

Terms of Reference

Mid-term Evaluation

Country: Ethiopia

Region: Amhara National Regional State, West Gojjam Zone, North Achefer Woreda

Project name: Kunzila Integrated Landscape Management and WASH Project (ILMWA)
Duration of the evaluation: short term (30 days)

Organization: Water and Land Resource Center of Addis Ababa University

Deadline for application: 30/10/2022

Rationale for evaluation

This project aims at enhancing the wealth and health status of the people of six rural kebeles and Kunzila town. The project covers two broad areas of development interventions: Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). While WLRC is responsible for the implementation of ILM interventions, SNV is responsible for the implementation of WASH interventions. The project was started in March 2020 including inception phase from March 2020 to August 2020. The baseline situations of the project area are studied under three thematic areas: Biophysical Environment, Socioeconomic Environments, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Situation. The study of the biophysical environments covers detail assessments of the Land Use and Land Cover (LULC), biodiversity, biomass and carbon sequestration, land degradation and management, animal production, livestock production, water resources, groundwater resources, and soils of the area. The socioeconomic study covered the assessments of the socioeconomic and institutional environments and the status of gender and youth situations. Likewise, the WASH survey covered the assessments of institutional WASH, household WASH and Operations and Managements of water supply schemes. Series of internal and external review workshops are held to validate the inception report.

The five-years development plan of the project is thus prepared based on the baseline situations vis-à-vis the desired changes in key outcome indicators, and in consultations with communities and various stakeholders. Based on the five-year development plan, the dynamics of the situations, and progresses of the project in the previous period, detail annual plans are prepared and approved every year.

The midterm evaluation will be conducted to critically assess and review the performance of the project. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will enhance learning within the implementing partners (WLRC and SNV), the EKN, regional government bureaus and stakeholders. It will help in adjusting the project's approaches, strategies and scopes to improve the performances of the project in the remaining project periods and it will evaluate the performances of the project using selected key outcome indicators. As such it measure/estimate

the changes in the levels of the selected outcome indicators in comparison with their baseline levels that are attributed to the project. It evaluates the performances of the project by critically reviewing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and orientation to impacts of the changes in the outcomes. Together with the end-term evaluation to be conducted at the end of the project, the evaluations will improve the design and implementation of similar development projects in the future by drawing important lessons from the performances of the project.

Background of the project

In 2019, the Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN), in partnership with the Dutch horticultural investors, started a flagship project to invest on the sustainable development of the area. To this end, the Netherlands Embassy, the Ethiopian Horticulture & Agriculture Investment Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure the sustainability of the investment by making cooperative efforts toward attaining broader and sustainable development in Kunzila area. The Netherland Enterprise Agency, (RVO.nl) was commissioned to prepare an elaborated commonly shared PACT. After in-depth assessment and interactive consultation with the different stakeholders in the area and in the region, RVO.nl proposed the implementation of Kunzila Integrated Sustainable Development Plan (KISDP) that focus on five thematic pillars. To this end, the Amhara Regional Government, Kunzila investors, EKN, and the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) agreed to work in an open, transparent, and cooperative manner by signing a Partnership for Action, Commitment and Transformation (PACT). The PACT not only identified the key intervention areas under the five thematic pillars, it also defines the responsibilities of each partners and stakeholders. Kunzila Integrated Landscape Management and WASH project is designed as part of the various interventions and projects proposed in the PACT.

Brief description about the project:

Project Title	Kunzila Integrated Landscape Management & WASH Project
Funded by:	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Implementing Partners:	WLRC-AAU and SNV
Project Amount:	~20 Million Euro
Duration:	5 Years (March. 2020 – Dec. 2024) including 6 months of inception phase
Project Area :	Kunzila Watershed areas (#6 Kebeles and 12 micro-watersheds), North Achefer Woerda, Western Gojjam Administrative Zone
Beneficiaries:	38,623 Direct (28,942 people in rural <i>kebeles</i> and 9,681 people living in Kunzila town) (Indirect 27,227) = 65,850

Period covered by the evaluation	September 2020 to September 2022
Date of Evaluation	November 1 to December 25

Key Components of the Project

Component 1: Strengthening of community watersheds management

The livelihood of the population in the project area is largely dependent on using physical natural resources. According to the results of the baseline survey, availability and accessibility of those natural resources is rapidly shrinking and deteriorating for a number of reasons.

The community watershed management aims to improve the natural resource base of the area by enriching the available resources through better management and use, by conserving the available resources, and by rehabilitating the degraded resources of crop land, grazing land, forest and shrub land, and wetland through physical, biological and chemical measures. These management, conservation, management and rehabilitation interventions are implemented using the Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) approach where livelihood interventions are also implemented as integral part of the natural resource management.

Component 2: Strengthening of agricultural productivity of smallholders

This component aims to systematically reduce the existing pressure on degraded lands by implementing strategic livelihood interventions that: (1) complement and supplement IWM interventions; (2) diversify livelihood options, and preferably strategies, away from the heavy dependence on natural resources, particularly land; (3) enhance the productivity of cultivated lands without compromising IWM goals; (4) discourage open/free grazing, and (5) address cross-cutting issues such as gender and disadvantaged groups. Accordingly, it attempts to co-create alternative livelihood options and strategies together with households by synergizing/integrating livelihood interventions with IWM measures.

Besides its close interlink to the community watershed plans of component 1, component 2 independently aims to improve livelihoods of the households by helping them to increase income, enhance production and productivity, expand economic opportunities, boost their resource base and build their skill and knowledge.

Component 3: Strengthening of local capacities

The baseline assessment indicated the presence of implementation capacity limitations among stakeholders. This component of the Kunzila ILMWA project aims to strengthen the capacity of

beneficiaries in implementing the various livelihood-enhancing, resource management and WASH interventions. Accordingly, different farmers' groups and team will be organized. This component also aims to build the leadership capacities of the local community, implementing partners and stakeholders. The specific activities and mode of interventions are implemented based on the capacity building needs assessment conducted during the inception phase and the needs that may unfold during implementation dynamics of the project.

Component 4: Strengthening of rural WASH services

This is an integrated intervention to improve the access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene services of beneficiary rural households. Taking the woreda WASH plan that has been prepared as part of the national ONE WASH program as a starting point, this component implements activities prioritized through agreement around technical options for the area and through supply chain and consumer studies. Furthermore, this component will strengthen the sanitation supply chain through the establishment of SanMartcentres that involve the local youths in their different aspects. Positive actions are promoted through robust sanitation demand creation in the process of creative facilitation of problem path analyses and triggered action by villagers and communities themselves, who commit to act both at individual and collective levels. Furthermore, a specific effort will be made to strengthen overall monitoring of rural water supply and to strengthen water quality control. The latter not only refers to measurements of water quality but also to clear guidance for improvements at scheme and household levels.

Component 5: Strengthening urban WASH services at Kunzila town

This component targets to improve WASH services at the three emerging towns in the project area. It aims to empower individuals, households and communities to end open defecation through their own conscious actions, to upgrade household sanitation and services for safe management of faecal sludge, to strengthen the management and enforcement of regulations across the sanitation and solid waste value chains, and to change the behaviour of town dwellers in both water and sanitation services.

Component 6: Strengthening of multi-stakeholder coordination

This component aims to bring different WASH stakeholders together, ensure aligned interventions and mitigate potential conflicting interests under the leadership of the woreda government. It is essential, not only due to the broad nature of project interventions – encompassing, youth, economic development, WASH and gender- but also due to the multiple other WASH investments and stakeholders active in the area. The MSP is aimed at promoting dialogue and facilitating mutual understanding and alignment among these stakeholders and investments. It also strengthens the leadership of the woreda in that process.

Component 7: Scientific monitoring

This component aims to scientifically monitor climate changes over time, including documentation of all essential processes. To this end, it was planned to make modest arrangement to establish monitoring and observatory stations and sample points where relevant information on outcome indicators are recorded, gathered, and processed periodically and outputs shared among stakeholders and the wider public. Accordingly, changes on the livelihood status of households, productivity, asset holding, nutrition status, the volume and quality of ground and surface water, soil surface carbon (GPS georeferenced), biomass cover, land use, climate, sediment yield (1st year) and water quality (surface, groundwater and Lake Tana) are to be monitored under this component. For this, the required monitoring stations and sampling points are established, appropriate instruments installed, and the required information recorded and collected.

Component 8: Project management and programmatic MEL

The project management component will include the planning, coordination and supervision of the implementation against the approved annual work plans and budget allocations, as well as leadership on the programmatic monitoring and evaluation. This will be done using Web-based MEL system.

Purpose of the Evaluation

The main purpose of the mid-term evaluation is, by assessing past performances of the project in achieving key outcomes, to improve performances of the project in the remaining years of implementations.

The specific objectives of the mid-term evaluation are;

- To evaluate the performances of the project in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impacts;
- To assess the performance of the project in addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender and inclusiveness;
- To review the project's governance arrangement for coordination and implementation
- To identify challenges, and opportunities that affect the performances of the project;
- To identify key activities and interventions that should continue in the remaining year of the project and which one need to restructured;
- To draw lessons that should be adopted/avoided in the remaining years of the project implementation; and
- To provide strategic recommendations for the different key stakeholders to improve performances of the project.

Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation is expected to cover the period the project started its implementations until now. The assessment should cover the entire project areas of the six rural kebeles and Kunzila town and examine the spill-over effects of the project.

Methodology

- ***Desk review:***

The evaluation team starts with detail review of project documents (proposal, inception reports, annual plan, annual reports, etc.).

- ***Field visits and data collection***

The field work will constitute different data collection and information gathering approaches. These include: household survey, Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and field observations. The household survey should be made on statistically sufficient and representative number of sample households drawn from the project area using scientifically valid sampling technique. The KII and FGD will include various individuals, teams, and groups that are organized/strengthened by the project to promote, coordinate, and/or implement different interventions of the project. It includes Community Watershed Team (CWT), Development Group (DG), Gender Model Farmers (GMF), Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), WASH Committee, Woreda WASH Technical Team, Kebele WASH Team, resource user groups, WASH-related youth groups, and the like.

The KII and FGD should also include consultation/interview/discussion with stakeholders, partners and project governance bodies (PSC, WASH Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (Woreda WASH Steering committee, Woreda WASH Technical Team and Kebele WASH team), government officials at Woreda levels, and Project Management Unit (PMU) at regional levels and project staff at local levels. Furthermore, the evaluation team should make field visits to observe the different interventions implemented in the project areas.

- ***Analysis***

The evaluation team must use standard and valid quantitative and qualitative techniques to summarize and analyze the data collected through various approaches. The appropriate sampling technique, data collection methods, and analytical methods, models, and approaches should be clearly defined before the field work. Given the fact that the project addresses wide range of development issues at household, community and institutional levels, appropriate analytical methods and approach should be proposed and used during the analysis.

Main outputs and deliverables

1. Inception report

The consultant will prepare inception report after kickoff meeting held between the consultant and the project. The consultant will prepare inception report and submit to the project office. The inception report will constitute conceptual and analytical framework, sampling and data collection method, analytical models and approaches, detail household questionnaire, and checklists for KII and FGD, and other tools. The inception report should also include detail work plan for the evaluation, indicating the phases in the evaluation, their key deliverables and milestones. Furthermore, the inception report should also contain the list of key stakeholders and groups that will be included in the KII and FGD. Finally, the inception report should set out outline for the final evaluation report. The consultant must get approval of the inception report before proceeding with the field work.

2. Progress report

The consultant will prepare a short progress report that does not exceed 3 pages. The progress report should indicate how the fieldwork is going, what challenges are facing, what actions are taken to address the challenges. It should also briefly outline the remaining tasks and their schedules.

3. Draft report

The consultant will submit first draft report to the project office. The draft will be critically reviewed by a team constituting experts from WLRC, SNV and EKN. The results of the review will be sent to the consultant with detail comments and recommendations. The consultant will make the necessary revisions and re-submit the revised report to the project office. The revised report will be further reviewed and approved by HQ/HO joint PMU and EKN representative.

4. Validation workshop

The consultant, in collaboration with the project, will organize a half-day validation workshop to present key findings and results of the evaluation. The validation workshop will involve various stakeholders, government officials, local representatives, and officials of WLRC and SNV.

5. Final report

The consultant will prepare final by incorporating the feedback obtained during the validation workshops. The final report will not exceed 60 pages (excluding annex). The consultant will submit the final report in hard and soft copy to WLRC along with well-organized soft copy of all the data collected through the various approaches.

Key Evaluation Questions (but not limited to the following issues)

The evaluator shall examine the following issues:

1. Relevance of the interventions,
 - Are the interventions relevant for improving the wellbeing of beneficiaries?
 - Are the interventions of the project in line with the priority needs of the communities?

- Are the interventions relevant in addressing gender aspects?
 - How well the interventions complements and fits with other development programs being implemented in the area?
 - Are there interventions that should be excluded in in the remaining years of the implementation of the project?
2. Project effectiveness
- To what extent the project outputs planed under each component are achieved?
 - What were the main contributing factors for successful achievements of the targets?
 - How well the interventions are distributed fairly and equitably across the project beneficiary households and communities?
 - What were the factors challenging the successful achievements of the targets?
3. Efficiency of resource use
- How efficiently have resources (human resources, time, expertise, funds etc.) been allocated and used to achieve the maximum possible outputs?
 - Were there alternative ways of achieving the same outputs at lower cost/budget than the amount expended by the project?
 - How much are the contributions of communities or individual beneficiaries in the total cost of the interventions?
 - To what extent are the expenditures of the project in line with its financial plans? Are the observed deviations (if any) justifiable?
4. Effectiveness of management and governance
- Are the available technical and financial resources adequate to fulfil the project plans? If not, what other kind of resources may be required?
 - Is the management and governance arrangement of the project adequate? Is there a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities by all parties involved?
 - How effectively has the project management and relevant stakeholders monitored project performance and results? Is a monitoring & evaluation system in place and how effective is it? Is relevant information systematically collected, processed and used for decision? Is the data disaggregated by sex (and by other relevant characteristics if relevant)?
 - How effective and efficient is the human resource utilization and the organizational arrangement?
 - What are the recommendations in order to improve the management and governance of the project at Head Quarter and Regional Project Office levels?
 - Has the project created good relationship and cooperation with relevant regional and local level government authorities and other relevant stakeholders to implement the project?
5. Impact orientation and sustainability
- To what extent have the beneficiaries benefited from the project activities?
 - To what extent project's interventions have spill-over effects on the surrounding communities?
 - Has the project changed their lives in any meaningful way?
 - Are the implementation approaches appropriate in ensuring sustainability?

- Are sufficient interventions made to build the capacity of communities, local organizations, and individual beneficiaries?
 - Are there better way or approaches of implementing the same thing to enhance the sustainability of the interventions?
6. Conflict sensitivity
- To what extent the project is sensitive to conflicts in its interventions?
 - Are there conflicts that have arisen due to the intervention of the project? If any, how did the project addressed the issue?
7. Lessons learned
- What are the most effective interventions that should be scaled up in the remaining years of the implementation?
 - What are the good approaches that should be promoted further in the remaining years of the project?
 - What adjustments and changes are needed to enhance the performances in the remaining years of the project?
 - What are the things that should be avoided in the remaining years of the project?

Outlines of the Evaluation Report

The evaluation report should be comprised of at least the following chapters:

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction about the mid-term evaluation
 - 1.1. Background
 - 1.2. Scopes and limitations
 - 1.3. Method
3. Results
 - 3.1.Relevance
 - 3.2.Effectiveness
 - 3.3.Efficiency
 - 3.4.Sustainability
 - 3.5.Impact
4. Lessons learned
5. Recommendations

Time frame

The contract is expected to be completed within the following time frame and schedule.

No.	Activity	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8
1	Selection of consultant								
2	Contract agreement								
3	Inception report								

4	Approval of inception report								
5	Data collection and field visit								
6	Analysis								
7	Submission of first draft								
8	Review of first draft								
9	Submission of the revised draft								
10	Validation workshop								
11	Submission of final report								

Qualification and Competence

The consultant must constitute team of at least three experts. Essential qualifications and competencies of the team are:

- The team must constitute one expert in the areas of Integrated Watershed Management, one expert of WASH, and team leader;
- All the team members must at least have five years of experience relevant for their roles;
- All the team members must have at least MSc/MA in the field appropriate for their role;
- The team leader must have MSc/MA and above in economics or agricultural economics or development economics or related field;
- At least one of the member must have a minimum of 10 years' experience in carrying out performance evaluations, specifically in the perspective of results-based project/program evaluations;
- Demonstrable academic and practical experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodology, specifically on performance evaluation;
- Strong analytical, facilitation and communication skills;
- Excellent reporting and presentation skills;
- All team members should be fluent in spoken and written English and Amharic.
- Team members must have good exposure to the physical and social context of the rural Ethiopia; and
- Knowledge of the cultural contexts of the region is an advantage.

Required Documents

Interested evaluators or firms are requested to submit:

1. An Expression of Interest detailing their interpretation of the TOR, proposed methodology including sampling framework and analytical methods, work schedule and proposed budget for the evaluation (max. of 10 pages);
2. A capability statement demonstrating how the team/organization meet the required qualifications and competencies (max. 5 pages);

3. Curriculum Vitae (CVs) in no more than 6 pages. Only CVs for the specific individuals that will form the proposed evaluation team should be included;
4. A sample of an evaluation report produced by the consultant team or members of the team;
5. Two references (including one from your last client/employer).
6. Letter of declaration: evaluator/s has to explicitly declare his/her independence from any organizations that have been involved in designing, executing or advising any aspect of the Kunzila ILMWA project.

If the applicant is a registered organization or consultancy firm, the organization/firm should, **in addition to the documents mentioned 1-6 above**, submit the following documents:

- a) VAT registration number and copy of registration certificate.
- b) Latest tax clearance certificate.
- c) Company registration and renewal certificate.
- d) Updated Company profile with related work experience, competency & capacity.

How to apply

1. Applicants can access the ToR from WLRC's website <http://info@wlrc-eth.org>
2. All documents must be submitted online to Water and Land Resource Center of Addis Ababa University (WLRC-AAU) at <http://info@wlrc-eth.org> before 30th of October 2022.
3. The successful applicant will be notified by email.

Contact

Further information about the task can be obtained by emailing to fekadu.g@wlrc-eth.org (copy yilkal.a@wlrc-eth.org).