



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TRACKING DOMESTIC, INGOs, DONORS AND UN AGENCIES EXPENDITURES ON NUTRITION IN LIBERIA

Action Against Hunger in Liberia is looking for a consultant to track Government, Donors, INGOs, and UN agencies expenditures for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes and activity interventions in 2017 and 2018 fiscal years.

PURPOSE

To create a tool that will allow the Liberia civil society to advocate for increased funding for nutrition activities and document the Government of Liberia (GoL) commitments to nutrition funding (e.g. Nutrition for Growth commitment, London, 2013).

BACKGROUND

Liberia is ranked 179/188 in the human development index and has a high rate of under-five mortality rate (120/1000)¹. At the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013, the Government of Liberia (GoL) committed to reducing the prevalence of stunting from 32% to 28% and wasting from 6% to 2% by 2020. While the nutritional status has considerably improved since 2010, the latest National Nutrition Survey (LNNS 2017) however shows a stagnation in the progress made, in particular in under-nutrition. The survey revealed an increase in prevalence of stunting from of 32% to 35% between 2013 and 2017². Furthermore, the 2017 NSS show increase in wasting to 5.1% and in underweight from 12.9% to 13.6%.

In addition, the 2017 NSS shows there is an improvement in the rates of Exclusive Breast-Feeding (EBF) from 32% before the EVD outbreak to 66.2%. However, the Government of Liberia (GoL) committed to increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding to 70% at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in 2013.

Furthermore, at the N4G summit in 2013, the GoL committed to increase the Government's financial allocation to nutrition and food security and creating a specific budget line for Nutrition in budgets of the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and other relevant Ministries. By joining the SUN Movement in 2014, the GoL has shown its commitments towards Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) which was soon reflected in the actions undertaken by the civil society. Since 2016 Liberia has an established SUN

¹ Human Development Report. Available at:

http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf (PDF). United Nations Development Programme, 2016.

² National Nutrition Survey, Ministry of Health and Sanitation and Action Against Hunger, 2017

CSP, which encompasses of national and international organizations working on nutrition security, including local community-based organizations and religious leaders.

The need for improved tracking of nutrition investments was recognized right at the beginning of the SUN Movement in the country. Tracking budgets is essential for policy makers, as well as for citizens and donors to realize how the country is coping with its commitments. The data from the recent NNS shows that the GoL needs to increase its nutrition investments in order to achieve its international commitments.

The Government needs reliable budget data to prioritize and plan expenditure, and to take sound decisions on finance allocation, disbursement as well as to monitor and evaluate policy implementation. In addition, budget tracking enables civil society to ask for more transparency of how the budgets are spent.

SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT

The scope of the project is to track the expenditure of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and UN Agencies that implement either nutrition specific or sensitive programmes. The Ministries of interest are: Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Commerce and industry, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection (MOGCSP), and the Environmental Protection Agency. For the UN agencies, this study should include UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO and FAO, UN Women, UN AIDS and shall also include development banks like African Development Bank and World Bank etc. The expenditure of these ministries have been tracked during last year's exercise and thus the purpose of this year budget tracking is to understand trends in nutrition sensitive and specific expenditures of the above mentioned ministries, INGOs(Concern WorldWide, AAH, SP, Med Corp and UN agencies).

Other objective identified in the scope of this project is to see the relation between budget expenditure and the policy priorities (are the funding targets met by the Government at national and international levels?). In addition, we aim to track how much the nutrition sensitive and specific interventions carried out by the relevant ministries are relying on national revenues as opposed to other sources of funding.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the project will highly depend on existing tools developed for budget tracking, which is the SUN Methodology – that consist of three steps. They include: (i) identification of nutrition activities, (ii) assessment of activities whether they are nutrition sensitive or specific and (iii) allocation of resources / expenditures (weighing). This methodology will be introduced to the consultant upon successful selection process.

Using budget tracking tools (Excel sheet + user guide) the consultant will be expected to update the tool, but for 2017 expenditure, in order to identify trends in nutrition expenditure. As the tracking tool is already existing (including formulas), the consultant is expected to collect the raw data from the following sources:

- Annual budget for payroll (public document – MoFDP website);
- Expenditure Report Accountant General Office (MoFDP);
- Local Government Finance Department;

Expected data and analysis for each Ministry and overall:

- Percentage (%) of nutrition specific expenditure in GDP;
- Percentage (%) of nutrition specific expenditure in GGE;

- Percentage (%) of nutrition sensitive expenditure in GDP;
- Percentage (%) of nutrition sensitive expenditure in GGE;
- Percentage (%) of nutrition specific expenditure per capita;
- Percentage (%) of nutrition sensitive expenditure per capita;
- Percentage(%) of the National Food Security and Nutrition Implementation Plan that was funded by Government (if any of such national plan);
- Percentage (%) of UN Agency spending on nutrition specific and sensitive
- Percentage of nutrition sensitive expenditure per region
- Other outputs discussed with the consultant and upon request;

Action Against Hunger will share the existing tools and the recent reports from sister country (Sierra Leone) with the consultant.

LOGISTICS AND PROCEDURE

All logistics related issues will be the responsibility of the consultant/consultancy firm.

TASKS

- Conduct interviews with the relevant persons that manage programmes related to nutrition in the key Nutrition line Ministries (MoHSMoA, MoE and MSWGA)
- Organize a meeting/workshop in partnership with Action Against Hunger and SUNCSAL and SUN Secretariat to announce the exercise to other relevant stakeholders for seeking their approval;
- Update the tool with new data;
- Organize a meeting/workshop to present the preliminary findings;
- Analyze findings, draw conclusions and formulate key recommendations indicating ways in which the budget can be made more responsive to current nutrition needs;
- Produce a report with analysis and recommendations;
- Disseminate findings to key stalk-holders

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The contract will be managed by Action Against Hunger in Liberia, and the study supervised by Action Against Hunger Advocacy Expert that is based in Sierra Leone with frequent visits to Liberia.

LOCATION

Monrovia, Liberia. A number of working days may be spent at the consultant's home base, if outside Liberia, as will be agreed and authorized by Action Against Hunger Liberia.

TIMEFRAME AND SCHEDULE OF WORK

This task is expected to last for 22 working days and should ideally be completed by end of April 2019.

EXPECTED OUTPUT (IN TERMS OF MATERIAL)

- A PowerPoint presentation presenting preliminary results/findings to relevant stakeholders during a validation meeting (before writing of the final report);

- **A final report of 30 pages max** (excluding annexes). This report should clearly state findings, conclusions and recommendations.
- The consultant is expected to **draft a policy brief** for further dialogue and dissemination of the results of the study.

PROFILE AND EXPECTED SKILLS

- Proven experience in conducting budget analysis in nutrition or other relevant sectors (health, food security, agriculture or WASH);
- Proven experience working with NGOs is beneficial;
- Proven ability to present written material in a clear, concise and engaging manner to a wide range of different audiences
- Excellent analytical skills and experience in quantitative data analysis;
- Familiarity with the Liberia context and/or the West Africa region would be an asset;
- Excellent English writing skills;
- Commitment to the values, vision and mission of Action Against Hunger;

APPLICATION

Interested candidates or firms are requested to send their applications including CV, an estimated budget (including daily rate) and preliminary consultancy proposal to Action Against Hunger at the following email address: cco@lr-actionagainsthunger.org by **25 January, 2019**. Qualified national applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. A financial proposition for the consultancy should include 5% of Tax. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.