



Contributing to Poverty Reduction in Liberia through Renewable Energy Facility for Rural Isolated Communities in Liberia

Funded by: European Commission

Final Evaluation (External)

TERM OF REFERENCE

CONTEXT

Plan International Liberia (Plan Liberia) guided by its Recovery Strategic Plan (2015-2017) delivers programs in Early Childhood Care and Development, Education, Health, Water & Sanitation, Children's participation in decision making, Gender and Disaster Risk Management in partnership with the communities, Government and civil society. Plan International Liberia is engaged in intensive long term interventions in 5 counties (Lofa, Bomi, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu) and reaches out to all 15 counties with specific programs. Plan International Liberia is committed to ensure Child Protection in all its interventions and processes. The vision of Plan International is to enhance the rights of children and equality for girls. In order to realize our objectives. We work for sustainable improvement of the general living conditions of children and adolescents as well as their families and their communities. We mainly do this through our 6 main working areas:

- Education and Formation
- Health
- Water, hygiene and environment
- Child Protection
- Livelihood

- Prevention of catastrophes and humanitarian aid

Plan International received a grant from the European Commission (EC) to implement a project called "Light up Our Futures through Renewable Energy Facility for Rural Isolated Communities in Lofa" in 5 communities. Detail of the project information including outcomes, budget and target population are outlined in the project documents (Grant Agreement Document-GAD)

The project commenced on July 1, 2015 and will come to an end on March 31, 2018.

The overall objective of the project is:

"Contribute to poverty reduction in rural communities in Liberia and to increase knowledge about and access to renewable energy that is affordable and sustainable for villagers in rural Liberia with focus on Lofa County"

The specific objective of the project is:

- To increase knowledge about and access to renewable energy that is affordable and sustainable for villagers in rural Liberia with focus on Lofa County.

The project has three (3) main results areas which includes:

- R1. Mini grid solar electricity services in 5 rural isolated communities in Lofa County provided
- R2. Health and education in the project communities are improved to offer better living conditions and life opportunities
- R3: Increased livelihood opportunities are created through productive use of energy

Traget Group: 8,412 inhabitants of 5 rural communities in Lofa County lives will be impacted directly and through increased knowledge and access to Solar Renewable Energy Micro-grid System that is afforadble and sustainalbe for schools, health facilities, individual households and enterprises. 5 Community town chiefs, 25

member of town chief council, 5 school principals, 5 health workers, 5 farmer representatives, 10 religious leaders, 10 Community Grid Management Team members, 5 schools, 6 child Welfare Committee members, 5 health club members, 10 members of Lofa County Youth Parliament, 150 Village Saving Loan Associations, 250 students and 40 members of school administration will also be sensitized and benefit from training on the importance and adaptation of renewable energy power for productive uses and livelihood activities.

Objectives

The overall objective of the final evaluation is to evaluate whether the project has achieved its goal and objectives and formulate recommendations for future implementations. The specific objectives of the final evaluation are:

- To assess if the results at the goal, outcome and output levels were achieved with quality (**effectiveness**) and assess any changes attributed to project's intervention.
- To assess the relevance of the project as designed and delivered according to the strategies regarding sustainable renewable energy mainstreaming in poverty reduction and productive uses;
- To assess the **efficiency** of resources utilization (human, financial and material) and project management;
- To generate **lessons learned** from the implementation of activities and the outcomes achieved that will be useful for future intervention;
- To analyse the process of implementation, in terms of participation of community;
- To analyse the impact or changes at the level of beneficiary households and the community;
- To identify problems and constraints that have been encountered and how this can be improved in future interventions

Key Evaluation Questions or issues to be addressed

Impact:

- Explain the outcome and impacts of the activities and identify unintended impacts
- If results were not met, identify why not and provide recommendations for strengthening the development strategy
- What were the particular features of the strategy that made a difference?

Sustainability:

- What are the prospects for the sustainability of the end results produced by the project?

Beneficiary Satisfaction:

- Where the needs and expectations of beneficiaries met? If met how, and if not, why not?

Cost effectiveness:

- Was the project implemented and managed cost effectively?

Relevance:

- How relevant was the project in the short, middle and long-term development of the rural communities in Lofa County?

Gender Considerations:

- Did the project implement gender integrated approaches into activities?
- Has the project developed any measure to enhance women's participation in governance and key decision-making processes?

Other considerations

- Did project contribute to the overall strategic development goal? Country Strategy
- Was it relevant for Plan International Liberia to implement the Light Up Our Futures Project? Why and why not?
- What learning can be consider in future implementation of similar project?

KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The evaluator will consult Plan International Liberia's MER team for any required document to facilitate his/her work both in Monrovia Office and at the field level. At the community level, major stakeholders of the project include:

1. Community Household members and End Users of the mini-grid system in project communities

2. Community Grid Management Committee Members
3. Authorities of schools and health facilities
4. Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA) groups
5. Local community leaders and Town Chief Council
6. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Public Works
7. Both Plan International Liberia and Volunteer to Support International Efforts in Developing Africa (VOSIEDA) staff
8. Students
9. Farmer Cooperatives
10. Lofa County Youth Parliament

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY/ EVALUATION

The final evaluation will be conducted in the four districts (Voinjama, Quardu Gbondi, Kolahun and Foya) in Lofa County. The evaluation will consider using quantitative and qualitative methods to collect the information needed to measure the impacts of the project.

Applicants should provide details of the methodology they intent to use as well as detailed information on the three outcomes of the project and the relevant indicators. Applicants must also include detailed information on data collection, methods for analysis and disaggregation.

METHODOLOGY FOR DISCUSSING FINDINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The evaluator will share early findings through desk review and arrange a forum for presenting results of the final evaluation. The forum will give the project's stakeholders the chance to validate findings and recommendations from the evaluation.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

All products from the evaluation are property of Plan International Liberia and such should be submitted to Plan International Liberia's MER Team. These include but not limited to the following deliverables:

- Detailed technical proposal including budget
- Meeting minutes
- Work plan
- Data collection tools
- Training agenda and list of data collectors
- Draft evaluation report
- Raw data and hardcopies questionnaires
- Final evaluation report

INTENDED USERS OF THE REPORT(S)

The report will be shared with different stakeholders including the donor, Plan International, communities including local and national stakeholders.

ETHICAL AND CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENTS

The selected consultant must be willing to commit to Plan's child protection policy during the scope of the work.

The technical proposal must demonstrate inclusivity without discrimination. The needs of children and special challenged persons will be considered throughout the scope of the evaluation.

DURATION AND TIMELINE

The final evaluation is expected to complete within 30 working days beginning immediately upon award of contract.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Applicants must demonstrate with clear example of conducting final evaluation of grant funded project.

Please include two references and contact information. References should be an organization or entity you have worked for.

- Proven experience in carrying out evaluations
- Proficiency in qualitative methods of data collection
- Proficiency in quantitative methods of data collection
- Proven experience with data analysis
- Proficiency in statistics
- Experiences on cross-cutting issues such as gender, inclusion as well as awareness on child protection and child rights issues.

You may be asked to provide examples of previous work done.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested individuals, firms and institutions can submit their application NOT later than **February 15, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.** Please submit a written technical proposal including a detailed budget to liberia.consultantsinfo@plan-international.org and if you have further question, please send your question to the same email address up to February 12, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. . . . No question will be addressed after this date.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO HARD COPIES OF PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND FOLLOW-UP TELEPHONE CALLS ARE NOT NECESSARY. SHORT LISTED INDIVIDUALS/FIRMS WILL BE DULY INFORMED.