

# TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE MAVAMBO LEARNING CENTRE (MLC) 2023

## 1. Introduction

### *Profile of Mavambo Orphan Care*

Mavambo Trust (Mavambo Orphan Care) was founded by the Redemptorists in Zimbabwe and a Mary Knoll Sister (Kathleen Barbee) in 2001 as part of their commitment to respond to the HIV and AIDS crisis in Zimbabwe. Initially, Mavambo was established to assist vulnerable children who have never been to school to access education in the communities of Mabvuku and Tafara, on the outskirts of the capital city, Harare. As the HIV and AIDS and economic situation worsened, Mavambo expanded its services to provide OVC and their caregivers with more holistic support including psycho-social support, nutrition support, economic strengthening support, medical assistance, education support to past graduates and targeted communities and legal assistance. To strengthen the community-based approach, Mavambo also leads significant capacity building work with OVC caregivers and a cohort of community volunteers who are Mavambo's representatives in the target communities.

Mavambo Orphan Care 's priority programme is the Mavambo Learning Centre (MLC), based at its headquarters. This is an accelerated learning programme for OVC who have never been to school. It reaches 48 OVC each year. The MLC programme provides catch-up education in the areas of Shona, English and Maths. Students can spend between 12-24 months at MLC before graduating to mainstream school, where they receive further support from Mavambo Orphan Care to remain in school. The vast majority will complete their time at MLC after one year. **This evaluation will focus on the Mavambo Learning Centre component.**

### *Profile of Dublin Province of the Redemptorists (DPR)*

The Dublin Province of the Redemptorists (DPR) (based in Ireland) is part of the worldwide Redemptorist family with a presence in over seventy countries. Committed to the integral development of people with a particular emphasis on those who are poorest and most abandoned. The DPR are committed to working in partnership with missionary congregations, non-government organisations and community-based organisations who are dedicated to alleviating poverty and initiating development projects that benefit the poorest sections of society. The DPR secures funding from an Irish organisation called Mísean Cara to support the work of our partners.

The DPR and Mavambo Orphan Care have worked together since 2007. Between 2020 and 2022, Mísean Cara funded the Mavambo OVC Programme, of which the Mavambo Learning Centre was a key component. At present, the DPR and Mavambo Orphan Care are in the first year of another three-year grant provided by Mísean Cara, which directly supports the Mavambo Learning Centre.

## 2. Objectives & Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation is being undertaken to assess the current approach of the Mavambo Learning Centre in responding to the education challenges faced by OVC in its target communities. The evaluation should broadly assess the MLC against the [OECD DAC Evaluation Criteria](#) of:

- Relevance – is the intervention doing the right things?
- Coherence – how well does the intervention fit?
- Effectiveness – is the intervention achieving its objectives?
- Efficiency – how well are resources being used?
- Impact – what difference does the intervention make?
- Sustainability – will the benefits last?

The evaluation will address the following specific areas:

- Validate performance of the MLC against targets set with the donor, Misesan Cara, between 2020 and 2022
- Assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the MLC model;
- Assess what alternative best practice models (if any) might be possible in the operating context;
- Capture the impact of the MLC model on beneficiaries – recent and older beneficiaries where possible;
- Engage with local primary schools and the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (Departments of Non-formal Education and Learner Welfare) to understand the education context and possible synergies with the MLC, including in the area of advocacy.
- Assess the effectiveness of the model in improving learners' literacy level.

Mavambo Orphan Care and the DPR are happy to work with the Consultant to set more specific research questions if required.

The evaluation should include:

- A brief desk review of literature relevant to the evaluation objectives;
- Collection and analysis of relevant evaluation data (quantitative and qualitative) from stakeholders at all levels. Mavambo already has primary monitoring data available which can support this process;
- A series of recommendations which can help Mavambo Learning Centre in its future operations;

Regarding the **scope of the evaluation**, it is to focus on the MLC component. However, considering that Mavambo Orphan Care provide ongoing support to MLC graduates/caregivers

in a number of intervention areas (e.g. economic strengthening, psychosocial support, health care support etc), it may be necessary to **briefly** consider these areas too.

#### 4. Timeline

The Consultant should be prepared to meet the following deadlines:

- Proposal submission to Mavambo Orphan Care by June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023;
- Complete field work between July 2023 and August 2023;
- Presentation of initial findings and draft report by September 8<sup>th</sup> 2023;
- Presentation of final report by September 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 at the latest;

#### 5. Proposal Requirements

The prospective consultant(s) are required to submit a **Technical and Financial Proposal**. The technical proposal should detail and justify the proposed methodology, include a work plan, proposed timeline, and list team members.

Mavambo Orphan Care and the Dublin Province of the Redemptorists have limited resources with which to complete this evaluation. **We will prioritize value for money**. Given the small number of beneficiaries and the limited geographic area in which the project operates, we have a preference for a small and focused team to complete this work.

The team will be expected to:

- Employ techniques that ensure internal validity of study results;
- Ensure that the evaluation design and activities conform to international as well as Zimbabwean research ethics policy/regulations. The Consultant(s) should pay careful attention to research ethics and should therefore propose and adhere to carefully designed confidentiality and other procedures that “*do no harm*” to participants;
- Adhere to the Mavambo Orphan Care Child Safeguarding Policy;
- Employ standardized recording and maintenance of records from the baseline study (e.g. digital voice recorders, interview transcripts, SPSS data sets);
- Produce evaluation study findings that are based on facts, evidence and data. Findings should be specific, concise and supported by quantitative and/or qualitative information that is reliable.

#### 6. Evaluation Deliverables

- Signed statements attesting to a lack of conflict of interest or describing an existing or potential conflict of interest relative to the evaluation being conducted by each team member;

- A work plan and schedule presented to Mavambo Orphan Care within 5 days of the award of the contract;
- Draft Report by September 8<sup>th</sup> 2023;
- Final Report by September 20<sup>th</sup> 2023;

The exact layout of the Report is at the discretion of the Consultant.

## **7. Evaluation Team Composition and Independence**

The Consultant must possess either individually or as a team both research methodology and technical expertise in the area of OVC education programming and models.

It is preferred that the Consultant possesses the following qualifications and experience:

- An advanced degree in public health, social sciences, law, education, statistics or other relevant course of study;
- Expertise in conducting OVC education related programme evaluations, baseline assessments using strong research methodology;
- Demonstrated understanding of the Zimbabwean OVC and education context;
- Expertise in statistical analysis software, such as, SPSS, CSPRO or STATA. In addition, consultants should possess and be able to use software for analyzing qualitative data.

## **8. Logistics**

Mavambo Orphan Care will assist in arranging meetings with stakeholders, partners and community members.

## **9. Applications**

Interested applicants are kindly requested to submit a proposal by June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 to:

Human Resources,  
Mavambo Orphan Care  
Email: [admin@mavambotrust.org.zw](mailto:admin@mavambotrust.org.zw)

The chosen candidate will be informed by June 28<sup>th</sup> 2023.