

## **Call for Expression of Interests: Outcome Harvest Substantiation, Analysis and Report**

### **1. Background**

ActionAid Denmark has a strategic partnership with Danida in 2018-2021 that includes a humanitarian grant of 15 million DKK annually for the programme “Strengthened rights and resilience for women and young people affected by protracted crises and disasters”.

The desired impact of the programme is to shift power to women, young people and their organisations in protracted crises and disasters in order for them to lead and influence humanitarian action that builds increased protection and resilience. The programme consists of a global project and national projects in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon.

Underpinned by ActionAid’s Humanitarian Signature, “shifting power” to communities themselves and in particular women and young women and young men, is a multidimensional approach across all programme components. ActionAid’s “women- and youth-led community based” approaches place the agency and voice of women and youth at the centre of all activities. The programme has three main thematic areas: Protection; Localisation and Accountability; and Resilience. These thematic areas are closely interconnected and complementary. The programme has a joint summary results framework as well as results frameworks for each of the four programme components.

At a country level, the long-term outcomes seek to empower women and youth to take leadership in reducing protection risks and building resilience while simultaneously establishing an enabling environment for women and youth-led, community-based humanitarian action within existing networks, platforms and humanitarian architecture. While the expected results are similar across the three countries, the key actions generating these results differ between the countries due to the contextual differences. At a global level, the long-term outcomes seek action from global humanitarian and resilience actors to improve practices in funding, guidance and policy as well as core membership in the humanitarian architecture to enable changes at a national level which in turn will facilitate an enabling environment for community-based humanitarian action. The interlinkages between global and country programmes are expected to amplify the results, with the evidence-based learning from countries being used to advocate for action at global level while such action in turn will support an enabling environment at a national level.

The Midterm Review of this programme seeks to identify and assess the achievements and learning that ActionAid and partners have generated through the Danida HUM programme thus far. This includes linking short-term response with longer term sustainable transformative change. The review will also provide recommendations to improve programming in the remaining programme period.

To do this, the mid-term review will focus on addressing the following objectives.

- Identify, assess and map achievements against the expected programme results and ActionAid’s wider strategic objectives
- Synthesise learning and provide recommendations to the key themes:

- ActionAid’s women-led community-based approaches to Protection, Localisation and Accountability and Resilience in protracted crises
- “Organising” in protracted crises
- Youth leadership in humanitarian action

Outcome harvesting has been chosen as the main methodology for the programme midterm review. While the mid-term review will be led and managed internally, an external consultant will be required to substantiate and analyse the harvested outcomes as well as support the internal team with validation of learning and recommendations.

## 2. Audience and use of findings

Target audience	Use of findings
ActionAid Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrative examples of progress / challenges to improve programme design and implementation</li> <li>• Thematic learning related to key themes to improve future programme design in particular the upcoming SPA 2022 application</li> <li>• Learning to inform future partnerships</li> </ul>
ActionAid Palestine and ActionAid Arab Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrative examples of progress / challenges to improve programme design and implementation</li> <li>• Thematic learning related to key themes to improve future programme design</li> <li>• Learning to inform future partnerships</li> </ul>
ActionAid International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrative examples of progress / challenges</li> <li>• Thematic learning related to key themes to improve future programme design across the federation</li> </ul>
ActionAid wider federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic learning and evidence related to key themes</li> <li>• Illustrative examples of how ActionAid is delivering IP4</li> </ul>
Danida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrative examples of humanitarian work in protracted crisis</li> <li>• Examples of results generated through ActionAid’s approaches to humanitarian work</li> </ul>

## 3. Overall purpose of the assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to substantiate and analyse the harvested outcomes in order to assess the achievements and learning that ActionAid and partners have generated through the Danida HUM programme thus far. Following the substantiation and analysis, the

consultant will also work with AA and partners to identify recommendations to improve programming in the remaining programme period.

#### **4. Scope**

This review will consider the entire project period thus far e.g. from January 2018 onwards. The review will cover all three countries (Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon) as well as the global component of the programme. The review will focus on identifying and assessing achievements to date, as well as identifying major reasons for achievement or non-achievement of results, and key lessons to inform further implementation and future interventions. The review should also identify ActionAid Denmark's added value and assess, where possible, what ActionAid contributes to the work that is unique to ActionAid. Finally, the level of transformative change should also be considered when assessing each achievement. Transformative change refers to the potential for, contribution to, and/or progress made in, achieving lasting solutions and behaviour changes through assessing the (a) catalytic effect, (b) scalability and (c) sustainability of the results.

The review will include desk-based substantiation and analysis to the extent possible. If in-country substantiation is needed, then this will be arranged through local consultants, if this is feasible in the local context. Conclusions will be based on a representative sample of the harvested outcomes from the programme as not all outcome harvested will be substantiated.

#### **5. Key Questions**

The internal review team with support from the external consultant will seek to answer the below set of questions:

1. Assess and map achievements against the expected programme results and ActionAid's wider strategic objectives
  - What achievements have been reached thus far?
  - To what extent have the achievements contributed to the expected results as stated in results frameworks?
  - To what extent are the achievements proving the overarching theory of change for the programme?
  - What is ActionAid Denmark's added value in the identified achievements?
  - To what extent are the achievements unique to ActionAid and its approaches?
  - In what ways and to what extent have the achievements shown Value for Money?
2. Synthesise learning and provide recommendations to the key themes
  - What are the key common themes and messages arising from the learning generated by the Danida HUM programme?
  - What strategies and approaches have worked and not worked, and why?
  - In what ways and to what extent has ActionAid influenced replication of approaches, as well as built the capacity of local actors to shift the power?

## 6. Methodology

Outcome Harvesting was piloted under AADKs previous framework agreements and integrated into the current SPA programme as a key method for measuring achievements.

This review will be the first application of Outcome Harvesting in our humanitarian work. To continue to build internal capacity and learning, the review will be internally managed with key elements such as substantiation and analysis being led by an external consultant.

The review will follow the 6 steps of Outcome Harvesting:

- 1) Design harvest (To be completed internally by ActionAid)
- 2) Review documentation (To be completed by ActionAid)
- 3) Engage with informants (To be completed by ActionAid)
- 4) Substantiate (To be completed by external consultant)
- 5) Analyse and Interpret (To be led by external consultant with input from ActionAid)
- 6) Use findings (To be completed by ActionAid)

As part of step five, Analyse and Interpret, the other approach under our SPA programme Value for Money will be used to analyse the identified outcomes. This will allow insight into the cost effectiveness of activities.

The review will use a participatory and collaborative methodology with the country and global team staff members, partners and rights holders involved in the delivery of the Danida HUM programme. A mid-term review team will be established to lead the review, which the external consultant will be part of. It is expected that the external consultant will develop a framework and plan to substantiate identified outcomes in a collaborative manner.

All findings will be triangulated using different sources of information to substantiate outcomes and thereby inform learning, findings and recommendations. It is expected that the methodology for the substantiation is adjusted by the external consultant once the outcomes have been harvested.

The methodology is expected to include the following:

- To harvest outcomes:
  - Desk based literature review
  - Joint online outcome harvesting workshop with ActionAid global and country staff
  - Outcome harvesting workshops with partners and rights holders in country
  - Interviews with key informants
- To substantiate outcomes (methods and data to be determined):
  - Desk based literature review
  - Online key informant interviews
  - If needed – and possible – field visits by local external consultants in country
- To analyse and interpret outcomes:
  - Online or in-person workshop with country and global team

## 7. Ethics and risks

This review must comply with ActionAid’s policies on safeguarding and other relevant policies. The review report will be shared externally, and the review team should carefully consider any implications this may have for the methodology including the proposed data and information collection methods.

## 8. Outputs and timeline

The expected outputs which the consultant is responsible for are:

1. Substantiation and analysis methodology
2. Review report addressing the review objectives and questions with clear and actionable recommendations (max. 25 pages, excluding annexes)
3. Case studies from across three countries (minimum one per country) as well as the global component (minimum one) that best highlight critical learning, innovative and/or replicable approaches, stories of change or key contributions to ActionAid’s overachieving objectives. The case studies should be selected from learning documentation generated by the review.
4. Presentation of findings and recommendations. The consultant will alongside the review team present the report and case studies to the wider Danida HUM team and other federation members if relevant.

The proposed timeline for the entire review is outlined below:

Output	Days estimated	Deadline	Who
Contract signed	N/A	25 September 2020	Consultant / ActionAid
Consultant initial meeting	½ day	25 September 2020	Consultant / ActionAid
Substantiation and analysis methodology developed	1 day	2 October 2020	Consultant
Substantiation of selected outcomes	4 days	25 October 2020	Consultant
Analyse and interpret findings	3 days	6 October 2020	Consultant
Review team workshop led by consultant	1 day	6 November 2020	Consultant + ActionAid
Draft report + case studies	5 days	30 October 2020	Consultant
Final report + case studies	2 days	15 November 2020	Consultant
Present report and case studies	½ day	30 November 2020	Consultant + ActionAid

A more detailed timeframe and work plan will be developed by the consultant during the substantiation and analysis methodology development.

## **9. Roles and responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the consultant to deliver the outputs as described above. An internal review team has been established, comprising of members from all three implementing countries as well as AA Denmark, AA Kenya and IHART. All outputs developed by the consultant will be discussed and reviewed by the review team members. ActionAid will provide access to all relevant information and arrange logistics for data and information collection in accordance with the substantiation and analysis methodology.

The external consultant is expected to meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated, extensive review experience in international humanitarian/development context
- Demonstrated expertise in developing customised and solid methodologies using outcome harvesting
- Knowledge and experience with qualitative and quantitative approaches such as interviews, focus groups discussions, observations, surveys etc.
- Experience with the key themes related to ActionAid's work
- Ability to work as an interdisciplinary team with complementary skills
- Ability to engage with, listen to and learn from a broad range of stakeholders
- Commitment to protecting confidential information
- Ability to communicate fluently in English, Arabic is highly desirable
- Ability to write concise reports underpinned by rigorous critical analysis of collected data and assembled evidence

The following overall criteria will be applied when assessing the submitted expression of interests:

- Extensive experience with design of outcome harvest substantiation, preferable through online or desk-based methods
- Demonstrated, extensive review experience with expertise in developing customised and solid methodologies
- Methodology of the substantiation and analysis process, including adaptability to the COVID19 situation
- Price

### **Time estimation of the review**

ActionAid expects the work to require the equivalent of approximately 15-20 days' work during the period outlined above.

### **Expressions of interest**

Interested consultants are requested to submit their CVs and an expression of interest using the format indicated below, not exceeding five pages:

- Brief understanding of the task
- Summary of the methods proposed
- Overview of proposed budget and work plan

**Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest: 20 September 2020**

Based on these submissions, shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview before final selection is made. Interviews will be held on 23 September 2020. **Please submit proposal and CV to: Dorte Nita Simonsen, Project Assistant, dns@ms.dk**