

Appendix 1 to the Agreement

Terms of Reference

For the assignment (short title): Feasibility study on the scaling-up of cooperation at the interface of community media and land rights work in West Africa

Objective of the agreement

Objective: Brot für die Welt (BfdW) and involved partner organizations have profound information available for their strategic decisions on consolidating and expanding the cooperation at the interface of community media and land rights work in West Africa.

Indicator 1: Ideas and first experiences of scaling up the approach of land rights and community media work in West Africa are analyzed on basis of the perspectives of various relevant stakeholders (see below).

Indicator 2: Recommendations to BfdW are developed in consideration of the available funding instruments and potential cooperation in policy dialogue.

1. Parties involved

In the past few years, BfdW partner organizations in Sierra Leone with support of the civil peace service program have established a vibrant network of community radio journalists who report on issues of land rights and work hand in hand with other land rights activists. Building upon the positive experience in the country, first attempts have started to expand the network in the West African region. This feasibility study initiated by BfdW shall further explore the scaling-up options. The study shall primarily benefit BfdW and (potential) partner organizations as well as their alliances working on land rights issues and in the community media sector in Sierra Leone and West Africa.

Whereas the desk study shall include perspectives from various West African countries, due to logistical and financial reasons the field phase will be limited to two countries, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso.

Key actors in Sierra Leone are

- the Community Media Network (CoMNet) with its 50 member community radio stations,
- Culture Radio as one of the members and founders of CoMNet and BfdW partner organisation of financial cooperation and personnel secondment as well as
- the Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food (SiNorf), a well recognized national advocacy organisation experienced in the field of land rights work and also longstanding BfdW partner organization.

In Sierra Leone as well as in Ghana, Liberia and Senegal Editorial Teams on Land Expropriation have been formed among local radio journalists with a main editor each as coordinator. The teams and main editors will be focal persons for the study.

In Burkina Faso, BfdW partner organisations may be entry points for the study.

Further, the analysis will take into account the perspectives of other stakeholders, such as

- staff members of civil society organizations engaged in land rights work in West Africa, among them partner organizations of BfdW in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger and at the West African regional level (contacts to be facilitated by BfdW)
- representatives of communities and specifically women and youth affected by land conflicts

- decision makers locally and nationally including paramount chiefs, parliamentarians and government representatives
- local journalists reporting on issues of social justice and peace building
- researchers on land rights issues in West Africa

Indirectly, the study shall benefit the respective target groups and networking partners of the involved partner organizations.

The study shall be carried out preferably by a team of two resource persons knowledgeable in community radio journalism, land rights contexts in West Africa and cooperation mechanisms between funding agencies such as Brot für die Welt and partner organisations in the region.

The Contractor will take lead in the study team. A local counterpart colleague will support the data gathering and the documentation.

In the preparation of the study, the Contractor will coordinate closely with the BfdW regional desk, the Policy Advisor Peace and Development and the Program Advisor on Land Rights.

2. Services

In Sierra Leone a network of community media actors has been established to join hands in their efforts of awareness building on land rights issues and promotion of non-violent transformation of land conflicts. This study now raises questions of how to share, consolidate and expand the positive experience. Options for further cooperation, alliance building and mutual support among civil society actors in the region of West Africa are to be discussed.

Background:

Access to land remains the main source of food and income as well as an essential part of the identity for the majority of people in West Africa. But conflicts over land are increasing dramatically in the current era of global warming, industrialization and accelerating energy demand, unchecked exploitation of natural resources, population growth, urbanization and mass migration. In many cases, land conflicts are accompanied by violence and human rights abuses.

The frameworks for land management in the region are characterised by legal pluralism of state laws and customary rights. Many national land laws are based on European legal concepts and focus on individual land rights and ownership, while it is mainly the customary tenure systems that shape the reality of access to land for the rural population. Only few small-scale farmers are officially registered as landowners at state level and their access to the state legal system is limited. Despite expressions of gender equality in state law and women's key role in agriculture, land governance remains a male dominated sphere. Most women have de facto no security of land rights and are largely excluded from land tenure decision-making processes, the same as youth.

Many current land conflicts are related to large-scale land acquisitions, the majority of those failing to respect human rights and conflict sensitivity. Adherence to the key principle of free prior and informed consent and to the UN-Tenure Guidelines (VGGT) is an exception when investors and governments initiate large-scale land projects that affect land use and ownership of communities.

However, large-scale land acquisitions are not the only cause of land conflicts. When pressure on land increases and land becomes a scarce resource, land conflicts also arise between different groups of the population, e.g. between land-using and land-holding families, between mining promoters and affected people or between farmers and pastoralists. Power disparities

and historic grievances often play a crucial role. Speculation in the context of commodification of land is often found in peri-urban areas, where certain access to information and the administrative sector can secure titles over land while those using the land are chased away and have little possibilities to negotiate.

Numerous **civil society organisations**, among them partner organizations of BfdW, address land conflicts in their programs. They contribute various capacities and resources, including analytical, legal, technical, coordination and communication expertise. The most relevant task of the CSOs is to empower marginalized communities, women, youth, indigenous people, small-scale farmers, pastoralists and other disadvantaged groups to claim and defend their land rights. In their programs they apply and combine various strategy components. There is no easy recipe for success, but land rights work is in all contexts a complex matter and politically sensitive. Land rights strategies need to be combined intelligently and adjusted to the respective context in a conflict sensitive manner that aims at decreasing the risk of violence and at enabling positive change.

Major objectives of civil society's land rights work are to build public awareness by enhancing the access to information and to make communities' voices be heard in order to increase their influence on decision makers. In that context, the use of media is very important. Journalists on the local, national and international level can help to convey information on land rights issues to a broader public.

Radio plays a key role in spreading information in West Africa, especially in the rural areas. And it is the **community radios** in particular, that have proven to be an effective and efficient tool for educating and informing people about social issues. By definition community broadcasting is "broadcasting which is for, by and about the community, whose ownership and management is representative of the community, which pursues a social development agenda, and which is non-profit." (refer to African Charter on Broadcasting, adopted by UNESCO in 2001).

Since the first African community radio station was established in 1982, this form of media has spread widely across Africa. According to recent estimation, there are around 2000 community radio stations in sub-Saharan Africa at present, broadcasting in numerous local languages.

Content on community radio in West Africa has mainly been developed around

- Peace-building and development,
- Socio-economic development,
- Literacy and numeracy,
- Urban social questions,
- Culture and development,
- Cultural creativity, and
- Democracy and good governance. (refer to Ntshangase (2021): Mapping Community Radio in Sub-Saharan Africa)

Many community radio stations use and take advantage of various mobile applications which enable the public to access their programming and interact.

In Sierra Leone since 2011 BfdW cooperates with **Culture Radio**, a community radio station based in Grafton near Freetown, who carries out educational and informational work nationwide to promote a culture of peace and social justice and to nurture unity in cultural diversity. One of the core topics that Culture Radio focusses its program on is land rights. Culture Radio has engaged in advocacy on land grabbing cases as well as land related policy dialogue, e.g. the piloting of the UN – Tenure Guidelines (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests within the Context of Food Security/VGGT) since 2014 and the development of the new national land policy launched in 2017.

Culture Radio has committed to strengthen the capacities of journalists in reporting on land rights issues and conflict sensitive and peace journalism and provides space for other civil society actors (such as from the German funded Civil Peace Service Program (CPS)) to use the Culture Radio broadcasting program as a working tool for their land rights work and other advocacy related to peace, democracy and sustainable development.

In order to further reinforce the impact, Culture Radio with the support of UNESCO, has established the **Community Media Network in Sierra Leone** (CoMNet) in 2017 as a national network for the community media sector in the country. CoMNet has a membership of 50 radio stations, operating in all 16 districts of the country. The members regularly report and broadcast radio programs on land governance and issues of land grabbing. Together with the Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food (SiLNoRF) CoMNet is implementing a project to promote the right to food in the country, coordinating a media campaign and key advocacy activities (Nov 2020 – Dec 2022, funded by BMZ via Welthungerhilfe).

Also beyond the national borders networking has been initiated, with the vision of sharing knowledge and skills and decreasing isolation and related vulnerability to repression. A **community radio network on land grabbing in Liberia, Ghana and Senegal** has been formed, affiliating community radio journalists from different areas across West Africa. The journalists have received capacity building and set up editorial teams to engage in joint production, reviewing, and editing of content on land grabbing.

Good practice examples are shared via the **Community Media Archive on Land Grabbing** (CMA). The CMA (refer to CMAAfrica.org) has been established as an online platform that enables community media institutions to share information and radio programmes and to collaborate and communicate on issues of land exploitation at the regional level. Up to now, the archive contains more than 80 contributions from 30 different communities in Sierra Leone, Senegal, Liberia, and Ghana.

Focus of the study

Acknowledging the networking and joint efforts for land rights advocacy in Sierra Leone and West Africa to date, this study will serve as an opportunity for strategy outlook. It needs to be emphasized though that the context, opportunities and risks may differ significantly within the region. Surely, there is no “one-fits-all” strategy that can simply be transferred from one actor to another, but complementing each other’s efforts may contribute towards achieving the shared goal of land conflict transformation and the assertion of the right to land. The following four questions will be key in the analysis:

- a. What options for scaling up the land rights related media work in West Africa are conceivable and what effects are expected by the various stakeholders involved?
- b. How can community media partners from other West African countries learn from experience in Sierra Leone, vice-versa and across language barriers? Who are relevant actors to be involved? How can roles and tasks be shared within the regional network? How can coordination and knowledge management be established in a sustainable way?
- c. How can community radio work contribute towards holistic civil society strategies for peaceful transformation of land conflicts? How can community radios and other local journalists complement crucial other components of land rights work including community organizing and training, monitoring of land rights cases, legal support, negotiation and the development of policy recommendations?
- d. What are meaningful contributions that BfdW could provide to the scaling-up in terms of instruments of financial cooperation and personnel secondment as well as in terms of political engagement of BfdW in Germany and internationally?

In studying the potentials of land rights related community media work (refer to question c), the following, more detailed questions may give some guidance:

- What are lessons learnt from previous / ongoing cooperation of community journalists and land rights CSOs such as the collaboration of CoMNet and SiLNoRF in Sierra Leone? What are key potentials and how to deal with challenges? What kind of land rights cases are most suitable for joint advocacy efforts? What are the options for scaling up the cooperation?
- What is the role of social media in combination with the community radio stations? And what could it be – in which direction should the community radio stations and journalists act/be prepared/expand their work? How do community media journalists assess the benefit of online platforms for sharing experiences and archiving articles / radio programs?
- What does Culture Radio's concept of 'conflict sensitive and peace journalism' consist of and mean in practice in relation to community radio work on land rights issues? (strategies, available expertise, capacity building needs)
- How best can community radios safeguard high quality in investigation and lay a solid foundation for evidence based advocacy? (available expertise, capacity building needs, resources)
- To what extent and how are aspects of gender and generational justice taken into account in the land rights related media work? (available expertise, capacity building needs)
- How are security risks of journalists, other civil society actors and community representatives engaged in land rights related radio broadcasts dealt with? (security management systems, available expertise, capacity building needs, resources)

3. Action to be taken, methods to be employed, guidelines

The requested service of the study team will involve the following action:

Preparation and desk study:

1. Inception meeting with BfdW (online)
2. Review of literature, audio and audio-visual material (CMA etc.)
3. Kick-Off meetings (online) with key persons from CoMNet SL, Culture Radio and SiLNoRF
4. Establishing contacts with relevant persons / resource institutions in Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso, planning of the study itinerary
5. Online conversation with relevant persons / partner organisations / resource institutions from other countries in the region, including the editorial teams in Senegal, Ghana and Liberia

On-site data collection:

6. Individual / focus group discussions with (community radio) journalists, land rights activists, researchers etc. in Freetown (CoMNet, Culture Radio) and Makeni (SiLNoRF)
7. Field visits to 2-3 land conflict affected communities in Sierra Leone and conversation with community representatives, local CSOs, local journalists, local decision makers
8. Individual / focus group discussions with (community radio) journalists, land rights activists, researchers etc. in Ouagadougou

9. Field visit(s) to 1-2 land conflict affected communities in Burkina Faso and conversation with community representatives, local CSOs, local journalists, local decision makers (if feasible, considering security risks)

Analysis and documentation:

- 10. Processing of compiled data and drafting of conclusions
- 11. Discussion of draft study findings with key persons involved (see 3.)
- 12. Report writing
- 13. Presentation of results and recommendations to BfdW

The study will involve communication in English and French.

4. Special individual circumstances, in particular the context for the assignment, important surrounding factors, any relevant consultancy services provided beforehand

As land rights are a highly sensitive issue, utmost care has to be taken when communicating with study participants. As much as necessary data will be anonymized. Sensitive details that could affect the security of community representatives, CSO staff or others must not be shared with any external stakeholders. When communicating with individuals in writing, means of enhanced digital security are used as far as possible.

5. Timetable

Service/action	Estimated duration (number of days) Contractor	Estimated duration (number of days) Local Counterpart (optional and to be subcontracted by the Contractor)	Time of execution (e.g. month/year)
Preparation and desk study	5	3	07-08/2022
On-site data collection	10	10	09/2022
Analysis and documentation	5	3	09-10/2022
Total	20	16	07-10/2022

6. Reporting

The CONTRACTOR must produce a final study report on the assignment in the relevant correspondence language and send two copies to the CLIENT within 30 days following the completion of the order.

The report must contain at least the following:

- a summary
- a description of the advisory process (action taken, methods used, people involved – deviations from schedule must be explained)
- a description of the services supplied
- factors which were of assistance in the supply of the services, factors which were a hindrance to it
- conclusions and recommendations.

If appropriate, the CLIENT may request additional interim reports.

The CONTRACTOR will on his/her own initiative submit separate reports on any unusual events.

If requested by the CLIENT, the CONTRACTOR will take part in a discussion to review what has been achieved.

It is expected that the assignment will be executed in accordance with gender equality, effectiveness, target-group orientation and sustainability criteria.