



Avec et pour les enfants

Terms of Reference

Title:	Market Assessment Consultant
Duty Station:	Bangui, Central African Republic including field visit
Period:	May 2016
Duration:	Up to 8-10 days in May 2016
Deadline for applications:	ASAP

Background

Since the 2013 military-political events that led to communal violence extensive and profound degradation of infrastructure and social cohesion, the Central African Republic (CAR) through a complex political and humanitarian crisis. The civilian population is suffering serious human rights violations, armed clashes and destruction and theft of property and livelihoods. Despite elections in December 2015 and January 2016, the political evolution towards a crisis seems uncertain, security situation remains highly volatile and unpredictable. According to OCHA, more than half of the population (more than 2.3 million people) is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance almost three years after the outbreak of violence in the country.

About 20 percent of the population is displaced or refugee: approximately 447,500 displaced persons throughout the country and more than 452,000 refugees in neighboring countries.

The country is heavily dependent on imports in terms of food supplies. Due to the weakness of surpluses generated by agriculture, flows within the country are moderate and like all other activities were severely hampered by conflict.

The state of road infrastructure is very poor, also the low storage capacities represent a fundamental structural brake to the development of trade. For example, only 25 percent of wholesalers have storage capacities. There is an increase in retailers, and a reduction in wholesalers. Many traders have lost everything during the crisis. Looting and violence has led many large traders to abandon their craft, to leave the country with their remaining assets (livestock, vehicles, etc.) to settle in neighboring countries or to operate only in areas under the control of the political movement they consider favorable to their fate. This led to a breakdown of marketing channels. Meanwhile, households have turned to petty trade with the crisis. Thus the number of new small businesses has increased approximately 20 percent of traders for the past 3 years and 82 percent of them are retailers. These small shops are mainly held by women (82%).

According to 61 percent of the traders, the number of customers was down sharply last year. The declines are greatest in Bangui and Lower Kotto (100%).

The main causes of variation of sales are related to storage, insecurity, transportation difficulty. Sales strategies have not changed during the crisis still around 42 percent of traders who practice credit sale. Low capacity supply traders. With the crisis of traders turn to new suppliers and 46 percent of them have changed their supply source for the crisis.

Plan International is working in partnership with WFP to do general food distribution in Mambere Kadei and Ouham prefectures. This market study should lay the basis for future integration of integrated cash based programming to improve the livelihood opportunities and market capacities of the local population.

Objectives of the consultancy

Overall

To assess the market functionality (labour and commodities) in Ouham and Mambere Kadei.

Specific Objectives

1. To finalise an assessment design, process, and schedule.

2. To support a local team in carrying out the assessment.
3. To review assessment data and carry out field observations.
4. To finalise a quality concept assessment to the satisfaction of Plan International CAR.

Expected Results

- An assessment report according to the format agreed with Plan International Germany's Cash Focal Point.

Methodology

- The consultant will work with Plan International Germany's Cash Focal Point to design the assessment format, schedule, and process.
- The assessment is a document required to inform a detailed programme planning. It will focus on practical and relevant market situations and data.
- The consultant will work directly with two field based project managers to carry out the assessment in the field and in Bangui.
- The assessment should be submitted in draft format to allow for one round of feedback/revision.

Timeframe

Consultant should be available to work for up to 8-10 full work days until proposal submission

Management

Plan International in CAR will manage the consultant.

Desired skills, qualifications, and experience

- Proven track record of planning and carrying out assessments
- Knowledge of working with and facilitating partnerships
- Experience in livelihoods programming
- Experience of Early Recovery context
- Excellent communication, writing, and editing skills in French
- Ability to work across offices and with non-native French speakers
- Familiarity with history, dynamics and working environment in Westafrica, preferably CAR.
- Ability to work independently and within a team
- Ability to work under pressure to tight deadlines
- Full commitment to confidentiality of data relevant to the assessment
- Relevant university degree or higher education in development or social sciences
- Respect and abide by humanitarian principles in undertaking and analysing the assessment findings.

TO APPLY:

All interested applicants must submit the following application materials: up-to-date CV, and a previous example of an assessment/donor funding application/research document:

Submissions should be sent to: Julia.Garz@plan.de

Plan provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, religion, sex, nationality, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Deadline for applications: 30th April 2016

Note: This TOR is subject to change, depending on the ongoing donor planning process. Any revisions would be agreed with the successful candidate prior to finalizing the contract process.