



**CALL FOR SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCY: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT
END OF PROJECT EVALUATION**

“Tanzania Elections Stabilisation And Democratisation (TESD) Project”

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

Elections are by their nature a moment of elevated tension in a country’s socio-political history. The impact of election outcomes on politicians, communities and individual citizens is such that the likelihood of tensions flaring and escalating into conflict are always high. In countries with a strong democratic culture and institutions, as well as a history of political tolerance, the likelihood of election-related conflict reduces.

While Tanzania as a country has generally enjoyed sustained periods of stability, elections in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 variably in both Zanzibar and on the mainland invited politically motivated conflict. In the lead up to the 2020 general elections, the context of closing political and civic space, increasing restrictions on media freedoms, and the disputed outcome of the 2015 elections, increased the risk of election-related conflict during and after the October 2020 general elections.

One of the ways in which election-related conflict can be diffused is through improved transparency and access to information about the electoral process, the decisions taken by stakeholders such as the state, the election management body and courts, and by providing citizens with information that enables them to make more informed choices at the ballot box. Enhancing the access of citizens and civil society to information supports broader efforts to ensure elections are conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner, and when carried out correctly, can strengthen citizens’ trust in electoral processes and governance institutions.

In the context of Tanzania’s amendments to its information laws, and by limiting media and individual freedoms, the context risked weakening trust of citizens and civics in the electoral process and outcome. It should be noted that when transparency and access to information decreases, there is often a corresponding decrease in levels of trust as a result. The context in which the 2020 general elections were scheduled to take place engendered an atmosphere of mistrust originating from the contested results in both the Union and Zanzibar elections in 2015 and the 2019 local government elections.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited both local and international scrutiny of political developments in Tanzania ahead of the 2020 elections. The denial of the existence of the scourge in the country by government marked the already growing sentiment of rejection of global practices. While public health measures were taken in prevent the spread of the virus during voting, limited efforts were implemented in the campaign events. While the implementation of standard health precautions such as testing and encouraging good hygiene were encouraged, this was done without fully acknowledging the existence of the pandemic. Increasing deaths among prominent politicians allegedly attributed to the pandemic resulted

in the silent implementation of health protocols in the immediate post-election phase of the election cycle and a total overhaul of government policy after the demise of the late President Magufuli.

The project aimed to reduce the severity and intensity of pre- or post-election conflict or violence by: increasing the availability of quality information about the elections; informing stakeholder groups about issues as they developed to enable rapid response; and monitoring the consequences of stakeholder actions on the social fabric in the post-election environment, particularly by monitoring local conflict hotspots.

Historically, there has been a tense relationship between the Tanzanian government and civil society (particularly those organisations concerning themselves with human rights and accountability). Since the reintroduction of multiparty politics in 1995, the state viewed civil society as an extension of opposition parties or international neo-colonial forces. Over time the state limited the expression and participation of civil society in political processes through various pieces of legislation, procedures and directives and their enforcement. However, despite this general characterisation of the relationship between the two, civic education has often been a high point for state-society cooperation. Successive state-civic partnerships between 2005 and 2015 saw civic education campaigns, in partnership with the NEC, carry out extensive civic education campaigns in collaboration with various donor partners under the UNDP basket funds.

After 2015, the above-mentioned cooperation ended, and all indications were that the 2020 elections would likely see the least amount of cooperation between the state and civil society since the start of multipartyism in Tanzania. Given the chronic underfunding of civic education in NEC budgets, as well as the historically weak performance of civic education campaigns even with the support of civil society, this raised the possibility of severe shortages in support to civic education campaigns. In such a situation the importance of strengthening the capacity of the NEC, the Tanzanian state and ultimately the electorate could not be over emphasised.

Under the new leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the levels of political tolerance improved marginally with honest conversations about the 2020 elections being accommodated and the government conceding to some of the demands of opposition political parties such as the release of prisoners and opportunities for direct dialogue with government. The constitution was a subject previously considered off-bounds by the governing party and was finally opened for broad dialogue among civil society actors and relevant government authorities. While no substantive reforms arose between 2021 to 2022, space for dialogue increased with state and non-state actors successfully engaging on the ways in which democracy in Tanzania could be enhanced.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Tanzania Elections Stabilisation and Democratisation (TESD) project was a 24-month intervention implemented by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and partner organisations including: the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), the Centre for International Policy (CIP) and Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges (ZAFAYCO). The Project was funded by the European Union (EU) through its Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). The implementation period was from August 2020 to February 2022 and was extended for a further six (6) months to August 2022.

Objectives and results

The **overall project objective** is strengthened citizen engagement in democratic institutions, particularly electoral processes. **Specific objectives** are (1) to reduce the likelihood of pre-/post-election conflict; and (2) to strengthen civic engagement to improve citizens' trust in electoral processes.

Expected results are as follows:

Outcome 1: Well informed communities about their rights during election periods.

Outcome 2: Enjoyment of freedoms and human rights during elections.

Outcome 3: Early identification of conflict hotspots and escalating conflicts

To achieve the project outcomes, the following outputs were delivered:

Output 1: Local communities informed and knowledgeable about electoral processes

Output 2: Comprehensive assessment of significant developments and challenges of the election

Output 3: Early-warning system collects and aggregates incidents and identifies conflict hot spots

Activities implemented

Project outputs and activities were aligned to the electoral cycle (the pre-, during, and post-electoral periods) and activity implementation was rolled out in three (3) phases.

Phase 1 - Pre-election period civic education and peace monitoring/peacebuilding

1. Civic education trainings and campaigns
2. Training of trainers/Long-Term Observers on online data collection and reporting
3. Training of trainers in preparation for the recruitment and management of Short-term Observers (STOs) in all districts in Tanzania and Zanzibar

Phase 2 - Election period long-term and short-term peace monitoring/election observation

1. Deployment and observation of polling stations by STOs
2. Collection of observation reports from STOs by District Coordinators.
3. Recording and transmission of STO reports via the online data collection application to the central coordination office.
4. Tabulation and analysis of election day reporting.
5. Preparation of reports and statements

Phase 3 - Pre-and post-election period conflict monitoring and post-election review and dialogue

1. Weekly situation reports from district coordinators via the online data collection and reporting system.
2. Tracking potential escalation in violent incidents or other forms of political violence.
3. Engaging with CSO networks to mediate/mitigate conflicts in hotspot areas before they spread.
4. Pre- and post-election conflict mapping.
5. Publication and documentation
6. Post-election dialogue forums

3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation will provide an overall assessment of the project performance, paying particular attention to outcomes of the project interventions against its objectives.

The evaluation will provide sufficient information for EISA, project partners, the EU and other relevant stakeholders to consider the project outcomes against the changes in political leadership that occurred during implementation. The evaluation findings and conclusions are expected to draw connections between the outcomes identified and potential activities to consider ahead of the next electoral cycle.

Objectives of the evaluation are to:

- a) Identify intended, unintended, positive, or negative outcomes of the project; determine the level of the project's contribution to these outcomes and their significance in the implementation context.
- b) Assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and conflict sensitivity of the TESD project.
- c) Present key lessons learned, good practices, and innovation in project implementation related to the implementation context, actors engaged, strategies and outcomes identified.
- d) Provide a set of forward-looking and actionable recommendations.

4. KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Relevance: To what extent have project objectives, intervention logic and modes of implementation responded to partners and beneficiaries' needs and priorities, and have continued to do so in the evolving context?

Coherence: To what extent has the project leveraged complementarity and co-ordination with other international/local actors' interventions in the same sector? What effects has this produced (positive or negative, intended, or unintended) towards outcome-level changes in the implementation context?

Effectiveness: To what extent were project objectives and results achieved, taking into account their relative importance? Which outcomes stand out? In what ways are they significant to the implementation context? How has the project contributed to each of the outcomes identified?

Efficiency: What has worked well, and less well, in the project design, management, and implementation to deliver results in an efficient and timely manner in response to the evolving context and partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders' needs and priorities?

Sustainability: To what extent can the benefits of the project continue, or are likely to continue? What is the degree of ownership of the project effects by partners, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders (for example political parties, election management bodies, other governance institutions/authorities)?

Conflict sensitivity: Has the project design and interventions been appropriate and responsive to the implementation context? What effects, intended or unintended, high-level or low-level, did the conflict monitoring and early warning response mechanism produce?

The consultant may propose modifications to the above evaluation questions in their technical application.

5. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

It is expected that the consultant describes and justifies an appropriate evaluation approach and methodology for data collection in their technical application. The evaluation design, approach and methods for data collection and analysis will be fully developed and presented in the inception report. Limitations to the chosen approach and methods must be made explicit and the consequences of these limitations described. The evaluator shall to the extent possible, present mitigation measures to address them.

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.

The evaluation must conform to the OECD/DAC's Quality Standards for Development Evaluation¹ and the revised evaluation criteria and principles as outlined in the OECD/DAC Better Criteria for Better Evaluation.² The consultant(s) shall specify how quality assurance will be handled during the evaluation process.

6. EVALUATION MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The evaluation is commissioned by EISA and the evaluation management team will comprise the EISA M&E Senior Programme Officer and Research and Quality Assurance Manager based at EISA headquarters in South Africa and the EISA Tanzania Country Director.

7. EVALUATION SCOPE AND DELIVERABLES

The evaluation will assess the implementation period from 15 August 2020 to 14 August 2022 and activities carried out in the United Republic of Tanzania being the mainland and Zanzibar by EISA and project partners.

The evaluator will submit the following deliverables:

The inception report: This will form the basis for the continued evaluation process. It will include evaluability issues and interpretations of evaluation questions, present the evaluation approach, methods for data collection and analysis as well as the evaluation design. Limitations to the evaluation approach and methods will be made explicit, the consequences of these described and, where possible, mitigation measures to be applied. The inception report must include a detailed workplan covering fifteen (15) days for the consultancy.

The final report will detail the evaluation approach and methods for data collection used and all limitations to the methodology and methods 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 must be substantiated by findings and analysis. Evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations should reflect an analysis of identified and relevant cross-cutting issues.

¹ OECD (2010) DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation.

² OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation (2019) Better Criteria for Better Evaluation: Revised Evaluation Criteria Definitions and Principles for Use.

Recommendations should be specific and targeted to key actors and relevant stakeholder. The report must not exceed 30 pages excluding annexes (including Terms of Reference and Inception Report).

8. TIMEFRAME

The evaluation will be carried out between 14 October 2022 and 02 November 2022. The table below lists activities and deliverables for the evaluation process. Alternative deadlines for each activity and deliverable may be proposed by the contracted individual, within the twenty (20) days evaluation consultancy.

Activities / outputs	Dates
Start-up meeting	14/10/2022
Draft inception report	17/10/2022
Comments on inception report from EISA	18/10/2022
Final inception report	19/10/2022
Data collection, analysis and report writing	20/10/2022 – 26/10/2022
Presentation of findings to EISA evaluation management team	27/10/2022
Draft evaluation report	28/10/2022
Comments on final report from EISA	31/10/2022
Final evaluation report	02/11/2022

9. CONSULTANT COMPETENCIES

The consultant should have the following expertise and experience:

- Demonstrable experience conducting evaluations for democracy and governance projects in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts
- Demonstrable experience in summative and outcome-focused evaluation and related approaches, methods, and tools
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Knowledge of Swahili is desirable

National consultants are encouraged to apply.

10. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Applicant CV
- Technical proposal
- Financial proposal indicating daily rate within the twenty (20) day contract period

EISA will arrange logistics and required travel and health insurance. EISA will ensure necessary arrangements for in-country transport, lodging and subsistence. EISA shall arrange interpretation services and meeting venue(s) where required.

11. APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is **Wednesday, 28 September 2022.**

Applications must be sent to tawanda@eisa.org and copying kerryn@eisa.org with the email subject line: **“Application for short-term consultancy: TESD Project External Evaluation”**