Evaluation of World Vision Ireland's programmes under Ireland's Civil Society Partnership (ICSP, 2023-2027)

Terms of Reference

World Vision Ireland (WVIRE) seeks to engage a consultant(s) to evaluate programmes funded under Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for A Better World (ICSP) scheme.

Background

Ireland's Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) for A Better World

ICSP is a five-year funding mechanism that supports ten Irish civil society partners, made up of four funding streams: long-term development, chronic humanitarian crises, acute humanitarian crises, and global citizenship education. Additionally, each partner receives an allocation of climate financing integrated into the programme.

Programmes funded under ICSP contribute to Ireland's foreign policy priorities; particularly Ireland's overseas development policy, A Better World. During 2024, Irish Aid developed Flagship Outcomes (with a validation meeting in November 2024), based on the partners' programmes and projects' results-based frameworks (RBFs) to articulate the specific outcomes ICSP aims to achieve. These flagship outcomes (10 thematic ones and 3 process ones) are used in annual reporting since 2025.

World Vision Ireland's Programming

WVIRE has been an Irish Aid funded partner since 2006. Under the ICSP funding scheme, it receives *4.6 million euros annually* across three streams: long-term development (NOURISH), chronic humanitarian crises (EMPOWER!), acute humanitarian crises.

The NOURISH programme

Nature-Based Opportunities Underpinning Resilient and Sustainable Households (NOURISH), funded under Irish Aid's Long Term Development funding stream, aims to ensure that vulnerable children are well nourished in climate resilient households and communities.

The programme is implemented in partnership with World Vision offices in five areas: the Brakna region in Mauritania (WVMRT), the Shinyanga region in Tanzania (WVTZA), the Karamoja sub-region in Uganda (WVUGA), the Makira-Ulawa province in Solomon Islands (WVSLB) and the Shefa province in Vanuatu (WVVUT).

With the goal of reducing poverty and hunger in vulnerable households and communities, NOURISH focuses on achieving four outcomes:

1. Improved and sustainable livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable/ female headed households, through nutrition sensitive climate smart approaches
2. Increased consumption of nutritious and safe diets
3. Strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction and management strategies with appropriate climate mitigation and adaptation activities in target communities

4.   Increased social and cultural empowerment for women and girls

To improve the above outcomes, NOURISH implements a variety of contextually relevant World Vision models and approaches: Channels of Hope, Men Care or Coaching Boys Into Men, Citizen Voice and Action, Nurturing Care Groups, Savings for Transformation, Climate-Smart Agriculture, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management.

Climate financing: The climate allocation received by WVIRE is integrated into outcomes 1 and 3 of the NOURISH programme.

The EMPOWER! programme

Enabling Meaningful Participation of Women and girls for Essential Rights (EMPOWER!), funded under Irish Aid's Chronic Humanitarian Crises funding stream, builds on the previous funding cycles and the Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP)[1].

The programme is implemented in partnership with World Vision offices in four areas: the North Kivu province in Democratic Republic of Congo (WVDRC), the Puntland region in Somalia (WVSOM), the Upper Nile state in South Sudan (WVSSD) and the Azaz district in Syria (WVSR).

With the goal of protecting and empowering the most vulnerable women and girls in fragile contexts, EMPOWER! focuses on achieving two outcomes:

1.   Increased equitable access to quality, inclusive, safe, gender-responsive education and learning *(except for Syria)*
2.   Improved social and economic empowerment and protection services for the most vulnerable women and girls

To improve the above outcomes, EMPOWER! implements a variety of contextually relevant World Vision models and approaches: Channels of Hope, Men Care or Coaching Boys Into Men, Citizen Voice and Action, Unlock Literacy, Whole of School Approach, Safe Spaces (such as Child Friendly Spaces and Women's and Girls Safe Spaces).

Acute Humanitarian Crisis projects

The ACS enables short-term emergencies responses and is a hugely important component of WVIRE's Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approach, as we aim to have the majority of ACS responses located in or near our NOURISH and EMPOWER! programmes. Since 2023, 10 responses have been implemented (80% of which were in NOURISH or EMPOWER! countries).

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[1] HPP was Irish Aid's main humanitarian funding mechanisms for NGO partners, introduced in 2009 and became multi-annual in 2017 and WVIRE received funding in 2017-2018 and in 2019-2021. The original 3-year grant was extended for a year in 2022.

Purpose and scope of the evaluation

The overall purpose of this independent evaluation is to provide an external and evidence-based assessment of the performance and delivery of WVIRE's Programmes for the period 2023 to 2026 for Irish Aid and World Vision Ireland, World Vision country offices and other interested stakeholders. Furthermore, it should identify lessons learned to inform future Irish Aid and World Vision Ireland decision-making.

The evaluation will be guided by the OECD DAC criteria with a particular focus on relevance and effectiveness::

1. Relevance:

- Has the ICSP funding programme addressed the needs of programme participants in complex and evolving contexts?
- To what extent and how has the ICSP funded programme changed or improved upon addressing the needs of the furthest behind first?

2. Effectiveness:

- At the current stage of the programme, and taking into consideration the nexus approach, is there evidence that programme integration of the ICSP thematic outcomes are achieving anticipated results?
- Is there evidence that the programme has been effective in achieving anticipated results at multiple levels (micro/meso/macro)? To what extent can the emerging results be attributed to ICSP funding?

3. Sustainability:

- To what extent and how has the ICSP funded programme changed or enhanced the approach partners engage and integrate concepts of locally-led development into their programming?

Evaluation characteristics

Methodology

The evaluation will be a transparent and participatory process involving relevant stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries. A mixed-method approach is anticipated including but not limited to:

- Desk study and review of all relevant programme documentation, including annual outcome monitoring and the internal mid-term review conducted in 2025.
- In-depth interviews to gather primary data from key stakeholders (i.e. Support Office Staff, Field Office Staff, local Partner Organisations' representatives,Cluster groups, Government Agencies or local authorities representatives) using a structured methodology
- Focus Group discussions with programme beneficiaries and other stakeholders.
- Observations.

It is expected that the evaluation will consist of three main phases:

Phase I Inception

The first phase will consist of a preliminary review of documentation – programme proposals, reports, reviews, evaluations and other documents related to WVIRE's programming for the period of 2023 – 2027. This phase will also involve initial interviews with key informants from WVIRE and country teams. Key evaluation questions will be refined during this phase including identification of programme countries for deeper evaluation, key methodologies for data collection among others.

Phase II Document review and data collection

The second phase will involve a further review of data collection/ documentation..

Phase III Reporting

The final phase will consist of a debriefing on evaluation findings, and submission of an Evaluation Brief, follow up work with WVIRE staff as required and writing of a final evaluation report.

Outputs

The expected outputs are:

- An inception report – upon the review of available documents and an initial discussion with the programme management. The inception report will:
  - Describe the conceptual framework that will be used to undertake the evaluation
  - Elaborate on the methodology proposed in the agreed TOR with changes as required
  - Detail the work plan for the evaluation, indicating the phases in the evaluation, their key deliverables and milestones
  - Set out the list of key stakeholders to be interviewed.
- Preliminary findings shared with WVIRE on evaluation findings.
- An Evaluation Brief summarising key findings and recommendations (Maximum of 4 pages).
- A final report that sets out methodology, findings, conclusions, and recommendations and focusses on the core evaluation questions. The report should be no more than 40 pages long excluding annexes and with an executive summary.

Timeframe

This evaluation will form part both of an overall appraisal of the effectiveness of Irish Aid's ICSP programmes to date as well as evidence for a recommendation for a successor multiannual strategic partnership funding arrangement. It will also provide input for developing WVIRE's programme proposals for Irish Aid funding for the next round of multiannual partnership funding from 2028.

The consultancy work is scheduled to start in April 2026 and finish in September 2026, with the following milestones:

- **Expression of Interest** – to be submitted by 31st March 2026, with estimated contract start by 15th April.
- **Phase 1** – inception phase to be completed in May 2026; inception report by 31st May 2026.
- **Phase II** – documentary review and data collection completed by 31st July 2026.
- **Phase III** – learning brief by 15th August 2026; draft final report by September 15th 2026.

Management of Consultancy

Laurene Barlet, Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning Manager will manage the consultancy with:

- support from Clodagh McLoughlin and Esperanza Escorza, respectively Development and Humanitarian Programme Managers.
- oversight from Maurice Sadlier, Programmes & Policy Director

Consultant Requirements

The consultant should have strong humanitarian and development evaluation skills. In addition, they shall have the following expertise and qualifications:

- At least 10 years of experience in working with international organisations and donors
- A background in social science or similar discipline (International Development, Development Economics/Planning, Public Health, Climate and Environment, Food Security and Livelihoods, Education and Protection) with an understanding of Government Structures, Institutions and Financing
- Extensive expertise, knowledge, and experience in evaluating complex donor country-level programmes and/or their component parts
- Experience working in fragile or conflict settings
- Knowledge and understanding of international and country-level implementation of aid effectiveness agenda
- Familiarity with evaluation guidelines of EU and Irish Aid
- Fluent in English. Working knowledge in French and Arabic is an added advantage
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Knowledge of and experience with federated NGOs would be an advantage
- Consultants shall be required to sign and abide by WV safeguarding policies
- The context requires a flexible mindset in regard to planning, approaches, methodology, dates among others. Hence, the consultant should be prepared to respond according to changes in context
- Adherence to EU data privacy laws.

Application and Selection Process

Interested and qualified applicants are invited to submit:

- **Letter of Intent:** Please state, in no more than 500 words, the intent, availability and qualification of you or your agency for this assignment
- A Technical Proposal including:
  - Qualification Summary (2 pages max): Describe your interest and capacity for undertaking this assignment. Include relevant qualifications, skill sets and experience
  - Evaluation Methodology (4 pages max): Propose a design and methodology that takes into account the objectives and scope of the assignment. Include a high-level work plan with timelines
  - References: Include a minimum of three references familiar with the quality and reliability of your work. For each reference include a contact phone number and email address, a brief description of services provided, and the time frame in which services were provided
  - Work Samples: Provide two written samples of previous work, at least one of which is an evaluation report.
- A Financial proposal

Selection Process

The Consultant will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Qualification Summary (40%)

- Evaluation Summary (40%)
- Financial Proposal (20%)

Candidates must achieve a minimum of 60% of the marks available for each technical criterion to be considered. World Vision Ireland will contact shortlisted applicants only, for the next stages in the selection process.

All applications should be sent to **programmes@worldvision.ie** by 31st March 2026 by 17:00 Irish Standard Time (UTC +1 hour).