



Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONDUCTING A MIDTERM OUTCOME EVALUATION FOR THE STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (STAP) PROJECT

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development is seeking qualified research consultant(s) to conduct a midterm outcome evaluation for the Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management (STAP) project.

ABOUT ZIMCODD

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) is a socio-economic justice coalition established in February 2000 to facilitate citizens' involvement in making pro-people public policy. ZIMCODD views indebtedness, the unfair global trade regime, and lack of democratic people-centred economic governance as root causes of the socio-economic crises in Zimbabwe and the world at large.

Vision

Socio-economic justice in Zimbabwe anchored on a vibrant people-based movement.

Mission

To take action against the debt burden and socioeconomic injustices through movement building and alternative policy formulation.

Introduction

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development in partnership with AFRODAD and SAPST is currently implementing the Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management (STAP) project, a five-year project being implemented nationally. This is a 60-month program which runs from 2018-2023. The main goal of the project is to strengthen transparency and accountability in the management of public finance. In seeking to achieve this goal, the project is aimed at:

- Strategic Objective 1: Influence the Legislative and Institutional Reform of Public Finance Management by 2023.
- Strategic Objective 2: Capacity and effectiveness of parliament's oversight role in the management of public finances in the course of the 9th Parliament increased.
- Strategic Objective 3: The voice of citizens in accountability through information dissemination and increased platforms for engagement with solution holders increased.
- Strategic Objective 4: The participation of women and youth in accountability monitoring increased by 2023.

In seeking to determine the extent to which the project has been effective towards the realization of the aforementioned objectives, ZIMCODD proposes to undertake a Mid-Term Outcome Evaluation of the project.

Background & Context of Evaluation

ZIMCODD values periodical assessment of the impact its social intervention has on targeted population and governance institutions. In the initial year of the project implementation, the organization had an internal evaluation that reviewed the alignment (plausibility) of the project objectives and outcomes to the goal of the project. The evaluation also assessed the causal link between the interventions and their outcomes. Furthermore, the evaluation looked at the working relationship and collaboration action within the consortia. The evaluation objective was to ensure that there was a fluid start to the project and clear change pathways understood by all the consortia partners.

In the second implementation year, the organization conducted a knowledge, attitude, and perception (KAP) study to measure the performance indicators stipulated in the project monitoring plan. The survey highlighted the progress made thus far towards the achievement of set project outcomes. The KAP survey did not answer the key questions on the appropriateness, effectiveness, and impact of the overall project in policy and institutional reforms in public finance management in Zimbabwe.

1. Purpose

This evaluation seeks to determine the extent to which the project has been effective towards the realisation of project objectives. The findings of the evaluation will be utilized to improve the project implementation, generate lessons, and best practices that will inform effective implementation in the last half of the project life. To a lesser extent, the evaluation findings will be used for accountability purposes.

2. Objectives

Specifically, the firm/consultant(s) will provide an analysis that seeks to determine;

- To what extent does the program address an identified need? How well does the program align with government and citizen priorities?
- To what extent is the program producing worthwhile results (outputs, outcomes) and/or meeting each of its objectives?
- To what extent is the relationship between inputs and outputs timely, cost-effective, and expected standards?
- What is happening or has happened as a result of the project to the beneficiaries (as individuals and collectively), stakeholders, and the wider community?
- To what extent can the activities and the benefits of the intervention continue after external funding has ceased?
- To what extent is it possible to positively influence the programming approaches and practices of implementing partner organisations without drawing on the levers of power and control that are inherent in a donor-recipient relationship?
- Are implementing organisations ready and willing to generate and confront evidence from their work to learn and adjust their programming strategies even when the evidence points to failure of previous interventions?

3. Scope and focus of the Assignment

The evaluation shall cover the current two partner organizations that are implementing the STAP project together with ZIMCODD. The evaluation will assess both how well the project was implemented and the performance of the project in bringing change to the targeted populations. The evaluation therefore will have both aspects of process and outcome evaluation. Furthermore, the evaluation will seek to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the current M&E processes in tracking performance and results.

4. Expected Outcomes

- Inception report to be reviewed, discussed and validated by ZIMCODD: This will include but not limited to: understanding of the assignment, detailed methodology, initial work plan, draft outline of final report, and draft assessment tools.
- First draft report
- Final report

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The consultant will be responsible for:

- Preparation of a work plan, methodology and data collection.
- Production of expected deliverable in accordance with the requirements and timeframes of the Terms of References.
- Presentation of the outcome evaluation report at a validation meeting and incorporate feedback arising thereafter;
- Submission of a final, reviewed and edited outcome evaluation report approved and accepted by ZIMCODD.

8. Qualifications – Education and Technical Experience

The firm/consultant(s) must have the following minimum qualifications and requirements:

- The participating firm/consultant(s) must have a team leader with a minimum of a Master's degree in either Monitoring and Evaluation, Social Sciences, Development Studies, Development Management or other related fields.
- Professional training in monitoring and evaluation.
- Demonstrated experience in evaluation at national and regional level.
- Proven experience in evaluating Democracy and Governance initiatives.
- Practical and working knowledge in the fields of Democracy and Governance
- Expertise in working with and evaluating theories of change as a framework for learning, communication and accountability.
- Proven experience in conducting participatory qualitative and quantitative evaluation studies with excellent analytical and report writing skills.
- Experience in conducting evaluations during emergencies.
- Experience in assessing organisational M&E systems.

9. Documents

Interested candidates must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

a) 3-paged technical and financial proposal: -

- Explaining why they are the most suitable to conduct the assignment;

- Providing their own brief methodology/roadmap on how they will carry out the outcome evaluation;
- Indicating the cost of carrying out the outcome evaluation - please note that financial proposals will be evaluated based on total funds available for the assignment and ZIMCODD will enter into negotiations with the selected consultant.

b) CV–this should highlight past experiences in similar projects/assignments and indicate at least three traceable references.

The consultant/team will be selected through a competitive process based upon thorough and fair scrutiny of the proposals of the competing interested parties.

10. Time Frame

The assignment will be executed as per the following schedule

Date	Activity
30 April 2021	Deadline for submitting proposals
7 May 2021	Selection of best bidder
14 May 2021	Submission of the inception report to ZIMCODD
17 to 21 May 2021	Discussion and finalization of the inception report
24 May to 11 June 2021	Field work / data collection
14 to 25 June 2021	Data analysis and writing the evaluation report
30 June 2021	Submission of the draft report
15 July 2021	Validation of the findings
23 July 2021	Submission of the final report

12. Terms of Payment

Payment for the assignment will be made upon satisfactory completion of the task. Remuneration will be disclosed to shortlisted applicants.

13. Key Contacts and Reporting

The consultant will work with the ZIMCODD Programmes Manager for this assignment. Send your technical and financial proposal by email to: zimcodd@zimcodd.co.zw and copy vulindlela@zimcodd.co.zw by 5pm Friday, 30th April 2021.