



Human Dignity, Healthy Communities, Global Justice

Call for Expressions of Interest

TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE GOVERNANCE Nicaragua

Consultancy - Mid-Project Evaluation

1. Introduction

Change for Children (CFC) requires a Mid-Project Evaluation of the ***Technology for Sustainable Water Resource Governance*** Project being implemented in Nicaragua. This is a five-year Project funded by Global Affairs Canada, through the 2015 call for proposals entitled 'Technological Platforms to Strengthen Public Sector Accountability and Citizen Engagement.' Project activities began in March 2017 and full implementation in June 2019. The completion date for implementation of project activities is November 2021, with wrap-up and the final report by March 2022. CFC is implementing this project with SIMAS (Servicio de Información Mesoamericano sobre Agricultura Sostenible), our Nicaraguan partner organization.

The *Technology for Sustainable Water Resource Governance* project aims to increase democratic empowerment of Nicaraguan women and men to use innovative technology to manage community water resources and advocate for their right to water. A ground-breaking digital platform (website, data collection tools, training modules and an android app) that links mobile computer devices to Community Water Committees (CWCs) in 365 communities and 11 municipalities will be a tool/mechanism for learning, monitoring, communicating, collaborating, and advocating for water rights. The project aims to reach 1,825 members of 365 CWQCs with training and support. The project also includes the construction and rehabilitation of 40 water systems in joint projects with municipal authorities, Community Water Committees (CWCs) and other international and national organizations.

2. Rationale of the consultancy

The consultancy is expected to provide an independent assessment of the progress made in the first implementation period (3 years - March 2017-March 2020) with a view of providing accountability for stakeholders, capturing lessons learned to date, and offering recommendations for course corrections and suggestions for modifications to the remainder of the project implementation period.

3. Purpose of the consultancy

This mid-project evaluation will utilize a participatory methodology to:

- Provide a systematic and objective assessment of the project, its design, implementation and results in order to verify "the relevance and fulfillment of its stated objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability" (OECD DAC Glossary);
- Inform stakeholders of results achieved so far;

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- Inform stakeholders about key factors that have contributed to or hindered results;
- Ensure that lessons learned and innovative practices are integrated into on-going project implementation;
- Provide insight and learning from this innovative project for future replication and scale-up.

4. Objectives

The specific objectives of the evaluation are the following:

1. Assess the achievement of immediate and intermediate outcomes for this project, including the mandatory expected results statements specified in the call for proposals.
2. Assess key factors that have contributed to or hindered the achievement of results.
3. Examine how the ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) tools and approaches may have enhanced or hindered the participation and inclusion of women and marginalized groups.
4. Provide findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons to fulfill the evaluation purposes as stated above.

5. Scope

It is expected that the evaluation will cover project activities and outcomes in the 11 municipalities of Leon and Chinandega (Chinandega, Chichigalpa, Posoltega, Somotillo and Villanueva in Chinandega; León, Quezalguaque, Telica, Larreynaga, El Jicaral, El Sauce, and Achuapa in León) where the project is being implemented.

6. Beneficiaries and Key Actors in the Project

- Beneficiary families of the water system investments
- Boards of Directors of the CWCs (Community Waters Committees)
- Municipal officials of the beneficiary Municipalities
- Personnel of the UMAS (Municipal Water and Sanitation Units)
- Project staff

7. Evaluation Questions

The Consultant will address the following questions:

1. To what extent has the project achieved the expected immediate as well as the intermediate outcomes (see Logic Model, Annex 1)?
2. What results have been obtained by the project to March 2020?
3. What key factors contributed to the achievement of the obtained results (as measured by question two)?
4. Were results achieved relevant to the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, especially women and marginalized groups?
5. Were the ICT tools and approaches designed and implemented in a way that they will continue to be used beyond the life of the project?
6. To what extent were the ICT tools and approaches innovative?¹
7. What key factors hindered the achievement of expected results?
8. In what ways have the ICT tools and approaches hindered or enhanced the participation and inclusion of women and marginalized groups."

¹ Innovation in international assistance can be defined as a process, mindset, and means to enable new or improved locally-driven solutions for better results and greater impact, which benefit and empower the poorest and most vulnerable, including women and girls. Innovative solutions can include business models, policy practices, approaches, partnerships, technologies, behavioural insights, financing mechanisms or ways of delivering products and services. It can be either an entirely new solution (transformational) or an improvement to an existing development practice (incremental).

8. Methodology

The evaluation will utilize theory-based and case-based approaches along with contribution analysis. The Theory of Change will provide the framework for analysis of intended outcome, outputs, activities and change theory. Small scale case studies will be used to deepen understanding of the change process.

The evaluation will also utilize mixed qualitative and quantitative methods which are participatory and community-based. These complementary methods and collection of different sources of data will be deployed to ensure that the evaluation:

1. Responds to the needs of users and their intended use of the evaluation results;
2. Integrates gender equality principles throughout the evaluation process including participation and consultation of key stakeholders; and
3. Triangulates the data collected to provide reliable information on the extent of results and benefits for stakeholders.

Data will be disaggregated by relevant criteria (age, sex, geographic area, etc.) wherever possible. The evaluation will also be sensitive to fair power relations amongst stakeholders (in particular women and marginalized groups).

The evaluation will include such methods as: quantitative and qualitative data collection focus groups, key informant interviews, online and field surveys, and case studies. Data collected through the project's digital platform will be accessed and analysed to contribute to the evaluation. A desk review of relevant project documents and virtual and print publications and communications will also be included.

9. Proposed timeline and days and deliverables

Activity	No. of days (Approx.)*	Dates
Preparation and finalising the methodology (including interviews schedules).	3 days	By February 29, 2020
Review of project documents (i.e. reports, research, and communications, etc.) as inputs for evaluation	3 days	During March, 2020
Data collection / interviews in Nicaragua.	10 days	During March 2020
Preparation of first draft of report and submission to CFC and SIMAS teams for feedback.	6 days	By April 15, 2020
Finalization of the report.	3 days	By May 15, 2020
Total working days	25 days in total*	Completed by May 15, 2020

**days are approx. to be discussed / finalised with the consultant*

10. Expected Deliverables

The consultant is expected to produce the following products as part of the evaluation process:

1. The concrete design of the evaluation based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) in which the methodology, timelines, and stakeholders to be consulted are clearly established.
2. A proposal of instruments to be used (survey questionnaires, interview guides, etc.) for discussion and approval.
3. A meeting with the evaluation teams of the CFC and SIMAS to confirm the methodology and work plan.
4. A draft report followed by a meeting with the Project implementing organizations to discuss the findings.
5. Delivery of final document in Spanish, which must at least contain:
 - a. Executive Summary of the Report.

- b. Description of the process and methodology used (objectives, method, instruments, technicians, actors consulted, etc.)
- c. Evaluation Results: Achievements of the Project in the period evaluated.
- d. Main challenges of the evaluation.
- e. Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned.
- f. Annexes (instruments and other information deemed relevant for the evaluation process).

11. Expertise of consultant(s)

The consultant(s) should have expertise in:

- Participatory community-based approaches to MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning)
- Fluency in Spanish
- Experience implementing MEL processes for projects in Latin America
- Producing MEL reports in accessible language and providing clear and evidenced recommendations for the next two years of project implementation.
- Working across diverse settings and cultures - ensuring approach is tailored to the context.
- Ability to prepare the final report in Spanish.
- Ability to also produce the report in English is an asset.
- Familiarity with technological innovation projects is an asset

12. Expressions of interest

Consultants who are interested in this project, please submit an Expression of Interest to CFCA International Projects Manager, Adrienne Wiebe, at adrienne@change4children.org by end of day **Saturday, February 15, 2020.**

The document (maximum 5-pages) should include the following:

- Letter of interest indicating immediate availability
- Proposed preliminary methodology
- Proposed work plan and timelines
- Proposed Budget including: 1) daily rate, 2) personal field research expenses (travel, accommodation and food), and 3) any costs related to data collection, such as field data collectors.
- CV of the applying consultant or consulting team

13. Guidelines

- The Evaluation needs to be completed by May 15, 2020.
- Detailed TORS are available upon receipt of expressions of interest.
- The consultant will be in constant communication with the evaluation team identified by CFC.