



TERMS OF REFERENCE

External independent final evaluation of the project:

Malteser International in Colombia is seeking to hire a consultant team for the final evaluation of its German government-funded project **“Building Resilience and food security for rural communities regularly affected by natural disasters in La Guajira, Colombia”**

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| Project: | “Building Resilience and food security for rural communities regularly affected by natural disasters in La Guajira, Colombia” |
| Project Period: | 01 July 2018 –30 June, 2021 |
| Project Budget: | 1, 280, 051 Euros |
| Donor: | Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Location: | La Guajira, Colombia |
| Project Objective: | Develop local capacity in the areas of sustainable agriculture, environmental resource preservation and management and disaster preparedness of 3,500 individuals in the Rio Tapia Region of Sierra Nevada, La Guajira, Colombia |

I. Project Summary

The aim of the project is to strengthen local community capacities and their networking in the areas of food security and disaster risk reduction to secure livelihoods in selected rural areas of the Municipio Riohacha in the Department of La Guajira. A particular focus is on the creation of employment opportunities and prospects for young people in the project region. Components of a previous project, some of which were successfully implemented, are being replicated and deepened in the new communities. For this purpose, about 50 small farmers serve as active multipliers in the field of sustainable agriculture, thus making the knowledge built up and the potential direct impact much more tangible for the new beneficiaries through their cultural proximity. The interdependence of the ecosystem along the Río Tapia, which is of vital importance as a livelihood for the entire catchment area, also requires an expansion and deepening of the area of disaster risk reduction and a connection to already established response capacities as an essential contribution to strengthening resilience in climate change.

In order to do so, the project has 4 sub-objectives:

1. Promotion of sustainable agriculture and access to an adequate water supply
2. Sensitize young people about the links between hygiene, food safety and health.
3. Strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacities and integrate them into government processes.
4. Strengthen networking and access for underserved communities.

The project has been implemented in partnership with two local organizations: the Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Cesar (PDPC) and the Asociación de Biólogos de la Universidad del Atlántico



(ABIUDEA). Both organizations have deep roots in the community and have worked to strengthen food security and environmental conversation (ABIUDEA) as well as youth development and peacebuilding issues in the region (PDPC). Partners were directly responsible for implementation and oversight, with technical support, coordination and monitoring provided by Malteser International Americas. The selected entity will work closely with focal points from both partner organizations to coordinate the evaluation.

II. Justification for Evaluation

After two phases of project execution in the Sierra Nevada and nearly six years of continuous presence in the region, this evaluation will provide an opportunity to gauge both the positive and potential negative impacts of the project on strengthening community resilience, preparedness, unity and well-being. The evaluation will seek to capture lessons learned from the project from the perspective of community participants as well as outside experts and analyze challenges, assumptions and success stories uncovered during the project cycle. The evaluation will also help to inform the next phase of the project, which is set to begin in August 2021 and seeks to build on the impact of this project.

III. Objective of the Evaluation

This evaluation has been planned with the main purpose to assess the implementation process and impact orientation of the above-cited project, with feedback on the achievements as well as to facilitate learning for improvement of design and management of future projects, and in order to demonstrate accountability to donors and beneficiaries.

Key observations on the strengths and weaknesses of the project design, implementation processes, monitoring tools, cooperation with local stakeholders, best practices and lessons learnt as well as cross-cutting issues shall additionally be taken into account. The following guiding questions should be used to help drive the evaluation focus and methodology, captured using both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods, to be presented in the initial proposal and agreed upon with Malteser International.

The evaluation will focus on the following DAC criteria:

Relevance

- a. Has the project design and implementation been appropriate to meet the needs and priorities, especially concerning health, food security / livelihoods, and resilience of the target groups?
- b. Was the project design inclusive in addressing the needs of women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups?
- c. What intangible effects did the project achieve in repairing community cohesion that has been fragmented after years of conflict?

Efficiency

- a. Have project funds been used in a cost-efficient way? Have inputs been converted into outputs in a cost-efficient way?
- b. Were the resources allocated in the different sectors justified and adequate to improving food security, water access and rural resilience in the target communities?



- c. What additional components could have been incorporated in the project to improve efficiency?

Effectiveness

- a. Have the activities been effective in order to meet the needs of the targeted population?
- b. Which project activities have had the greatest positive effect and were there any unintended negative impacts of the project intervention? Are there any activities that should have been included in the action but were not?
- c. Were education and capacity building methods appropriate to achieve behavior change?
- d. What level of participation and satisfaction did the project services manage to generate among the beneficiaries? Were the target populations' capacities strengthened through the intervention?
- e. Have the planned objectives been achieved and lead to the intended outcomes?
- f. With regard to water use, how has the project changed how participants feel about their role in managing water resources? What role does the community play in uniting to face the impact of climate change in the region?
- g. What has been the impact of the pandemic on the processes started, crops, sales, etc.?
- h. In the framework of the global pandemic caused by covid-19, in what way did the young people trained in health and hygiene contribute to the mitigation of the effects presented in the territories?

Impact

- a. Has the youth capacity building had an impact on their optimism and desire to stay in their community to make an impact? What impact, if any, has the project engagement had on how youth think about the future?
- b. Has the community view of youth changed as a result of the mobilization activities? How do young people see themselves and their role as multipliers of information in the community?
- c. How has the vision of adults in relation to young people changed as a result of community mobilization activities?
- d. What impact did the youth leadership school have on promoting a sense of ownership and leadership among the youth of these communities?
- e. What role do young people in rural Sierra Nevada have to play in improving community cohesion that is still being rebuilt after years of conflict? How can intergenerational initiatives like the "alterta por la paz" contribute to this process?

Sustainability

- a. How did the project adapt to the changing context in La Guajira? Has there been a clear linkage and evolution between activities in previous projects in the Sierra Nevada region?
- b. Did the project develop an exit strategy and to what extent are the project's achievements likely to last after the project's end?
- c. What adjustments could possibly have been made to improve sustainability of individual project components?
- d. What efforts have been made to ensure that the approach used in the project are participatory and creating ownership in the communities? How have these efforts been monitored?

Conclusions and Recommendations

- a. Main conclusions drawn from analysis with evidence provided during field visits and observations;
- b. A set of recommendations linked to the conclusions that would provide guidance to Malteser International for future interventions in La Guajira as well as considerations to be taken into account for the next phase of the Project, Resilencia III, pending donor approval but set to begin in August/September 2021

Timeframe

The evaluation is expected to take place in August 2021 with the following preliminary timeframe:

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| Preparation and desk study, preparation of interview guidelines, team coordination | 3 days |
| (If applicable) International travel to and from La Guajira, Colombia | 2 days |
| Briefing with Malteser International in Riohacha | 1 day |
| Joint review workshop with Malteser International and partners in Riohacha | 1 day |
| Field visits to target villages | 10 days |
| Debriefing/review workshop in Sierra Nevada, closing meeting in Riohacha | 2 days |
| Reporting (to be done from Riohacha or Santa Marta) | 5 days |
| Total | Max. 24 days |

Reporting

Key deliverable will be a consolidated evaluation report. The final report will consist of the following three parts:

1. Executive summary (standalone character, max. 5 pages)
2. Main report presenting results, conclusions, recommendations, lessons learned focusing on the questions raised in this TOR under the five headings (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability, max. 30 pages)
3. Annex of main supporting documents, agenda, maps, interview guidelines, questionnaires etc.

As part of the process, the evaluation team will submit the following documents:

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| Before leaving the field: | A debriefing note (2-3 pages) which will contain a summary of main findings and recommendations to Malteser International. The debriefing note/summary will be discussed during the debriefing session/review workshop in Malteser International's Program Office in Riohacha, La Guajira, Colombia |
| 3 weeks after departure from the field: | Draft report (electronic version, max. 30 pages) in English and/or Spanish to Malteser International Americas team in NYC and staff in Colombia (TBD after discussion with team) |



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| 2 weeks after feedback from Malteser: | Final report (electronic version, max. 30 pages) in English and/or Spanish to Malteser International's Program Office in Riohacha, Colombia and HQ in NYC |
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The evaluation team will be bound by confidentiality and all material collected during the evaluation (except personal data gathered during interviews) will be handed over to Malteser International with the termination of the contract. The report and all background documentation will remain the property of Malteser International and will be promulgated as appropriate by Malteser International. The evaluation team may not use or publish any analytical results as its own work.

Required Expertise

Essential:

- Demonstrated capacity and experience (at least 5 years) in evaluating development and/or humanitarian projects, preferably in the Latin American and/or Colombia context
- Technical knowledge and experience in one or more of the following fields: Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Resilience, Livelihoods
- Fluency in English and Spanish (spoken/written)
- Experience in working with (local and international) non-governmental organizations
- Demonstrated oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrated cross-cultural skills

Desirable:

- Previous work experience in La Guajira, Colombia or experience working in rural settings
- Familiarity with community-based health care, WASH and nutrition/livelihood projects in under-developed and complex environments

Tenders

Bids must include:

1. 1-2 pages outline covering: a) overall framework proposed for evaluation and b) methodologies that will be applied.
2. CV(s) of the entire team and evidence/references of past evaluations.
3. Work plan and proposed budget for the evaluation covering consultancy fees, travel to Riohacha, Colombia if necessary and per diem and should include visa and COVID-19 testing costs. The budget should present consultancy fee costs according to number of expected working days over the entire period.



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Bids should be submitted *electronically* to Malteser International by the closing date of July 23, 2021 to:
Noah Steinberg-Di Stefano, Program Manager (Headquarters Americas) noah.steinberg@malteser-international.org
Ricardo Tapia, Country Coordinator for Colombia (Santa Marta, Colombia) ricardo.tapia@malteser-international.org

Please note that the application of the evaluation depends on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country of origin and destination, as well as the respective travel regulations. **Existing beneficial COVID-19 immunization is required** and proof of vaccination will be requested.

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