



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

Background

The Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA, www.cipesa.org), a Kampala-Uganda-based non-profit, non-government organisation, coordinates the ICT4Democracy in East Africa network (www.ict4democracy.org). The Network uses Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to promote citizen participation in democratic processes, human rights monitoring and social accountability in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The network partners are the Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), Transparency International Uganda, CIPESA, iHub Research (Kenya), the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), the Tanzanian Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), and Toro Development Network (ToroDev).

Since November 2013, the Network has received support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for a project that aims to turn more East Africans, including sidelined and detached communities such as women, the rural poor and youth, into active citizens that connect and engage with other citizens and with leaders, and play a role in local decision-making through the use of ICT. Working with civic groups and the media via network building, skills transfer, mentoring, awareness-raising and advocacy, Network members aim to strengthen democracy by holding leaders accountable to citizens, fight corruption, enhance communication and the right to seek, receive and impart information and respect for human rights via a mix of ICT, such as mobile, interactive mapping, SMS and voice-based reporting, social media, and interactive radio.

In the focus countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, the Network's specific objectives are:

- Promoting access and dissemination of information for improved government openness and better service delivery;
- Growing the capacity of civic groups, including Human Rights Networks, Voluntary Social Accountability Committees (VSAC), and citizen journalists, to use ICT to foster free speech, human rights, access to information, and open governance;
- Engaging policy makers and duty bearers on the need to provide regular and timely information on service delivery, human rights and governance to the citizenry using a range of ICT and non-ICT means; and
- Gender mainstreaming in civil knowledge, ICT skills and participation in governance processes. This includes advocacy for gender sensitive ICT and governance policies across the region.

Purpose of the evaluation

The evaluation seeks to establish the achievements, outcome and challenges registered by the network's projects during the period November 2013 – October 2015. The evaluation will assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and outcomes of the ICT4Democracy in East Africa network in relation to the program objectives. The specific objective of the evaluation will include:

- Provision of an overview of 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 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 Gender equality and Integration of the Human Rights Based Approach

An analysis of the project design and its integration of gender equality and the Human Rights Based approach including:

- a) Extent to which equality considerations were reflected in project objectives and design to address the needs, priorities and constraints of women and youth groups, and in the identification of beneficiaries;
- b) The extent to which women and youth have participated in the project's various activities including encouragement of their participation and protection of their rights
- c) Extent to which the other underlying principles of human rights - accountability, participation, empowerment and rule of law have been incorporated into the project design and reflect in the outcomes.

1.3 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 into planning and operations;
- b) The quality and appropriateness of strategies for detecting and preventing corruption and the extent of their implementation.
- c) Analysis of the ICT4Democracy network, namely: the added value and effect of the network compared to partners working at individual level on the project; partners' focus and strength; and overall contribution of partners' projects to the network's wider objectives through synergies, resources, experience and expertise sharing and overall network sustainability. The analysis should evaluate whether the network structure is an effective way to reach the results set out in the theory of change.

1.4 Project Outcomes

The consultant will also provide an overview and analysis of the key outcomes of the project, including how they benefit the primary target beneficiaries.

1.5 Sustainability

Provide an analysis of the prospects for sustaining and up-scaling the project. The assessment of sustainability will include, as appropriate:

- a) Evaluation of efforts and strategy for diversifying funding for the network.
- b) Sustainability of project results beyond the implementation period.
- c) The role 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, VSACs).
- Field visits to partner project sites; and
- Review of digital platforms run by the project partners.

The Consultant shall visit at least two of the three countries where the network is present but shall be expected to interview all the project's partner organisations. Additional 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 and should continue, what didn't work well and should not be continued 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.

- 1) An Inception Report including detailed methodology and scope of the evaluation
- 2) A draft evaluation report illustrating evidence found that responds to the evaluation issues, questions and criteria listed in the ToR.
- 3) Presentation of the draft evaluation findings at a stakeholder workshop for CIPESA and other stakeholders' review, comments and feedback
- 4) Final evaluation report. 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, democratic governance, ICT Policy analysis, development studies or related fields, or equivalent demonstrated experience.
- Demonstrated ability to reliably contribute to Results Based evaluations, both assessment and learning aspects.
- Familiarity with international development agencies' M&E procedures 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 towards the end of November 2015 as per the schedule below:

- Inception report – week 1
- Draft report – week 4
- Stakeholder workshop, feedback and comments on draft report – week 5
- Final evaluation report – week 7

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 November 19, 2015.**

List of reference reading

- ICT4Democracy in East Africa Project Proposal to Sida 2013 - http://iati.openaid.se/docs/1126403_1_1.PDF
- ICT4Democracy in East Africa 2014 annual report - http://www.cipesa.org/?wpfb_dl=188
- 2013 - 2014 progress report to Sida http://iati.openaid.se/docs/1483687_1_1.PDF
- 2013 - 2014 project results framework – http://iati.openaid.se/docs/1177163_1_1.PDF
- 2015 – 2016 project results framework (available upon request)
- Governance and ICT Context Update 2015 - http://iati.openaid.se/docs/1483683_1_1.PDF