

Terms of Reference

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN / YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTERS IN THE NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST REGIONS

The socio-political conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions has caused large-scale damage, spurred a humanitarian crisis, and exacerbated existing social tensions. The vulnerable populations urgently need to receive humanitarian assistance and to recover from both the conflict and neglect.

Following the continuous crisis in the Northwest and Southwest of the Country, the Presidential Plan for Reconstruction and Development (PPRD) or the Recovery Plan is a contribution to the National Development Plan (NDP) and was jointly developed by the Government of Cameroon (MINEPAT and MINFI) and UNDP. The aim of the plan is to address the immediate needs of the affected populations in the NW/SW Regions. The goal is to: (i) Restore social cohesion; (ii) Reconstruct and rehabilitate basic infrastructures; and (iii) Revitalize the local economy. To ensure transparency in assisting the NW/SW regions, the Government designated UNDP as the Implementing Partner and Fund Manager of the PPRD.

The PPRD has already been approved by the President of the Republic of Cameroon and endorsed by the Local Project Approval Committee. The Project Document has been signed and two board meetings organized. High-level field visits to sensitize and consult with various key stakeholders including INGOs, CSOs, Traditional and religious leaders, Humanitarian organizations have been organized and others underway.

The crisis has destroyed the socioeconomic fabric of the Region. Families have been disintegrated and most social structures abandoned. Limited access to assets by women and youths in the North West conflict area has also increased as many have fled from insecurity while abandoning their productive resources (Land, village saving groups or development networks) and become IDPs in strange areas and in bushes. Faced with these fragile situations, women and girls tend to embrace unfriendly livelihood options like prostitution and other criminal acts.

Moreover, the conflict has generally restricted freedom of movement and has greatly affected the already existing level of education and employment of women and youths. Many youths have dropped out of schools over four years now as many schools have been closed and many have also lost their jobs as majority of jobs in the informal sector which is a sector highly occupied by women and youths are closed.

In order to fill these gaps, this project thus considers women and youths socioeconomic actors as well as obvious and necessary agents of change to promote economic empowerment. This is because investing in women and youths economic empowerment will set a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth as women and youths make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as

entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. This also has a direct bearing on women and youth's participation in leadership, decision making and peace building.

The conflict in this zone has also considerably shattered the local networks and mechanisms of socio-economic development which use to be particularly dynamic, including women and youth centers which were structures for social interaction, vocational training and economic insertion,

1. Overall objective:

The global objective is to provide a conducive environment for women and youths to strengthen their civic commitment, participate in vocational training and reintegrate into appropriate economic value chains in the North-West Region and South West.

2. Specific objectives

- i. To enhance the training capacity of women and youth centres by providing support (materials, equipment, and office consumables) as well as support for start-ups.
- ii. Bring together women and youths for civic commitment in discussions and information sharing.
- iii. Communicate messages of peace and reconciliation needed for Recovery.
- iv. Build the capacity of Women and youths in decision-making towards positive change
- v. Carry out short-term Vocational training for women and youths
- vi. Introduce women and young people to the values of leadership, volunteering, and social entrepreneurship
- vii. Support women and youths who have undergone vocational trainings with economic start up kits
- viii. Establish a mentoring mechanism for start ups

3. Expected results

- i. Vulnerable women and youth are economically empowered through articulate vocational trainings (IT, tailoring/embroidery, cookery/pastries etc.)
- ii. Vulnerable women and youth are supported with start-up kits.
- iii. Women and Youths' capacities are built in decision-making
- iv. Messages of peace and reconciliation are communicated
- v. Women and Youths' are trained on the values of leadership, volunteering, and social entrepreneurship.
- vi. Women and Youths gain skill through short term vocational trainings
- vii. A business mentoring strategy for start-ups is established.

4. Methodology

The methodology adopted for the realization of the above activity and the achievement of the said objectives will be a focus on Youth/Women centers that have demonstrated a sound mastery of Women and youth empowerment program and are currently involved in the execution of activities related to such programs.

5. Women and Youth Empowerment

The selected Center will create the necessary environment for the promotion of Women and youth socioeconomic enhancement in the Region and will be closely monitored and evaluated by UNDP Livelihood and Social Cohesion Experts

6. Funding

The project will be funded by the RBA window funding for the UNDP Recovery Program for the Northwest and Southwest.

7. Beneficiaries/Participants

Direct beneficiaries: One Women/Youth Center per region (hence two Women/Youth Centers).

Indirect beneficiaries: the local population (Women and youths) across the North West and South West Regions.

8. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

a) Administrative criteria

1. Justify the legal existence as a training CENTRE in Cameroon
2. Have the legal personality for the exercise recognized by the Government or Administrative Authorities
3. Have a training room with minimum basic facilities
4. Copy of bank Attestation
5. Location plan of office

b) Technical criteria

1. Have at least 5 years of experience in the field of training and technical supervision in the region
2. Justify with elements, end-of-training ceremony photos, provide evidence
3. Have a technical and coaching staff with the qualifications (expertise required) in accordance with the mission of the Center (Add the list of trainers, CVs, and diplomas)
4. Experience with national, international and donor organizations