



BMZ Feasibility Study Terms of Reference

Re Enforce Social Cohesion (RE-SoCo)

March 2021

World Vision Lanka

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I. Summary

Project	Re Enforce Social Cohesion
Project Duration	3 years (October/November 2021 – September/October 2024)
Country	Sri Lanka
Feasibility Study Start and End Dates	25th March – 13 th April

2. Background and Rationale

For more than 25 years (1983-2009), Sri Lanka suffered from a brutal civil war due to ethnic tensions. This war resulted in long-term impacts on social cohesion, cultural understanding, and inter-group dynamics. On Easter Sunday, 2019, Sri Lanka was again rocked by a series of bombings that killed more than 250 people at churches and hotels, the worst violence the country has seen in a decade. The attacks triggered a backlash against the country’s ethnic/religious minority group, and led to a renewed feeling of fear and mistrust across the country. Alongside this backdrop lies the island’s growing challenge in skills shortages, particularly in terms of ‘soft’ or transferable life skills. Both the challenges of social cohesion and skills shortages particularly affect vulnerable young people aged 15-18 who are at the tipping point between childhood and young adulthood, the latter which brings to the forefront the issues of citizenship, belonging, and self-efficacy. ‘Vulnerable’ young people in this context are those who face one or many of the following adversities: household and location-based poverty, high rates of early school dropouts, low levels of transferable, employable skills, high likelihood of facing exploitation/abuse, and high likelihood of facing/instigating violence/crime.

World Vision Lanka (WVL) plans to implement the Re Enforce Social Cohesion (RE-SoCo) project to strengthen intra- and inter-personal, intra-community, and inter-regional social cohesion for vulnerable, demographically diverse Sri Lankan children/adolescents aged 15 to 18 through a contextualized, activity-based program. RE-SoCo aligns with the United Nations Security Council Resolution’s (UNSCR) Action 2250 that calls for ‘greater participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration for young people in social cohesion processes.’

1) By focusing young people’s entrepreneurial capacity/employability, capacitate young people with essential life/psychosocial skills, digital and financial literacy, and non-formal education: In each target location, Re-SoCo will empower young people aged 15 to 18 in Sri Lanka through an approach

featuring age- and context-appropriate intra- and inter-personal life/psychosocial skills, digital literacy/global citizenship skills, and financial literacy designed to enhance young people's self-efficacy, skill-readiness, and social cohesion. The project's programming will deliver an engaged, activity-based intervention for children/adolescents. At the meso level,

2) Increase youth engagement and participation in the public and private sphere through WV Lanka adolescent/youth clubs where the partner language is aligned. The government promotes these platforms. Re-SoCo will be delivered through largely non-formal educational settings such as WVL child societies registered under the Department of Probation and Childcare Services, which can be strengthened for sustainability through the project. Local grassroots organizations, service delivery partners, and private sector partners will have enhanced capacities in delivering skills and social cohesion projects for adolescents in partnership with INGOs such as World Vision.

3) Enabling the social Environment by Strengthen cooperation and inclusive youth programming between local civil society organisations, private sector partners, and local/national government institutions: The project will see World Vision Lanka (WVL) working closely with national and grassroots-level local organizations, private sector partners, and relevant government stakeholders to deliver programming. Potential partners will be identified and training on Microsoft's package will be given. This will ensure enhanced cooperation and sharing of best-practices between institutional leaders in the development sector and enhanced programming sustainability through the capacity-building of grassroots-level actors in this space. At the macro level, the project will offer evidence and best practices of youth programming for scaling up by other INGOs or the Government of Sri Lanka contributing to social cohesion. The project will allow WVL to provide evidence and share best practices with the Ministries of Education, Labor, Women and Child Affairs, Reconciliation, and Vocational Training Institutes. The project will also have a wide visibility/reach within Sri Lanka in the skill development and social cohesion spaces, and will lay a foundation for reconciliation. In addition, the project will offer evidence for similar approaches that can be undertaken across the WV partnership in comparable contexts.

WVL will partner with national NGOs to implement the project in Uva and Northern provinces, particularly Rideemaliyadda, Bibile, Lunugala, Meegahakiula in Uva Province and Chavakachcheri, Chankanai, Karaichi in Northern Province in the below aspects.

WV Lanka seeks a partner for the consultancy service to conduct a feasibility study to assess the project initial design and respective interventions. The purpose of the feasibility study is to check the relevance, impact, effectiveness and sustainability of the initial project proposal by identifying prerequisites, opportunities, risks and benefit of the interventions that WVL will propose. The study is also expected to assess all active stakeholders on site in similar topics (adolescent/youth empowerment and social cohesion) in order to develop the recommendations as well as justify investment decisions to achieve project results.

The assessment will be focusing on the areas of youth empowerment and social cohesion from Key Informant Interviews (KII), FGDs, latest study/research report reviews (lite touch literature review) with grassroots level organizations as well as respective government entities and business companies. The feasibility study should be completed including the fieldwork with the finalization of the feasibility study report by 13th April 2021. WVL with the support of WV Germany and partner NGOs will coordinate with the contractor organization and facilitate the selection process of respondents including potential consultant.

3. Purpose, Objectives and Use

The feasibility study will provide information and justifications on the project design for addressing root causes of flight through the provision of contextualized durable solutions to re enforce social cohesion among the target group. The study findings should provide overview of key areas in consideration of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability dimensions and support to fill identified data gaps.

Following are the objectives of the proposed study structured along DAC criteria and identified data needs to strengthen the conceptualisation of the project and DAC Questions for assessing the feasibility (minimum requirement by donor) of the suggested project concept :

1. Analysis of the situation in the targeted project areas in Uva and Northern provinces of country with a focus on youth and social cohesion.
2. A meaningful analysis of all active stakeholders on site and their respective activities with regards to adolescent/youth empowerment and social cohesion.
3. Analysis of gaps and challenges of currently implemented activities by World Vision and beneficiary needs in the frame of identifying what added value will the WVWL proposed project will create in comparison to existing activities on the ground; Validation of the proposed impact logic (ToC, impact matrix)
4. Assess whether proposed project actions are not duplicating but complimentary to other efforts outside of this project.
5. Characteristics and needs of potential beneficiaries and its relevance to proposed interventions; Differentiate not only between adolescents / youth and wider communities but also factors such as gender, disability, age, ethnicity, etc. and intersectionality.
6. Potential partner in terms of experiences and capacity building needs of potential partners
7. The feasibility study should critically review the planned project in terms of the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability dimensions, compatibility as well with existing partner initiations.

4. Feasibility Study Question:

Following are the objectives of the proposed study structured along DAC criteria and identified *data needs* to strengthen the conceptualisation of the project and *DAC Questions for assessing the feasibility (minimum requirement by donor) of the suggested project concept* :

Relevance: Is the intervention doing the right things?

Data for optimising

- What needs has the target group expressed in order to rectify identified problems during the FGDs and KIs?
- To what extent does the project address the needs articulated by the target group as well as the overall development objectives of national or global policies?
- What is the situation in the targeted project areas regarding the below aspects:
 - Self, social awareness with self-management and social relationships of adolescent/youth
 - Adolescence and youth acceptance and considerations at community level
 - Capability global competencies among Youth
 - Involvement and engagement of youth as a social activist for cohesion within and beyond their community.
- What are the social cohesion issues which are affecting youth and/or youth are contributing to?

Collecting data for optimizing the project's concept:

- **Context and problem analysis (at macro, meso and micro level):**
 - What is the background to and history of the planned development measure and its impact logic?
 - What are additional risks and gaps seen and how can they be addressed?
 - Are there alternatives to the planned project or its individual components?
- **Target group analysis:**

- Who is part of the target group and what criteria exist for selecting this target group? Are there perhaps several target groups that are affected in different ways? What are the criteria for selecting target groups? How are do-no-harm aspects taken into account?
- How homogenous or heterogeneous is the target group with regard to factors such as gender, ethnic origin, age, language, capacity, etc., and to what extent must the project take this into account?
- What role is played by the target group(s) in a social context? Which conflicts of interest with other population groups could arise through this funding?
- Analysis of the capacities target group: Which potential does the target group have, particularly with regard to its own initiative, self-help efforts and local problem-solving capacities? How can this be strengthened?

Effectiveness and Impact: Which project approach is best for achieving the objectives?

Data needs for optimising

- Which sociocultural barriers exist with regard to suggested approaches, in particular Impact+ project model of WVI, and how can these be overcome?
- Which barriers exist regarding gender equality and social inclusion and how can these be overcome?
- Are suggested interventions for youth effectively contributing to address the social cohesion issues identified in the communities?

Assessing feasibility

- Which negative consequences and effects could project measures or sub-objectives bring about?
- To what extent can this be taken into account in the project (concept) – e.g. “do no harm” approach, conflict-sensitive effectiveness monitoring, etc.?

▪ **Project partner and stakeholder analysis**

- Who are the most important government and non-government stakeholders in this sector? Who are the most important ones in the project location, in the planned project region and in the project country?
- Who are the potential partners? What have the potential partners already been practicing in this topic?
- What interests do the stakeholders have? Are any conflicts of interest evident? What interactions exist with other stakeholder projects? How do they find their way into the project concept?
- Do the stakeholders have a common understanding of the problems? Have they derived project objectives from this?
- How big is the various stakeholders' support for the project? In what ways can they influence the project and to what extent
- Which capacities do the selected partners (institutional, technical, personnel and financial) offer and which capacities relevant for the project are missing?
- Which measures are necessary for strengthening the organization and capacity of the local partner?
- Which vested interest/ownership do the local implementation partners have in the success of the project?
- What kind of relationship do local partners have with the target group and stakeholders (legitimacy)? Are there convergences of interest or conflicts of interest? How can interaction be improved?

▪ **Coherence: How is the compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution?**

Data Needs for optimising

- Does the planned project tie in with the government's development strategy?
- Are there any policy issues related to programming in youth which are to be addressed by appropriate stakeholders?

Assessing feasibility

- How does the planned project contribute to the strategies and programs of state or other organizations presented in the context analysis? How does it distinguish itself from them?
- To what extent will use be made of synergy effects with measures undertaken by other donors or programmes?

- **Sustainability: Will the positive effects remain once the project has ended (without additional external funding)?**

Data Needs for optimising

- To what extent can local potential, structures and procedures be built on?

Assessing feasibility

- Which measures and instruments are most suitable for strengthening local ownership, participation and capacities?
- How will you ensure that structures developed in the project (e.g. self-help groups, water committees, women's cooperatives) will remain operational, or that knowledge acquired through training will be put into practice and passed on to others?

4. Methodology

The feasibility study is to be designed and conducted at the local level using qualitative method of data collection. The consultant is expected to conduct a desk research of project concept note, and/or similar project documentation as well as consult publicly available government documentation in order to propose the best methodology to meet the feasibility study objectives.

The methodology should include a comprehensive desk research of the project activities implemented by NGOs at the ground around youth empowerment of the target aged group and social cohesion as well as consulting policy documents or publicly available government reports if relevant. The interviews should be conducted with relevant government agencies, other key stakeholders including local youth groups, community based organisations, United Nations agencies, project partners and INGOs working on the same topics. The feasibility study is expected to provide a mapping of the existing activities by other NGOs as well as an overview of the current situation in terms of feasibility to implement the foreseen project activities on the ground.

The consultant will be responsible to design the study, including its methodology preferred/possible qualitative and quantitative tools and research methods could be proposed.

- Focus on qualitative methods like FGDs and KIIs
FGDs should cover
 - Youth aged 15 to 18
 - Community Animators (who facilitates the Children societies)
 - ParentsKIIs should cover:
 - Few No. of gov officials who work / facilitate Children societies
 - Representation from GOs & NGOs, Vocational service providers
 - Faith based leaders

- Specific qualitative tools should be applied for Capacity Assessments, Stakeholder Analysis, Do No Harm and Gender as well as Social Inclusion
- If seen as necessary quantitative data could be collected. We would recommend to focus on direct beneficiaries or specific stakeholder groups (CSOs, etc.), since this not a general assessment but a specific feasibility study
- Who are the groups and individuals who have a major participation role to play in the study (for example communities, partner organizations, etc)

5. Limitations

COVID-19 related restrictions enforced by the government should be considering during data collection. The contracted individual/company should follow the guidance by Ministry of Health or relevant agencies during field work. In case there are movement limitations, the alternative (e.g. phone surveys) data collection options should be considered which might influence the quality of data.

6. Logistics and timeline

The feasibility study is expected to be conducted in March-April, 2021 while the finalization of the feasibility study report is anticipated by 13th April 2021. The key task & phases are as follow:

- **Proposal phase:** the consultant will be requested to submit a proposal (including methodological approach and feasibility study matrix), work plan and a budget breakdown for WVW consideration.
- **Inception Phase:** upon approval of the feasibility study proposal, the consultant is expected to review the internal and external documents to develop a detailed methodology including the data collection tools (KII guides) and actual work plan.
- **Preparation & Field Phase:** In coordination with WVW and local partners, arrangement of interviews, stakeholder meetings and other data collection as relevant
- **Reporting Phase:** develop a feasibility study report as per WVW research guidelines, consolidate the feedback received from WVW and project donor and submit the final report. The contractor should be available for questions and call if there is a need.
- **Presentation or participation in the planning workshop:** the consultant might be requested to participate in the project design verification workshop (if relevant).

7. Products/ deliverables

- Inception Report (including detailed methodology and tools); 10-15 pages by 28th March
- Draft Feasibility Report by 11th April for WVW review
- Final Feasibility Study Report incorporating key programmatic and conceptual recommendations by 13th April
- Workshop Presentation (Key Summary Report)
- Data sets (both qualitative and quantitative if any)

8. Documents to be reviewed

The consultant individual/company should review the following documents provided by WVW while developing the methodology of feasibility study:

- Draft project logical framework
- Guidance documents from WV Germany and/or BMZ
- WV Child and Adult Safeguarding policy

9. Budget

The consultant individual/company is expected to submit financial proposal with the detailed work plan for the feasibility study. The budget should include any cost related to execute the study, any costs beyond the proposed budget will not be approved by WVW.

10. Organizational Requirements and Compliance

The consultant individual/company is expected to conduct the study in alignment to the ethical considerations while conducting research in humanitarian context of the World Vision International. In addition, the contractor organization is expected to implement the activities in full alignment to the WVW Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy. The contractor will be expected to submit CVs of the team lead within the proposal and any person hired within the partnership as part of the inception phase.

11. Selection Criteria and Technical Expertise

- At least 5 years of expertise to carry out qualitative analysis related to the topic of this procurement
- Technical knowledge of the topic of the interest e.g. youth empowerment and social cohesion. Demonstration of the participation of similar studies or projects in the past 5 years.
- Fluent in English (knowledge of Sinhala/tamil for data collectors)
- Technical competency to lead feasibility study and stakeholder analysis, project management and data quality control
- In-country experience in Sri Lanka at least 5 years or at least 3 project/consultancies carried out in the past 10 years.
- Proof of education (university degree in a relevant subject)
- Use of innovative technologies, including mobile data collection.

12. Other Considerations

1. The contractor should be a registered entity with the relevant authorities in the country of operation.
2. The contractor should have experience in humanitarian/development operations. Experience working on one of the World Vision Lanka programme areas and monitoring programmes would be an advantage.
3. The contractor should have field presence in the programme areas with established physical offices and adequate personnel or be willing to set up in the World Vision programme sites.

4. The contractor should be apolitical and work in respect of the WV Policies, i.e. should be willing to provide services to all people regardless of race, nationality, ethnicity, political affiliation, religion, etc. It should be an organisation with no political affiliation or association with parties to a conflict. It must also enjoy positive relations with community members. In addition, if no prior experience with targeted community the partner must work towards building a positive relationship with the community.

5. The contractor should have a transparent institutional and financial management framework including but not limited to technical knowledge, information management systems and documentation, accounting and audit practice.

6. The contractor will be responsible for its own arrangement for security, transportation, communications, accommodation and insurance within provinces targeted by the project. WVWL will not be responsible for any transportation or security concerns.

Annexes

Annex 1: Inception Report Template



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Report_Template Gi

Annex 2: Feasibility Study Report Template



Template_Feasibility
Study Report_final.do

Annex 3: OECD Criteria



OECD Criteria
Questions.docx

Annex 4: BMZ Guidance

Will be shared at inception phase.

Applications must be received by 19th March 2021 by delivery/email to:

World Vision Lanka
619/8, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha
Colombo 09

Attention: Senior Manager – Strategic Sourcing

Email: lanka_procurement@wvi.org