Request for Expression of Interest for an Evaluation Consultant – ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network

Background

The ICT for Democracy in East Africa initiative works in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda towards achieving two top-line objectives: 1) Increased citizen participation in governance and the realisation of human rights through Information and Communications Technology (ICT); and 2) Improved transparency and accountability of governments through ICT. Coordinated by the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East & Southern Africa (CIPESA), the principal partners are the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), Transparency International Uganda, iHub Research (Kenya), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG, Tanzania), Toro Development Network (ToroDev), and CIPESA.

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), partners' projects aim to:

1. Grow the capacity (access, skills and knowledge) of civic groups, human rights defenders (HRDs) and media to use ICT effectively for accessing and sharing information, advocating and raising awareness on service delivery, equality, the right to information and free speech.
2. Foster transparency and accountability through interactive engagements between citizens and leaders using a mix of ICT tools and traditional media.
3. Support the implementation of civic participation and complaints systems (crowdsourcing portals, SMS platforms, call centre and public access centres) to promote monitoring and reporting on service delivery challenges and human rights violations.
4. Improve stakeholders' (media, ICT innovators, activists and duty bearers) understanding of the commitment to democratisation and human rights towards sustainable development and improved livelihoods.
5. Research, document and publicise the utility and effectiveness of ICT in promoting good governance, communication between and among citizens and leaders to raise awareness and campaign for non-discrimination, freedom of expression, the right information and a free press.
6. Engage duty bearers through evidence-based advocacy on the need for responsiveness, public consultation and supportive policies on ICT, human rights and democratic governance.
7. Expand the network of wider ICT4Democracy actors in the region to enable knowledge and learning, collaboration and shared expertise between partners on open governance and human rights.

Purpose of the evaluation

The evaluation seeks to establish the achievements, outcome and challenges registered by the network's projects during the period June 2016 to December 2018. The evaluation will assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and outcomes of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa network in relation to the program objectives. The specific objectives of the evaluation will include:

- Identify and assess the project outcomes.
- Analysing key factors for achievement and/or non-achievement of project objectives.
- Making recommendations regarding future project design, priorities and sustainability, based on the results from the evaluated project and the needs of the target groups.

Scope and focus

The consultant shall conduct an evaluation based on:

1.1 Relevance of concept and design

a) Appropriateness of the project design, including its theory of change, to achieving stated objectives;
b) Coherence and appropriateness of the project's results based framework (RAF/RBM), such as the link between inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and objectives; specification of targets and baselines; and formulation of valid assumptions and risks associated with the outputs, outcomes and objectives.

1.2 Efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation process.

The consultant will assess how the project was implemented, including overall efficiency of delivery and management of available resources. Any major issues that affected implementation should be documented including:
a) Extent of monitoring and incorporation of feedback from local target groups into planning and operations.
b) The quality and appropriateness of strategies for detecting, preventing and follow up on corruption and the extent of their implementation.
c) Analysis of the added value of the ICT4Democracy network, namely:
   - the added value and effect of the network compared to partners working at individual level on the project's objectives;
   - partners' individual focus and strength;
   - overall contribution of partners' projects to the network's wider objectives through eventual synergies, resources, experience and expertise sharing; and
   - evaluate whether the network structure is an effective way to reach the results set out in the theory of change.

1.3 Equality and non-discrimination

An analysis of whether the project design and implementation considered the needs, priorities and constraints of women, the rural poor and other discriminated groups including:
a) The identification of beneficiaries; and
b) Encouragement of their participation and protection of their rights.

1.4 Project Outcomes

The consultant will also provide an overview and analysis of the key outcomes of the project, including how they contribute to:
a) An informed citizenry
b) Strengthened duty bearers, civil society and media as actors of change
c) National, regional and global human rights commitments
d) Fight against corruption
e) Push back against marginalisation/exclusion
f) Complementarity to other initiatives in the region

1.5 Sustainability

Provide an analysis of the prospects for sustaining and up-scaling the project. The assessment of sustainability will include,:
a) Evaluation of efforts and strategy for diversifying funding for the network.
b) Sustainability of project results beyond the implementation period.
c) The role and capacity of the target groups and their ownership of the results achieved.

Evaluation methodology

The evaluation will consist of:
- Review of project documentation, including project proposal, annual reports, contracts with partners, work plans, budgets, progress reports, partners' newsletters, impact stories, etc.;
- Interviews with project implementers and with individuals who are either affiliated with the project in some way or who have or might be expected to be impacted by the project (e.g. training participants, community leaders/members, trainers, accountability groups).
- Field visits to atleast three partner project sites; and
- Review of digital platforms run by the project partners.

The Consultant may not visit all project sites in the three countries where the network is present but shall be expected to interview all the project's partner organisations. Where necessary, interviews may be conducted remotely by Skype or telephone.

Evaluation deliverables

Based on the above scope and focus, the evaluation will draw attention to specific good practices and lessons to be learned for both CIPESA and network partners. It will discuss and analyse what worked well, what didn't work well and what needs strengthening. The evaluation should make actionable time bound recommendations to both CIPESA and the ICT4Democracy in East Africa Network regarding any need for follow up and future project design, implementation and sustainability. The deliverables are as follows:

1) An Inception Report including detailed methodology and scope of the evaluation by December 28, 2018.
2) A draft evaluation report illustrating evidence found that responds to the evaluation issues, questions and criteria listed in the ToR by January 21, 2019.
3) Presentation of the draft evaluation findings at a stakeholder workshop for CIPESA and other stakeholders' review, comments and feedback by January 31, 2019
4) Final evaluation report by February 15, 2019. Supporting data and analysis should be annexed to the report when considered important to complement the main report. Annexes to the evaluation report should include:
   - List of documents reviewed;
   - List of institutions and stakeholders interviewed by the consultant;
   - Any other relevant materials.

Expected Qualifications:
- Advanced degree in project monitoring and evaluation, international relations, human rights, democratic governance, ICT policy, development studies or related fields, or equivalent demonstrated experience and capacity.
- Demonstrated ability to reliably contribute to results based evaluations, both assessment and learning aspects.
- Familiarity with M&E procedures in international development cooperation preferred.
- Excellent ability to work in English, with effective oral and written communication skills.
- Experience with researching and writing on international ICT4D and/or international development issues.
- The Consultant may be an individual, firm, or consortium.

The consultant shall not have been directly involved in the design or implementation of the project.

Duration of assignment

The duration of the consultancy shall be a **period of 7 weeks** beginning December 2018.

To apply
Expressions of interest including a detailed CV, samples of similar work done, proposed methodology, the timeline for delivery, and proposed budget for the consultancy should be submitted in English to **programmes@cipesa.org**.

The deadline for submissions is **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on December 7, 2018.**

Reference reading
ICT4Democracy in East Africa Project overview and related documents - https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-6107006901-AEA-15150/#