# RFP. DCC Project

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**SCOPE OF WORK FOR****: Provision of Climate Change information to Smallholder farmers in DCC targeted locations in Blue Nile region, Sudan**

**3.1 Overview SOW** **Objective:** To provide and implement a climate information service or product solution that will equip smallholder farmers in Blue Niles states with location specific and timely advice to improve productivity and climate resilience, enabling them to better prepare, protect and manage their farms. The solution may incorporate early warnings related to flood, drought, pests like locusts, worms etc and other potentially harmful climate events that can negatively affect crops.

**Key Activities**: Enter into agreements with partnering organizations providing the source weather data and the distribution platform to disseminate the information. Implement the service providing climate information in the Arabic language to smallholder farmers in Blue Nile states. It is envisioned this would be made available to them via an application on mobile phones.

1. Integrate the weather data source into the delivery mechanism.

2. Beta test the solution with a subset of smallholder farmers from the targeted areas.

3. Address and resolve any issues identified.

4. Educate smallholder farmers on access to and use of the information.

5. Promote widespread adoption and use in the targeted areas.

**Targeted localities** in Blue Nile Region: Kurmuk locality

**3.2 Scope of Work (for Service**)

**1. Background:**

ADRA Sudan is seeking to contract at minimum one provider with experience providing and implementing early warning and climate/weather dissemination services to the agricultural sector, expressly smallholder farmers in remote rural areas. While the ultimate aim of this partnership is to provide access to climate services to smallholder farmers in Blue Nile Region, it is acknowledged that this service to our knowledge does not presently exist in Sudan. Therefore, the successful RFP respondent must, through an agreement reached directly by them with a data source provider and a distribution network, bring about the creation and implementation of the needed services.

ADRA Sudan is aware that service providers have differing business models and thus, this SOW serves as a guide of services required for this call for proposal. ADRA will assess the appropriateness of the customized activities to achieving the program targeted goal against proposals that will apply for this purpose.

The applicant should be prepared to contribute at least 30% of the proposal budget; the higher the contribution, the higher the chance of selection.

**1) Background:**

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-Sudan), is implementing a DANIDA-funded program titled ‘Strengthening Community Empowerment and Engagement (SCEED) with a climate Change project/component titled (DCC) implemented in Blue Nile state/region.

ADRA is the global humanitarian organization active in the humanitarian sector in the Sudan for more than 4 decades. Through an international network, ADRA delivers relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 130 countries—regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, or religious association. By partnering with communities, organizations, and governments, ADRA is able to improve the quality of life of millions through 9 impact areas.

**2) Purpose / Project Description:**

The SCEED program’s overall goal is to reduce vulnerability of people affected by poverty, conflict and climate change, particularly women, improved their livelihoods and resilience leading to reduced competition over natural resources and enhanced engagement in development aimed at addressing root causes of why markets do not work well for the poor and smallholder farmers. The program aims at strengthening the supply systems and demand for goods and services that can support economic growth and improve social outcomes for smallholder farmers. Also the project includes dispensing and sharing updated climate change information with the smallholder farmers in the targeted location.

Climate weather services once established have the ability to scale both in terms of geographic reach and complimentary bundled services. For example, pest and disease information and market prices and linkages are often offered together with weather information. Scaling such services directly supports and facilitates the long-term development of the agricultural market systems which will bring more benefit to all parties involved in the system.

The program will seek service contracts with matching contributions from the climate services provider/s (those establishing the services).

Specifically, the program aims to achieve the following objectives:

**Objective 1:** Identify providers of information related to climate change, weather, and other agriculture early warning data and networks that can offer and supply Blue Nile Region and Sudan specific weather information. (Weather information that is not specific to the targeted areas is not of value to the smallholder farmers located there.)

**Objective 2:** dissemination of climate/weather and other agriculture early warning services information on mobile devices/ phones through messages.

**Objective 3:** Identify and work with selected project champions in the five (5) named locations in Blue Nile to promote widespread adoption of the use of the climate, weather and other agriculture early warning information service.

**Objective 4**: Run village awareness campaigns in Blue Nile Region

**Objective 5**: At least **1000** Male and female smallholder farmers in the targeted location reached with up to date climate change information.

**3) Project Awareness**

The vast majority of smallholder farmers in Blue Nile region have mobile phones, at least one per household. However, many of these devices are basic and older technology. The climate dissemination services application must be compatible and functional on older devices as smartphones due to cost are not widely possessed by this target group.

● Unstructured supplementary service data (USSD), a communications service controlled by mobile network operators, is a critical piece of infrastructure used to provide mobile digital services (Climate info.) on most phones, at low cost, and without requiring access to the user's SIM card.

● There should be no or very limited cost to the smallholder farmer using the application.

The literacy level (ability to read and write) and digital literacy (use of technology applications) varies between smallholder farmers, and within this group, between male and female smallholder farmers. It is important that Climate change information services provided do not exclude individuals based on their literacy levels. Success is dependent on wide adoption and understanding of the information’s value.

**4) Proposed activities to be taken into consideration by the climate and other agriculture early warning information dissemination services applicants during its performance**

**1. Agricultural extension workers, field agents, community leaders, government officials, and smallholder farmers in the targeted areas.**

1.1. Hold focus group discussion with smallholder farmers and key informant interviews with agricultural extension workers in the targeted areas to learn what type of Climate info. related and agriculture early warning information currently exists, how they access it and how they use it. (Are formal/informal local social networks the source of weather information or is any form of communications technology being utilized?)

1.1.1. What weather information and early warning systems are useful to smallholder farmers to make production decisions?

1.1.2. How can they use this information to improve agricultural performance?

1.2. Document findings from the focus group discussions to determine requirements for proposed solutions. For example, how many farmers have a phone or is a smartphone or tablet required at the village level, where is the nearest weather station data being collected, etc. Do female smallholder farmers have access?

1.3. Identify the most receptive and eager villages to pilot proposed solutions and act as champions for promoting wider adoption.

1.4. Educate stakeholders (incorporating learnings from focus groups) on benefits of using climate related and early warning systems information. There can be no real benefit to smallholder farmers if they can’t link the weather and early warning information provided to opportunities or threats and take action.

1.5. Train smallholder farmers in cooperatives, agricultural extension workers and other stakeholders on understanding the weather and early warning information related information provided and using the solution.

1.6. Promote the system through radio talk shows and adverts, monitor and report on adoption.

**2. Establish a USSD system or platform to deliver climate, weather and other agriculture early warning system to farmers**

2.1. Establish an information delivery service embedded in existing local telecom networks

2.2. Obtain approval from national weather services and Ministry of agriculture and natural resources for the information delivery service

2.3. Pilot and modify the information delivery system in Blue Nile region to ensure appropriate user experience with special consideration to female users

2.4. Develop partnerships with right business partners for sustainability of the information service

**3. Enroll at least 3000 subscribers (smallholder farmers) in the targeted locations to the service.**

3.1. Deliver location-specific and reliable weekly weather information to 3000 farmers in project targeted locations between March and end of November 2024. Scale up of this service in Blue Nile State may be funded through another entity

3.2. Deliver early warning agriculture information such as large-scale crop pest and disease outbreaks, floods, dry spells, among others to 3000 farmers in Blue Nile region in case they occur between mid-May and end of October

**5) Expected Outputs from the proposal**

1). 5 focus group discussion with smallholder farmers and 10 key informant interviews with agricultural extension workers in the targeted areas

2). 1 report documenting the findings from the Focus Group discussions and Key Informant Interviews

3). Digital climate and early warning information services established and implemented/operational

4). 10 smallholder farmers in cooperative leaders and 10 agricultural extension workers/other relevant stakeholders trained on

(a). the importance of using and

(b). understanding the weather and early warning information related information provided and using the solution. Attendance to be segregated by gender

5) 2 radio talk shows held, 10 radio adverts and 5 village sensitization sessions held to promote on climate information services

6) 3,000 smallholder farmers in the project targeted villages in Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile region, receive climate and weather information **weekly** for 10 months between mid-June 2024 and mid-April 2025.

7) 3,000 smallholder farmers in targeted villages receive early warning information between mid-May and end of October on extreme climate, weather, crop occurrences if they occur. This will be billed as per actual.

8) Report and graphics detailing progress over project period. How many subscribed over a time period and how many are actually using the service. Need a baseline to show impact.

**6) Eligibility of Climate Services Provider, only businesses/companies which meet the criteria below qualify to be considered.**

1. Must be a legally registered company
2. Must have been operating in Africa for at least 2 years.
3. Must have been engaged in providing climate services and agriculture early warning services to smallholder farmers for a minimum of 2 years
4. Proven ability to implement climate and other agriculture early warning services for smallholder farmers
5. Evidence of existing relationships with source data and networks would be an added advantage.
6. Willing to contribute to the cost of establishing the climate services to areas targeted by the SCEED program, DCC project.
7. Having proven ability to deploy climate services in remote rural areas.
8. Must show willingness to employ additional strategies to promote women’s access to the service

**Other:** ADRA Sudan will also consider other factors such as:

1. Institutions with demonstrated specific efforts, tools and capacity to serve women clients.
2. Demonstration of creativity and technology in improving access and reducing operational costs in rural areas

**7. Attachments to the Tender Package Attachment 2 – Financial Offer**

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| **Description** | **Unit** | **QTY** | **Unit cost (US$)** | **Total cost (US$)** | **Company Contribution**  **(US$)** | **ADRA Contribution**  **(US$)** |
| **1. Educate agribusiness field agents, community leaders, government officials, and smallholder farmers in the targeted areas.** | | | | |  |  |
| 1.1 Hold focus group discussion with smallholder farmers and key informant interviews with agricultural extension workers | Locality | **1** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2 Identify the most receptive and eager villages to pilot proposed solution and act as champions for promoting wider adoption. | Village | **1** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3 Educate stakeholders on benefits of using climate related information and on understanding the weather-related information provided and using the solution (9 sessions with cooperatives and 1 in BN region -level stakeholders). | Sessions | **10** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.4 c. Village road drives | Sensitization | **10** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.5 Radio talks | session | **2** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.6 Radio message | message | **10** |  |  |  |  |
| **Other additional activities which the company deems critical for success of this intervention can be included below. Add more rows if needed** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **2. Establish a USSD system or platform to deliver climate, weather, and other agriculture early warning system to farmers** | | | | |  |  |
| 2.1 Establish an information delivery service embedded in existing local networks | Digital service channel | **2** |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2 Obtain approval from national weather services and Ministry of agriculture and natural resources for the information delivery service | Meetings | **2** |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3 Pilot and modify the information delivery system to ensure appropriate user experience | Villages | **2** |  |  |  |  |
| 2.4 c. Village road drives | Sensitization | **10** |  |  |  |  |
| 2.5 Develop partnerships with right business partners for sustainability of the information service | Partnerships | **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **Other additional activities which the company deems critical for success of this intervention can be included below. Add rows as needed.** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **3. Enroll 1,000 subscribers (smallholder farmers) to the service.** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.a. Weather information delivered to 3,000 farmers twice a week/SHF for 10 months | SMS alerts | **240,000** |  |  |  |  |
| 3.b. Early agriculture warning / extreme occurrence alerts information if disasters occur (3times/month/SHF) | SMS alerts | **90000** |  |  |  |  |
| **Other additional activities which the company deems critical for success of this intervention can be included below. Add rows as needed.** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **4. Other Required costs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Totals** |  |  |  |  |  |  |