Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa

"SUPPORT TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC, UNIFIED AND PEACEFUL SOMALIA" –

STAND UP SOMALIA

EXTERNAL PROJECT EVALUATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

Since the opening of its Somalia office in 2013, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) has established itself as a key partner in the peace and state building process through the implementation of projects both on its own and as members of consortiums. Working closely with state and non-state actors since 2013, EISA has navigated the flux in the country's stabilisation and transition process and is considered an important and relevant partner to Somali stakeholders. Being on the ground and located in Somalia has enabled EISA to build the trust of local institutions and partners and has enabled EISA to respond to immediate needs and the changing environment.

Funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the STAND UP Somalia project commenced in January 2019 and will conclude end of August 2021. The project builds on previous Sida-funded projects implemented between 2013 and 2018 and is aimed at supporting state actors and civil society groups involved in the country's peacebuilding and state-building agenda. Through previous projects and the current STAND UP Somalia, EISA seeks to contribute to inclusive democratic politics and state stability primarily through strengthening civil society to interact effectively with the Federal Government, Federal Member States and public institutions. STAND UP Somalia was designed in response to the expressed needs and expectations from state and non-state actors that EISA has supported since 2013 and is also informed by the learnings generated in previous projects and key events over the previous implementation periods for example the London Conference on Somalia held on 11 May 2017, the National Political Roadmap and the Constitutional Review Process Roadmap.

EISA is now commissioning an end term external project evaluation of STAND UP Somalia to independently assess the project's performance, generate learnings and provide recommendations for future country programming.

2. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

For over 20 years the Federal Republic of Somalia suffered political turmoil which left the country without government institutions. The fall of the central government led to a weak civil society, limited inclusion of women and youth in political affairs, and extinction of political parties. While the elections of 2016-2017 marked the end of the transition era, there is still a strong need for support from the international community for Somalia to advance towards a democratic, unified and peaceful society. International best practice for engagement in fragile and post-conflict countries stresses the need to focus on state building as a central objective[1]. A peaceful and stable post-conflict state, as in the case of Somalia, requires simultaneous progress in establishing inclusive political processes at different levels of society and promoting national and local level

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[1] Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, OECD-DAC, 2007.

reconciliation[2]. It also requires agreement on a political framework that allows for completing revisions to, and the adoption of the federal constitution, passing the electoral law, culminating in elections by universal suffrage, scheduled for 2021. Supporting this process is crucial since elections have become a major factor in the stabilisation and democratisation of emerging democracies and post-conflict countries. However, state-building should be understood as a citizen-led and citizen-owned process. Inclusive and participatory support to state-building and peace-building processes yield better and tangible results.

Following the 2013-2018 Sida-funded project, EISA commenced a new project STAND UP Somalia in January 2019 which concludes end of August 2021. The project aims to empower state actors such as the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA) and the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), support civil society in civic and voter education and to interact effectively with government and public institutions; and equip political parties to be internally stronger, more effective, democratic, and gender-sensitive. A core project objective is to enhance the participation of women, youth and the citizenry at large in ongoing political processes and to this end, gender and inclusion have been mainstreamed into all project interventions. The project coverage is all five (5) Federal Member States and Banadir Regional Administration which hosts Mogadishu.

Alongside other development partners and local state and non-state actors, EISA intends to contribute towards the broader project impact of *more progress towards a stable and peaceful Somalia through inclusive political processes*. EISA's specific contribution towards achieving this goal, through implementing the STAND UP Somalia project, is centred on five (5) specific outcomes:

1) *The legal framework for elections by universal suffrage is completed through an inclusive and participatory process.*
2) *Civil society can engage effectively in peacebuilding and social cohesion.*
3) *Women play a more active role in public and political life.*
4) *Political parties are effective institutions in which democratic values and practices are promoted.*
5) *Electoral stakeholders contribute effectively towards transparent, peaceful and inclusive electoral processes.*

STAND UP Somalia is comprised of different implementation modes tailored to each target area of support for example:

- Providing technical expertise to state actors on key governance processes such as drafting of the electoral law and the constitutional review process;
- Creating platforms for consensus-building and dialogue between civil society groups and state representatives on ongoing political and governance processes and preparations for elections;
- Building civil society capacity to conduct peace-building and social cohesion initiatives; and conduct civc and voter education;
- Supporting women civil society members to advocate and lobby for their inclusion in ongoing political and electoral processes;
- Supporting the Office of the Political Parties Registrar and nascent political parties to engage with the drafting of the electoral law; facilitate inter-party dialogue; and provide capacity building to women and youth party members.

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[2] Somali Compact 2014-2016

See Annex A for the Project document.

3. EVALUATION PURPOSE

3.1 OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED USE

The evaluation is utilisation-focused with EISA and the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya as primary intended users. Evaluation findings and recommendations are expected to inform decisions on the overall project performance and the design and strategic approach of the next phase of the *STAND-UP SOMALIA* project based on the learnings generated. The evaluation may also prove useful for Sweden's strategy for development cooperation Sweden's Development Cooperation Strategy for Somalia.

3.2 EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation must conform to OECD/DAC's Quality Standards for Development Evaluation.[3] The consultant(s) will use the Sida OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation[4] and the OECD/DAC Better Criteria for Better Evaluation.[5]

Priority questions are as follows:

Relevance: How well have project objectives, design and modes of implementation responded to the political and development context? Which outcomes stand out?

Coherence: How compatible is the project with other actors' interventions in the sector? How aligned was the project to national and member state priorities?

Effectiveness: To what extent have project results been achieved, or are likely to be achieved, taking into account their relevant importance?

Efficiency: Assess the extent to which the project delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economical and timely way. Was there value for money, which outcomes stand out?

Impact: To what extent has the project generated, or is expected to generate, significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, high-level and low-level effects?

Sustainability: To what extent can the benefits of the Project be expected to continue over time? Have the approaches been adopted and internalised by project partners and beneficiary groups? To what extent did the project focus on enabling project partners and beneficiary groups to its approaches?

Gender responsiveness:
  i. How well has gender equality been integrated into the design, planning and implementation of the intervention?
  ii. To what extent has the intervention contributed to the improvement of gender equality? Has the project had any positive or negative effects on gender equality at federal and member state level?

The consultant(s) may propose modifications to the above key questions in their proposal.

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[3] OECD (2010) DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation.
[4] Sida (2014) Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management.
[5] OECD/DAC (2019) Better Criteria for Better Evaluation: Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use.

3.3 EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHODS

It is expected that the consultant(s) describes and justifies an appropriate evaluation approach and methods for data collection in the proposal. The evaluation design, approach and methods for data collection and analysis are expected to be fully developed and presented in the inception report.

Limitations to the chosen approach/methodology and methods must be made explicit by the consultant(s) and the consequences of these limitations described in the proposal. The evaluator shall, to the extent possible, present mitigation measures to address them.

The evaluation is *utilisation-focused*, which means the evaluator should facilitate the *entire evaluation process* with careful consideration of how everything that is done will affect the use of the evaluation. It is therefore expected that the evaluators, in their proposal, present i) how intended users are to participate in and contribute to the evaluation process and ii) methodology and methods for data collection that create space for reflection, discussion and learning between the intended users of the evaluation. In cases where sensitive or confidential issues are to be addressed in the evaluation, evaluators should ensure an evaluation design that does not put informants and stakeholders at risk during the data collection phase.

3.4 EVALUATION MANAGEMENT

This evaluation is commissioned by EISA. The Swedish Embassy in Nairobi will comment on the inception report as well as the final report but will not be involved in the management of the evaluation. Hence the commissioner will evaluate proposals, approve the inception report and the final report of the evaluation. The start-up meeting and the debriefing will be held with EISA.

3.5 EVALUATION QUALITY

The evaluation must conform to OECD/DAC's Quality Standards for Development Evaluation[6] and the evaluation be based on principles as outlined in OECD/DAC Better Criteria for Better Evaluation. The evaluators shall specify how quality assurance will be handled during the evaluation process.

4. TIME SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

It is expected that a time and work plan are presented in the proposal and further detailed in the inception report. The evaluation shall be carried out between 26 July – 29 August 2021. The table below lists key deliverables for the evaluation process. Alternative dates for deliverables may be suggested by the consultant and negotiated during the inception phase.

Deliverables	Dates
Start-up meeting	26 July 2021
Draft inception report	2 August 2021
Final inception report	7 August 2021
Data collection, analysis, report writing and quality assurance	17August 2021
Debriefing meeting	20 August 2021
Draft evaluation report	25 August 2021
Comments from intended users to consultant	27 August 2021
Final evaluation report	29 August 2021

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[6] OECD (2010) *DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation.*

The inception report will form the basis for the continued evaluation process and shall be approved by EISA before the evaluation proceeds to implementation. The inception report will include evaluability issues and interpretations of evaluation questions, present the evaluation approach/methodology (including how a utilisation-focused and gender responsive approach will be ensured), methods for data collection and analysis as well as the evaluation design. Limitations to the methodology and methods shall be made explicit, and the consequences of these limitations discussed. A specific work plan, including a number of hours/working days should be presented.

The final report should be maximum of 3 pages. The evaluation approach/methodology and methods for data collection used shall be clearly described, and all limitations to the methodology and methods shall be made explicit, and the consequences of these limitations discussed. Findings shall flow logically from the data, showing a clear line of evidence to support the conclusions. Conclusions should be substantiated by findings and analysis. Evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations should reflect a gender analysis/an analysis of identified and relevant cross-cutting issues. Recommendations should be specific and directed to relevant stakeholders. The report should be no more than 30 pages, excluding annexes (including Terms of Reference and Inception Report).

EISA will arrange logistics and necessary travel and health insurance if travel is deemed possible based on a security assessment and health and safety risks associated with COVID-19. EISA will ensure necessary security arrangements for in-country transport, lodging and subsistence. Travel outside of Mogadishu is not required. EISA will arrange interpretation services and meeting venue(s) where required.

The consultant(s) reserves the right to not travel to Mogadishu should they deem it a risk to their security and/or health.

5. QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

The consultant(s) should have the following expertise and experience:
- o Evaluating democracy and governance projects in sub-Saharan Africa and appropriate evaluation approaches to the sector.
- o Sound evaluation record, including knowledge and application of international evaluation standards.
- o Knowledge and experience of conflict/fragile/transitional countries.

A CV should contain a full description of relevant qualifications and professional work experience.

6. REMUNERATION

Interested and suitably qualified individuals must submit their CV outlining availability in line with the approximate timeline and indicate their daily rate in their applications.
Applicants are invited to send their CV and proposal to zahira@eisa.org The closing date is 19 July 2021.

EISA reserves the right not to appoint.