



TERMS OF REFERENCE

for a consultancy to

Promote WASH' Nutrition in South Sudan

Background – Action Against Hunger in South Sudan

Action Against Hunger is a global humanitarian organization that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger. We save the lives of malnourished children. We ensure everyone can access clean water, food, training and healthcare. We enable entire communities to be free from hunger.

Action Against Hunger tackles the causes and effects of hunger and diseases that threaten the lives of vulnerable children, women and men. Established in France in 1979, we are a nongovernmental, non-political, non-religious, nonprofit organization.

We act wherever there are:

- 1) Natural or man-made disasters that threaten food security or result in famine.
- 2) Situations of social/economic breakdown, linked to internal or external factors that put people in extremely vulnerable positions.
- 3) Emergencies where survival depends on humanitarian aid.

Action Against Hunger acts either during the crisis through emergency interventions, or afterwards through rehabilitation and sustainable development programmes. We also intervene early to prevent certain high-risk situations. Our goal is to enable people to regain their autonomy and self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

At global level, as well as in various contexts, Action Against Hunger has been a leader in pushing the agenda to integrate WASH and Nutrition sectors more closely, through WASH in Nutrition strategies, and the publication of a WASH' Nutrition manual¹.

¹ WASH'Nutrition: A practical guidebook on increasing nutritional impact through integration of WASH and nutrition programmes, Action Against Hunger, 2017.

<https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/publication/2017/01/increasing-nutritional-impact-through-integration-wash-and-nutrition-programmes>

Action Against Hunger has been working in South Sudan since 1985, responding to both chronic and acute needs through an integrated strategy where nutrition, food security and livelihoods and water, sanitation and hygiene activities are reinforced to have a meaningful impact on community resilience. Currently Action Against Hunger has a coordination office in Juba and field bases in Malualkon in Northern Bar el Ghazal, Alek in Warrap and Old Fangak in Jonglei. In addition, we have an emergency nutrition surveillance and intervention team. This is a roving team that intervenes in areas where there are no static nutrition actors, particularly the Greater Upper Nile area.

Context:

With the signing of the peace agreement in August 2015 there was hope that there would be a reduction in armed conflict in South Sudan, providing humanitarian actors with more space to deliver assistance to those in need. Since the peace agreement was signed however, serious insecurity has affected a number of areas of the country and at the beginning of July 2016 direct fighting broke out between the SPLA and SPLA-IO in Juba. Although this fighting only lasted 4 days, it has had a profound effect on the political situation in the country and caused huge economic disruption. As a result, the main opposition leader and Vice President, Riek Machar, has fled the country and, since the fighting, there has been continuous insecurity and fighting in the Equatorias, one of the main supply routes for goods coming into South Sudan from Uganda. As a result, since the beginning of the conflict in 2013, more than 3 million people have now fled their homes, including 1.9 million people internally displaced and close to 2 million refugees and asylum seekers who have fled to neighboring countries.

In the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan it was estimated that 7.5 million people would be in need of humanitarian assistance in South Sudan, over half the population and a significant increase from the 6.1 million estimated in 2016. In nutrition, it was estimated that 1.7 million people would need nutritional assistance.

Hunger and malnutrition in South Sudan have now reached unprecedented levels compared with all previous periods. As per the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) communication summary in May 2017, 5.5 million people (almost 45% of the population) were estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3, 4, and 5). According to the last IPC alert published on 21st of June, as of June-July 2017, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 and above) is estimated to rise to 6 million which is the greatest number of people ever to experience severe food insecurity in South Sudan.

In February 2017 Leer and Mayendit Counties in Unity State were classified as in famine, with Koch at elevated likelihood that famine was happening. This was the first time a famine has been declared since July 2011 in Somalia. Even if famine is no longer occurring in Leer and Mayendit counties, and further deterioration was prevented in Koch and Panyijiar counties as a result of immediate and sustained multi-sector humanitarian assistance delivered to the affected population since March 2017, as of June-July 2017, 45,000 people in localized areas of South Sudan are still facing famine conditions and extreme food gaps (IPC Phase 5) and 1.7 million people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). This is based on most likely assumptions of continued armed conflict and food shortages associated with seasonality, affecting not only IDPs but also host communities. As a result, there is an urgent need not just to continue humanitarian assistance, but to scale-up assistance to ensure, where possible, needs are met.

In East Africa, the regional WASH and Nutrition working groups have started working on a WASH/Nutrition strategy adapted for the region. However, the humanitarian community in South Sudan remains slow at understanding and at implementing systematically the integration of WASH and Nutrition, despite the massive acute undernutrition crisis observed in the country. Some donors still prioritize nutrition treatment without a minimum WASH component. The coordination mechanisms at national and local levels continue to work in silo. No common framework and minimum standards adapted to the context have been suggested for humanitarian agencies to agree on. Program teams need capacity building in the needs and opportunities to integrate between sectors.

Action Against Hunger currently serves as Co-lead of the Nutrition Cluster for South Sudan, working closely with the lead agency, UNICEF, to establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms at a central and state level and ensure appropriate and efficient responses to humanitarian crisis by nutrition partners. Action Against Hunger also participate actively in the WASH Cluster, and serves as the state focal point for the WASH cluster in Warrap. With this key positioning, Action Against Hunger has long intended to take the leadership on WASH'Nutrition integration, but has been delayed due to staff turnover and gaps, and programmatic priorities.

Action Against Hunger is looking to recruit the support of a consultant with extensive knowledge on WASH'Nutrition integration to help define and push this agenda and strengthen the capacity of the team and of external stakeholders.

Goal of Consultancy

The overall goal of this consultancy is to systematize the integration of WASH and Nutrition sectors in the humanitarian response in South Sudan.

Specific Objective

1. Analyze the state of WASH and Nutrition integration in South Sudan, at national and coordination level, in program designs, as well as within Action Against Hunger teams and projects.
2. Identify the appropriate channels to strengthen stakeholders and ensure their ownership of a WASH' Nutrition strategy at national level, as well as in Warrap State.
3. Adapt the WASH'Nutrition (or WASH in Nutrition) strategies from East Africa (or global) to the context of South Sudan, with realistic standards and indicators, in consultation with the Clusters and key stakeholders.
4. Propose the strategy as well as a roll-out plan for approval by stakeholders.
5. Conduct internal capacity building of Action Against Hunger teams on WASH' Nutrition in Warrap. Review opportunities within the existing programs to apply the lessons, and propose a plan of action for approval and implementation by the teams.
6. Organize and lead a capacity building event (or a consultation) with interested partners (NGOs, Clusters, authorities, donors) at national level, as well as a training with external stakeholders in Warrap State.
7. Lay out an advocacy plan to continue educating stakeholders after the consultancy, as well as a monitoring framework for the roll-out of the WASH' Nutrition agenda in South Sudan.

Deliverables

The deliverables and the global methodology outlined in these Terms of Reference will be reviewed and adjusted after consultation with the selected consultant.

Expected deliverables will be:

- A brief preliminary report on the methodology proposed for the consultancy, based on initial briefings, consultations and experience, for approval by Action Against Hunger.
- A strategy document that will be disseminated externally to the WASH and Nutrition Clusters. Ideally, this strategy document will be approved and owned by the Clusters and relevant stakeholders, although the approval and finalization process can be a lengthy process that can't be tied to the consultant's timeframe.
- A concise yet well documented report, covering the review of current state, proposed strategy, roll out plan, monitoring plan, and recommendations to strengthen the WASH' Nutrition agenda beyond the consultancy.
- A short document (4 pages max), simple, visual and well-presented, for continuous advocacy and awareness raising on the topic and strategy.
- Training plans and materials for the capacity strengthening of staffs and external partners, and brief training report including plan of action to apply lessons.

Facilitator specification:

- Excellent knowledge and internationally recognized expertise in integration of WASH and Nutrition in humanitarian settings.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in aid settings.
- Advanced university degree preferred, in a field relevant to the consultancy, and demonstrating a capacity to conduct reviews, interviews, consultations, and to produce quality documents.
- Demonstrated excellent written and spoken English.
- Capacity to work efficiently and autonomously within strict deadlines, and to produce timely and quality written deliverables.
- Experience and skills to organize and lead events, communicate with high profile stakeholders, and conduct trainings.
- Capacity to work under pressure and in volatile environments, strictly following the organization's security rules.

The consultancy is funded by a grant from Global Affairs Canada. It will comply with the requirements of the donor, and will be under the supervision of Action Against Hunger.

Timeframe and location

The duration of the consultancy is estimated to 3 months, in South Sudan. It should start around October 2017. It can in no case continue beyond March 2018, including the approval of final deliverables by Action Against Hunger.

The consultant is expected to spend time in Juba and in Warrap State.

Logistics and facilitation:

- a) Action Against Hunger will support the application of a visa and provide accommodation and transport in South Sudan.
- b) If required and approved, Action Against Hunger will facilitate the recruitment of national personnel to support the consultant in South Sudan, and will ensure the contractual aspects under its own rules to ensure compliance with labor laws.
- c) Working space will be provided, as well as support to identify appropriate locations for events, within the capacity of the organization.
- d) The consultant will cover all other costs.
- e) Security rules of Action Against Hunger in South Sudan must be adhered to at all times by the Consultant.

Application Process

Interested parties must submit their applications by email referenced under title 'Consultancy for WASH'Nutrition Strategy and Capacity Building in South Sudan' at tender.lsc@acf-international.org

Deadline for submission: 29th Septembere at 17:00 (GMT+3).

Action Against Hunger will consider applications from individual consultants only, who will be the sole responsible to deliver the outputs of the assignment.

Applications should include:

- Up-to-date curriculum vitae,
- One supporting document of **max 3 pages** outlining core competencies in line with the assignment, the proposed methodology of work including timeframe and location and the financial expectations.

Only shortlisted applications will be contacted. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to provide references, evidence of past experience, and additional administrative documents.

The final selection of applicants, or cancelation of the assignment, is at the sole discretion of Action Against Hunger.

For more information, prospective consultants may contact Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm (GMT+3) at the following email address or by phone:

Email: tender.lsc@acf-international.org or tel: +254 (0)728 65 95 43