

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Call for Consultants

“Study on the implementation of the holistic model approach to care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the Great Lakes region of Africa/within ICGLR member States”

Context

The **Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation** is an international human rights organisation working together with survivors of wartime sexual violence from around the world. Established in 2016, with headquarters in the Hague and Geneva, it works internationally to bring an end to rape being used as a weapon of war. One of its core areas of work is to promote holistic care for survivors of wartime sexual violence worldwide, building on the expertise and experience of Panzi in DRC.

Panzi Hospital & Panzi Foundation DRC were established in 1999 and 2008 respectively, in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by Dr Denis Mukwege to provide high quality, specialist reproductive health care services to local populations. Panzi’s staff have since accrued extensive experience providing holistic care for tens of thousands of survivors of sexual violence. Recognised as a centre of excellence in providing holistic care to survivors of sexual violence, and particularly survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, Panzi has developed a comprehensive, integrated model of care at Panzi Hospital and Foundation, as well as in rural and urban clinics established in different parts of the DRC, and a mobile clinic to serve remote and vulnerable populations.

Panzi implements this holistic model through a One Stop Centre approach. While there are many interpretations of holistic assistance around the world, in the Great Lakes Region, the “Panzi Model” provides an important case-study for the implementation of holistic care services to survivors of conflict related sexual violence in a variety of settings.

The Panzi model is particularly unique in its integration of services into a general service provision framework. Practically speaking, this means that services for survivors of sexual violence are integrated into hospitals and local clinics, and they are able to receive care alongside other patients suffering from conditions ranging from malaria to obstetric-related gynaecological conditions. This limits risks for the stigmatisation of victims and also means that survivors are able to access a wider range of services within the same facility. This integration of holistic care into an existing system lowers the threshold for victims needing to access a range of services and helps to ensure the sustainability of care for survivors of sexual violence during and after periods of conflict.

The **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)** is an inter-governmental organization of 12 countries in the African Great Lakes Region¹. Since its creation, the prevention,

¹ Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia

criminalization and punishment of acts of SGBV both in times of war and peace, have been at the core of the ICGLR's mandate, as per the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and the Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006) and the Kampala Declaration signed by regional Heads of State and Government during the Fourth Ordinary Summit and Special Session on SGBV in 2011.

In 2014, the ICGLR Regional Training Facility (RTF) was launched. The RTF, based in Kampala, Uganda, provides training for judicial officers, police officers, medical officers, social workers, attorneys and prosecutors on handling SGBV cases and related issues. To date, the RTF has trained over 100 trainers across the 12 ICGLR Member States, including 10 Master trainers and 130 national trainers (10 in each of the ICGLR Member States (20 in DRC)). These 130 national trainers have already and will continue to go on training SGBV professionals in their respective countries. National Action Plans to continue this regional initiative are in the process of being reviewed and validated.

Since 2018 the Mukwege and Panzi Foundations have been working with the ICGLR RTF to strengthen the integration of the holistic approach in the training of trainers and professionals. In 2020 the partners produced a Regional Integrated Model for Training of SGBV Trainers and Professionals. This integrated model of training has been piloted in five ICGLR member states already: DRC, Central African Republic (CAR), Zambia, Rwanda and Uganda. These pilot trainings have been conducted by joint training teams with experts from among the pool of regional Master trainers and from Panzi's experts pool.

Project background

This collaboration among the RTF, Panzi and Mukwege Foundations has taken place within the framework of a project implemented by Panzi and Mukwege Foundations, with funding from GIZ. The project's overall objective is **to ensure that survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the Great Lakes region have improved access to quality holistic assistance in their respective home countries.**

Three specific outcomes are key in the project:

1. The Panzi holistic model is integrated into the regional training programme.
2. Panzi and Mukwege Foundations support the pilot phase of the roll-out of the regional training programme.
3. Evidence based advocacy is conducted for the implementation of holistic assistance for survivors of sexual violence in the Great Lakes region.

Under the third specific outcome, the project plans for a brief study on the implementation of holistic care for survivors of SGBV, and specifically one-stop-centres, in the Great Lakes region, by the 12 ICGLR Member States.

The study will use primarily desk-research methods, including a literature review and virtual and/or phone interviews with relevant regional and national actors, including survivors of sexual violence themselves. The project partners will contribute recommendations for the actors to be interviewed, to be completed by the selected consultant's own recommendations.

Request for proposals

It is within this context that the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation will recruit a consultant who will conduct this regional study. The consultant should have knowledge of holistic approaches to SGBV prevention and response, and specifically on one-stop-centres. He or she should also have experience working in the Great Lakes region, knowledge on regional protocols and mechanisms, as well as specific expertise on SGBV prevention and response and on gender, peace and security-related themes.

Responses to this RFP should include a technical narrative proposal of up to 5 pages, which presents a proposed methodology for the study, including potential key sources of information/informants on the regional and national levels. The technical proposal should also include specific considerations on how the study will include the participation of survivors' voices in the research process and in the end report.

A financial proposal of max 1 page, as well as a brief CV and cover letter should accompany the technical proposal, as part of responses to this RFP.

The total budget available for the study is 10,000 Euro, inclusive of VAT and all other taxes. Only financial proposals of up to 10,000 Euro, all costs included, will be considered as part of this RFP.

Proposals in response to this RFP, following the below guidelines, should be submitted in English, via email, to Brynn Campbell at campbell@mukwegefoundation.org by 11.59pm (The Hague) September 5th, 2021. Questions from serious candidates can be addressed to dvplaza@mukwegefoundation.org by or before September 1st, 2021.

Shortlisted consultants will be invited to participate in brief interviews during the week of September 6th and 10th. The contract period is expected to start from September 15th.

The consultant will be responsible for conducting the regional study and producing the final deliverables as listed in this ToR by November 5th, 2021. The consultant will present the final report findings to the project partners in a virtual session and may be asked to participate at a regional roundtable to be organised by the partners in November 2021 (TBC).

Methodological guidelines

The regional study will analyse the **implementation of the holistic model approach to care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the Great Lakes region of Africa/within ICGLR member States.**

As mentioned earlier, the study will specifically assess the roll-out of “one-stop-centres”, as a means of delivering quality holistic care to survivors of SGBV, within the 12 ICGLR member States.

While the study should provide findings for each specific member State; given the context of the project and perspectives for the Mukwege Foundation in the region, the study should emphasise six countries: the DRC, CAR, Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

Key objectives of the assignment

The regional study will contribute to achieving the project’s third outcome: *Evidence based advocacy is conducted for the implementation of holistic assistance for survivors of sexual violence in the Great Lakes region.*

More specifically, the consultant’s work will contribute to the following key objectives:

- Provide the MF team and project partners with an up-to-date assessment of the implementation of holistic care for survivors of SGBV and the roll-out of one-stop-centres in the Great Lakes region.
- Strengthen the partners’ understanding of the range of actors involved in the implementation of holistic care and one-stop-centres in the region.
- Strengthen the partners’ understandings of persistent obstacles and barriers faced by institutional partners (including regional, multilateral and State actors) in materialising engagements related to the provision of quality holistic assistance for survivors of CRSV and SGBV.
- Strengthen the partners’ understanding of survivors’ perspectives on their rights and priorities for holistic care in the Great Lakes region.
- Provide inputs into the process of validating and operationalising a regional advocacy strategy for quality holistic care for survivors of SGBV in the Great Lakes region.

General research questions

We would encourage a flexible and participatory study design process wherein we would finalise research questions together with the consultant during the inception phase. Nevertheless, the

following questions briefly outline some of our research priorities for the study. This is a non-exhaustive list of research questions that may also be subject to review.

1. What is the current state-of-play concerning the delivery of holistic-care services (medical care, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration support and legal assistance) to survivors of SGBV, in each ICGLR MS?
2. How has each ICGLR MS implemented comprehensive holistic-care recovery centres (one-stop-centres) since 2011 (Ref: Art.11 Kampala Declaration)?
3. What key stakeholders are involved in implementing holistic care and specifically one-stop-centres in the region and in each MS (donors, dev-co partners, UN or other agencies, regional mechanisms, NGOs, civil society etc)?
4. What specific stakeholders can be identified in each MS as a potential entry-point, strategic, technical or advocacy partner?
5. What past or ongoing national or regional initiatives to implement one-stop-centres are important to take into consideration?
6. How have professionals who have benefited from training (either by the RTF or as part of the pilot regional integrated training) already been able to operationalise and institutionalise their training on quality holistic care?
7. What institutional factors on the national and regional levels may contribute to or hinder the roll-out of holistic one-stop-centres in the region?
8. What do survivors say about the current state of delivery of holistic-care assistance in their respective countries and on the regional level? What are their priorities for strengthening holistic care in the region?
9. What recommendations are there on accelerating and strengthening the implementation of holistic assistance and one-stop-centres, in each MS and in the region?

Deliverables

The selected consultant will be expected to provide the following deliverables, in English by November 5th, 2021:

- An inception report detailing a finalised study methodology, including a list of key informants, draft interview guide(s) and updated work-plan
- A draft study report for feedback from the project partners
- Finalised internal report including a brief executive summary, findings per member State and/or for the region (*of max. approx. 30 pages*), conclusions and recommendations
- Workshop with the project partners to present findings
- Final public-facing summary report for communications and advocacy purposes including quotes, case-studies, key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Selection Criteria

As mentioned above:

The consultant should have knowledge of holistic approaches to SGBV prevention and response, and specifically on one-stop-centres. He or she should also have experience working in the Great Lakes region, knowledge on regional protocols and mechanisms, as well as specific expertise on SGBV prevention and response and on gender, peace and security.

Other specific selection criteria are as follows:

- Experience in conducting participatory studies and evaluation processes including research projects and feasibility studies
- Experience conducting interviews with and/or interacting with survivors of sexual violence including women, men, girls and boys
- Experience conducting sensitive interviews
- Experience navigating sensitive contexts
- The candidate must speak English and preferably also French

The selected candidate will be asked to comply with the safeguarding policies of the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation including its code of conduct.

Qualified female candidates and nationals of the Great Lakes region are strongly encouraged to bid.

To Bid

Proposals, following the guidelines in the RFP section of this document, should be submitted in English, via email, to Brynn Campbell at campbell@mukwegefoundation.org by 11.59pm (The Hague) September 5th, 2021. Questions from serious candidates can be addressed to dvplaza@mukwegefoundation.org by or before September 1st, 2021.

Please refer to the RFP section of this ToR and follow the guidelines for proposals. Those proposals which do not follow these guidelines will not be considered.

Please ensure that your financial proposal is completed in Euro.