

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PROJECT ASSESSMENTS  
FOR EU FPI FUNDED-SUPPORT TO LOCAL  
STABILIZATION PROGRAM.**

**Project Number: SOM2522501**

**JUNE 2025**

## I. BACKGROUND

NIS-Foundation received funding support from the European Union (EU) to implement local stabilization projects in response to requests by the federal government of Somalia. This support focuses on stabilizing the affected communities around Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland and Southwest states.

The project builds on previous and complementing projects (stabilization and reconciliation) in the country with other priorities identified by communities and government to support the peacebuilding process in the target locations. It links reconciliation and recovery to stabilization by strengthening local administration formation for successful reconciliation and supporting the government in providing urgently needed services like access to water and community reconciliation.

In line with the four focus areas of the National Stabilisation Strategy (Community Recovery, Social Reconciliation, Local Governance, and Rule of Law), and complementary to stabilisation efforts implemented under other NIS projects or by other stabilisation partners, the support to local stabilization projects aim to address the following priorities:

In response to reported damages caused by conflict, the support to stabilization projects aim to assist in re-establishing functioning government infrastructure to be able to provide key basic services, such as improving the social safety, including the installation of solar streetlights and access to water in selected locations. Another important pillar contributing to stabilization is the inclusive economic development, with consideration given specifically to the situation and needs of women, and in light of the effects of climate change. Finally, peacebuilding in newly liberated areas is closely linked to social cohesion and youth engagement (New Engagement Through Sports).

The project's Theory of Change posit that **IF** immediate tangible infrastructure is provided to the communities AND dialogues to address inter-clan conflicts in the target areas are facilitated, **THEN** the communities' socio-economic vulnerabilities (sufficient access to water, stability and peaceful cooperation among community members) will be addressed, and **THUS** the authorities will count on legitimacy in the targeted communities. The overall goal of the project aims at increasing the legitimacy of authorities at national and local level in communities in the target areas.

The project focuses on three **thematic areas** – water infrastructure, safety, and reconciliation. For the initial stage of the Action, 12 interventions in 14 locations have been identified and prepared for implementation – which include installation of at least 75 solar streetlights, rehabilitation of one water infrastructure and number of communal infrastructures including construction of stadium and community centers.

NIS is planning to contract an external consulting firm with relevant experience and sufficient resources to undertake the **Project' Assessments (Baseline and Endline)**. Below are sampled project interventions for assessment.

*Table 1 Sample interventions mapped for the baseline and endline assessments.*

| S/N | State       | Region          | District/location | Intervention type                             |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| 1   | Hirshabelle | Hiiraan         | Farlibax          | Rehabilitation/Construction of sport facility |
| 2   | Hirshabelle | Middle Shabelle | Ceelbaraf         | Reconciliation and mediation                  |
| 3   | Galmudug    | Mudug           | Xarardheere       | Construction of courthouse                    |
| 4   | Galmudug    | Galgaduud       | Abudwak           | Construction of district administration       |
| 5   | Southwest   | Lower Shabelle  | Wanlaweyn         | Reconciliation and mediation                  |

|   |           |               |             |  |
|---|-----------|---------------|-------------|--|
| 6 | Southwest | Bakool        | Yeed        | Rehabilitation of Water infrastructure project |
| 7 | Jubaland  | Jubadda Hoose | Bula Haji   | Construction of administration office          |
|   |           |               |             | Installation of 30 solar streetlights          |
| 8 | Jubaland  | Jubadda Hoose | Raskanbooni | Installation of 25 solar streetlights for      |
| 9 | Jubaland  | Jubadda Hoose | Raskamboni  | Construction of sports facility                |

## 2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The external consultant/TPM has the purpose of providing NIS and other stakeholders with an assessment of the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact, while testing the underlying assumptions and weak links of the programmer's ToC. It is therefore expected that the TPM offers recommendations that invite discussions within NIS on how to keep improving its programming and interventions. The TPM's assignment consists of baseline and endline assessments, and other products outlined in section 5 (the deliverables).

### 2.1. Baseline assessment

To document status quo prior to inform programme progress, a baseline evaluation will be conducted in each selected location where the intended projects are to take place. Findings and results should be captured in one baseline report where outcome and impact indicators are detailed. The report of these findings should include a geographical comparisons of baseline benchmarks for indicators and furnish to the program logical framework.

### 2.2. Endline evaluation

The endline evaluation will be undertaken across the identified project's locations Three months maximum after project completion or after completing all the interventions. The evaluation assignment will result in a final evaluation report that will be based on an in-depth analysis of both baselines, endline data and findings relevant to the programme's outcomes and impact from selected locations. The endline evaluation should assess the following:

- To what extent were the objectives of the programme valid and conflict sensitive in the specific context, and whether the activities were consistent with the objectives and intended impacts.
- To what degree the assumed Theory of Change corresponds with the mechanisms and tendencies observed during and after programme implementation, the attribution and contribution aspect of the program.
- To what degree were the objectives of the programme achieved.
- The external, social, and contextual factors supporting/hindering the achievement of the objectives.
- Measure programme progress against planned programme results and outputs (quantitative and qualitative) as given in the logical framework.
- Any positive or negative, intended, or unintended, effects and impacts on the community, including on specific segments of the community such as minority groups, elders, women, and children.
- To what degree are systems in place to ensure the sustainability of the programme upon completion.
- Has the project created good relationship and cooperation with the different relevant national, regional and local level government authorities and other relevant stakeholders to implement the project?
- The functioning of the steering committees, user groups and the broader community engagement programme; and
- Women's participation in the programme and the programme's impact on women's lives.

## 3. METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant should conduct independent projects assessments using data collection tools developed in

collaboration with NIS's MEL and program staff. The endline evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the OECD DAC's quality standards for development evaluation and guidelines for evaluations in settings of conflict and fragility.

The following data collection strategies will be applied by the Consultant (additional methods may be applied by the consultant, subject to approval by NIS):

- A comprehensive desk review of all programme documents indicated by NIS (including the Global M&E Plan), and any other relevant literature prior to tool development.
- Develop quantitative and qualitative data collection tools and guidelines for the baseline, and endline assessments. The tools will be developed in close collaboration with NIS' M&E team and will only be used for fieldwork following NIS' formal approval.
- NIS will provide templates and samples of the household survey, economic activity mapping and KII/FGD guidelines it is using to collect baseline and endline data, which the TPM consultants will develop further.
- The consultant will also assist in the development of additional indicators, and review of the current ones, as needed.
- Conduct baseline and endline quantitative household surveys using digital data gathering through software provided by NIS. Gender balance will be maintained during data collection by hiring both male and female enumerators. Enumerators will be properly trained by the TPM Consultant, and a pilot study will be conducted prior to the extensive survey to verify that questionnaires are clearly understood.
- Conduct baseline and endline qualitative KIIs and FGDs to complement the quantitative surveys and contextualize quantitative data, as well as supply a more in-depth and richer evidence base.

#### **4. DELIVERABLES**

The required outputs of this assignment will be as follows:

1. Inception report for the Project' Assessments (Baseline and Endline) which will include the following:
  - Proposed methodological approach that the consultant will employ.
  - Sampling approach that the consultant will employ.
  - All quantitative and qualitative data collection tools previously approved by NIS.
  - Work plan and Timelines (including sequencing of baseline activities and data collection regular feedback between NIS and the consultant).
  - Short analysis of the call for proposals with an explanation of how data will be analyzed.
  - Limitations of the data collection tools.
  - Data quality assurance mechanism.
2. Raw data for each data collection exercise compiled in electronic format:
  - Household survey data submitted to NIS' digital data collection platform ONA.
  - List of businesses counted in the Economic activity mapping in Excel or Word.
  - Economic activity mapping (business owner surveys) data submitted to ONA.
  - All data from KIIs and FGDs transcribed and translated to English.
  - Full sets of photos and videos collected including details of the dates, locations, and the project site visited.
3. A full set of photo albums, (10-20 photos, including descriptive captions with names of beneficiaries, activities, location, etc.) at different times of the project period.
4. A full set of short video clips (1-2 minutes maximum each) - e.g, a project activity or interviews with beneficiaries/partners (even if it is done with basic equipment such as a smartphone) at different times of the project period.
5. Human interest stories - these can be either in the format of a short video accompanied by a text, in text format with accompanying photos or any other format suggested by the consultant and agreed on. However, all stories should highlight concretely the impact of the funding on the individual beneficiary and should include quotes.

6. Prior to each project assessment reports submission, the consultant is expected to make a presentation of the key findings and recommendations of the assessments to NIS Somalia country office prior to submitting a final assessments report for review, comments, discussion, and final consensus building. It should also arrange learning sessions with the programme team to discuss important lessons learned and advise how these should be integrated in the programme.
7. Programme endline assessment to be delivered no later than 5 months after the programme's end.

All data and reports will be shared exclusively with NIS. All reports will follow NIS' reporting templates that might be further adapted by the Consultant in cooperation with NIS.

## **5. SUPERVISION**

The TPM consultant will work under the overall guidance of NIS' Country Representative and NIS' MEL Manager, and in close collaboration and dialogue with relevant stakeholders in all programme areas. It is expected that after signing the contract, both parties will develop a MEL plan together that will form the basis of the conjoint work. NIS will provide quality assurance to all data collection tools and reports submitted by the consultant. NIS will take an active part in developing the data collection tools by providing the consultant with its survey and interview templates and guidelines, and reviewing the tools further developed by the consultant. NIS will be responsible for monitoring output indicators and activities. This information is expected to complement projects assessments by the TPM.

## **6. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT/ CONSULTANCY**

The assignment will begin immediately after the signing the contract with TPM consultant. It is expected to end after the approval of the programme's final evaluation report.

## **7. REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Must have demonstrated experience of successfully carrying out at least four stabilization and local governance project/program's baseline, endline assessments and/or mid-term review and impact evaluations.
- Must have capacity and experience in collaborating with diverse sets of stakeholders, such civil society organizations, government officials, donor representatives, international institutions.
- Must have capacity to carry out field monitoring, baseline, midline and impact evaluations and reporting of development/humanitarian interventions.
- The team leader must have;
  - Extensive experience in research work and in assessments/evaluations, ideally of long-term stabilization and institutional building projects and Knowledge of mixed methodologies to document project results particularly in conflict affected contexts.
  - At least a master's degree in economics, developmental studies, business administration, social science or a related field for the lead consultant.
  - In-depth knowledge of the Somalia context, and knowledge of conflict, political, economic and security processes and approaches.
- Must have capacity to arrange all the logistical arrangements for field staff and actual field work.
- Proven experience in collaborating with diverse sets of stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, community representatives, government officials, donor representatives, international institutions
- The data/research manager have experience in monitoring and evaluation, with particular focus on quality tools development, qualitative data analysis skills using statistical packages such as Stata and R and have exceptional report writing skills
- Must have enough human resources/pool of enumerators that can simultaneously carryout the data collection in the target locations.

- Demonstrate capacity to arrange all the logistical arrangements for field staff and actual field work, also have field monitors who are native Somali speakers, with knowledge of the culture, practices, and security situation in the proposed project target areas.
- Trained and qualified female and male (preferably 50% each) staff available for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Use of innovative technologies, including mobile data collection.

## 8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE.

### 8.1 Proposal format

Consultancy firms that meet the above requirements should submit an expression of interest (EOI) to [procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org](mailto:procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org) latest **10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**, which should include:

- **Technical Proposal:** detailing Information about the organization's background/profile and relevant expertise/experience in project evaluation (max 1.5 pages); Understanding of the ToR (max 1 page); Description of the approach, methodology and work plan for performing the assignment (max 2 pages).
- **Financial Proposal** should include (expressed in US dollars): Total budget, including each activity budget and breakdown of daily fee, and estimation of the number of required working days, VAT, travel/communication/security related expenses, insurance & taxes.
- Three Samples of at least recently signed contracts for a similar assignment conducted for Stabilization projects preferably from UN, INGO, and within the last 3 years and accompanying respective approved final reports.
- CVs of at least 3 proposed key professional personnel who will be dedicated to this assignment (attach CVs i.e lead consultant, field coordinator and data analyst among others).
- At least 2 letters of recommendations.
- At least 3 References.
- Valid registration documents (operating license, permits, tax clearance certificates, etc) from relevant government authorities.

### 8.2 Submission of proposals

The deadline for submitting complete proposals is **11:59 PM on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Proposals must be submitted electronically to [procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org](mailto:procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org), with the subject line **“Support to local stabilization Program Assessments”**.

#### Contact information.

Please forward any query to the following e-mail address: [procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org](mailto:procurement.somalia@nis-foundation.org) **not later than 11:59pm** (Mogadishu time) on **10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**.

*NB: NIS Foundation promotes gender equality and social inclusion. Consultant firms that represent/are owned by women, male and female youth and/or other marginalized groups are encouraged to apply for this activit*