

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment South Darfur State, Sudan



September 2025

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1. Background and rationale

South Darfur, with its capital Nyala, remains one of the epi-centers of Sudan's ongoing humanitarian crisis. The state has been severely affected by the conflict between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with repeated airstrikes and ground clashes disrupting civilian life and humanitarian access. Recently, on February 2025, an airstrike hit Nyala, killing and injuring civilians (Human Rights



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Watch, Feb 2025), and on 30 August 2025, another strike targeted a Nyala clinic, killing patients and volunteers (OCHA Access Snapshot, Aug 2025). These attacks illustrate the persistent insecurity and direct targeting of vital infrastructure in the state. One in five of the nearly 9.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) nationwide as of July–August 2025 originated from South Darfur (IOM/DTM Mobility Updates 20–21, Jul–Aug 2025).

As of August 2025, an estimated 24.6 million people across Sudan were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity (WFP Sudan, Aug 2025). Famine conditions were confirmed in 2024, and famine-risk persists into 2025, particularly in Nyala Janoub and Nyala Shamal (UNHCR/IPC Update, Apr 2025). Recent SMART surveys in South Darfur provide strong evidence of household food insecurity where in Kateila and El Salam, dietary diversity among young children was critically low, with only 6–20% meeting Minimum Acceptable Diet standards (Kateila SMART Survey, Mar 2025; El Salam SMART Survey, Feb 2025). Across multiple localities including Nitega, Damso, Buram, Kabum, Sharg Aj Jabal, and Tulus, surveys consistently reported poor dietary diversity, widespread reliance on markets, and coping strategies such as reducing meal frequency and food quality (Nitega SMART Survey, Jul 2025; Damso SMART Survey, Feb 2025; Buram SMART Survey, Feb 2025; Kabum SMART Survey, Mar 2025; Sharg Aj Jabal SMART Survey, May 2025; Tulus SMART Survey, Jul 2025).

Malnutrition levels in South Darfur remain high, mirroring trends across Darfur, with UNICEF noting that more than 100,000 children treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) nationwide by April 2025 (UNICEF SitRep, Apr 2025). Recent SMART surveys across South Darfur confirm a nutrition crisis well above emergency thresholds in several localities. GAM prevalence ranged from 9.4% in Buram to over 21% in El Salam and Kateila, with SAM levels peaking at 5.1% in Damso and above 4% in Kateila and El Salam. Chronic malnutrition is also widespread, with stunting affecting up to 36% of children in Sharg Aj Jabal and over 30% in Tulus, while underweight prevalence exceeded 20% in multiple sites (Nyala North, Kabum, Nitega). Morbidity rates were consistently high, with around 50–60% of children reporting illness in the two weeks prior to surveys, and infant and young child feeding indicators showed poor dietary diversity and low minimum acceptable diet levels across all assessed localities.

WASH conditions in South Darfur remain highly inadequate, compounding the health and nutrition crisis. Across localities covered through the SMART surveys, fewer than half of households have access to improved drinking water, and sanitation coverage is critically low (20–30% in most areas). Open defecation is widespread, and hygiene practices are poor, with handwashing rates often below 20%. These deficits, coupled with reliance on unsafe water sources, directly contribute to the high morbidity rates reported in SMART surveys, particularly diarrheal disease and ARI among children under five (SMART survey reports in references).

1.1. Problem Statement

Despite ongoing humanitarian interventions, South Darfur continues to face acute and overlapping crises that threaten the survival and dignity of millions. Conflict and insecurity have devastated livelihoods, displaced hundreds of thousands, and destroyed essential services, with Nyala and surrounding localities experiencing repeated airstrikes and restricted humanitarian access. Displacement pressures remain extreme, with South Darfur accounting for a significant share of Sudan's nearly 9.9 million IDPs (IOM/DTM,





Jul–Aug 2025), straining already scarce resources in host communities. Food insecurity has reached catastrophic levels, with famine-risk projected in multiple localities (UNHCR/IPC Update, Apr 2025), while high levels of malnutrition among children highlight both immediate life-saving needs and longer-term developmental risks (UNICEF SitRep, Apr 2025). Health and WASH services are critically under-resourced, leaving populations vulnerable to preventable disease outbreaks (OCHA Access Snapshot, Aug 2025), and protection risks; particularly gender-based violence and psychosocial distress continue to rise amidst lawlessness and impunity (OHCHR Report, Sept 2025). Humanitarian pipelines are collapsing due to funding shortfalls, and ration cuts have worsened the coping burden on displaced and host families (Reuters, Apr 2025). Without reliable, multi-sector evidence to inform prioritization and targeting, humanitarian actors risk insufficient, misaligned, or delayed responses. A dedicated Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) in Buram, Gereida, Tulus and Shattaya localities in South Darfur is therefore necessary to provide current, localized data to guide strategic planning, ensure efficient resource allocation, and strengthen ECHO-funded responses.

1.2. Description of task

The assignment is to conduct a multi-sectoral assessment of key humanitarian needs in the Health, Nutrition, Water Access, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), and Protection. In addition to sectoral needs, the assessment will apply the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) to systematically identify and analyze environmental risks and sensitivities related to humanitarian interventions particularly in WASH and FSL interventions. This assignment will encompass the assessment design including the development of an inception report, data collection, analysis and writing of the assessment report with NEAT+ results triangulated through the household survey, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). The final report will integrate both humanitarian needs and environmental risk considerations, providing actionable recommendations that are relevant, needs-based, and environmentally responsible in line with ECHO's Minimum Environmental Requirements.

1.3. Main objective

The main objective of this needs assessment is to identify and analyze the most pressing humanitarian needs and priorities of vulnerable populations in South Darfur, disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and status (refugee, returnee, and host community) across the critical sectors of Health, Nutrition, WASH, FSL, and Protection. The assessment will be conducted in Buram, Gereida, Tulus, and Shattaya localities in South Darfur providing evidence to inform the design of ECHO-funded programming, operational decision making and coordination with humanitarian clusters and government counterparts. The assessment will align with ECHO'S Key Outcome Indicators (KOIs) to ensure comparability. The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) will also be used to integrate environmental risk analysis into sectoral needs identification.

1.4. Needs Assessment Specific Objectives

1. To assess the availability, accessibility and quality of health services, disease burden and access to medicines and supplies aligned with ECHO Key Outcome Indicators (KOIs) for health.



2. To measure the prevalence and severity of acute and chronic malnutrition among children under five (5) and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and to evaluate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices aligned with ECHO Key Outcome Indicators for nutrition.
3. To determine household and community access to safe water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices and identify service gaps, aligned with ECHO Key Outcome Indicators for WASHs.
4. To analyze household food consumption, dietary diversity, livelihood opportunities, market functionality and household economic vulnerability including the use of coping strategies aligned with ECHO Key Outcome Indicators (KOIs) for FSL and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).
5. To assess protection risks including child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychological support needs and community safety concerns aligned with ECHO Key Outcome Indicators for Protection.
6. To apply the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT) in the targeted localities to screen for environmental risks and sensitivities particularly related to WASH and FSL and to propose mitigation strategies in line with ECHO's minimum environmental requirements.

Geographical Scope

The assessment will be undertaken in South Darfur in Buram, Gereida, Tulus and Shattaya localities in South Darfur.

2. Assessment Methodology

Method of delivery

The multi sector needs assessment methodology should include a review of secondary data as well as primary data collection (household survey, focus group discussions, observations, key informant interviews) and ensure the inclusion and mainstreaming of gender and disability issues. Data collection tools such as Kobo should be used. In the design of the data collection tools, the relevant ECHO key objective indicators should be taken into consideration.

Needs assessment components	Information needs	Proposed Methods
1. Household demographics, basic information and overall priority needs	▪ Including average household size, age, sex, disability and other chronic vulnerabilities, migratory status. ▪ Basic household economic information, including sources and scale of income, main livelihoods. ▪ Most critical household needs (across all sectors) ▪ Gender differences in decision making at household level. ▪ Family resources management and who is in control of family resources	▪ Household survey ▪ Secondary data review of Population data. ▪ Focus Group Discussions ▪ Key Informant Interviews
2. Health and Nutrition	▪ Access and availability of primary and secondary healthcare and gap analysis ▪ Overall assessment of the quality of health and nutrition services available. ▪ Priority Health and nutrition needs for the population	▪ Household Survey ▪ Secondary data review. ▪ Focus Group Discussions



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	Assessment of health infrastructure examining the availability and functionality of health centres, hospitals and related service delivery points.	- Key informant interviews. - Observation of sampled health facilities.
3. WASH	% of target population with adequate WASH services and hygiene practices % of targeted schools with year-round access to drinking water % of targeted health facilities with year-round access to drinking water % of water sources operational (at the time of the survey) % beneficiaries considering that their basic WASH needs are met % of the target households using basic drinking water services % of households effectively treating their drinking water - Identify short- and long-term WASH priority needs at the community and household level for communities in the targeted localities in South Darfur. - Identify any relationship between sanitation and hygiene interventions and health in the camps. - Identify women needs in terms of using latrines, collecting water, etc. and also Menstrual Hygiene management. - Other WASH actors working in each area and nature of assistance provided	- Household Surveys - Secondary data review - Focus Group Discussions - Key informant interviews. - Direct Observation of Community WASH infrastructure.
4. Food Security & Livelihood	- Household Access to basic needs Including food. - Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) index - Food Consumption Score (FCS). - What coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies have different people/households developed and how effective/damaging are these? - What are the opportunities and capacities for livelihood recovery within the local economy?	- Household Survey - Secondary data review - Focus Group Discussions - Key informant interviews.
5. Protection	- General protection: - Protection concerns - Identification of most vulnerable groups - Psychosocial well-being and mental health specialized services availability and gaps	- Household Survey - Secondary data review - Focus Group Discussions



	- Sexual and Gender based violence - Incidence of SGBV - Prevention and response mechanisms in place and gaps - Access to Services and gaps - Child Protection - Child-specific protection risks	
6. MPCA	- Household livelihoods and income sources - Expenditure patterns and prioritization of needs - Food security and nutrition - Access to cash or financial assistance - Availability and pricing of essential goods and services to determine whether cash transfers can meet basic needs - Market availability and functionality - Protection concerns and risks related to cash interventions - Gender and social dynamics related to cash distribution - Feedback mechanisms and community engagement - preferred by target beneficiaries - Potential impact of cash transfers - Availability of cash - Availability of financial institutions - Preferred modality of cash transfer	- Household Survey - Secondary data review - Focus Group Discussions
7.		

Mixed methods approach

Data analysis should include triangulation of data from primary and secondary sources wherever possible. The primary data should focus on both quantitative and qualitative sources (listed above) that provide information from various population and stakeholder perspectives; the secondary data will be drawn from a review of existing assessments, reports and other relevant documents from other key actors working in Sudan, and particularly the South Darfur. All secondary data should be vetted for quality and reliability.

Sampling

The consultant is expected to propose an appropriate sampling framework during the needs assessment design process. It is recommended to use a proportionate random sampling based on geographical areas with representation of gender. The sampling framework should seek to be representative of different social groups in the target area, considering age, gender, household status (host, IDP, refugee communities) migratory status and disability status.

Quantitative sample size should be computed with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of at least 10% across targeted areas. The inception report should elaborate a detailed description of the sampling method as well as the selection of the respondents which shall be a minimum of 520

respondents across the targeted localities. Qualitative data should be used to gather in-depth information on services and actors present in each location. The Consultant is expected to propose enough KII and FGDs to be conducted per location and cover all information needs. It is suggested that key informant interviews should be undertaken with knowledgeable community stakeholders, service providers (NGO or Government) and local authorities.

Data Analysis

The consultant should develop a data analysis template to allow key information needs (specified above) to be answered. The consultant is responsible for data cleaning and analysis of all data collected. Triangulation between different data sources and transparency regarding the limitations of the data should be noted wherever possible.

3. Management of the Assessment

Role	Assessment Phase	Responsibilities and tasks
Consultant	Planning	- Develop and submit proposals to undertake the assessment. - Attend inception meeting to discuss and generate a plan of action for the assessment. - Develop and submit an inception report outlining the assessment design including quantitative & qualitative methodology, sampling data collection tools and data analysis plan. Data collection tools must be developed in alignment with ECHO manuals. - Gather and incorporate feedback on tools from technical experts from WV Sudan. - Translation of tools into the local language - Pilot the designed tools before data collection
	Data Collection & Analysis	- Thorough and robust training of data collectors for both quantitative and qualitative data collection adapted from ECHO data collection manuals. - Supervise and assure the quality of the data collected - Conduct in-depth data analysis and interpretation of results
	Reporting, Validation & Follow up	- Draft the Needs Assessment report - Prepare PowerPoint presentations of the main findings - Finalize the report based on feedback from WV Sudan stakeholders - Submit a 2-page summary fact sheet to be disseminated to relevant stakeholders. - Submit other outlined deliverables

WV Sudan Team	Planning	- Contract third party to conduct assessment following technical and financial bid analysis - Provide assessment briefing, access to any secondary documents that may be useful - Provide feedback on methodology and tools proposed - Approve inception report
	Data Collection & Analysis	- Provide feedback and final approval on data collection tools - Hire enumerators and provide logistical support for the training of enumerators including hall hire etc. - Coordinate any logistics, including gaining Federal HAC approvals for data collection, provisions for enumerators, setting up FGD and KIIs. - Provide support for approvals as needed such as facilitation letters.
	Reporting, Validation & Follow up	- Provide feedback on draft assessment report - Review and approve final version of the report

4. Expected Outputs and Deliverables.

The Consultant will be expected to provide the following deliverables:

- **Data Collection Tools** (including all questionnaires, interview guides, focus group discussion guides, etc.) Tools are expected to be finalized after WV review and piloting. Data collection tools must align with ECHO manuals.
- **Data analysis plan & timetable**
- **In-depth thematic analysis** of qualitative and quantitative data according to focus of TOR
- **Facilitation of Training Event(s)** including enumerator training on tool use and ethics including child protection and informed consent.
- **Raw Data Files** including raw and cleaned datasets, audio files, transcripts/notes, codebook, etc. All data files to be uploaded to Kobo Toolbox should be translated into English.
- **Inception report** (including detailed methodology, sampling plan, comprehensive secondary data review and data collection tools)
- **Draft Report** using the provided template and closely following ECHO requirements and standards.
- **Final Report** incorporating WV Sudan and Germany for feedback. The final report should be provided in English and should be limited to 30-40 pages maximum.
- **Executive summary** of 2 pages.
- **A Findings Presentation** to the core proposal team which highlights the main results of the needs assessment.

WV Sudan legally owns all collected data, and the consultant is expected to hand over all data sets and notes of the interviews to the organization. The Consultant shall maintain confidentiality and protect all

information provided to him/her by WV Sudan, its employees, and beneficiaries. The consultant may only disclose the extent necessary to perform the assessment.

5. Child protection & data confidentiality

The consultant, along with all enumerators and sub-contractors, will be required to sign and follow World Vision International's child protection standards and protocols of behaviour, which will be provided to the research team selected.

The consultant must obtain consent from respondents ahead of any data collection exercise that involves surveys, FGD and KII. All primary data collected by this evaluation process is to remain confidential and not be shared with third parties.

6. Conflict of Interest

The service provider must be impartial and independent from all aspects of management or financial interests in the entity being monitored. During the tenancy period, the evaluator should not be employed by or have any financial or close business relationships with any of the entities being assessed. The service provider should declare any potential conflicts of interest which may affect or compromise their ability to conduct neutral and independent service.

Such conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to:

- Business interests in a community included in the study.
- Financial, family, political and business affiliation with local authorities included in the study

In such a scenario or similar, the service provider is expected to declare the conflict of interest to the contractor who will present to WV Sudan. Declaration of conflict of interest will not be viewed negatively but will be considered in the programming of activities. Failure to declare a conflict of interest may be considered and may lead to a review of the expected deliverables from the service provider, thus with a possible negative impact on the contract of the service provider.

7. Assessment schedule

No	Description	Timeline	Responsible	Status
1	Drafting the Terms of reference ToR share it with WV Germany for approval	30 th September 2025	WV Sudan MEAL	Pending
2	sharing the ToR with Supply chain for external advertisement	1 st -10 th October 2025	Supply Chain & MEAL Teams	Pending
3	design or adapting of data collection tools to be shared with Government for approval	10 th to 31 st October 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending
4	Interpretation of the survey tools into Arabic language	10 th to 31 st October 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending
5	Upload of data collection tools to Kobo Toolbox	10 th to 31 st October 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending
6	Hiring of the enumerators	10 th to 31 st October 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending
7	Training of data collectors on data collection process Baseline survey protocols	10 th to 31 st October 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending



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8	Field data collection in sampled locations	1 st to 14 th November 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending
9	Data cleaning and analysis	20th Nov 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending
10	Drafting the final needs assessment report and sharing it with team for inputs	25 th November 2025	Consultant in collaboration with MEAL Team	Pending

The consultant or consultancy company is expected to provide the detailed timeline of all the assessment activities aligned to the above schedule as part of the proposal submission.

8. Required qualifications and expertise of the consultant

- Registered legally as a company in Sudan, and or permitted to work within the Country.
- A minimum of 5 years of demonstrated professional experience delivering M&E services in the humanitarian sector.
- Previous experience in monitoring, evaluation or research exercises in Sudan, including primary data collection.
- Have proven experience in conducting qualitative and quantitative multi-sectoral needs assessments and have access to technical expertise related to sectors under study.
- Proven capacity to engage an experienced team to carry out data collection.
- Have a good knowledge of data collection software (such as Kobo, SMAP) and statistical packages (such as SPSS) and advanced analysis skills
- Have excellent report writing skills
- Have excellent written and spoken English and Arabic speaking staff on the team.
- Hold a minimum educational qualification equivalent to a master's degree in a relevant field.
- Willing to avail senior management to discuss progress against contract deliverables.
- To provide a sample of similar work conducted.

9. Application

The consultant should submit a proposal comprising of the following:

- A technical proposal which indicates how the consultant is going to undertake the activities highlighted in the ToR, indicative budget with an initial indication of the enumerators and timeframe required.
- A capacity statement detailing the consultant's ability to deliver a quality needs assessment report within the given timeframe, including an overview of relevant work and technical experience
- At least two samples of previous relevant works undertaken, including at least one assessment report that was 100% led by the lead consultant
- Contact details for two references for similar assignments done not more than two years ago
- CVs of the key personnel on the evaluation team
- A financial budget with explanations about the line items
- Any appendices the consultant sees as relevant to the application.



10. Consultant evaluation criteria

- The proposal will be evaluated against a combination of technical and financial criteria (combined scoring method). The maximum score is 100%, out of which technical criteria are weighted at 70% and financial criteria at 30%. The technical evaluation will include the following:
- Educational and Technical Background as requested: (20%)
- Experience in conducting similar monitoring and evaluation and needs assessment exercises in Sudan (25%)
- Overall methodology: (35%)
- Robust quality assurance mechanisms (ensuring independence of data collected) (15%)
- Fluency in English: (5%)

1. References

SMART Survey Report 2025

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HSzWzwpLdd13aRonTn-Zw50XNKAAoAPAf?usp=drive_link

SMART Survey Report 2024

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/165ytFNtBS-y7SnGS19XTixP9gK2uEvXO?usp=drive_link

Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) [EN/ES/FR]

- [The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool \(NEAT+\) \[EN/ES/FR\] - World | ReliefWeb](#)

1. Bid Submission Details

- Deadline for submission: [6th October 2025]
- Submission method: Email to [scm_sudan@wvi.org] OR physical submission to [Port Sudan Office]
- Contact for Admirative inquiries: [Email: Ibrahim_Bakhit@wvi.org & Tel: +249900934218]
- Contact for Technical inquiries: (1) [Email: adam_edrees@wvi.org & Tel: +249900747837]
(2) [Email: tonny_omondi@wvi.org & Tel: +249 900 945 536]

2. Submission of Proposals

- Technical Proposals
- Financial Proposal

3. Address your Technical and Financial Proposals to

Procurement Committee Chair
World Vision International Sudan