

Terms of Reference for Final External Evaluation

Deepening democracy in Bhutan through Capacity Development and resources development of Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy and civil society

Partnership between

Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) www.bcمد.bt and

Venskabsforeningen Danmark-Bhutan (Denmark-Bhutan Friendship Association, DBFA) www.bhutan.dk

Introduction

This “terms of reference” describes the background, aims and methodology for the final external evaluation of the CISU-funded project “Deepening Democracy in Bhutan Phase 3” from 1st of January 2019 to 31st of December 2021 with a project extension of 6 months to 1st of July 2022. The final evaluation will take place from May-June 2022 and will add to the internal evaluation conducted by resource persons from BCMD and DBFA.

Aim of final external evaluation

While an internal evaluation is conducted by the project partners BCMD and DBFA in order to **assess the final achievements and outcomes of the project** according to the plan, the external evaluation is expected to give a broader, critical and constructive perspective of the project as well as, if required, suggest possible future areas of activities to follow-up and sustain the results of the project.

Hence, the external evaluation will cover the following points:

- 1) External assessment of the project: Assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, impact and sustainability of the intervention in the current Bhutanese civil society context (Briefly).
- 2) Re-assessment of the theory of change: Re-assess the project’s theory of change and assess whether the implemented activities did in fact lead to the expected outcomes.
- 3) Inputs for future interventions: Assess the current context for democracy and civil society in Bhutan - and what activities would be relevant for future interventions, including questions such as:
 - o How is civic landscape changing? Is the importance of civil society changing? Has the project impacted this or how can future projects impact this?
 - o Are civil societies coming together for greater visibility? Are they better organized? Has the project impacted this or how can future activities impact this?
 - o Which is the role of civil society in Bhutan (service provision, advocacy, voicing the needs of the most vulnerable, others?)

The external evaluation is not mandatory, but a voluntary activity commissioned by BCMD and DBFA with the aim to learn and improve implementation in further initiatives. It will be used for internal purpose only, unless otherwise decided by the partners.

Methodology

The evaluation will be based on the following:

- A desk review of written sources, including the approved CISU-application, biannual reports from BCMD to DBFA; activity reports, webpage stories, evaluation from trainings so far - and compilation of results from pre-and post-assessments of different activities. Also review of recent documents from CSO Authority and CSO network, new proposed legislation on CSOs, and studies on civil society's role in Bhutan.
- Focus group discussions with the project target groups
 - 1) BCMD staff
 - 2) Participants from CSOs
 - 3) Participants from YI
 - 4) Participants from media lab
- Individual key informant interviews with various key stakeholders from government (CSO Authority), CSO network (programme officer), other local CSOs, media representatives, and international organizations working on civil space (e.g. UNICEF; UNDP and HELVETAS).
- Interviews with relevant informants of the partner organization DBFA.

The evaluation will be undertaken in close co-ordination with BCMD and the members of the internal evaluation mission of the project visiting Bhutan, probably through May 2022.

Output

The external final evaluation will be compiled in a draft evaluation report and subsequent final evaluation report with main findings and recommendations for activities, if any, to sustain the results of the project.

Suggested list of contents:

- 1) Introduction and background of the project
- 2) Assessment of project according to OECD evaluation criteria of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, impact and sustainability of the intervention
- 3) Re-assessment of the theory of change behind the project
- 4) Suggestions for future activities, if any, based on assessment of the development of the civil society landscape
- 5) Conclusions

Implementation

The external evaluation is to be undertaken by a local external Bhutanese consultant, selected by BCMD and DBFA after open bidding by experienced and qualified consultants/companies; the bidding to be administered by BCMD. The evaluation is planned to include:

- 1) 3 days desk review
- 2) 3 days of interviews/joint meetings (civil society representatives, youth, government representatives)
- 3) 3 days of drafting report

- 4) 1 day of providing review/feedback to BCMD and DBFA, and drafting the final report

The Draft External Evaluation Report is to be forwarded to BCMD and DBFA latest by 20 June 2022 and upon receiving feedback and comments, a final report is to be submitted on 30 June 2022.

The all-inclusive fee of the 10-days assignment is budgeted for a consolidated rate of N.150,000.

Briefly about the project

BCMD and DBFA have worked together informally since 2006 and have developed close ties through a working relationship since 2013. In 2013-2014, BCMD and DBFA initiated and implemented the first phase of a project on democracy development amongst youth with CISU funding support. In 2016, a second phase of the project was granted by CISU and implemented by BCMD and DBFA over 2-years from 2016 to 2018.

The overall aim of the existing project (the third phase of the partnership for three years 2019-2021/22) is to contribute to the promotion of democracy, citizenship, and democratic understanding among youth and civil society in Bhutan.

Under this overall aim, the project strives after obtaining the following three outcomes:

Outcomes and detailed objectives:

1. Outcome 1: Advocacy capacity of civil society organizations in Bhutan increased to promote issues that pertain to their mission and interest.

Outcome indicator 1: By the end of the project, civil society organizations meet more regularly with policy and decision makers, provide inputs to and are consulted on proposed legislation and policies, in particular focused at the legislation pertaining to civil society

2. Outcome 2: Role of citizens in Bhutan's democracy increased amongst youth and civil society members

Outcome indicator 2: By the end of the project, youth are stronger represented in public forums, and youth and civil society members engage more actively in public affairs with an enhanced understanding of their role and social issues.

3. Objective 3: Enhanced citizen's voice through the Media Lab

Outcome indicator 3: By the end of the project, the project's target group use the media more to raise attention to issues of public and social interest, engage more actively and act on social issues.

A full overview of outcomes, outputs, activities planned and budget to obtain the above is available in the Detailed Activity Plan, Annex 1.