Interactions/Communication:

The consultancy team will have interaction with the following entities in terms of logistical support, data sourcing and political and administrative access:

- 13.1. VSF-Germany country and field office staff;
- 13.2. State Humanitarian Aid Commission;
- 13.3. State Directorate of Animal Resource; and
- 13.4. Community leaders.

14.Application

Interested and qualified candidates should send a cover letter responding to the Terms of Reference that includes CVs, and proposals including work plan and a budget to: khartoum@vsfg.org CC. adil.bushra@vsfg.org, esmael@vsfg.org, eiman.ahmed@vsfg.org, sudanhr@vsfg.org and osman@vsfg.org indicating the title of the assessment in the subject line. **The deadline for the application submission is August 4, 2022.**

15.Award of the Contract/Award Criteria

The contract will be awarded to the candidate (bidder) whose proposal obtains the highest cumulative marks (points) when the marks obtained in technical and price proposals are aggregated together.

16.Annexes

- 16.1.** Annex (A): Assessment Report Format

Annex (A): Assessment Report Format

- i. Cover page
- ii. Executive summary
- iii. Contents
- iv. List of abbreviations and acronyms
- v. List of figures
- vi. Introduction
- vii. Methodology
- viii. Findings
- ix. Conclusion and recommendations
- x. Annexes:
 - a) Maps of study locations
 - b) Study schedule
 - c) Instruments and data collection tools
 - d) Lists of respondents and study participants
 - e) Etc.