



Vi Agroforestry

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ASSESSMENT OF AWARENESS, PREPAREDNESS AND CAPACITY TO MITIGATE AND RESPOND TO DISASTER RISKS AND PANDEMICS

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. ABOUT VI AGROFORESTRY

Vi Agroforestry is a Swedish NGO that is fighting poverty and climate change together. This is through agroforestry and strengthening of farmers' organizations, to empower smallholder farmer families to reduce poverty, hunger, deforestation and contribute to increased biodiversity. We work in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, - four countries that are severely affected by deforestation and climate change. Since inception in 1983, Vi Agroforestry has contributed to the planting of over 134 million trees and helped more than 2.4 million people out of poverty over the past 10 years.

The foundation of Vi Agroforestry's work is sustainable agriculture and agroforestry – growing trees alongside crops and livestock. It does this while working in partnership with member-based farmer organizations to provide increased access to food, access to sustainable energy sources, and more income. Sustainable agriculture contributes to improving biodiversity and mitigation against the negative impacts of climate change.

Vi Agroforestry's firm belief that functioning ecosystems are a precondition for secure food supply, economic development and democratic systems. Therefore, protection of the environment and sustainable use of land resources, must go hand in hand with an improved agricultural production leading to increased food and income security.

1.2. ABOUT MARAKWET HIGHLAND FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Marakwet Highland Farmers Association (MHFA) is a farmer organization operating in Marakwet East and West sub-counties of Elgeyo-Marakwet County. The association was formed in 2013, to voice farmers' challenges, mainly marketing of farm produce, environmental degradation and developing linkages with actors for service provision. The association envisions "a poverty free society dwelling in a well conserved environment". Its mission is "to mobilize the community in promoting appropriate agricultural technologies and environmental sensitive initiatives through capacity development and collective actions". MHFA works with smallholder farmers to strengthen productivity, add value and collectively market agricultural produce. In so doing, the association reduces poverty by promoting environmentally sound agricultural practices through agroforestry.



Vi Agroforestry

2. CONTEXT

Vi Agroforestry is currently implementing an Interim Strategy (2020-2021), whose objective is to support cooperative and other member-based organizations to contribute to the right to food, increased resilience and sustainable livelihoods for their members and communities. This Strategy is anchored on Vi Agroforestry's current strategy 2017-2021 which aims at improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmer families in Sub-Saharan Africa through increased climate change resilience, food security, higher incomes, and greater equality between women and men by 2021. The two strategies are being implemented through a regional programme, ALIVE (2018-2022). While implementing this programme to realize the intended results, we continue to witness increased incidences of disasters and pandemics. These disasters, among them, landslides, floods, long dry spells, outbreak of pests and diseases (such as fowl army worms, desert locusts and Vovid-19) have the potential of drawing back gains made in fighting poverty and hunger among our target group.

3. APPROACH

In view of this, Vi Agroforestry and Marakwet Highland Farmers Association wish to engage a consultant to conduct an assessment on the level of awareness, preparedness and capacity to mitigate and respond to disaster risks by Vi Agroforestry, her partner organizations and counties where their activities run in Kenya. The consultant is expected to engage participants in different counties, drawn from Vi Agroforestry, partner organizations, and government departments and projects dealing with issues related to disasters. The consultant will ensure that these engagements are done using techniques that will not predispose people to the risks posed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

3.1. SCOPE

The consultant will be expected to visit Vi Agroforestry and partner organizations spread out in ten counties in Kenya, as follows; Kericho, Kisumu, Homabay, Siaya, Bungoma, Busia, Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot and Turkana. Where physical engagements may not be possible (due to restrictions of movements, or increased infections in certain geographical areas), the consultant may use virtual tools to engage the respondents. Before writing a final report, the consultant will organize a validation workshop with Vi Agroforestry and the partners organizations and, and stakeholders. The workshop will offer feedback and validate the information, in readiness for the development of final report. The final report shall be written in English and be professionally proofread. The final report should have a clear structure, with an executive summary having a maximum of 2 pages. The consultant shall clearly describe and explain in detail the assessment methodology and methods used for data collection. Any limitations to the methods used shall be made explained, together with their



Vi Agroforestry

consequences on the findings. Assessment findings shall flow logically from the data, showing a clear line of evidence to support the conclusions. The findings, conclusions and recommendations should reflect a gender analysis and an analysis of identified and relevant cross-cutting issues. Recommendations should be specific, directed to relevant stakeholders and categorised as short-term, medium-term and long-term. They should flow logically and guided by the conclusions. The report should not go beyond 25 pages, excluding annexes (including Terms of Reference and Inception Report) and submitted to Marakwet Highland Farmers Association (MHFA) and a copy to Vi Agroforestry, Kenya Office.

3.2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

These Terms of Reference provide a framework for engagement between Marakwet Highland Farmers Association (MHFA) and the consultant. The purpose of this work is to assess the level of awareness, preparedness and capacity to mitigate and respond to disaster risks. Participants will be drawn from Vi Agroforestry, partner organizations and government departments working with disaster related issues. When identifying these participants, the consultant will ensure that women, the youth (both male and female) and men are given equal chance to be involved.

The specific objectives for the exercise include:

- i. Assess existing and potential disasters for different geographical areas and the level of awareness, including early warning systems by Vi Agroforestry, partner organizations and county level.
- ii. Assess existing structures for preparedness and response to the identified disasters at the organizations and county level
- iii. Assess capacity among the actors to coordinate response to the identified disaster outbreaks.
- iv. Assess proneness of disasters to geographical areas
- v. Practical recommendations for disaster management in programmes implemented by Vi Agroforestry and its partner organizations.

4. CONSULTANT REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATION

This task requires a consultant, either individual or a firm of consultants who must have a postgraduate qualification in disaster management, community development or related course. The consultant should have hands on experience in conducting disaster risk studies involving women, men and youths, use of focused group discussions and survey methodologies where women and men (both adult and young) are involved, use of online tools to engage diverse audiences and solid experience in data analysis, interpretation and report writing. In addition, the consultant should have good communication and interpersonal skills. Further, the consultant should:



Vi Agroforestry

- i. Demonstrate previous experience in conducting similar assignments, especially in the context of agricultural system in Kenya and programmes which empowers women, young women and young men.
- ii. Demonstrate working experience of at least 5 years in disaster risk management within the community set ups, especially among smallholder farming systems, where women and youth are actively involved.
- iii. Have the capacity to work independently, either as an individual or as a team
- iv. Be willing to undertake the assignment within stipulated time.

5. DELIVERABLES

The consultant will deliver three key tasks, as outlined below:

- i. An inception report detailing delivery methodology and work schedule.
- ii. Facilitate an online workshop with Vi Agroforestry, partner organizations and stakeholders to give feedback and validate the findings.
- iii. Submission of a final report as stated in these Terms of Reference.

6. ROLE OF VI AGROFORESTRY

- i. Has the overall responsibility for the assignment.
- ii. Offer technical support to Marakwet Highland Farmers Association while working with the consultant.
- iii. Coordinate engagement with its own relevant staff.

7. ROLE OF MARAKWET HIGHLAND FARMERS ASSOCIATION

- i. Provide logistical arrangement.
- ii. Link the consultant with partner organizations and relevant stakeholders

8. ROLE OF THE CONSULTANT

- i. Prepare and submit an inception report, detailing methodologies of engaging identified stakeholders drawn from Vi Agroforestry, partner organizations, and relevant government departments/ projects.
- ii. Engaging different stakeholders in the identified counties
- iii. Facilitate an online workshop with Vi Agroforestry, partner organizations and stakeholders to share findings, receive feedback and validate findings.
- iv. Compile and submit final report.

9. TIMEFRAME

The assignment will be conducted in 17 days not later than 31st July 2021.



Vi Agroforestry

10. HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants to submit their proposal, comprising of the following components:

- Cover letter explaining suitability for the assignment.
- A CV for each team member, which should contain a full description of relevant qualifications and professional work experience, including similar assignments.
- Technical proposal, including a detailed methodology and a plan of how the tasks will be done within the proposed time frame (17 days).
- A financial proposal including the schedule of payments.
- Organizational capacity statement, experience and activities related to the task (for those applying as a firm)
- Curriculum vitae for the lead consultant(s) that will be engaged on this assignment.
- Relevant work undertaken in the last 3 years.
- Full names, contact details including telephone numbers, e-mail address, physical address and contact person of the consultancy.

Technical and financial proposals to be sent to maraassociation@gmail.com and applicationsKE@viagroforestry.org and to be received not later than 18th June 2021 by 5.00 pm.