Terms of Reference
Final Evaluation of the "Alternatives to Violence: Strengthening Youth-Led Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic" project

| Purpose of evaluation | To design and support a high-quality evaluation that is both summative and formative to (1) generate findings to understand progress towards the intended outcomes and impact of the project, and (2) to generate actionable learning to inform the design, implementation, and adjustment of future projects on youth-led peacebuilding and community based reintegration in CAR. The primary user of the evaluation will be project staff in CAR and the UK (War Child UK, Conciliation Resources, AAHC and FHAP) who will use the learning to improve the quality of future programming and adjust our approach to future iterations of this approach and related others. The evaluation may also be of use to other agencies and stakeholders involved in peacebuilding initiatives and reintegration of children and youth formerly associated/affected by armed conflict. |
| Commissioner | WCUK & Conciliation Resources (on behalf of UNPBF) |
| Evaluation Manager | Henry Gathercole & Lisa Heinzel |
| Timeframe | August-October 2020 |
| Total Number of Consultancy Days | Estimate of 26 Days (may vary if remote) |
| Locations | Central African Republic or Remote |
| Deadline for Applications | 24th August 2020 |

1. Context

The military-political crisis that began in 2012 has had a negative social, political and security impact in the Central African Republic (CAR). The already precarious security situation in recent decades has deteriorated more and more, affecting almost all the country's cities and communities. The towns of Bossangoa and Paoua, the capital of Ouham Prefecture and Ouham Pende, respectively, are among the towns hard hit by the events. Young people and children are real targets and/or victims of the armed conflicts that the country has experienced. To date, attempts to bring peace to CAR have not received massive support from young people living in remote conflict-affected areas of the country. As a result, the peace-building process initiated by the government and supported by the community is weakened.

The evaluation will also be conducted in the context of the COVID-19. As of early August there were 4,619 confirmed cases in the Central African Republic. Programming has been adapted whilst implementation continue. As a result War Child UK and Conciliation Resources are seeking either a remote consultancy or an evaluator already based in CAR to design and manage the evaluation.

2. Background to the project

War Child UK and Conciliation Resources partnered to implement the "Alternatives to Violence: Strengthening youth-led peacebuilding in the Central African Republic " project in Paoua and Bossangoa sub-prefectures. War Child UK is an international humanitarian organisation working to protect children in the areas affected by conflict. Conciliation Resources is a non-governmental organization working in conflict affected countries to prevent violence, resolve conflicts and promote more peaceful societies. It works closely with local partners to build bridges between local initiatives and national peace-building processes.
The project is implemented in partnership with two Central African civil society organizations: Femme Homme Action Plus (FHAP) and the Association pour l’Action Humanitaire en Centrafrique (AAHC). The project began in December 2018 and will conclude end of September 2020.

The Alternatives to Violence project, funded by the UN Secretary General’s UN Peacebuilding Fund, seeks to ensure that the peacebuilding process in CAR is strengthened and informed by the views of youth. At present, attempts to bring peace to CAR find little or no echo among young people living in remote conflict-affected areas of the country. As a result, the peace-building process is weakened.

Working with 600 young people in Bossangoa and Paoua sub-prefectures (including 300 young people formerly associated with armed groups), the project sought to strengthen young people’s role in peacebuilding at the local, prefectural, and national level while also increasing their resilience through increased economic opportunities and psychosocial coping skills. The project used participatory conflict analysis methods to equip young people with the necessary tools to identify andanalyse conflict in their communities. Subsequent action planning created space for young people to set their own priorities and design responses based on their own analysis. The action plans were an entry point for young people to engage with their local authorities and laid a foundation for collaboration between young people and authorities on conflict mediation and conflict prevention. The project supported young people to implement their action plans which included activities such as community dialogue, sensitisation, and peer-to-peer training. The project also trained young people in advocacy, convened youth advocacy planning and strategy meetings and supported young people in conducting advocacy with decision-makers at the local, prefectural and national level.

Through market-based economic self-sufficiency interventions and access to better psychosocial coping skills, the project aims to improve social cohesion and opportunities for young people in the community as well as alternatives to violence, with a particular focus on helping young people who have been associated with armed groups, as well as their vulnerable peers. The economic and psychosocial activities of the project are designed to provide long-term assistance to young people who have already benefited from resilience-building measures. Complementary youth-led peace-building, mediation and advocacy activities will ensure the meaningful mobilization of young people for peace-building with local, prefectural and national processes based on and sensitive to their perspectives, needs and priorities.

**Project Outcomes & Outputs**

**Outcome 1: Relationships across conflict divisions, and economic opportunities at a community level as an alternative to violence are strengthened**

- Output 1.1 Youth have increased access to economic opportunities in their communities
- Output 2.2 Youth have increased coping skills

**Outcome 2: Local, prefectural, and national processes are informed by and are responsive to the perspectives, needs, and priorities of young people**

- Youth have knowledge and skills to participate in community-led peacebuilding and address tensions in their communities through dialogue
- Relationships between youth and local authorities are strengthened

**3. Evaluation purpose and objectives**

The purpose is to conduct an evaluation that is both summative and formative, providing accountability to UNPBF as the donor on the outputs and outcomes achieved through the project, and generating actionable learning to inform future project design and implementation in this area.

The main objective of the evaluation is to respond to the key evaluation questions:
### Evaluation Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Question</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Domain of Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To what extent did psychosocial support, livelihoods, and peacebuilding activities contribute to improved wellbeing of participants?</td>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To what extent did livelihood programming and economic activities contribute to peacebuilding outcomes?</td>
<td>Effectiveness, Relevance</td>
<td>Livelihoods &amp; Peacebuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To what extent did the project contribute to youth participation in peacebuilding?</td>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td>Peacebuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How has each element of the project design (psychosocial support, livelihoods, and peacebuilding activities) interacted to contribute to the project outcomes?</td>
<td>Effectiveness, Connectedness</td>
<td>Peacebuilding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 2. Scope of the evaluation

- **Programmatic:** The evaluation is focused on the interventions implemented according to the project design, including psychosocial support, livelihoods development, and peacebuilding activities.
- **Geographic:** The evaluation is focused on the specific communes targeted by the project in Bossangoa sub-prefecture (Bossangoa centre, Koro-Mpoko, Soungbe, Benzambe and Ndoromboli) and Paoua sub-prefecture (Paoua centre, Bahn, Bah-Bessar, Mia-Pendé, Nana Barya).
- **Timeframe:** The duration of implementation of the specific project from December 2018-September 2020.
- **Population:** The evaluation is focused on the outcomes related to the project participants, and secondarily to the wider local community.

### 3. Guiding principles

Evaluations should adhere to the following principles, and proposals should outline explicitly how the proposed evaluation approach would do so.

- **Participation:** The evaluation should involve appropriate, informed, consensual and meaningful participation from all key stakeholders, with a particular focus on the young people and communities we work with.

- **Utilisation-Focused:** Evaluations should identify the intended users and how they will use the findings from the initial steps to ensure the evaluation is designed, implemented and disseminated to effectively meet the needs of the primary users.

- **Capacity Building:** Evaluations should seek to build the technical evaluation capacity of War Child UK, Conciliation Resources partner staff and other stakeholders, for example the inclusion of staff members in the evaluation team and/or incorporation of staff training on evaluation into the in-country data collection period.

- **Transparency:** Evaluation outputs must clearly document the methodology used, including any limitations, and evaluation methodologies must consider how attribution\(^1\) to/contribution\(^2\) of War Child UK is ascertained.

- **Value for Money:** War Child is committed to ensuring that evaluations are conducted in a way that represents value for money (VfM).

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\(^1\) **Definition of Attribution:** The ascription of a causal link between observed (or expected to be observed) changes and a specific intervention (ALNAP, 2016, p29)

\(^2\) **Definition of Contribution:** Analysing contribution in evaluation refers to finding credible ways of showing that an intervention played some part in bringing about results. Contribution analysis is a kind of evaluative analysis that recognises that several causes might contribute to a result, even if individually they may not be necessary or sufficient to create impact (ibid.)
• **Independence:** Evaluators, both external and internal, must undertake their work free of political influence, organisational pressure, and bias along gender/ethnic/religious/cultural lines and/or any other forms of intersectionality that may incur discrimination or stigma, with any potential conflicts of interest declared and documented.

• **Rigour:** Evaluations should be based on a Theory of Change, make use of an evaluation matrix, and incorporate triangulation.

4. Evaluation approach and methodology

The evaluator is invited to suggest an appropriate participatory evaluation methodology that is in line with the objectives and evaluation questions, as well as the guiding principles for this evaluation. During the design of the evaluation methodology, the evaluator will make sure that:

- Existing resources are used, such as Theory of Change, baseline data, output data, reports including the labour market assessment, year plans and other secondary materials such as evaluations of similar approaches;
- The views and opinions of various stakeholders of various age groups are taken into account (i.e. project participants directly involved in implementing the approach and on outcomes for the broader communities);
- A combination of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods are used, such as surveys, interviews, focus group discussions and more participatory techniques, such as most significant change, outcome harvesting or appreciative enquiry. Case studies may also provide more in-depth information;
- Evaluation findings are triangulated and validated;
- Sampling decisions are documented in the evaluation report and justified.

At the start of the evaluation, the evaluator should develop an inception report, describing the way that the chosen evaluation methods, data sources, sampling and indicators will support the evaluation questions.

5. Roles and responsibilities

- War Child UK and Conciliation Resources are responsible for coordination/guidance, logistical arrangements, provision of the needed project documents for review, approval of inception report, review and discussion of the draft report, approval of the final report, payment for the consultancy and dissemination of the report to all stakeholders (including participants at community level);
- The evaluator is responsible for the design (inception report), implementation, analysis and reporting of the evaluation, in liaison with the partner project staff. The evaluator will present and discuss preliminary findings during a remote debrief workshop with relevant staff members of War Child and local partners.
- Due to restricted travel in relation to the COVID-19 measures, War Child UK and Conciliation Resources and partners may provide the data-collection teams and support logistics.

6. Evaluation Utilisation

War Child UK wants evaluations to be useful and well utilised. As such, we seek to commission high quality evaluations that generate evidenced findings, and actionable learning and recommendations.

The users for this evaluation are likely to be as follows:

- **Project Team:** The project team, including War Child UK, Conciliation Resources, FHAP, and AAHC will use the findings, learnings, and recommendations to review the project and inform future programming.
- **WCUK CAR Country Office:** War Child country offices in Central African Republic will use the findings, learnings and recommendations in future programming.
- **WCUK Other Country Offices:** War Child UK may share the report with other Country Offices who might be implementing/planning to implement similar projects in their countries.
• **Project Donor:** The evaluation report will be shared with the donor - they may use the findings, learnings and recommendations to review their funding portfolio and to inform funding of future programmes.

• **Project Stakeholders:** Hard copies of the report will be externally shared with the project-related Government and non-government agencies through an internal learning workshop.

Proposals should include initial thoughts regarding how findings, learnings and recommendations will be explored, addressed and shared internally, externally, and with the children and communities participating in the project, to maximise use, to be elaborated during the inception stage.

7. **Expected Deliverables**

The deliverables required from this final evaluation are as follows:

- An inception report based on this Terms of Reference, initial briefings with WCUK and Conciliation Resources, consultation with other stakeholders, and a desk review which should include:
  - A detailed methodology, including planned timeframe, list of stakeholders to be consulted, proposed sampling approach, protocols for data collection and analysis, ethics process to be followed, and evaluation instruments and tools
  - Initial findings based on the review of project documentation and existing data
  - Outline of key knowledge gaps not covered by this Terms of Reference, and suggested additions/alterations to the proposed evaluation questions and overall Terms of Reference.
  - A clear indication of how the evaluation will be implemented in the context of COVID-19.
- All data collected through quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods, will be consolidated in organized data file(s)
- A preliminary findings debrief via an online workshop will be held with relevant staff members of partner organisations to validate the results and propose the conclusions and recommendations;
- Evaluation report:
  - A draft of the evaluation report is submitted to War Child UK for input within 2 weeks of completing the field work.
  - A short summary of findings and recommendations in French and English to enable relevant stakeholders in country to access and understand the evaluation findings within 3 weeks.
  - A final evaluation report, including documentation of timeline, methodology; analysis, final recommendations within 4 weeks of completing the field work. The final evaluation report will be submitted in soft copy in English.
  - The final evaluation report (25 pages maximum) should follow the below structure:
    a. Executive Summary
    b. Introduction + Theory of Change
    c. Methodology
    d. Findings and Analysis
    e. Learning
    f. Recommendations
    g. Conclusions
    h. Annexes:
      - Bibliography of consulted secondary sources
      - Documented evaluation methods / data collection tools (in French and English)
- An evaluation summary (a concise summary of the main findings and actionable learning in French and English, maximum 4 pages)
- Dissemination: the report dissemination will be achieved through a meeting to be attended by the partners where the results, conclusions and recommendations will be presented.

8. **Profile of Evaluator**

_Essential:_
- Extensive experience of design and implementation of evaluating humanitarian action and/or peacebuilding interventions in conflict-affected contexts
- Experience in remote evaluation design and management
- Experience of designing participatory workshops, data collection and analysis
- Experience of participatory evaluation methods such as Most Significant Change, Appreciative Enquiry or Outcome Harvesting including children and youth
- Relevant academic qualifications, background and field experience
- Excellent analytical and report writing skills.
- Fluency in English and French (both spoken and written).
- Understanding of issues and sensitivities required when working with vulnerable groups.
- Ability to establish strong working relationships with multiple implementing partners

Desirable:
- Technical expertise and/or conceptual understanding of conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- Experience of evaluating peacebuilding or conflict resolution, youth engagement and livelihood projects
- Understanding of the Central African Republic context and experience working in Ouham and Ouham Pendé prefectures.

*Applications are encouraged from evaluation teams comprising of more than one person. In this instance, the specifications deemed “essential” do not have to be met by the whole External Evaluation Team but met by at least one member of the team.

9. Time frame

The evaluation is expected to take place in **August-Oct 2020**, including preparation, evaluation design, field work, report writing and presentation of findings and recommendations to partners. Consultant(s) are asked to provide a detailed plan in proposal. We estimate the consultancy to total around 26 working days.

10. Budget

The maximum budget available for this consultancy is between 7,000-10,000 USD. War Child UK & Conciliation Resources have reserved a separate budget for primary data collection.

11. Child Safeguarding

The evaluator(s) must read, sign, and adhere to the War Child UK Child Safeguarding Policy (shared with shortlisted candidates). **War Child UK reserve the right to conduct background checks for all shortlisted applicants, in addition to collecting references from previous clients.**

12. Submission of proposals

To apply please complete the Evaluation Proposal Form and include:

- A budgetary proposal including:
  1. Working days per evaluation phase (inception and design, analysis, and reporting)
  2. Costs for any proposed travel costs (not applicable if remote)
  3. Other costs (if applicable)
  4. The total budget (proposal should include the fees of the evaluator(s) and the number of working days required.)

- CVs of the team outlining relevant skills and experience.

**Deadline: 24th August 2020.**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Technical experience and expertise
- Quality and appropriateness of the proposed approach; alignment with the TOR
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposal
13. Contact details
For more information about the evaluation, please contact Henry Gathercole at HenryG@warchild.org.uk.