

## **Call for Expressions of Interest (CEI) from L'Arche International**

### ***Final evaluation of the Inclu'R Afrique project: Inclusion and resilience of people with intellectual disabilities in Africa (2024–2026)***

*These details are subject to the ongoing finalisation of the terms of reference for this study.*

#### **1- The initiative and the stakeholders involved**

L'Arche International is an international federation of communities in which people with and without disabilities share their daily lives. Founded in 1964, it brings together communities from diverse cultural, social and religious backgrounds. Through residential homes, day centres, workshops and community-based activities, L'Arche supports people with disabilities whilst working to transform societal perceptions and reduce stigma.

Although it has Christian roots and many communities maintain links with local churches, L'Arche International, as an international organisation, is not officially affiliated with any religious denomination.

L'Arche International supports and connects a global network of around 180 communities across 37 countries on every continent. Its role is to provide overall coordination, preserve the federation's identity and mission, and support the development and sustainability of communities and national structures.

Local communities are responsible for implementing their own activities, which may include supported accommodation, awareness-raising initiatives, support for families and participation in local inclusion efforts.

The Inclu'R Afrique project is being implemented in four countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

At the national level, these four countries have committed to adhering to international frameworks regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities. However, implementation remains uneven, and public systems often face constraints in terms of resources, qualified staff and the availability of services. Furthermore, intellectual disability remains an area that is not given sufficient priority.

At the local level, in the project's intervention areas, several stakeholders are involved in disability-related initiatives. These include community leaders (such as village chiefs), faith-based organisations, health facilities and civil society organisations. However, services specifically addressing the needs of children and young people with intellectual disabilities (CYiD) remain limited. Existing services are often concentrated in urban areas, inadequately adapted and poorly coordinated, leading to significant gaps in early detection, access to care, inclusive education and community support.

Against this backdrop, the project aims to strengthen community support mechanisms, improve access to appropriate services, and promote greater awareness and inclusion of CYiD within their families, communities and local institutions.

The overall objective of the Inclu'R Afrique project is to improve the inclusion, well-being and autonomy of CYiD and their families in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

To achieve this objective, the project pursues three specific objectives:

**SO1:** Strengthen the empowerment and participation of CYiD and their carers within their communities, whilst encouraging community engagement in promoting their rights and inclusion.

**SO2:** Enable young people with intellectual disabilities to access the health and support services they need to improve their daily care and independence, by addressing the specific needs of each individual and each family situation.

**SO3:** Strengthen the sustainability, autonomy and capacities of L'Arche communities working alongside people with intellectual disabilities in Africa.

The project is based on a community-based intervention strategy combining, in particular:

- awareness-raising and support activities designed to identify, reach and support CYiD and their families;
- capacity-building activities aimed at improving the skills and practices of carers, professionals and other stakeholders involved in supporting CYiDs;
- organisational strengthening activities designed to consolidate the capacity, sustainability and operational effectiveness of local L'Arche communities and partner organisations.

The total project budget amounts to €1,080,062. The project is co-financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), which is contributing €550,000. Additional funding includes €106,000 from the Friends of L'Arche Foundation (FAA) and €424,062 from other private donors, as well as in-kind and complementary contributions from L'Arche International and partner organisations.

Budget management is centralised within L'Arche International. The breakdown of operational funds across the four countries is as follows:

- Ivory Coast: €100,051
- Egypt (Al Fulk): €91,209
- Kenya: €251,989
- Zimbabwe: €81,958

The remainder of the budget is allocated to coordination, technical support, monitoring and evaluation, as well as multi-country learning activities managed at the international level.

## **2- The requested study**

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### **Scope of the study**

The evaluation will focus on the Inclu'R Afrique project, implemented by L'Arche International in partnership with four L'Arche communities in Egypt, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe.

The evaluation will cover the entire duration of the project's implementation (2024–2026), from its launch until the time of the evaluation. It will focus on the four countries and take into account their specific social, institutional and operational contexts. Field visits will be organised in at least two countries (Egypt and Kenya) and possibly in a third country.

### **Rationale and objectives**

This evaluation is commissioned by L'Arche International, in collaboration with the L'Arche communities involved in the implementation of the Inclu'R Afrique project.

The evaluation is being carried out at the end of the project's implementation period. It primarily meets a requirement of the project's main funder, the French Development Agency (AFD), which requires an external evaluation of the project. L'Arche International and its partners also wish to use this requirement to strengthen accountability, learning and continuous improvement within their programmes.

### **L'Arche's expectations for this study**

Firstly, L'Arche International and its partners wish to obtain an independent evaluation of the project's outcomes, particularly regarding inclusion, well-being and support systems for CYiDs and their families.

Secondly, the evaluation aims to analyse the relevance and effectiveness of the intervention approaches implemented, in particular the outreach activities developed by L'Arche communities to support CYiDs

within their families and communities, as well as capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving the skills of carers, professionals and local partner organisations.

Finally, the evaluation will document the experience gained through the implementation of this project in various African contexts and identify lessons learnt that could inform future initiatives and the potential development of a follow-up phase to the project.

Through this evaluation, L'Arche International and its partners seek to better understand the outcomes and impacts of the Inclu'R Afrique project and to identify lessons that can inform future programmes and strategic directions.

More specifically, the evaluation aims to:

- assess the project's results in terms of improving the inclusion and well-being of young people in precarious situations and their families;
- assess the effectiveness of the community-based approach implemented by L'Arche communities to reach and support vulnerable families;
- assess the effectiveness of capacity-building activities, particularly with regard to strengthening the organisational capacities of local L'Arche communities and partner organisations, as well as the capacities of carers and professionals supporting CYiDs;
- identify the main strengths, challenges and lessons learnt from the implementation of the project;
- formulate strategic and operational recommendations aimed at improving future initiatives, strengthening the sustainability of actions in support of CYiD, and informing the potential development of a follow-up phase to the project.

More broadly, the evaluation should contribute to organisational learning within L'Arche International and its partners, and support the continuous improvement of programmes promoting the inclusion and rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

### **Areas to be examined**

The research questions, set out in the full terms of reference, relate to:

- Project outcomes
- Community-based approach
- Capacity-building activities
- Implementation arrangements and partnerships
- Sustainability prospects

### **Proposed timeline and budget for the study**

- Study scoping phase: discussions, documentation, scoping note and remote scoping meeting with the study steering committee.
- Field data collection and analysis phase: field visits, individual or group meetings (with different categories of beneficiaries and partners), immediate feedback session with each L'Arche community at the end of the mission.
- Draft report phase: including a steering committee meeting based on the draft report to discuss initial findings and recommendations.
- Reporting phase: A final reporting meeting will be organised online, in English, with L'Arche International and all project partners to present and discuss the conclusions and recommendations arising from the evaluation.

The study deliverables are to be provided in English.

A steering committee will be established with the following members:

L'Arche International:

- Project Manager: Iva Peric;
- Executive Director: Stanislas Dubourg;
- International Delegate for Africa, South America and North America (and member of the project's global steering committee): Azucena Bustamante-West (to be confirmed);
- International Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Haiti (and member of the project's global steering committee): Alain OUEDRAOGO (to be confirmed);

L'Arche communities:

- Leaders of the L'Arche communities in Egypt and Kenya (to be confirmed);

F3E:

- Nawal Karroum, Programme Manager and Research Officer.

The steering committee will meet to: select candidates' bids, approve the consultants' terms of reference, and comment on the draft report.

The provisional budget for the study is a maximum of €35,000. This includes the consultant(s)' fees, their *daily allowances* for days spent on assignment, their international (including visa) and domestic travel expenses, and their administrative and communication costs.

### **Provisional timetable**

Launch of the call for expressions of interest	27 April 2026
Receipt of CVs in response to the call for expressions of interest	14 May 2026
Issuance of the restricted tender to shortlisted consultants	20 May 2026
Receipt of tenders	10 June 2026
Steering committee meeting: selection of the consultancy	18 June 2026
Possible interviews with the selected consultants	Week of 22 June 2026
Notification to successful consultants	Week of 22 June 2026
Contract formalisation	End of June 2026
Scoping of the study: submission of the project brief and steering committee meeting	July 2026
Literature review	July–August 2026
Data collection (field visits and remote consultations)	September 2026
Submission of the draft evaluation report	October 2026
Steering committee meeting and feedback on the draft evaluation report	October 2026
Submission of the final evaluation report	November 2026
Final debriefing meeting	December 2026

### **External expertise sought**

The evaluation will be carried out by an external team of consultants with proven expertise in the evaluation of social development projects and programmes.

Consultants must demonstrate the following qualifications:

- proven experience in evaluating development or social inclusion projects,
- experience of participatory evaluation methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques (interviews, focus groups, surveys, participatory workshops, etc.);
- a good understanding of capacity-building programmes and community-based approaches;

- experience of working in international development contexts, preferably in Africa;
- excellent command of English and French;
- the ability to review documents in Arabic or to work with the assistance of a translation service;
- strong analytical, synthesis and report-writing skills.

The following will be considered as assets:

- a good understanding of health projects, frameworks relating to the rights of people with disabilities, or community-based rehabilitation approaches;
- experience of working with organisations supporting people with disabilities, in particular CYiD;
- expertise in a gender-based intersectional approach;
- Previous experience of collaboration between consultants.

This call for expressions of interest (CEI) is intended to **identify consultants**. Following this CEI, a shortlist will be drawn up, after which a **restricted tender** will be issued to the shortlisted consultants, based on the finalised terms of reference for the evaluation. At this stage, **the CV of the consultant proposed as team leader is required**. If a team of consultants is proposed, **the CVs of the associated consultants are not required at this stage** of the CEI (they will be required for responses to the restricted tender), but are nevertheless **encouraged**. If you wish to express your interest, please send your CV(s) in English by email

**by midnight (Paris time) on Thursday 14 May 2026**, for the attention of:

Iva Peric, Project Coordinator, L'Arche International: [iva.peric@larche.org](mailto:iva.peric@larche.org)

Franziska Bulle, Human Resources Director, L'Arche International: [franziska.bulle@larche.org](mailto:franziska.bulle@larche.org)

Nawal Karroum, Programme Manager and Research Officer, F3E: [n.karroum@f3e.asso.fr](mailto:n.karroum@f3e.asso.fr)

*Please attach your up-to-date CV(s) in english in which you have highlighted the specific details you consider relevant to your expression of interest in this study.*