

Terms of Reference (ToR) and Call for Expression of Interest (EoI)

For the End of Project Evaluation of NHASD project

“Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Community Development in the Area of Organic Agriculture and Community Based Tourism”

1. Introduction

New Horizon Association for Social Development (NHASD) is an Egyptian non-governmental organization established in June 2003, dedicated to improving the quality of life of the most marginalized and underdeveloped communities in Egypt. NHASD started working in Dakhla Oasis in 2008 at the invitation of the Governor of New Valley.

New Valley Governorate is the largest governorate of Egypt, covering 44% of Egypt’s land. At the same time, it presents the lowest population, with no more than 500,000 inhabitants. The objective of working there is to foster and enhance local organic agribusiness development, water management issues and environmental awareness by recycling. These issues have been addressed by vocational training courses as well as discussed with the various stakeholders including local farmers, local NGOs and the governorate authorities. Farmers have been using traditional methods like flooding their lands to irrigate their fields, thus consuming unnecessary large amounts of water for production purpose, so NHASD works strongly to raise the community awareness and change the traditional mentalities to achieve socioeconomic and environmental development.

About the project

The current project “Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Community Development in the Area of Organic Agriculture and Community Based Tourism” (further referred to as “the project”), which is funded by Bread for the World (BftW), funds a select variety of NHASD’s activities in the communities *Bashandi*, *Balat* and *Al Qasr* only – which is why they are the main focus of this evaluation.

The project development goal is the sustainable development for the New Valley governorate.

The project's objectives and respective indicators are:

- (1) Unemployed youth and young adults generate income in the area of organic agriculture and community based tourism
 - a. 60% of the participants start new projects after successfully finishing the trainings in the areas of organic agriculture and community based tourism.
 - b. The local NGOs are able to support implementing local initiatives in cooperation with local authorities.
- (2) Local NGOs and local authorities in New Valley promote local initiatives in the area of organic agriculture and community based tourism
 - a. The local initiatives in organic agriculture and community-based tourism are supported by the local NGOs in Balat, Bashandi and Al Qasr as well as by local authorities (this is a contribution to their sustainability).

The project funds the following activities:

- vocational training courses in the areas of organic agriculture and community-based tourism (i.e. handicraft production)

- capacity building seminars and networking opportunities for local youth projects, NGOs, CBOs and government institutions
- seminars on raising the awareness on issues of sustainability, especially in agriculture – combined with capacity building for starting own projects

By building the capacities of youth and by enhancing their skills through the vocational training program, it is intended that they will easily join the employment market and obtain job opportunities ensuring a steady source of income. On the other hand, by training youth, the project encourages them to start up their own projects that will also provide the market with new job opportunities. Socially, the project works on achieving gender equality in the community through involving men and women in the activities. Also, the project fosters the role of women in the community and at the same time changing community mentality towards specific issues like woman participation, organic agriculture perceptions, waste recycling and friendly environment life style and developing the traditional handicrafts' workers capacities. Moreover, the project's impact exceeds the present period to the future through working on expanding the cultivated land's spaces and refreshing the agricultural sector in order to achieve food security in the community - while hoping to contribute to achieving this on the national level in the future. The sustainability of the project is also given thanks to the activities related to handicrafts production and community-based tourism since it builds youths' capacities in this field to further exploit the ample touristic potential of Dakhla oasis in the future.

2. Cause and objective of the evaluation

The purpose of the NHASD end of the project evaluation, which covers the period January 2016 to September 2018 is to establish the extent to which the interventions/activities undertaken are making a contribution to the overall project goal. The evaluators shall assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the interventions undertaken to date and the impact they had on the target beneficiaries (i.e. the beneficiaries in the three communities of Bashandi, Balat and Al Qasr) and NGOs. In particular, the consultants shall assess the extent to which the project is achieving or is likely to achieve the overall objectives and goals. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will inform future project designs by NHASD as well as the funding organization BftW on any possible future funding priorities. The consultants shall work with the NHASD project team during the entire period of the evaluation. Consultants shall evaluate the project's weaknesses and strengths, formulating a future vision towards the project continuation.

In addition, the evaluators should situate their findings in the three communities in the wider picture context, i.e. the whole range of activities in Dakhla Oasis.

Lastly, the team of evaluators should assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project in comparison with similar (socio-agricultural) projects world-wide. This is why the evaluation team should consist of a local and an international evaluator.

3. Key questions

The evaluation should assess how NHASD together with project collaborators and partners has been successful in the realization of the project goal and objectives. It should evaluate how the project and the team worked on the existing problems of the target community to achieve improvements and how the overall development environment of the project area has changed as a result.

It should moreover determine the extent to which NHASD has succeeded in supporting both programmes and tools of development in organic agriculture, food security and employment sectors, with emphasis on the following areas:

- Has the project added a great value to the organization as such?
- How has the NHASD project impacted on both the local policy development and advocacy efforts in these areas?

Assess the *relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability* of the interventions made to date on the target beneficiaries. Specific questions to be answered include:

Relevance:

- Did the project respond to the core needs of the identified target groups?
- Is the project design (activities, tools and methods) adequate for addressing the identified need?
- To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid today?
- How does the project relate to the relevant strategic reference frameworks (local, regional, national level?)
- Which other areas of need are voiced by the beneficiaries and could they be addressed by the project?

Effectiveness:

- To what extent have the objectives of the project been achieved so far?
- What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?

When assessing achievement of objectives, the evaluator should make efforts to capture key indicators of progress. Some key result areas include, but are not limited to:

- What is the extent of satisfaction of the target groups about the services rendered to them?
- To what extent were the selected target groups reached? How was participation and ownership amongst men and women? To what extent have both genders participated and benefited from the project's activities?
- Production per acre and incomes at the household levels.

Efficiency:

- Were activities implemented cost-efficiently?
- Have the deployed resources been used adequately in relation to the achieved results and effects?
- How does the efficiency of implementation compare to other projects of this nature?
- Were project goals achieved on time?

Impact:

- In how far have the project activities contributed to the achievement of the development goal of the project? To which extent did the project activities contribute to the reduction of poverty in the New Valley governorate?
- Are there unintended positive and/or negative changes which have occurred due to the project?
- Which changes at the family level can be attributed to this project?

- To which degree is the project likely to contribute to the diversification and increased economic benefits for the benefiting community groups and individual households? What would have happened without the project?
- How does the project's methods and impact compare with other projects in a similar context world-wide?

Sustainability:

- To what extent are the gains/benefits/changes achieved in the project likely to be sustained by the community in the future?
- Which measures have been implemented in order to support sustainability?

How sustainable is the applied groundwater-based organic agriculture approach, given the specific location and predicted climate changes?

Other aspects which should be considered are:

- To what extent have emerging issues and lessons learned been applied in improving the programme during its implementation?
- Identifying key lessons, draw conclusions and make recommendations with respect to how NHASD can enhance the effectiveness of this project implementation, quality of outcomes and general impact on the beneficiaries in future.

4. Evaluation Design/Methods

4.1 Scope and methodology

Due to the innovative and unique approach of the project in the New Valley area, we are tendering for a mixed team of evaluators – consisting of at least one local and one international evaluator. The selection of the local and the international consultant will be done as a cooperation between NHASD and BftW. The local evaluator will be contracted by NHASD, the international consultant will be contracted by BftW. After the contracting channels of communication will be opened between both evaluators so that they can take the process described forward together.

The consultants shall work closely with the project staff during planning and actual undertaking of the evaluation exercise. During the evaluation, the consultants will have access to the project beneficiaries, partners, community leaders and stakeholders as the primary source of information.

As part of the evaluation the evaluators shall identify areas where in-depth work on extraordinary case studies and emerging models of best practices for replication can be conducted. Such areas may include:

- Capacity building for various farmers and other stakeholders
- Demonstration sites and their replication at household levels
- Support for Youth & Women Agribusiness, handicraft production and entrepreneurship initiatives
- Meaningful and active community participation in community planning & budgeting with local authorities and with decision makers
- Documentation and sharing of best practices, lessons learned, emerging issues, sustainability and replicability of various successful models

4.2 Process

The methodology for this exercise shall be as participatory as possible, ensuring reasonable involvement of primary stakeholders. In terms of process, the evaluators shall:

- Prepare the evaluation assignment inception report (setting out the assignment in detail/ presenting any limitations and difficulties/ describing the proposed methodology/ drawing up a detailed timetable). The inception report should furthermore include:
 - A detailed work plan for the evaluation in consultation with project staff, as part of the inception report;
 - Data collection tools;
 - A sampling frame, in consultation with NHASD for the project beneficiaries to be visited during the field data collection exercise.
- Carry out a desk review of project documents, partners progress reports, work plans, results framework, as appropriate;
- Undertake field work according to the design presented in the inception report
- Identify case studies for in-depth work and best practice models for documentation
- Conduct data analysis and report compilation
- Submit a draft report for review, inputs and comments by project staff
- Submit final evaluation report and related annexes e.g. Field (Photographs) to NHASD and debriefing

5. Time frame

Contracting shall be done in the second half of November. The contract clarification meeting/orientation is planned for 30 November. It is foreseen that the field phase should take place in January 2019. Presentation of initial results is planned for the second half of January. The final report is expected to be finalized on or before 15 February, 2019.

6. Expected products

The following products are expected to be jointly produced by the mixed team of evaluators:

- 1) Inception Report (English)
- 2) Draft Version of the Final Report (English, soft and hard copy, max. 40 pages)
- 3) Final Version of the Final Report (English, soft and hard copy, max. 40 pages)
- 4) An anonymized summary of the evaluation findings. (English, 7.000-10.000 words)

The consultants shall take full responsibility for the delivery of the final report within the period stipulated in the contract for this assignment. The report should be written in concise and accessible English with a schematic structure. Names, terms and acronyms that are not easily comprehended by the lay person should be explained in the text, via footnotes or in a glossary. As well, there should be an executive summary of main findings and recommendations in the main text. In an appendix, a list of consulted/interviewed persons indicating their names, gender and age should be provided.

It is expected that the consultant's report will add value to the programmes and processes at NHASD and will be the basis for learning.

7. Key qualifications of the evaluators

The Project Evaluation shall be undertaken by consultants with demonstrated expertise, experience and competences in agricultural projects' development and management. Both the local and international evaluators should demonstrate proof of previous experience in undertaking similar assignments and documentation of previous work with recognized organizations/institutions.

The two consultant(s)/firms will be contracted separately - the local one by NHASD, the international one by BftW (EWDE) – but conduct the majority of their work jointly.

The consultant(s)/firms should demonstrate the technical ability, capacity and availability to undertake the assignment, specifically:

For both evaluators:

- Extensive professional experience in design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation or general management,

For the local evaluator:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the new Egyptian constitution and specifically issues of devolution, devolved government system and citizen participation.
- Demonstrate previous experience in undertaking similar or related assignments with recognized organizations/institutions in monitoring and evaluation, documentation of case studies and success stories and production of related reports, documentation of intervention models, information gathering, analysis and production of end products such as booklets and videos communicating impact of various projects.

For the international evaluator:

- Extensive experience in conducting program evaluations
- Competency in applying the OECD DAC Criteria
- At least 5 years of experience in consulting on projects of organic agriculture, with a strong focus on participatory approaches and environmental sustainability – in different international contexts.

8. Content of the evaluator's offer

Expression of Interest (EOI) applications containing a **CV, a financial quotation and a technical offer** shall be submitted to the following addresses by close of business on **5 November 2018**:

For the local evaluator(s):

Hard copy: 54, Madinet Alfustat Algadida, neighborhood#2 - Misr Alqadima

Digital copy: info@nhasd.org (in PDF format)

Reference No: NHASD/BftW: Evaluation of Project End

For the international evaluator:

Digital copy only: Ms. Friederike Subklew-Sehume (BftW), Friederike.Subklew-Sehume@brot-fuer-die-welt.de