

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Call for Consultants

Impact evaluation incl. baseline and endline studies
“Strengthening participation and advocacy for reparations and other forms of redress by survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in 4 conflict-affected countries”

I. Context

Conflict-related sexual violence can terrorize and destabilize communities and families. This type of violence has dire consequences on victims’ physical health, psychological well-being and economic independence. Regardless of the country where such violence takes place, victims are often unable to speak out against the atrocities they have suffered and suffer from stigma and isolation. Victims face shame and exclusion by their families and communities in many contexts and they lack the support needed to be able to use their voices. Where and when survivors can come together, however, they find their strength and learn that they can speak out, together with others who have suffered from similar crimes.

SEMA – the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence –works at both a global level and in-country. Internationally, the network offers a safe global platform for survivors to come together for solidarity, to share experiences and knowledge, to advocate powerfully for the abolition of the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, and to lobby for the recognition of the rights of survivors to quality holistic care and to restorative justice. The global dimension is essential for peer-learning, bringing survivors from different generations and cultures together. Twenty-one countries are currently represented in the network including: Bosnia, Bangladesh, Burundi, CAR, Colombia, DRC, Guatemala, Guinea, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Korea, South Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Zimbabwe and the Ukraine. We expect this number to expand in the coming years.

The partner countries in the current project (Mali, South Sudan, Uganda and Ukraine) are all represented in SEMA. The Mukwege Foundation supports this survivor-led global movement bringing survivors of CRSV together to engage in organised activism that fights the root causes and the consequences of CRSV. The in-country networks vary according to their context and capacities, but in all cases these networks organise to raise awareness about the reality, causes and consequences of wartime rape in the respective countries, to combat stigma, impunity and harmful myths around CRSV, and to commemorate and recognise the many victims of these atrocities by creating a collective memory of survivors’ experiences.

In Mali and South Sudan some initial steps have been taken to identify potential survivor-led networks to help raise survivors’ voices in a safe way, in collaboration with local women’s rights NGOs. In the initial phase of the project to be evaluated, we will take further steps to identify such networks in close collaboration with local partners. In Ukraine and Uganda we work alongside highly proactive survivor-led networks who already have a track record of organising advocacy around survivor rights — including the right to redress and reparations — and in mobilising local support.

Despite the varying national and regional contexts, the national networks all aim to achieve similar goals, namely providing a platform for expression, building collective memory and having their voices heard.

II. Background of the Mukwege Foundation

The Mukwege Foundation advocates globally to bring survivors together as part of a movement, end impunity, enhance accountability and provide holistic assistance to victims of conflict-related sexual violence. The Foundation promotes access to holistic care, following the model developed by Panzi Hospital in DRC, which integrates medical, psycho-social, legal, and socio-economic care into one existing facility or system. Since its creation, the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation has specifically put survivors of wartime sexual violence at the heart of its mission to end sexual violence as a weapon of war.

While survivors have worked for many years to obtain justice and rebuild their lives, their voices are too often actively silenced. For this reason, the Mukwege Foundation facilitated the first of a series of international retreats, bringing together survivors of sexual violence from more than 15 countries. With the invaluable support of partners and the accompaniment of the Mukwege Foundation, these survivors formed a worldwide network, naming it SEMA, which means 'speak out' in Swahili. As previously mentioned, SEMA now consists members coming from 20 different countries around the world.

The Mukwege Foundation assists SEMA members in meeting their goals by ensuring they have a seat at the table for the discussions that matter to them. The Foundation also promotes sharing of best practices among countries, and between the Global Network and (country-level) National Survivor Networks, for more effective awareness raising campaigns and advocacy.

III. Project description

The target countries selected for this project offer an opportunity to prepare and develop meaningful CRSV survivor participation in local and national efforts to protect or advance their interests, with a view in particular to develop future reparations programmes, but also other initiatives which survivors consider are meaningful ways to achieve a form of redress in their local contexts.

In Mali, there is a truth commission, but to date, it has not sufficiently integrated the experiences of women and girls into its proceedings, and as part of its mandate, it will make recommendations to the government on reparations. In South Sudan, the transitional justice agenda is at a relative standstill. In the meantime, the needs for interim compensation and other forms of redress are dire. In Uganda, the government adopted a national transitional justice policy in 2019; however, systematic integration of survivor participation in topics such as the design of a future reparations programme has been lacking. In Ukraine, although there is currently no national legislation on reparations, the survivor group is active in local human rights networks, and is engaging pro-actively to learn from survivor activists in Kosovo and Bosnia who have successfully campaigned for reparations and redress for victims of CRSV.

The overall goal of the project is as follows:

Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine and Mali have strengthened leadership and organisational capacities to effectively advocate for victims' rights, including reparative justice; and to enable them to act as valued key partners for consultation, policy and programme development relating to all matters that concern them.

There are 6 specific project objectives:

- (1) A) Conduct in-depth consultations with stakeholders in Mali, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ukraine, including survivors of CRSV, to assess their needs and the opportunities and challenges for organised survivor participation in restorative justice programmes in the future.
B) Map the potential for survivor-led advocacy for reparations and redress in all 4 target countries.
- (2) Build and expand strong, inclusive movements for survivors of CRSV in Mali, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ukraine, and strengthen their capacities in strategic advocacy, organised activism and reparative justice.
- (3) Support the activities of networks of survivors of CRSV in Mali, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ukraine to create systemic change through advocacy and organised engagement with decision-makers and humanitarian organisations.
- (4) Embed survivor-led networks in all 4 target countries within the local landscape of relevant CSOs and decision-makers to influence practices and decisions related to reparative justice, access to reparations, and CRSV response.
- (5) Build the capacities and experience of the survivor networks in all 4 countries to be able to play a more active role in the international network of survivors (SEMA) and other international platforms relating to reparations and redress.
- (6) Survivors participate in a meaningful way at every stage of the project, from design to development, implementation, and evaluation.

IV. Call for consultants

It is in this context that the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation will recruit a consultant with proven expertise in the field of monitoring and evaluation of development and humanitarian projects. The ideal candidate would preferably also have experience working on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and in engaging directly with victims and survivors.

The consultant will assist the Mukwege Foundation team in conducting the impact evaluation for the above described project, including baseline and endline studies at the start and close of the project respectively. The consultant will propose a sound methodology that is also Covid-resilient while ensuring active participation of survivors in both of the studies.

The baseline study will serve to update the project's M&E framework with initial data on indicators, respond to the below listed research questions, as well as deepen the project team's understanding of the implementation contexts in each of the four countries. The endline study will utilise as much as possible the same methodology as with the baseline, in order to ensure the comparability of the findings. The consultant will prepare a final report at the end of the assignment which presents the findings of both studies and discusses the impact of the project.

Responses to this call for consultants should include technical and financial proposals, be a maximum of 5 pages excluding CVs for the consultant(s) and accompanied by a cover letter. Teams that bring together relevant expertise related to this assignment are encouraged to apply.

The final deliverables of the assignment are expected by August 31st, 2021 and only financial offers of up to 15,000 Euro inclusive of VAT will be accepted.

V. Key objectives of the assignment

The assignment has the following key objectives:

- Provide quality baseline data (quantitative and qualitative) that respond to the indicators in the project's logical framework ;
- Conduct an impact evaluation for the project, including baseline and endline studies and a final evaluation report;
 - Both studies and the final evaluation report should present findings related to the below research questions and the project's M&E framework.
- Provide recommendations to project stakeholders in order to strengthen the project's impact and effectiveness;

VI. Research questions

Relevance

- How well does the project correspond to existing realities in the four targeted countries? Is the project able to respond to context changes in a timely manner?
- How does the project regularly integrate beneficiary/participant feedback into design and implementation processes?
- How did the project include perspectives on sustainability and promote local ownership of the project and its objectives, including a responsible exit strategy ?

Efficiency

- Are the objectives of the program clear? Are the indicators attainable and measurable?
- How did the Foundation coordinate with implementing partners in order to support the management and implementation of the project?
- How has the project design and organization of activities contributed to the project's efficiency?
- Were resources, human, financial and otherwise used in an efficient manner to deliver project outcomes?

Effectiveness

- Is the organisation of the project (and activities) optimal?
- To what degree has the project achieved its objectives/outcomes?
- What internal or external factors may have had an influence on the project's achievement of its indicators?

Impact

- What are the most significant changes expected by the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the program, including partners and survivors? Were these expectations realistic?
- What is the satisfaction of survivors who have received support and capacity-building through the program?
- What are some concrete examples as to how survivor-led initiatives under this project have advanced or protected their interests? For example, has survivor advocacy has been integrated or affected decision or policy making processes as a result of the project?
- What are survivors' perspectives on the impact this project has had on individual survivors' motivation and capacities to protect or advance survivor' interests?
- What are survivors' perspectives on the impact this project has had on the organizational coherence or momentum of their network to act to protect or advance survivor' interests?

- Has this project led to learning and practice for survivors on the value of gaining strength in advocacy through partnering with complementary CSO's?
- What are survivors' perspectives on their capacities to participate in decision and policy-making processes relevant to them as a result of the project?
- Is there any measurable difference in how direct audience members and/or recipients of advocacy messages perceive interventions from survivors?
- What internal and external factors may have contributed to or limited the project's impact?
- Has the training on risk management in and of itself been beneficial for survivors? If so, how?
- Has the training on communication skills in and of itself been beneficial for survivors? If so, how?

Coherence

- How has the project coordinated with other similar initiatives (internally and externally) in order to mitigate risks of duplication of efforts and promote synergies?

VII. Practical information

The consultant will be responsible for the organization of logistics for conducting the assignment. In the case of teams, one lead consultant will be responsible for organizing the assignment and coordinating with team-members. The Mukwege Foundation will provide support to the consultant for the entirety of the assignment, including facilitating contact with key respondents, providing access to relevant documents and feedback as necessary. This consultancy can be carried out 100% remotely, with the possibility for travel to one or any of the project countries in consultation with the Mukwege Foundation. Should consultants wish to travel as part of this evaluation, we ask that proposals include any travel plans and costs.

VIII. Deliverables

The consultant(s) is responsible for providing the following deliverables according to a calendar to be developed in coordination with the MF team.

- An inception report, including a proposed methodological guide, updated calendar and draft data collection tools (questionnaires, interview guides etc as applicable);
- Cleaned data collected during the course of the assignment;
- A baseline study report following a template to be validated in advance with the MF team and including updated baseline data for the project's M&E framework;
- An endline study report following a template to be validated in advance with the MF team and including endline data for the project's M&E framework;
- An internal final evaluation report (to include an executive summary, methodology and limitations, comparison and analysis of findings, conclusions and recommendations).
- A summary final report for external audiences including the project donor.

IX. Selection criteria

- Experience in the monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian and development projects, including in conducting complex impact evaluations;
- Experience in utilising participatory and inclusive methods of data collection;

- Expertise in prevention and response to SGBV will be an asset, in particular experience engaging with and conducting interviews with survivors;
- The candidate must read, speak and write English fluently; French, Russian and Ukrainian will be an asset;
- Professional experience in countries affected by conflict is preferred.

The consultant will be asked to comply with the code of conduct for staff and associates of the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation concerning the safeguarding, protection and respect of humanitarian principles.

X. To bid

Interested candidates must provide the following:

- Cover letter
- Technical and financial proposal (max. 5 pages)
- CVs of the consultant(s)

The technical and financial proposal should cover the following:

- I. Understanding of the objectives of the evaluation;
- II. A proposed methodology;
- III. A well-informed approach to the participation of survivors in the study;
- IV. Approaches to ethics, "Do no harm" and gender sensitivity;
- V. A proposed timeline for completing the assignment;
- VI. An indicative financial proposal including daily rates and any other expenses.

Proposals must be submitted by the end of November 18th 2020, 11.59pm in The Netherlands, in English via email to Brynn Campbell at campbell@mukwegefoundation.org including "M&E National Networks Consultant" in the subject line.

For any question related to this study, please contact Nicole Charalambous at nicole@mukwegefoundation.org . We encourage serious applicants to send in any questions for clarification, if any, before the end of the day on November 12, 2020 (11.59pm in The Netherlands).