

Terms of Reference (TOR) for conducting a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Assessment and Implementation Plan for Transforming Household Resilience Through Inclusive Economic Development in South Sudan (THRIVE) Consortium Programme in the eight (8) counties of Greater Upper Nile (GUN) in Ulang, Renk, Fashoda, Panyikang, Nasir, Akobo, Rubkona & Panyijiar, in South Sudan.

1. Introduction

This Terms of Reference (TOR) serves as a request for Expression of Interest (EOI) and proposals from potential firms or individual consultants interested in conducting a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Implementation Plan in the above earmarked counties in South Sudan. The purpose, scope and requirements of the planned study are herein explained.

2. THRIVE Background information.

The THRIVE programme aims to bolster resilience in conflict and climate-affected communities in the Greater Upper Nile (GUN) region. Targeting eight (8) priority counties in Upper Nile (Ulang, Renk, Fashoda, Panyikang, Nasir), Unity (Rubkona & Panyijiar), and Jonglei (Akobo) States over four years, THRIVE will reach approximately 120,000 households (105,000 direct beneficiaries and 15,000 indirect beneficiaries) with gender-responsive and inclusive livelihoods development, market system strengthening, financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, climate change adaptation, and social cohesion activities.

Led by GOAL, in partnership with Mercy Corps, CAFOD, and VSF Swiss, and our local implementing partners, the consortium boasts over ten decades of combined experience in GUN. We focus on fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development and building household resilience by leveraging our core expertise and experience in community-centred approaches, market systems development, financial inclusion, peacebuilding & social cohesion, DRR & climate change adaptation, and women's economic empowerment.

THRIVE's programme design is grounded in evidence from the consortium's deep experience and understanding of the South Sudan and other global operating contexts. The complex and interconnected challenges faced by communities in the target locations will be addressed

through tailored and integrated interventions which foster community ownership. Combining market systems development with locally led participatory approaches, THRIVE offers a unique solution to address the root causes of systemic challenges within target pastoral and agro-pastoral value chains, creating long-term and sustainable improvements in household resilience.

THRIVE's overall goal is for target households to achieve economic and food security, and improved resilience to conflict and climate shocks and stresses. Key outcomes envisaged as a result of the integrated intervention strategies include:

- Increased incomes among individuals and micro/small-scale businesses engaged in the fishing, livestock, and agro/non-timber forestry sectors.
- Improved food security among households targeted with livelihoods and women/youth empowerment activities.
- Strengthened disaster preparedness and coping capacities for climate and conflict shocks and stresses.
- Improved social cohesion and conflict resolution capacities among target communities.
- Women and youth economic empowerment, including financial inclusion and improved gender equality.

Aligning with the broader South Sudan Humanitarian & Resilience Programme (SSHARP) Theory of Change, THRIVE's Theory Of Change envisages that: IF markets in target agricultural systems critical to the target population are thriving, inclusive, diverse, competitive, and serve users, and IF women and youth are economically empowered to access sustainable market-oriented livelihoods opportunities within those systems, and their participation is valued by their communities, and IF communities dependent on those systems are able to mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of climate change and conflict shocks and stresses, and resolve conflicts peacefully, THEN target households and communities will be more resilient, live in harmony, have improved economic and food security, and reduced need for humanitarian assistance.

3. The main objective of the Climate Risk Assessment and Climate Management Plan

The main objective of conducting the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Assessment (during the inception phase of the THRIVE project) is to examine the existing early warning system in the THRIVE Programme locations at all levels (community, county, state,) and National Level. The implementation plan shall provide key recommendations and steps on the strengthening of EWS linked to the Climate Risk Assessment and climate risk management plan (CRMP). The strengthening/establishment of an early warning system by the programme is an adaptive measure for climate change, using integrated communication systems to help targeted communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events.

4. The specific objectives are as follows

4.1) To conduct a holistic multi-hazard early warning system in 8 counties of the THRIVE programme operational locations.

As informed by the Climate Risk Assessment and Climate Risk Management plan, a holistic early system for the THRIVE programme shall identify existing actors, stakeholders, humanitarian partners, community structures through a mapping exercise and status of the communication system to help targeted communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events.

4.2. To develop an Early Warning System Implementation Plan

Based on the outcome of the EWS assessment, an implementation plan shall be developed with key recommendations, entry point and measures that can be taken at household, community and organizational levels to strengthen. The THRIVE programme aims to strengthen/establish an effective EWS built upon four components: (i) hazard detection, monitoring and forecasting; (ii) analysing risks and incorporation of risk information in emergency planning and warnings; (iii) disseminating timely and “authoritative” warnings; and (iv) community planning and preparedness.

5. Expected Outputs

- Comprehensive EWS Report on the analysis and assessment of existing EWS in South Sudan with a special focus on Greater Upper Nile Region of THRIVE Programme operational counties

- Report for Recommendations for an EWS Protocol for hazards including drought, analysis of adaptation capacity and an Implementation Plan that clearly indicates improvements and actions required to strengthen EWS

6. Scope of work

The scope of the consultancy includes but is not limited to the following tasks:

- In consultation with the Project Team, prepare and submit an Inception Report which include, inter alia, details the methodology/ approach to the assignment and a work plan.
- Undertake a desk review of the project document and other relevant documents in the field of EWS, CCA, DRR
- Review the existing EWS at all levels (National, Regional and local) to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities for improvement.
- Review policies, rules and regulations for mainstreaming early warning information to assess and identify gaps and challenges in mainstreaming early warning information into public and private decision-making.
- Review and gather information on past, current and planned projects related to the EWS, including disaster risk management and risk reduction activities.
- Engage with both public and private institutions to determine the current state of the EWS, including equipment, telecommunications, databases, forecasting and monitoring products, advisories and communication of EWS information.
- Undertake consultative meetings with Disaster Risk Management Committees /Stakeholders as well as project beneficiaries on the functionality and effectiveness of the existing EWS
- Conduct consultations to determine how an EWS for drought and other shocks impacting the GUN region could be integrated and mainstreamed into existing National EWS .
- Based on the field visits, develop a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Community Based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS) including a poster to depict the mechanism and information flow.

- Review the capacities available at various public and private institutions, and identify capacities needed to support the institutions for long term monitoring and data management
- **Prepare a Draft Report** on the recommendations for an EWS . This should cover but not limited to the aspects of:

- a) Network design
- b) Technology/Equipment needed (should suit local conditions and circumstances)
- c). Estimated costs of any equipment proposed for use
- d) ‘Last mile’ connectivity of EWS – What communications and community tools (e.g. community mobilization methods), methods and processes are the most effective in accomplishing this?
- e) Dissemination of messages
- f). Possible private-public partnerships (for example mobile service providers) and advice on how best to integrate such a system with the existing national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) systems
- g) Identification of capacities required to improve existing EWS
- h) Training needs for capacity building
- i) Governance and institutional arrangements required to sustain EWS

6. Deliverables

The deliverables for this assignment, are derived from the scope of work as outlined in this Terms of Reference (TOR).

6.1) The consultant is expected to produce a **preliminary Inception report** and attend a **an in-person inception meeting** based on the understanding of the TOR and desk review. This report will inform the primary field **research methodology** and aims, providing a foundation for the subsequent phases of analysis. Following this, **a detailed work plan** must be developed. This work plan will outline the expected timeframes align methodological approaches, security and ethical considerations, and data collection tools to be employed in each planned activity.

6.2) A **draft report and power point presentation**. The draft should be structured according to an agreed-upon format and should reflect the comments and feedback received from THRIVE consortium management team and other relevant stakeholders This ensures that all

key insights and observations are considered and incorporated. In particular the report will have dedicated analysis for each of the eight counties and common issues across all counties.

6.3) Finally, the consultant will submit a 4-page executive summary and the final report in both digital and four hard copies (no more than twenty-five pages) to present the findings and methodology used in a language that is clear and accessible to non-research audience. The final report should be thoroughly edited, well-structured, and designed, ensuring clarity and conciseness by limiting itself to essential points. Detailed materials should be included as appendices. The report will be presented in English and should clearly articulate the main findings of the study, with clear unambiguous and actionable recommendations.

7. Methodology

Methodological thoroughness in this assignment will be highly valued to ensure the assessment is comprehensive and robust. The consultant is expected to develop an appropriate study design for the EWS assessment as part of the inception report. The THRIVE management committee will set up agreed key stages and milestones for timely feedback: validation and approval of the inception report, data collection tools, the final work plan, and methodology before the fieldwork phase.

Additionally, there should be a briefing by the consultant on the preliminary results and an opportunity for providing comments on the draft report and recommendations by THRIVE management before final approval. This will be agreed after the adoption of the methodology and workplan.

The THRIVE management team, provide relevant reference documents and other logistical support, access to structures and communities that the consultant (s) may need during the analysis.

In line with a participatory methodological approach and the scope for meaningful participation, opportunities for the involvement of partner organisations with lived experience in each county, and community members directly involved in the project, will be explored to complement the consultant methodology. This will be discussed and agreed at the inception meeting and aligned to the consultants work plan.

Selected consultant(s) will be expected to sign and abide by CAFOD values and key policies on Safeguarding. Selected consultant(s) will also be expected to make a commitment to the work over the full term of the project and to maintain their availability at key times.

All materials from the analysis will remain the property of THRIVE.

8. Timing and Reporting

The assignment is expected to start not later than **28th February 2025**. The final report must be submitted by **31st of March 2025**. It is foreseen that the analysis can take maximum of 30 days from the time of signing the contract and this is inclusive of inception, data collection and analysis, validation, and report finalization.

The following staff members of THRIVE will coordinate the consultancy.

Name	Position	Organisation	Email
Tichaona Mashodo	(Lead)	CAFOD	tmashodo@cafod.org.uk

The Consultant will report to and is accountable to **Tichaona Mashodo (CAFOD – Head of Programmes)**.

Quality assurance will be provided through THRIVE internal mechanisms. Quality assurance of evaluation products will take place for: Terms of Reference, Inception Report, methodology, draft, and final report.

9. Consultant's Competencies

The lead consultant is expected to hold a master's/ doctorate degree in Environment , Climate Sciences, Climate Change , Disaster Risk Reduction/Management, Development Studies, Social Sciences, or a related field, or equivalent experience, is required. The candidate must have a minimum of 7 years of progressively responsible experience in similar consultancies with demonstrable results. They should possess extensive and proven knowledge of gender, conflict, security, livelihoods, and environmental issues in South Sudan or comparable fragile contexts. The candidate must have a successful record in coordinating complex research processes across multiple locations in various counties. Strong expertise in qualitative research methods and qualitative data analysis is essential, along with a solid understanding

of conflict analysis approaches in fragile environments and community participatory methodologies. At least 5 years of experience in Research; Climate Change Adaptation, Vulnerability Assessment, DRM, NRM and Agriculture development planning; Demonstrated experience in DRR risk and vulnerability assessment & mapping, GIS applications; National and sub-National DRR planning, DRR and CCA policy development. Excellent analytical and reporting skills and fluency in written and spoken English are essential

10 Application Procedure

Interested consultants should submit their proposal (both technical and financial) as (detailed below) including updated CVs, Copies of certified sample reports for similar work and references in soft copy to ctpsupply@cafod.org.uk and cc syiey-puol@cafod.org.uk for inquiry only with subject line “**Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Assessment**” by the 18th of **February 2025** not later than **4:00 PM (Central African time)**. Proposals received after the deadline shall not be considered.

10.1 Technical Proposal

The **Technical Proposal** (not exceeding fifteen pages) should include:

- Organisational profile.
- Detail of previous experience of similar assignments with traceable references
- Proposed methodology for the delivery of assignment as outlined in the ToR.
- Proposed team composition, including qualifications and relevant experience of the audit team (please attach CVs).
- Proposed workplan with timelines
- Contact details of key persons.

10.2 The Financial Proposal should include:

- The all-inclusive fixed total professional fees supported by a breakdown of costs: daily rates and number of days to be spent on the consultancy; disbursements if any; any other related costs contributing to the overall total cost.
- The cost must include VAT price and payment terms. The financial proposal must be stated in USD (\$). The consultant proposal will be evaluated based on the technical proposal, financial proposal, and general understanding of the TOR requirements.

Confidentiality

All the information and approaches outlined in the proposal including the personal information of the consultant will be treated in strict confidence and remains the property of THRIVE.