

“Strengthening civil societies’ capacities to contribute to the transitional justice process in Ethiopia.”

EIDHR/2021/424-791

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The International Center for Transitional Justice (hereby ICTJ) seeks the services of a consultant to conduct the final external evaluation of the project “Strengthening civil societies’ capacities to contribute to the transitional justice process in Ethiopia” (EIDHR/2021/424-791).

The overall objective is to assess the results of the project in Ethiopia’s Oromia and Somali regions. The evaluation will be part of the final report of the project as foreseen in the grant agreement. The findings and conclusions of the external evaluation will inform follow-up planning by the CSOs that have benefitted from the action and ensure that future programming will build on the results achieved through the project.

Background

The project was implemented by the ICTJ and the Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (hereby CEHRO).

ICTJ, the coordinator of the action, has supported CSOs and victim groups in TJ processes in over 50 countries worldwide, including many in Africa, and has played a pivotal role in a wide range of contexts, helping societies develop and implement strategies to deal with legacies of massive human rights abuses.

CEHRO is a network of national and local CSOs advocating for human rights, democracy, and conflict management. It serves as a common platform for 15 members across Ethiopia, having access to local communities and institutions, as well as experience in policy-level advocacy.

II. THE PROJECT

Objectives, Expected Results and Activities

Overall objective: to advance accountability and the rule of law through increased engagement between policymakers and CSOs in Ethiopia and to establish a basis for CSOs’ ability to influence

the country's transitional justice process and for victim-centered strategies to be designed and implemented.

Specific objectives: to ensure that a cohesive and diverse network of Ethiopian CSOs develops capacities to a) identify priorities and opportunities for advocacy to address the causes and consequences of past human rights violations; and b) engage effectively with the Ethiopian Reconciliation Commission (ERC) and other accountability mechanisms.

Main activities: i) Mapping of CSOs in Oromia and the Somali region; ii) Meetings with Ethiopian and international organizations, relevant embassies, and key actors at the ERC; iii) Missions to Oromia and the Somali region; iv) Consultations with CSOs and with the ERC; v) Workshops; vi) Small scale advocacy and outreach activities; vii) National conference; viii) Media campaign; ix) Policy brief.

Expected results: a group of diverse civil society organizations is identified, develops mutual trust and effective working relationships; civil society organizations improve their capacities to identify issues affecting them and/or their constituencies and develop skills for prioritizing them; civil society organizations are better equipped to implement advocacy actions for addressing priority issues and for advancing the rights of their constituencies.

III. EVALUATION OBJECTIVE

To assess the results of the project “Strengthening civil societies’ capacities to contribute to the transitional justice process in Ethiopia” (EIDHR/2021/424-791).

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

The evaluation will cover the work done in Ethiopia's Oromia and Somali regions.

Evaluation Criteria and Key Evaluation Questions

The consultant is expected to address the key evaluation questions below and to provide recommendations for improving project effectiveness and sustainability going forward. The evaluation will be done in accordance with the EU evaluation guidelines and will follow the [OECD-DAC evaluation criteria](#).

- Effectiveness
 - To what extent has the project achieved its intended results?
 - What factors have contributed to and hindered the attainment of the project's objectives?
 - Have there been any unexpected outcomes of the intervention? Positive/negative
- Relevance

- To what extent did the project address beneficiaries' needs and priorities? How well was the project designed to address them?
- What are the beneficiaries' perception of the relevance of the intervention?
- How suitable have adaptations made during the project (if any) been in continuing to meet the needs and priorities of beneficiaries?
- To what extent did the intervention take into consideration the context and was sensitive to the constraints, opportunities and challenges faced by its beneficiaries?

- Efficiency
 - Were the human and financial resources used appropriately? Were they fully utilized?
 - To what extent have results been achieved in a timely manner and within the intended timeframe?
 - Was the timeframe reasonably adjusted during the intervention where unintended obstacles emerged? How were delays mitigated?

- Impact
 - To what extent has the project generated significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects?
 - To what extent has the project achieved its overall objective?

- Coherence
 - How did the project fit in Ethiopia's wider political and transitional justice context?
 - Have contradictions been observed with other programs operating in the targeted regions? If so, which ones?

- Sustainability
 - To what extent are the positive effects of the project likely to continue over time?
 - How has the project contributed to creating an enabling environment for its benefits to be sustained over time, or how has it not?
 - What factors may inhibit or put the sustainability of the action at risk?

V. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The Consultant is expected to propose an evaluation design and select the appropriate methodologies for collecting and analyzing results.

VI. DELIVERABLES

Inception Phase

- Develop an Inception report that describes in detail the overall evaluation framework, and that defines the methodology and protocols for data collection and analysis. This deliverable needs to be approved by ICTJ. ICTJ has established an Evaluation Committee of three people to oversee this evaluation.

During desk/field work

- Conduct thorough interviews and other agreed-upon data collection methods.
- Store and secure all collected project information from interviews and the like.
- Conduct routine check-ins with the focal point of the evaluation in Ethiopia and, if required, ICTJ's Senior DME lead.

During data analysis and report writing

- Keep ICTJ's focal point updated on the progress of the evaluation assignment.
- Validate with ICTJ's evaluation committee preliminary evaluation findings and conclusions.

By the deadline (agreed upon contract)

- A final evaluation report. The final report shall include the following sections:
 - Executive summary: a description of the project, a summary of the targets and intended outcomes, a summary of the methodological approaches used, a description of the main findings, and a conclusion outlining the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, and contribution towards the attainment of the final goal.
 - Methodology: a description of the methodology used, and the target groups involved. Methodological constraints, challenges and limitations should also be discussed in this section.
 - Findings: a section addressing the evaluation questions. The findings may be presented under evaluation criteria or by domain of impact. **Findings must be supported by evidence.** Relevant project indicators used to monitor implementation must be used in the analysis under this section. When evidence relies on perception or feedback of stakeholders interviewed during the evaluation, the consultant must illustrate key findings with selected quotes or careful summaries/translation of statements made by key informants.
 - Recommendations and lessons learned.
 - Annexes: final terms of reference, evaluation schedule, table of project indicators measured, list of people interviewed, list of documents reviewed, acronyms and abbreviations used, operational definition of terms, etc.

Evaluators are encouraged to include stories of change based on their findings to illustrate changes identified.

The final report should not exceed 40 pages (without annexes).

VII. SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

Time frame:

We estimate that preparatory work for this evaluation will commence on March 1st, 2024, and the final report must be submitted by April 30st.

Proposals must include a timeline considering these deadlines.

Budget:

Proposals should include a preliminary estimated budget and an appropriate number of workdays according to the methodology and approach of their choice. We are expecting budgets of up to 10,000 euro.

Said budget should include all costs to be incurred by the evaluator (e.g. consultant fees and per diem, accommodation, international and local transportation, communication costs, insurance costs, etc.). Relevant staff at ICTJ and CEHRO will make their best efforts to assist the consultant to schedule in person or virtual meetings and interviews. All evaluation costs shall be paid by the consultant as part of the budgeted amount.

VIII. REQUIREMENTS

Key qualifications to successfully complete this consultancy include:

- Solid experience in conceptualizing and conducting evaluations of transitional justice, democracy building, peacebuilding, or human rights programs in post-conflict contexts.
- Extensive experience conducting evaluations of complex programs in diverse settings.
- Previous experience in evaluating EU funded programs/projects.
- Knowledge of the Ethiopian context is necessary, particularly of the Oromia and Somali regions.
- International evaluation experience required.
- An advanced degree in a relevant field.
- Excellent written and communications skills.
- English proficiency is required. Working level of Oromo and Somali are also required.

IX. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates are encouraged to fill in the application form at: <https://forms.gle/FdFM6X5ZS4GLBwWf8>, by Friday **February 23rd**. Please consider having the following information and supporting documentation ready.

- a brief description of the proposed evaluation approach
- Estimated budget for this evaluation, including the daily consultancy rate.

- Any other relevant information demonstrating the suitability of the candidate for the assignment.
- CV (file to be attached)
- An excerpt or full report of a previous evaluation report if available. (file to attach)
- Brief Cover letter (file to attach)