



RICE
WEST NILE
Striving for Self Reliance

P. O. Box 481 Arua - Uganda

T: +256 393 238 163 | **M:** 0773 472234 | 0702 857349

E: jambo@ricewestnile.org | ricearua@yahoo.com | ricewn@gmail.com

www.ricewestnile.org

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A MARKET ASSESSMENT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE LIVELIHOOD PATHWAYS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SURVIVORS IN MADI OKOLLO AND TEREKO DISTRICTS

Title of the Project	Skills Development and Livelihood Support for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and surrounding Host Communities
Project Duration	15 months
Project Goal	MHPSS survivors in Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements have selfreliant and sustainable livelihoods.
Project Outcomes	Outcome 1: Increased access to decent, market-relevant skills and learning opportunities for MHPSS survivors. Outcome 2: MHPSS survivors have improved financial inclusion and sustainable livelihood opportunities
Project Location	Madi Okollo and Terego Districts District with a specific focus on Rhino Camp and Imvepi Refugee Settlement and the host community.
Funding Partner	International Labor Organization (ILO)

1. Introduction

This Terms of Reference seeks to engage an independent expert to conduct a market assessment on viable agricultural and agro-related value chain pathways in Madi Okollo and Terego District. The findings will directly inform enterprise selections for Mental Health Survivors in Rhino Camp and Imvepi Refugee Settlement and the surrounding host community.

2. Project Background

Uganda hosts over 1.9 million refugees facing a 30% PTSD rate, severe mental health underfunding at under 1% of the health budget, and low credit access at 13%, while experiencing a low transition of only 2,237 individuals into wage employment in 2025. In Rhino Camp, acute vulnerabilities such as 49 recorded suicide cases between 2021 and May 2023, extreme food insecurity affecting 82.4% of households, a 58% dependency on humanitarian aid, high SGBV risks from women walking 4–10km for woody biomass, and low account ownership at 37% compound a persistent skilling-to-work gap. Consequently, bridging the disconnect between psychosocial recovery and sustainable livelihoods is essential to break this cycle of poverty and trauma.

To address these challenges, RICE West Nile, in partnership with the International Labour Organization, is implementing a 15-month project titled “Skills Development and Livelihood Support for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and

Surrounding Host Communities.” The initiative aims to ensure that MHPSS survivors in Rhino Camp and Imvepi achieve self-reliant and sustainable livelihoods through two interlinked outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Increased access to decent, market-relevant skills and learning opportunities for MHPSS survivors.
- Outcome 2: Improved financial inclusion and sustainable livelihood opportunities for MHPSS survivors.

The project directly benefits 400 MHPSS survivors aged 18–35 from Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements and host communities, ensuring 50% female and 30% host community representation, through a comprehensive package of counselling, market-relevant skills training, livelihood support, financial literacy, and certification designed to foster social cohesion. Indirectly, the initiative supports participant families with improved food security, income, and stability, provides local employers with a skilled labor pool, and strengthens coordination among RICE West Nile, ILO, UNHCR, MHPSS organizations, and government agencies to strengthen local protection structures.

3. Purpose of the Market Assessment

To evaluate viable agricultural and agro-related value chain pathways in Imvepi and Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and surrounding host communities (Terego and Madi Okollo districts), ensuring that 400 MHPSS survivors are guided toward safe, trauma-informed, and economically sustainable livelihood options that match their functional capabilities and market demand.

3.1 Specific Objectives of the Market Assessment

The specific objectives of the Market Assessment are to:

- i. Analyze macro-level systems, market dynamics, and agricultural value chains suitable for mental health survivors.
- ii. Map agricultural supply chains, identify key market actors, assess growth potential, and pinpoint market blockages.
- iii. Identify and select viable enterprise options and opportunities by reconciling market demand data with survivor profiles.
- iv. Filter out high-risk or oversaturated sectors in favor of sustainable, climate-resilient, and profitable agricultural and agro-related pathways.
- v. Evaluate participant capacities and vulnerabilities by assessing specific physical, social, psychological, and skill requirements.
- vi. Ensure selected enterprises safely resonate with the well-being of MHPSS survivors, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

4. Scope of the Assessment

The market assessment will be conducted in Madi Okollo and Terego Districts, Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements, and surrounding host communities, collecting data from a representative sample of mental health survivors, market actors, model farmers, government officials, mental health NGOs, and private sector representatives. To ensure robust representation, the respondent sample will comprise 50% female and 50% male participants, 30% nationals and 70% refugees, and 12% persons with disabilities.

5. Methodology

The potential expert must propose an assessment methodology that combines a comprehensive desk review of existing secondary data, project documents, and local development plans with systematic market and value chain mapping to identify core actors, input suppliers, producers, traders, processors, and consumers while mapping supply chain blockages and opportunities.

Additionally, the approach should incorporate quantitative and qualitative data through focus group discussions, key informant interviews with strategic stakeholders, on-site market observations and rapid surveys to gauge trading dynamics, and a collaborative validation meeting with district leaders and community representatives to review findings and finalize agreed-upon enterprise options.

6. Deliverables

The successful Consultant shall submit all required deliverables in a timely and professional manner, in accordance with the approved inception report and contract. All outputs shall be prepared in English and submitted in both soft copy (MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, as applicable) and hard copy formats. These include;

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing	Responsibility
1	Inception Report	A comprehensive inception report outlining the finalized assessment approach and methodology, sampling design, work plan, proposed data collection tools, etc.	As agreed during the inception phase	Consultant
2	Inception Meeting	Presentation of the inception report and assessment approach to RICE West Nile management for validation and alignment.	As agreed	Consultant
3	Draft Market Assessment Report	Draft report presenting preliminary findings and analysis	As agreed	Consultant
4	Validation Meeting	Presentation of key findings and preliminary recommendations to key stakeholders for feedback and validation.	As agreed	RICE West Nile and Consultant
5	Final Market Assessment Report	A comprehensive final report incorporating stakeholder feedback, with a clear list of viable enterprises, market actors, among others.	As agreed	Consultant

Note: All raw data collected during the assessment shall be submitted by the Consultant in a format mutually agreed upon with RICE West Nile.

7. Qualification and Experience of the Consultant

The independent expert or consulting team shall meet the following minimum qualifications, experience, and professional standards:

- **Academic Qualifications:** The lead consultant must hold at least a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Development Studies, Economics, Quantitative Economics, Social Sciences, or a closely related discipline.
- **Relevant Professional Experience:** A minimum of six (6) years of proven professional experience in conducting market assessments, value chain analyses, private sector development studies, or socio-economic livelihood evaluations, preferably within refugee or humanitarian settings. Prior experience working in the West Nile sub-region or similar refugee-hosting districts is a strong advantage.
- **Technical and Subject-Matter Expertise:** Demonstrated expertise in agricultural value chains, market systems development, enterprise selection frameworks, and inclusive business models. Familiarity with trauma-informed approaches, disability inclusion, and economic integration for vulnerable or marginalized populations (such as refugees and mental health survivors) is essential.
- **Analytical and Methodological Competence:** Proven ability to design and implement mixed-methods research (quantitative and qualitative), including proficiency in digital data collection tools (e.g., KoboToolbox, ODK) and statistical or qualitative analysis software.
- **Reporting and Communication Skills:** Excellent technical writing and presentation skills in English, with a demonstrated ability to translate complex market data into clear, actionable, and user-friendly recommendations for diverse stakeholders.
- **Contextual Awareness and Cultural Sensitivity:** Sound understanding of local governance structures, refugee-host community dynamics, and socio-cultural contexts in West Nile, combined with strict adherence to safeguarding principles, confidentiality, and ethical research standards when engaging vulnerable groups.

8. Payment Specifications

Payments will be made in two instalments. First, (40%) on request after approval of the inception report, and the second (60%) upon the submission and approval of the final report.

9. Management

For quality assurance, the consultant will work closely with the Project Coordinator, who will be supported by the MEAL Coordinator at RICE West Nile. Communication with the assigned team must remain open at all times.

10. Period and Estimated Number of Days for the Assessment

The assessment is planned to start on 15th October 2026, and the final report will be submitted by 6th November 2026. The maximum number of billable days for the assignment is 15.

11. Criteria for Evaluation of Proposal

Only those applications which are responsive and compliant will be evaluated. Offers will be evaluated according to the Combined Scoring method. The applicant receiving the Highest Combined Score that has also accepted the General Terms and Conditions will be awarded the contract.

Qualified Consultant(s) are expected to submit both the Technical and Financial Proposals. Individual Consultants will be evaluated based on Cumulative Analysis as per the following scenario:

- Technical Criteria weight is 70%
- Financial Criteria weight is 30%

Evaluation Criteria		Weight	Max. Point
Technical Competence (based on CV, proposal, and interview (if required))		70%	100
Understanding the Scope of Work; comprehensiveness of the methodology/approach; and organization & completeness of the proposal			30
Minimum educational background.			5
Minimum years of experience & previous experience in similar assignments			30
Additional competences			5
Financial (Lower Offer/Offer * 100)		30%	30
Total Score	Technical Score * 70% + Financial Score *30%		

12. Application Process.

Consultant(s) who meet the criteria are invited to submit technical and financial proposals to procurement@ricewestnile.org and copy m.muhammad@ricewestnile.org no later than **7th October 2026**.

The proposal should clearly articulate the consultant(s) understanding of the terms of reference, methodology for executing the work, experience in conducting market assessment, CVs of the proposed team, work plan and budget, among others. The Consultant should indicate the subject as **“Market Assessment in Madi Okollo District”**.

Only applicants who pass the evaluation stage will be contacted.

13. Confidentiality

The Individual Consultant shall not, either during the term or after termination of the assignment, disclose any proprietary or confidential information related to the consultancy service without prior written consent. Proprietary interests in all materials and documents prepared by the consultants under the assignment shall become and remain the property of **RICE West Nile**.