



Ref: MB/NW/REB/BTGP/---

21 Sept 2020



Ce projet est financé par
l'Union européenne



BRIDGING THE GAP: SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS BY PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN NORTH WEST REGION OF CAMEROON

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION

1. Background to the project

About 80% of the population of the North West Region of Cameroon live in the rural areas and depend mainly on agriculture (crop and livestock production) as their principal source of livelihood. The region is the third highest producer of cattle with pastoralism accounting for over 90%. It is estimated that over 80% of the region's cattle producers are of the minority indigenous Mbororo-Fulani ethnic group. The *relationship between these culturally distinct pastoralists and crop farming communities* is characterized by severe conflicts resulting mainly from competition over land and water resources. The effects are a tense social atmosphere, poor performance of the livestock and crop production systems, and continuous degradation of the environment.

Several studies have shown that these conflicts are driven and sustained by cultural intolerance and prejudice, poor social cohesion and understanding, and the continuous marginalization of the minority indigenous Mbororo-Fulani pastoralists.

The main legal instrument for the settlement of farmer-grazer conflicts in Cameroon is Decree No 78/263 of July 3, 1978, which provides for an Agro-pastoral Commission. The work of this commission often emphasizes compensation for damage resulting from the conflicts and has failed to address the underlying structural and relational causes in a sustainable manner.

Since 2016, the North West and South West Regions of the country have experienced social instability and unrest following protests against the marginalization of the Anglophone population. In response to this situation, the Government created a National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism. However, this commission is not yet and is likely not to be sensitive to the specific cultural identity of the Mbororo-Fulani ethnic group, considering that Cameroon does not officially classify them as indigenous people.

The project titled “**Bridging the gap: safeguarding peace and human rights by promoting intercultural dialogue in North West Region of Cameroon**” seeks to complement the work of the Agro-pastoral Commission and National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism through the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the cultural rights of the indigenous Mbororo-Fulani pastoralists.

2. Presentation of the project

Bridging the Gap (BTG) is a three-year initiative (February 2018-January 2021) funded by the European Union, which is being implemented in the North West Region of Cameroon by United Purpose UK, the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) and the North West Farmers' Organization (NOWEFOR).

2.1 Objectives of the project

The main objective of the BTG project is to strengthen social cohesion in the North West Region of Cameroon through the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural rights. Specifically, the project seeks to promote intercultural dialogue and advocacy with the view to reducing conflicts and marginalization of minorities, youth and women in the North West Region and beyond.

2.2 Components of the project

The project seeks to achieve its objectives through three components, corresponding to three results Areas:

Component 1 is the promotion of intercultural dialogue through awareness raising, capacity building and cultural exchange programmes for leaders of women's groups and youth associations. The dialogue platforms will be scaled-up and extended to other conflict hotspots. The action builds on the experience with the ISCG project, which has shown that grassroots committees comprising members of different cultural groups facilitate intercultural understanding and have a positive impact on conflicts among these groups.

Component 2 is an information and awareness campaign on cultural diversity/identities and rights through radio and TV programmes and the production and dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, including a documentary, on cultural identities and the rights of different peoples. UP and its partners will strengthen the awareness and capacity of 20 community radio broadcasters, and mentor them to produce radio programmes addressing cultural identity and rights issues in local languages (mainly Pidgin English, which is widely used in the region).

Component 3 will consist of a regional and national level advocacy campaign to influence public policies and decisions to be more responsive to the cultural identities and rights of minorities. This will comprise capacity building and mentoring for CBO and CSO leaders, dialogue with public institutions and the stimulation and facilitation of a Civil Society Observatory on the cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (to act as a repository of information on and support to victims of rights violations).

2.3 Expected results and activities

The expected results are:

- **Result 1:** Increased intercultural understanding and mutual respect between Mbororo-Fulani and non-Mbororo crop farmers in the North West Region of Cameroon through inter-cultural dialogue, using 20 youth associations and 20 women's groups as entry points, as well as 47 Cultural Dialogue Platforms and other innovative tools.
- **Result 2:** Improved awareness of cultural rights issues and international conventions on cultural diversity through a regional and national campaign using radio, TV, documentaries and other media (booklets for distribution etc.).
- **Result 3:** Increased responsiveness of public policies and decisions to cultural identities and rights of cultural minorities through civil society capacity building, advocacy, improved access to reliable information and dialogue with public institutions.

The following activities were envisaged in view of achieving these results:

Activities for result 1:

- Activity 1.1: Capacity building and sensitization workshops for leaders of youth and women's groups of various cultures (on cultural diversity, UNESCO declaration on cultural diversity);
- Activity 1.2: Support to youth and women's groups towards the improvement of cultural diversification;
- Activity 1.3: Organization of youth cultural exchange programmes, including the use of social media and sports;
- Activity 1.4: Extension of the dialogue platform initiative of the In Search of Common Ground (ISCG) project to cultural dialogue platforms in conflict hotspots;
- Activity 1.5: Social drama on human rights and social justice (particularly among youth from different cultures).

Activities for result 2:

- Activity 2.1: Production and dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) material (on cultural rights in Cameroon, indigenous peoples rights and international human rights conventions);
- Activity 2.2: Production and broadcast of a documentary on cultural identities and rights;
- Activity 2.3: Appearance on various cultural TV programmes on national television as well as private stations;
- Activity 2.4: Training and sensitization of community radio stations and media on cultural rights issues (including international conventions of which Cameroon is a signatory);
- 2.5 Production and broadcast of radio programmes on cultural identity issues.

Activities for result 3:

- Activity 3.1: Mapping and collation of existing information to produce informed estimates of current Mbororo-Fulani settlement patterns in the North West Region of Cameroon;
- Activity 3.2: Capacity-building for Mbororo community leaders and CBOs on effective representation in councils and other decision-making arenas (this includes Mbororo councilors, Mbororo traditional authorities, and leaders of Mbororo women's groups and youth organizations);
- Activity 3.3: Creation of a Civil Society Observatory on the cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (to act as a repository of information and support to victims of rights violations);
- Activity 3.4: Capacity building for members of the observatory;
- Activity 3.5: Collection and dissemination of information on cultural rights abuses;
- Activity 3.6: Organization of a regional conference on the multi-cultural identity of Cameroon.

2.4 Target population

The beneficiaries of the project are Mbororo-Fulani pastoralists and their non-Mbororo crop-farming neighbours in 20 councils of the North West Region of Cameroon. The project directly targets the following categories of stakeholders:

- 20 Mbororo and non-Mbororo youth associations;
- 20 Mbororo and non-Mbororo women's associations;
- 47 farmer-grazer dialogue platforms;
- Mbororo community leaders (including Mbororo traditional authorities from the 20 target sub divisions and about 50 Mbororo councilors/candidates for council elections);
- Regional officials of relevant Government technical services (precisely the regional services of the ministries in charge of arts and culture, social affairs, women and the family, youth and civic education, livestock and agriculture and rural development);
- 30 civil society organizations working on cultural/human rights issues;
- 45-60 media practitioners of the audio-visual, print and online media.

3. Purpose/objectives of the Evaluation

This external evaluation seeks to analyze the design and overall impact of the project in order to provide lessons for future initiatives in the area of cultural rights. The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To analyze the design of the project and validate the assumptions of its intervention logic;
- To assess the relevance of the project to its socio-cultural and political/policy context;
- To assess the extent to which the planned outputs and objectives of the project have been achieved in accordance to the project logical framework;
- To identify and analyze factors that have positively or negatively influenced the attainment of the objectives of the project;
- To analyze the efficiency of the strategies of the project and assess the cost-effectiveness of its implementation;
- To assess the possibilities that the outputs of the project will continue to benefit the target population and the extent to which its outcomes are likely to persist in the target communities;
- To identify and describe any preliminary impacts/impact trends of the project or indications that the project is likely to contribute to long-term changes in the area of cultural rights;
- To assess the extent to which the crosscutting criteria of gender, culture and human rights have been taken into consideration during the implementation of the project;
- To make recommendations for how to better mainstream gender into future peace building /cultural rights interventions
- To identify good practices and draw lessons that could benefit the implementing partners and other stakeholders in similar future initiatives.

4. Scope of the evaluation

Thematic scope: The three expected results of the project will be assessed according to the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability) and the additional crosscutting criteria of gender, culture and human rights.

Period to be covered: This evaluation will assess the project over its entire duration. The project is expected to end in January with a regional conference on the cultural diversity and rights in the North West Region. Though the deliverables of the evaluation shall be finalized about one month

to this conference, the evaluation consultant shall participate in the conference and may be solicited to present a summary of the evaluation findings and respond to questions/comments from conference participants on the evaluation results.

Geographical scope: The evaluation will be carried out in the North West Region. The 20 councils that constitute the project area will be considered as the geographical scope of the evaluation.

Target group: This evaluation is expected to target the direct and indirect beneficiaries as well as the key stakeholders of the project. The evaluator is therefore expected to involve a sample of each category of beneficiaries and other key stakeholders.

5. Evaluation questions

The following table presents the mandatory evaluation questions to be addressed per evaluation criterion:

| Evaluation criteria | Mandatory evaluation questions |
|------------------------------|--|
| Relevance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How relevant was the BTG project (the design, results framework, assumptions etc.) to the socio-cultural and political/policy context of the North West Region in particular and Cameroon in general? • Were there any changes in the socio-cultural and political/policy context during the implementation of the project? • How did such changes (if any) affect the assumptions of the project? • How did the implementing organizations respond to changes in the context of the project (if any)? |
| Effectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the BTG project achieve its planned outputs? • How have the achieved outputs contributed to the intended objectives and overall goal of the project? • What are the internal and external factors that affected the achievement of outputs and the attainment of the objectives of the project? |
| Efficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the advantages and disadvantages of the strategies of the BTG project compared to those of other actors who have implemented or are implementing similar initiatives in the region or in similar contexts? • To what extent did the BTG project coordinate or collaborate with other initiatives in the area of cultural rights in order to ensure synergy and avoid duplication? • How cost-effective were the strategies and implementation arrangements/processes of the project? |
| Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the preliminary impacts or impact trends of the BTG project? (What are the concrete contributions of the BTG project to the promotion of cultural rights in the North West Region of Cameroon?) |
| Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the mechanisms put in place within the framework of the project to encourage the sustainability of its outcomes • To what extent are these outcomes likely to be sustainable? • Are there unmet and/or emerging needs in the area of cultural rights that would be relevant for future initiatives? |
| Crosscutting criteria | <p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the project consider and address the specific needs/situation of women, men and the youth? • To what extent was gender successfully mainstreamed into the approach and what recommendations can be made for future interventions? <p>Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the project consider and address the specific needs/situation of the different cultural groups involved? <p>Human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent were human rights issues considered and addressed during the implementation of the project? |

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| | <p>Knowledge generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What new knowledge or best practices has the project generated that could be documented and shared with other actors working in the area of cultural rights? • What are the knowledge/capacity gaps that still need to be addressed in area of cultural diversity and rights? • What are the key lessons from the implementation of the BTG project? |
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6. Approach and methodology

Each interested evaluator shall propose a detailed methodology for the evaluation (an evaluation team shall be selected on the basis of the quality of his/her proposed methodology and experience in the implementation of similar assignments). The proposed methodology should be evidence-based, participatory and innovative. The evaluation methodology is expected to:

- Employ a mixed-method approach to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data (please note the data collected must be in accordance with the project logical framework), including the analysis of available monitoring data;
- Clearly explain how the evaluation team will navigate gender issues throughout the evaluation process
- Be sensitive to gender and cultural diversity at all levels (design, data collection, data analysis and reporting);
- Refer to the socio-cultural and policy context of the project area in particular and the country in general;
- Make use of a wide range of data sources including but not limited to: project monitoring data, project progress reports, social media content, newspaper articles and research papers.
- Be explicitly designed to address the mandatory evaluation questions.
- Clearly explain how the evaluation team will navigate the security constraints in order to keep themselves and the community safe

7. Deliverables and timeline

The final deliverables of this evaluation are the final evaluation report and a capitalization document that summarizes the achievements of the project and lessons learnt. Intermediary deliverables shall include:

- An inception report detailing the final evaluation methodology, the approved implementation calendar and approved data collection tools;
- A short mission report on the data collection process, including any significant data gaps
- A draft evaluation report
- A PowerPoint Presentation of the evaluation findings (for the validation meeting)
- A draft of the capitalization document summarizing the achievements of the project, good practices/knowledge generated and lessons learnt.

The indicative timeline is as follows:

| Activities | Deliverables | Indicative timeline |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <p>Inception phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial desk review • Elaboration of draft data collection tools • Inception meeting • Fine-tuning of methodology/data collection tools • Elaboration of inception report (including finalization after feedback from BTG team) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception report | Week 1-2 |
| <p>Data collection stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In depth desk review • Data collection from primary sources • Debriefing on data collection and preliminary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission report (max. 2 pages) | Week 3-5 |

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|---|---|----------|
| findings • Feedback from BTG project team | | |
| Data analysis and reporting stage • Analysis and write-up • Review of draft report and capitalization document by BTG project team • Validation meeting | • Draft evaluation report • Draft capitalization document • Power Point Presentation of evaluation findings | Week 6-7 |
| Deliverables finalization stage • Finalization of the evaluation report and capitalization document (based on the feedback from the BTG project team and the validation meeting) | • Final evaluation report • Final capitalization document (Max 20 A5 pages, 500 copies on glossy paper) | Week 8 |

8. Profile of the evaluation team

The evaluation shall be undertaken by a team of 02 persons comprising a Lead Evaluator and a Co-evaluator. The evaluators are expected to demonstrate expertise in project evaluation and be willing to travel in the North West Region, including to the communities where project activities were implemented.

The specific requirements for the evaluation team members are as follows:

Lead evaluator:

- Holder of a Post-graduate or Masters' degree in social science, development studies, economics or other related fields;
- Minimum of 10 years professional experience in development work;
- Minimum of 5 years of evaluation experience with demonstrated capacity in mixed methods and analytical techniques;
- Proven track record in successfully leading evaluation teams and managing fieldwork in both rural and urban areas;
- Proven experience in participatory research methods involving persons from different socio-cultural backgrounds;
- Ability to write concise, yet comprehensive and attractive reports;
- Experience in generating useful and action-oriented recommendations;
- Excellent facilitation and reporting skills in English;
- Experience in the North West Region in general and Mbororo-Fulani communities in particular is an added advantage.

Co-evaluator

- Holder of at least a Bachelors degree in social science, development studies, economics or other related fields;
- Minimum of 5 years professional experience in development work;
- Minimum of 2 years of evaluation experience with demonstrated capacity in mixed methods and analytical techniques;
- Proven track record in evaluation teams and conducting fieldwork in both rural and urban areas;

- Proven experience in participatory research methods involving persons from different socio-cultural backgrounds;
- Experience in the North West Region in general and Mbororo-Fulani communities in particular is an added advantage.

9. How to apply

Interested consultants should provide:

- An application letter
- A proposed methodology of no more than three pages showing potential data sources, data collection and analysis methods and proposed activity schedule;
- Updated Curriculum Vitae of the proposed evaluation team members highlighting only similar evaluation assignments carried out, including year, name of contracting agency and contact details of a reference in each contracting agency mentioned;
- An indicative budget covering honoraria for the team members and all other expenses necessary for the effective completion of the evaluation process.

Applications should be submitted to Sali Django (Programme Coordinator, MOSCUDA North West) at mboscuda@yahoo.co.uk and salidjango@gmail.com latest by **Friday 9 October 2020**.

The evaluation process is expected to commence by **Tuesday 16 October 2020**.



Sali Django,

Programme Coordinator,

MBOSCUDA NWR