



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title:	Final Evaluation of the Project: <i>Strengthening Rural Development Models in Georgia (RDP)</i>
Primary Location:	Tbilisi, with travels to Lagodekhi, Kazbegi and Borjomi Municipalities as required
Position:	Project External Evaluator
Proposed Dates of Assignment:	6th September 2019 – 11th October 2019

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Project *Strengthening Rural Development Models in Georgia (RDP)* represents a follow-up action of the Rural Development Pilot Project (II Phase), which has been implemented by Mercy Corps, CARE Austria and People in Need since 2015. The Project is funded by the European Union within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD II). The Project is aimed at promoting and developing a progressing, community-led rural development approach in support of socio-economic development of the target Municipalities. Duration of the Project is 24 months (November 1st, 2016 – October 31st, 2019), with total project budget of EUR 3,333,331.00)

The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) has been implemented in Georgia since 2013. The Project is aimed at revitalization of agriculture and rural development sectors in Georgia through multilateral cooperation of the government, civil society and local population.

The project covers 3 municipalities in three regions of Georgia:

Mtskheta-Mtianeti region: Kazbegi municipality

Kakheti region: Lagodekhi municipality

Samtskhe-Javakheti region: Borjomi municipality

In November 1st 2017 Mercy Corps in partnership and in coordination with European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD), Care International and People in Need started implementation of a joint Project *Strengthening Rural Development Models in Georgia (RDP)*, which is actually a follow-up action of the phase I, where all the three organizations continue the project implementation in respective municipalities (Mercy Corps – in Borjomi municipality, Care International – in Lagodekhi municipality and People in Need – in Kazbegi municipality) based on the methodology introduced in previous years, with

improved coordination and ELARD support.

As the 2-year Project is nearing its end, Mercy Corps has embarked on one of the last important tasks of the Project - its final evaluation.

Mercy Corps is seeking the service of a qualified professional individual or legal entity - either national or international - to undertake the final programmatic evaluation of the *“Strengthening Rural Development Models in Georgia (RDP)”* Project in September-October, 2019.

EVALUATION PURPOSE:

The aim of the final evaluation is to assess the project outcomes in order to better understand project successes and challenges and provide recommendations for the design of future projects of a similar scale and direction, considering among others, findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation report. In order to accomplish this aim, Mercy Corps is searching for a dynamic and competent final evaluation consultant with proven experience in qualitative research methods as well as quantitative analysis and reporting skills. The final evaluation consultant will produce a comprehensive report based on primary qualitative research and by analyzing collected quantitative data and information to critically evaluate project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

CONSULTANT OBJECTIVES:

- Evaluate the Project's achievements according to beneficiary and partner perceptions, reviews of project documents and data, including data from the mid-term evaluation (effectiveness).
- Capture and analyze Project quality and determine relevance and appropriateness of specific interventions in relation to the intervention zone (relevance).
- Check appropriateness of financial, time and HR management of the Project (efficiency).
- Ascertain extent, depth and longevity of the Project effects (impact and sustainability).
- Facilitate analysis and reflection on Programming and strategic planning (recommendations, lessons learnt).

CONSULTANT ACTIVITIES:

- Review and synthesize Project documents, including reports, plans, baselines and so on.
- Meet key stakeholders including Donor, MEPA, ENPARD implementing agencies, partners, direct beneficiaries, etc. to assess implementation of the Project efficiency, impact and sustainability.
- Collect key findings, develop recommendations, compile lessons learnt.
- Produce final evaluation paper in the required format, which will not exceed 30 pages.

CONSULTANT'S DELIVERABLES:

1. Evaluation plan, including methodology/tools.
2. Preliminary findings presented and discussed with MC and its partners.
3. Final evaluation report incorporating feedback from Mercy Corps.

All the deliverables should be in English. The minimum report content requirement is as follows:

- ✓ Cover page, list of acronyms
- ✓ Table of contents
- ✓ Executive summary

- ✓ Methodology
- ✓ Findings
- ✓ Conclusions
- ✓ Recommendations in order of priority
- ✓ Lessons learnt

TIMEFRAME/SCHEDULE:

The total number of working days for the evaluation is 24. The work is expected to start on 6th September 2019 and end by no later than 11th October 2019. It would consist of the following stages:

- ** Review of documents (3 working days)
- ** Development and submission of the evaluation plan (2 working days)
- ** Evaluation field work in Tbilisi and 3 target municipalities (8 working days)
- ** Analysis and presentation of the key findings (2 working days)
- ** Development and submission of the evaluation report (7 working days)
- ** Finalization of the report based on the feedback provided by Mercy Corps and partners (2 working days)

The Consultant will report to: Project Director

The Consultant will work closely with: Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ** Technical knowledge of monitoring and evaluation, preferably in rural development sphere.
- ** At least 5 years of previous relevant experience - conducting evaluations, consultancies. etc.
- ** Significant experience in using qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluations.
- ** Experience of working in international organizations.
- ** Experience of working with EU Projects.
- ** Fluency in English and Russian.
- ** Excellent writing and analytic skills.
- ** Cultural sensitivity and facilitation skills.

Applications will take the form of a CV and a maximum 2 page cover letter detailing a brief plan of activities and costs to conduct the evaluation. CV must also include names, positions and contact addresses of at least two persons, whom Mercy Corps can contact for references.

The documentation should be submitted in the sealed envelope, indicating 'Project Final Evaluation' on it, no later than 4th September, 2019, 16:00, at the following address: 6th, G. Gegechkori str. Saburtalo district, Tbilisi 0186, Georgia.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.