



Overview

Application deadline	Sept 13, 2024
Contract start and end date	As soon as possible
Duration	October 1st – 31 st , 2024
Program sector(s)	Climate Change
Project/Program name	Women Empowerment for Climate Resilience” (WECR)
Type of consultancy	External End-of-Project Evaluation
Project/Program location	Khua, Sampha, and Mai Districts, Phongsaly Province, Lao PDR
Consultant location	In-country would be preferred
Funded by	The Danish Telethon (DT)

Background

CARE is a humanitarian non-governmental organization committed to working with poor women, men, boys, girls, communities, and institutions to have a significant impact on the underlying causes of poverty. CARE seeks to contribute to economic and social transformation, unleashing the power of the most vulnerable women and girls.

CARE International in Lao PDR (CARE Laos) began its operations in 1992 and has worked since then to improve the lives of vulnerable groups in both rural and urban areas, particularly the ethnic communities. CARE Laos works in partnership with community members, government bodies, local civil society organizations, and the private sector. Currently, CARE Laos implements projects in four provinces: Vientiane Capital, Luangprabang, Champasack, Phongsaly, and Sekong.

CARE's "Marginalized Women and Girls" program empowers women and girls to exercise their rights, lead and make decisions, and benefit from socio-economic justice. CARE's two main program areas in Lao are women's health and economic empowerment and resilience. Our health programs empower women and girls to exercise their rights to reproductive, maternal, and child nutritional health for greater control over their bodies and to live a life free from violence. Our economic empowerment and resilience programs give women and girls greater access to and control over economic opportunities, resilient resources, and dignified work by promoting gender equality and fighting gender-based violence and climate risk. CARE has extensive experience and expertise in both areas and will continue to pursue evidence-based practices to deliver long-lasting solutions effectively and sustainably.

Introduction

The WECR Project is being implemented by CARE International in Laos in collaboration with partners consisting of CARE Laos, Community Development & Environment Association (CDEA) Gender Development Association (GDA) and local government agencies in 20 target villages of Khua, Samphan and Mai Districts, Phongsaly Province, Lao PDR from Aug 2021 to December 2025. The main objective of the WECR project is to enhance the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers, particularly ethnic women,

in adapting to sustainable climate change through the implementation of Community Adaptation Action Plans. The project has three specific objectives (outcomes) as follows:

- Specific objective 1: Ethnic minority women develop and implement own solutions to their families' climate challenges.
- Specific objective 2: Ethnic minority women increase the income and food security of their family through three innovative areas of action: Weather information, drought resistance paddy fields and sustainable beekeeping.
- Specific objective 3: Ethnic minority women develop and implement own solutions to their families' climate challenges.

The outcome indicators under these three components are summarized as follows:

Project Goal	1,800 ethnic minority women, 1,400 children and their families are more resilient to climate change.
(Outcome) Specific objective 1	(Locally led adaptation) Ethnic minority women develop and implement own solutions to their families' climate challenges.
Outcome Indicator #1.1	90% of women feel that the Community Adaptation Action Plans reflect their needs
Outcome Indicator #1.2	Increased income for 1,400 women
Outcome Indicator #1.3	20 local climate solutions implemented
Outcome Indicator #1.4	90% of women feel included in the decision making on the allocation of climate funds
(Outcome) Specific objective 2	(Food & nutrition security) Ethnic minority women increase the income and food security of their family through three innovative areas of action: Weather information, drought resistance paddy fields and sustainable beekeeping.
Outcome Indicator #2.1	chronic malnutrition among children under age of 5 years reduced by 20%
Outcome Indicator #2.2	89% of 1,600 women have access to climate information services
Outcome Indicator #2.3	78% of 1,400 women act on climate information services
Outcome Indicator #2.4	50% higher yield from rice harvest
Outcome Indicator #2.5	200 women (11%) increase their income through sustainable beekeeping
(Outcome) Specific objective 3	(Gender based violence) Ethnic minority women develop and implement own solutions to their families' climate challenges.
Outcome Indicator #3.1	% Of community members (male/female) whose attitude on gender norms to prevent violence against women has improved
Outcome Indicator #3.2	% Of target community member (male/female) who take active steps to prevent violence against women
Outcome Indicator #3.3	% Of women who report positive change in household responsibility
Outcome Indicator #3.4	% Of women who report positive change in access to and control over family resources relevant to their livelihood's opportunities

Qualitatively, the consultant will also measure the change and impact of the intervention by using the OECD DAC criteria to determine the project's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability as part of the evaluation. Following are the guiding questions for each DAC:

- Relevance: Is the intervention doing the right things?
- Coherence: Who well does the intervention fit?
- Efficiency: How well are resources (human, financial, time) used?
- Effectiveness: Is the intervention achieving its objectives?
- Impact: What difference is the intervention making?
- Sustainability: Will the benefits last?

Also, the consultant will measure the CARE System Impact at Scale; scale deep (impacting cultural roots), scale out (impacting greater numbers), and scale up (impact laws and policy).

The purpose of the end of project evaluation is to assess the progress and achievement of project impact, outcomes, and output against the project logical framework, to assess the progress of project reach to climate justice impact area under CARE's Global Indicators for Measuring Change, and to identify the challenge, best practices, lessons learned and recommendations to improve the project or modification for the remaining project period based on project's Theory of Change and Logical Framework. The baseline Mid-Term Review (MTR) results will be compared with this final evaluation.

Evaluation target group

The assessment population will include the target direct beneficiaries such as male farmers, female farmers, village leaders (Village Chief and village LWU), CSO partners (CDEA and GDA country directors and officers), Government partners (PLWU, DAFO, DONRE, DLWU), CARE in Vientiane (Finance Director, MEAL Advisor, Program Director, Climate Change Coordinator), CARE in PSL (PM and Project Officers). Note: Actual number of these target groups will be terminated later between the consultant and the project team.

Scope

The evaluation will cover at least 60% Or 11 villages of the project's 20 target villages. Three villages in Khua, four villages in Mai, and four villages in Samphan District, Phongsaly Province. The sampling should ensure that the village covers diversity, ethnicity (Khmu, at least three different Akha, Phounoi, and Tai Dam), distance, as well as economic status. Total household members to be met will be provided later based on the number of the population in the selected villages.

The following are the suggested procedures for the consultant for this evaluation.

Phase One:

- Review all documents related to this project and select indicators and CARE's related documents: CARE Vision 2030, Climate Justice Strategy, Marginalized Women and Girls- Long-term Program Strategy, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Gender Equality and Women's Voice Strategy, Annual narrative and financial reports. Research on climate change: Gender-based Violence Nexus. Other related documents such as Lao national socio-economic development plan.

Phase Two:

- Develop study design and sampling methodology.
- Present inception report along with data collection tools and organizes online or face to face meeting with CARE team for preparing and making plan before conducting the data collection training, including presentation method, questionnaire interview etc.
- Provide data collection tool training to enumerators, and pilot and translate data collection tools into Laos (if the tools are in English).
- Lead the data collection process in the field with multiple target groups along with the enumerators to ensure the data is collected effectively manner.

Phase Three:

- Overseeing cleaning and validation of quantitative and qualitative data
- Conducting all data analysis
- Present the evaluation result through a data validation workshop
- Prepare draft report and take feedback for finalization and presenting the key findings.
- Provide a one-page summary of the report after the final report is submitted.

Approach and Methodology

The final evaluation will take a mixed-method approach and will process with:

1. A mix of quantitative and qualitative instruments and methods will be used.
2. A participatory approach should be adopted to capture the perspectives of key stakeholders and project participants/beneficiaries.
3. The methodology will be gender and target-group (ethnicity) sensitive.
4. Sampling will be discussed and decided together with CARE. The final evaluation will not cover all target villages, but the sampling will be purposeful and represent local diversity (i.e. distance to roads, gender, ethnicity, type of production, access to land).
5. Train staff as enumerators of data collection, especially project staff, CSOs, and government partners who are invited to join the process of the evaluation.
6. Present findings to relevant partners/stakeholders/CARE Staff
7. All project target groups of beneficiaries should be included during the data collection process.
8. The data collection should be disaggregated by age and gender and any other relevant diversity criteria in line with the project's Theory of Change and MEAL standard.
9. All raw data (including data entry forms, database of entered data, graphics, and analysis for each village) shall be made available to CARE Staff and submitted with the final evaluation.

Roles and Responsibility

Team Members and Roles

Phase	Responsible Person	Primary Tasks
Planning	MEAL Advisor, Climate Change team, and PSL Provincial Manager	Lead in the facilitation evaluation process and managing the external consultant by collaborating with CARE donor (the Danish Telethone), CSO Partners, and government partners.
	External Consultant	- Led in designing the necessary methodology and tool for evaluation by collaborating with CARE

		<p>Laos' program team and CARE Danish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead in providing the training to the data collection team on methodology and tools to be used in the evaluation. - Ensure the appropriate team composition by collaborating with the CARE team regarding ethnic groups. - Lead in writing the inception report.
Data Collection	MILKA Advisor & PSL Provincial Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead in facilitating the logistics and making an appointment with the selected target groups mentioned above. - Provide relevant information and data as requested.
	Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead in collecting the data following the data collection plan (interview CARE team, GoL and CSOs partners including the target group).
Data Analysis	External Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead in cleaning the data and data processing/translation if required. - Lead in analyzing the day following the objective and requirement from the final evaluation ToR. - Cross-check all data to ensure that collected data meets the needs of the final evaluation objectives and requirements.
Reporting	External Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debriefing for the community representative and government partners at the district level. - Debriefing for the program team from CARE Laos, CARE Denmark, and relevant Partners. - Provide a one-page evaluation summary for CARE

Deliverables

Below are summaries of key deliverables:

Deliverable	Description	By when
Inception report	Including the methodology, sampling, tools, and the guiding principles of the evaluation and data analysis plan.	W1-2 Oct, 2024
Data collection	Conduct field data collection in 11 villages in (3 villages in Khua, 4 villages in Mai, and 4 villages in Samphan) target villages in Phongsaly.	W3-4 Oct, 2024
Draft final evaluation report (max 30 pages, annexes excluded)	<p>Included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cover Page Table of Contents Acknowledgments Abbreviations Executive Summary Brief Project Overview 	W1 Nov, 2024

	VII. Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief Final Evaluation Design - Sampling strategy - Data analysis plan VIII. Key limitation and ethical Considerations to Final Evaluation IX. Results, analysis, and discussion (for final evaluation specifically including a log frame showing final evaluation status for selected indicators). X. Conclusion and recommendations XI. References with proper citation XII. Appendices or Annexes XIII. Photos are CARE property and will be annexed to the final report together with consent forms. (Please refer to CARE Evaluation template)	
Indicator summary table	Update the indicator in the log frame (compared Baseline, MTR and Final Evaluation)	W1 Nov, 2024
PowerPoint presentation (debriefing)	Includes the methodology, sampling, tools, key findings, imitations, and recommendations from the final evaluation study	W2 Nov, 2024
Cleaned qualitative and quantitative data sets.	The consultant should deliver, at minimum, all files including quantitative data sets (raw and refined products), transcripts of qualitative data, and others in an easy-to-read format and maintain naming conventions and labeling for the use of the project/program/initiative and key stakeholders.	W2 Nov, 2024
Completion of the approved final report	Following the feedback on the draft report – submit the final version along with one page evaluation summary and materials to CARE	W2 Nov, 2024

Timeframe

Fieldwork for the final evaluation is expected to start as soon as possible: ideally in W3-4 of October 2024. The final report is expected to be submitted by no later than W3 of November 2024.

The following table shows the anticipated work schedule:

	Item	Specific Task	Days	Tentative dates
1	Pre-field activities	Project literature review - CARE to support with documents (will be provided by CARE)	1	W1 October, 2024
		Design methodology and plan data collection. Develop final evaluation study tools.	2	W1 October, 2024
		Inception report	1	W1 October, 2024
		Sub-total	4	
2	Field	Travel to Khua District, Phongsaly Province	-	W2 October, 2024

	activities			
		Training on data collection and preparing the document	1	W2 October, 2024
		Data collection in 3 villages in Khua District,	3	W2 October, 2024
		Travel to Mai District	-	W2 October, 2024
		Data collection in 4 villages in Mai District	4	W3 October, 2024
		Travel to Samphan District	-	W3 October, 2024
		Data collection in 4 villages in Samphan District	4	W4 October, 2024
		Consultant travel to VTE	-	W4 October, 2024
		Sub-total	12	
3	Report writing	Prepare the draft Report	3	W1 November, 2024
		Prepare presentation for CARE senior program team and CARE Denmark & relevant partners	1	W2 November, 2024
		Finalize the report (considering comments from CARE) and submit the finalized report to CARE.	2	W2 November, 2024
		Sub-total	6	
		Grant Total	22	

NOTE: CARE in Laos will cover the consultant's transportation and accommodation during data collection in Phongsaly, except per diem and travel insurance.

Selection Criteria

1	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 years experience in the fields of climate change, agriculture and food security programming, gender, and women's empowerment in Lao PDR or southeast Asia Demonstrated strong social research and reporting skills, including experience conducting quantitative and qualitative research. Demonstrated successful experience in conducting project final evaluation studies, especially development projects. Demonstrated good understanding of gender issues, and women's empowerment in Laos. Relevant technical experience (e.g. climate change, agricultural and food security, gender mainstreaming, ethnicity, Social Behavioural Change and Communication, rural livelihoods, institutional development, etc.) is preferred.
2	Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant post-graduate qualifications.
3	Technical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research, survey (e.g. PRA/PLA), stakeholder interviews (ranging from field level to national level stakeholders), report writing, and presentation. Ability to work autonomously and demonstrated skills in leading final evaluation projects.
4	Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent command of English (writing and speaking). Experience in Lao PDR and Lao language skills are desirable.

5	References	▪ A minimum of two referee contacts who have managed the proposed consultant previously.
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As a matter of course, all consultants are subject to the following policies:

- CARE Lao Child Protection Policy.
- Terrorist Check Safety and Security Management Plan.
- CARE Code of Conduct.

How to apply

If you are interested in this role, please submit your (1) CV, (2) cover letter, (3) two references, (4) proposed final evaluation study plan, and (5) cost quotation (daily rate) to: LAO.Contracts@care.org by **13th Sept 2024**, please include the text: **“Application for WECR Final Evaluation Consultancy”** in the subject of your email.

Note that the cost quotation should include the consultant’s daily rate as well as any materials and travel costs required for the consultant to complete the analysis outlined above.

For specific technical and more information, please contact Mr. Chasy Somwhang at chasy.somwhang@care.org. Mobile: +85620 9928 2552