

**Call for expression of interest
Final Project Evaluation**

‘Strengthening youth involvement in conflict prevention in areas affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army conflict in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)’

Summary

Conciliation Resources is an independent organisation working with people in conflict to prevent violence and build peace. Please see <http://www.c-r.org> for further information on our work and approach.

We are seeking consultancy services from an individual or organisation with the relevant experience and expertise to undertake a final evaluation of Conciliation Resources’ project ‘Strengthening youth involvement in conflict prevention in areas affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army conflict in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)’, funded by the European Union’s Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

The Final Evaluation will assess the effectiveness and relevance of the programme, provide recommendations and generate learning to inform EU, Conciliation Resources and partner organisations in DRC. This document sets out the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Final Evaluation, expected outputs, the experience and skills required by the consultant, and the recruitment and delivery timescales.

Expressions of interest to arrive via email to recruitment@c-r.org, no later than **5 pm UK Time on the 19 September 2018**.

Background and objectives of the project

In northeastern DRC, weak governance structures and processes are a core structural factor underlying multiple security threats. The region lacks effective governance systems able to provide security and resolve conflicts peacefully. This has allowed multiple groups, including the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) to operate. The presence of the LRA, which has abducted over 7,299 people between 2008 and 2016, is among the primary security concern for the local population. In the absence of an efficient state, young people, who represent 65% of the Congolese population, have an underutilised potential to play a role in responding to conflicts and raise the voices of the affected communities. They are largely excluded from local decision-making processes and dismissed as unimportant, unknowledgeable and troublemakers. As a result, community, provincial and national efforts aimed at resolving the conflicts in northeastern DRC remain poorly informed by the views, perspective and experiences of youth. Yet, due to their extensive community networks and in-depth understanding of local dynamics, grassroots youth are well placed to contribute to high quality analysis and experience-based responses to conflict.

The project’s overall objective is to ‘strengthen civil society contribution to conflict prevention in northeastern DRC’.

Expected results of the project are:

- 1) The capacity of youth and local civil society organisations is strengthened to undertake community-based peacebuilding in LRA affected areas.
- 2) Better networked youth groups and civil society organisations are actively reducing conflicts in communities and working with their community leaders.
- 3) Improved relationships between youth and local authorities leading to more responsive local leadership that addresses the needs and concerns of young people in the LRA affected areas.
- 4) Mobilised at-risk Groups – both male and female, especially returnees from the LRA – are supported to gain trust and support of their communities through participation in community projects.

The project has been implemented by Conciliation Resources since January 2017 and will end on 31 December 2018. It has been implemented in collaboration with three Congolese partner organisations: Commission Diocésaine de Justice, Paix et Réconciliation (CDJPR), Réseau des Femmes des Uélés (ROFU) and Solidarité et Assistance Intégrale aux Personnes Démunies (SAIPED).

Purpose of the Final Evaluation

The overall purpose of the Final Evaluation is to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the 'Strengthening youth involvement in conflict prevention in areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army conflict in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)' project, identify key learning and provide recommendations to inform future strategies in DRC for Conciliation Resources' partners, the EU, other peacebuilding organisations and Conciliation Resources itself.

Specifically, we would like the final evaluation to:

1. Evaluate project achievements

- Provide an independent assessment of the progress and performance of the project against initial objectives.
- Identify and report on achievements of change and impact –including unintended consequences
- Provide an assessment of the theory of change used by Conciliation Resources, its relevance and evidence of success or failure.
- Provide an assessment of the project's value for money.
- Assess effectiveness, value for money and efficiency – did the means of delivering the work provide effective and efficient methodologies, which led to the desired outcomes? How has the work of Conciliation Resources responded and adapted to changing circumstances over time, in particular changes in programme context?

2. Looking ahead

- Produce a set of recommendations that will assist Conciliation Resources', partner organisations' and donor agencies' future strategies towards peacebuilding and conflict prevention in DRC.
- Produce recommendations on future development needs for Conciliation Resources' partner organisations.
- Provide an assessment of potential challenges and opportunities for Conciliation Resources' partner organisations.
- Provide an assessment of an appropriate operating model to manage peacebuilding and reconciliation programmes in DRC, in light of partner capacity and the operating environment.

Outputs

The chosen consultant will be expected to produce the following:

1. **Inception report** (five to six pages). The consultant will work collaboratively with Conciliation Resources to finalise the methodology and is expected to present an inception report that will be discussed and agreed upon prior to embarking on fieldwork. The inception report will:
 - a) clarify **the approach and methodology** to be adopted, including a provisional timeframe and interpretation of the terms of reference.
 - b) **The evaluation questions to be answered**
 - c) **Sampling frame**
2. **Report** (maximum 18 pages, including executive summary, but excluding annexes) for comment to Conciliation Resources. The report will be finalised following discussion with Conciliation Resources, and any requested amendments made by the consultant.

Evaluation process and timescale

1. The consultancy is to be undertaken between 1 October 2018 and 6 January 2019.
2. Field work in northeastern DRC must be completed by 30 November 2018.
3. The report should be submitted by 15 December, with the final version (following amendments discussed with Conciliation Resources) submitted by 6 January 2019.

Skills, experience and competencies

- Proven knowledge and understanding of governance, peacebuilding and NGO organisational development, along with experience of evaluating governance and peacebuilding programmes;
- Experience and understanding of working with civil society organisations;
- A track record in undertaking high quality participatory evaluations, which have generated actionable recommendations.
- High-end qualitative research and analytical skills, and knowledge of good practice in evaluation;
- The consultant should have the ability to deliver the outputs within the agreed timescale and not have any conflict of interest either with Conciliation Resources, European Union or Conciliation Resources' partner organisations;
- Interpersonal skills that invoke trust and which are gender and culturally sensitive;
- Essential language skills: Excellent verbal and written English and French
- Knowledge of, and experience working in, the Central Africa region working with grassroots communities including women and youth will be an added advantage.
- Knowledge of political, security and socio-economic conditions in DRC essential

Budget

The indicative budget for this evaluation is £10,000 excluding travel but inclusive of any taxes and other expenses, payable on delivery of the final evaluation report which meets agreed criteria. The price quoted should be a total price for the work and not be quoted on a day rate basis.

How to submit your proposal

Expressions of interest of no more than four pages plus appendices to arrive via email to recruitment@c-r.org, no later than **5 pm UK Time on the 19 September 2018** and include, at a minimum the following:

- Your proposal on how you meet our requirements including an institutional overview of your consultancy firm (if you work with a specific consultancy firm), CVs of key personnel (maximum three pages), and a sample of a previous evaluation.
- An outline of the proposed evaluation (up to four pages): Approach, methodology and management arrangements. The outline should include your approach to both information gathering and analysis; and your timescale for delivery.
- Budget outlining major costs, excluding travel and accommodation. This should be inclusive of all taxes.
- We will require *at least two referees* for selected consultants. Conciliation Resources reserves the right to ask for additional referees.

Conciliation Resources will only contact shortlisted candidates that meet the relevant criteria for an interview (face to face or by Skype) within two weeks of their application. The consultant will be expected to start in October 2018.

Questions and queries regarding the submission of 'expressions of interest' for the evaluation should be addressed to Kennedy Tumutegyereize, Programme Director, East and Central Africa Programme via email at ktumutegyereize@c-r.org.