Call for Tender for International and National Consultant(s)

Quality assurance review of Piloting a conflict sensitivity hub in eastern DRC project

Project	Piloting a conflict sensitivity hub in eastern DRC
Role	Lessons learnt study consultant
Reports to	CS Hub Project Manager
Location	Remote
Number of days of support	20 working days
Contract type:	Fixed term consultancy, February - March 2022

A. Context and Justification

International Alert is an independent organization that has been working in the field of peacebuilding for 35 years. We work with people directly affected by violent conflict to support their prospects for peace. We also seek to influence the policies and working methods of governments, international organizations such as the UN, and multinational corporations to reduce the risk of conflict and strengthen the prospects for peace.

For more information, please visit: www.international-alert.org

Since March 2021, International Alert has been hosting the pilot "Conflict Sensitivity Hub" in DRC, with financing from FCDO. The overall goal of the project is to build understanding and capacity for conflict sensitivity and sustainable peace among development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors through increased technical capacity, effective knowledge sharing, and stronger coordination. The project is based on the following theories of change:

> *IF development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors in the DRC have greater access to ongoing, conflict-sensitive resources and technical assistance, THEN they will have increased knowledge, skills, and capacity to apply key CS concepts and best practices to the design and implementation of their strategies and programs, thereby avoiding exacerbating conflict and actually contributing to local peacebuilding efforts.*

> *IF peacebuilding actors in eastern DRC better coordinate their efforts and are better represented as a key group in analyzing needs and identifying solutions, THEN peacebuilding approaches will be more fully considered in the forums where priorities and intervention modalities are decided, ensuring that the international community contributes to mitigating existing conflicts and preventing future ones.*

Specific objective: To strengthen understanding and capacity for conflict sensitivity and sustainable peace among development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors through increased technical capacity, effective knowledge sharing, and improved coordination in DRC.	
Component A: Strengthen understanding and capacity for conflict sensitivity through a conflict sensitivity center.	**Component B:** Improve the effectiveness and advocacy capacity of peacebuilding actors in eastern DRC through stronger coordination and representation.
Outcomes	
1: Create a cadre of local conflict experts. 2a: Conduct a review of best practices to support the design of the conflict sensitivity centre 2b: Conduct a needs assessment of FCDO partners on conflict sensitivity 3: Provide technical assistance on conflict sensitivity to FCDO and its partners in DRC. 4: Secondment of a peacebuilding coordinator to the INGO Forum	

The project coordinates with several other conflict sensitivity initiatives such as Learning Review on Conflict Sensitivity Facilities and Processes - conducted by Peace Nexus and Peaceful Change Initiatives (PCI) on behalf of the Conflict Sensitivity Community (CSC) Hub; Transition International's support to the Stabilization Support Unit (with funding from GIZ) to develop a series of guidance notes on conflict sensitivity for stabilization actors working in DRC. Beneficiaries of the pilot include INGOs and NGOs working in humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities mostly in eastern DRC, and donor agencies supporting this work.

B. Purpose of the evaluation

The evaluation seeks to assess the quality of the strategies and approaches used during the implementation of this pilot project and the results this has yielded. It also seeks to gather lessons learned and the recommendations for future phases of the Hub.

In concrete terms, this evaluation will focus on the following five points:

Category	Key evaluation questions
Relevance	• To what extent are the approaches used in this project (training, coaching throughout the project life cycle, awareness raising and lessons learning) useful, appropriate, and did they meet a gap/respond to an unmet demand? • How are these approaches being used in a relevant way for the different stakeholders involved (INGOs, NGOs, INGO Forum, donor agencies, government, FCDO and its implementing partners)? • Were these approaches, lessons learned, and recommendations participatory, timely? • How did the activities in the pilot meet the expectations of different actors (INGOs, NGOs, INGO Forum, donor agencies, government, FCDO and its implementing partners)? Did the pilot engage with the "right" stakeholders during this initial phase?
Effectiveness	• How is did the project use the approaches undertaken in the project (training, coaching throughout the project life cycle, awareness raising and lessons learning) in an effective way? What lessons learned and recommendations are there for any future Hub? • How satisfied are the various project stakeholders (INGOs, NGOs, INGO Forum, donor agencies, government, FCDO and its implementing partners) and beneficiaries and what conclusions can be drawn? Is there a qualitative difference between how the Hub managed to engage humanitarian actors or development actors as opposed to other peace actors?

	• In what ways was the manner in which the project coordinated/created synergies with other actors in this field during the pilot successful (for example NEXUS forum, Transition International's work with SSU/GIZ)? What lessons can be drawn from this to improve synergies and how different stakeholders can be drawn into/contribute to the work of the Hub?
Decision making/governance (accountability)	• Did the strategic decisions made during project implementation (e.g., focusing support on training, and accompaniment, and less on coordination) taken together with FCDO bear fruit? • In what way were these strategic decisions good choices and what impact did the decision to not include/test certain initiatives have on the pilot phase outcomes?
Learning	• What are the reasons why certain outcomes occurred or did not occur, in order to draw lessons, best practices, and pointers for learning? What processes of learning existed in the pilot and did these work in capturing learning and embedding it in the strategic decisions taken during the pilot? • What are the lessons and learning experiences on managing the Hub (resources needed, expertise needed, how to plan based on ongoing and changing levels of demand from different stakeholders for Hub services, etc)? • What are useful recommendations to guide future project development and/or implementation for the next phase? • To what extent has the FCDO funding been used to scale up/strengthen other conflict sensitivity initiatives/activities and/or helped create broader platforms for conflict sensitivity?
Efficiency	• Were the project approaches (training, coaching throughout the project life cycle, awareness raising and lessons learning) piloted carried out in an efficient manner? • Were resources (financial, human – especially conflict sensitivity experts -, administrative) sufficient and appropriate for the project's efficient implementation and to meet demand for Hub services? • Was the project's operational human resource structure effective? What are the risks around this for a future Hub and what needs to be taken into account into its future resource structure?
Questions relating to FCDO's PCA	FCDO's Output 4 : HMG and partners have the resources to deliver the shifts required to Build Stability' in DRC, namely analysis and expertise (in the form of staff, external advice and local partnerships) which enables flexible, holistic and politically driven approach. The CS Hub project contributes to this sub-indicator: • Increased awareness amongst target organizations and the international community in the DRC of the added value of systematic application of CS best practices and approaches to analysis and development of responses at the strategic and operational levels alongside stronger coordination amongst development actors. • Milestone: Examples of requests from humanitarian and development organisations for specific CS technical support beyond the framework of the project

	This milestone has been integrated into the project logframe which will serve as one of the main tools for the evaluation team.

C.   Expected outcomes of the evaluation

This evaluation pursues the following outcomes:
- The quality of the approaches, lessons learned, and recommendations developed and applied during implementation is assessed in a systematic way;
- Key lessons and recommendations for the installation of the CS hub in the DRC are identified, documented and endorsed by key project stakeholders

D.   Methodology

The methodology of the evaluation will be proposed by the consultant in his technical proposal and will have to be validated by International Alert and FCDO before the start of the data collection.

The methodology must include the following steps:

- A document review (including deliverables produced by the CS hub pilot)
- Interviews/FGDs with some organizations that have been directly supported by the project (the Carter Center, WFP, the Cash Working Group and the Inter-cluster committee) amongst other key stakeholders
- Interviews/FGDs with FCDO
- Participation of key stakeholders in developing lessons learned, best practices and recommendations

It is not expected that the consultant travel to DRC if this is not possible in the timeframe; many of the beneficiaries of the pilot are contactable online.

E.   Deliverables and timeline

The expected deliverables of the study include:

Deliverable	Deadline
Methodology note including data collection tools	4th March 2022
Draft evaluation report	18th March 2022

The final evaluation report with all its annexes
  -   Including an updated logframe
  -   Report should be no more than
	31st March 2022

F.   Profile we are looking for

We are looking for **international and/or national** consultants who can meet the following criteria :
- Knowledge of how Conflict Sensitivity Hubs function
- Have a deep understanding of DRC conflict dynamics
- Have 7 + years of experience in evaluations, in particular of projects focusing on processes of change and pilot/learning phases that inform future programming
- Fluent English written language skills
- Excellent French spoken language skills
- Excellent analysis skills

G.   How to apply

To apply, please send your applications via email (physical applications will not be accepted) no later than **23h55 on 25 February 2022** to the following email address:

DRC.Office@international-alert.org   with   pnyamushala@international-alert.org   with nzihindula@international-alert.org;

Please include the following reference in the subject line of your email: **Lessons learnt study consultant.**

Applications should include :

- An up to date CV of the individual/s in the team;
- A proposed methodology based on the information shared in these TORs and annexes ;
- A detailed timeline for the consultancy ;
- A proposed budget for the consultancy

Please note that only successful candidates will be contacted to advance in this process.