



Leave No One Behind Partnership

Making Voices Heard and Count

Project consultancy - call for tenders

To : Offerors
From : International Civil Society Centre ("Centre")
Subject : Making Voices Heard and Count: consultancy for series of publications
Issue Date : 28 April 2021
Application deadline : **9 May 2021**
Performance Period : Approx. 19 May to 30 June 2021

Summary:

The Centre is looking for a consultant to support the [Making Voices Heard and Count](#) project. Specifically, we need a consultant to help us prepare a series of short publications focussing on insights, learnings and personal stories from the work of our partners with marginalised communities. The publication series is to be disseminated via the partnership's website and the Global SDG Knowledge Hub, addressing the international SDG and development community.

Background:

Making Voices Heard and Count is a collaborative project of the Leave No One Behind partnership, which is hosted by the Centre. It brings together international and national civil society organisations (CSOs), civic networks and platforms with the ambition to bring about a scalable solution for filling data gaps on marginalised groups in the monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thereby, the project aims to make a key contribution towards fulfilling the Agenda 2030's universal pledge to leave no one behind. The project fosters an inclusive model of SDG monitoring, supporting the collection, analysis and dissemination of community-driven data and giving a stage to data produced by the local target groups themselves – helping to make their voices heard and count.

The Leave No One Behind partnership was launched in late 2017 by 12 international civil society organisations. In 2018, the partnership set up national coalitions in five pilot countries: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, and Vietnam. The national coalitions brought together national CSOs, civic networks and platforms, as well as community-based and community-led organisations. Each country coalition delivered a national pilot research with a focus on various marginalised communities with the overall goal of closing knowledge gaps, analysing local drivers of vulnerability, and deriving concrete recommendations for public policy-making and planning. In the pilot project (2018-2019), more than 2.000 community representatives from over 20 different counties and neighbourhoods were involved.

In our follow-up project, running over the coming years, the ambition is to reach 100.000 people in up to eight countries, demonstrating through our inclusive approach that there is a scalable and widely applicable solution to fulfil the promise to 'leave no one behind' in SDG implementation.



Making Voices Heard and Count is currently co-financed by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Swedish Development Agency Sida and the partners of the Leave No One Behind coalition at the global and national levels. Currently, we are supporting country projects in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam, while new national coalitions are forming in other countries.

The Robert Bosch Foundation has been supporting the partnership since 2020, fostering our country level work and a strategic support and capacity building programme that our global partners offer to the country coalitions. After one year of support, we aim to review our progress so far and produce a series of publications, extracting some of the knowledge and insights that have been produced across the project's different work streams. We aim for a series of short and reader-friendly articles, providing insight into the findings that our country teams have produced, the methodologies for data generation they have used, their advocacy work with local decision makers, the use of the data visualisation platforms that our project has developed, as well as other relevant insights that help to demonstrate the overall relevance and impact of our work. The articles should further provide a space for the reproduction of voices from marginalised communities targeted by the project, providing them with a space to reflect on the added value of our work from their perspective. The articles are to be published via our [partnership website](#) and the [Global SDG Knowledge Hub](#) of IISD, addressing the international development community, as well as national decision makers to promote the partnership and the added value of its work.

Call for tenders:

For this purpose, the Centre is commissioning a consultant to:

- **Attend a virtual evaluation workshop that the partnership arranges on 19 May between 10.30-13.30h UTC.**
- **Assess country reports to extract knowledge around specific learning questions (see below)**
- **Conduct interviews with the partnership's country teams and global experts to extract further knowledge, where needed**
- **Develop a concept for publishing the above-mentioned article series, including:**
 - **Contextualisation:** identify key themes, case studies, impact stories and/or personal stories. Balance between country / topic focus and cross-country knowledge.
 - **Visualisation:** make use of visual elements (e.g. graphs, illustrations, pictures, etc.) throughout the publications
- **Write a series of articles of up to 1,000 words each (number of articles to be agreed with contractor)**
- **Work in close collaboration with the global partnership coordinator.**

The concept for publishing the series of articles should consider how to best address the below learning questions of the project (details / priority setting to be discussed with contractor):

Cluster 1: results and impact

- **Impact:** What has been the impact of national CSOs and local partner organisations with regard to using community-driven data to influence and engage with policy makers at the national and sub-national levels? What were challenges and success factors?
- **Sustainability of impact:** Is the achieved impact perceived to be sustainable? What is necessary to enable sustainable political changes?



- Key insights: Were there any striking insights with regard to specific marginalised groups and their engagement in data-driven policy advocacy? How were these groups engaged and what was their perception on the added value of the overall process?
- Intersecting drivers of marginalisation: What is the added value of the project's systemic approach looking at different local drivers of marginalisation and how they are intersecting? Did this approach allow for a different view on inequality in a local context?
- Perceived value by targeted communities: What is the added value of community-driven data and data-driven advocacy in the perspective of the marginalised communities that were targeted in the project? What did change for them through the project?

Cluster 2: applied methodologies and used tools

- Applied strategies / methodologies: What were the strategies and methodologies adopted by the national partner CSOs on harnessing the voice and participation of targeted communities through community-driven data (using digital technology, community score cards, dialogues, etc.)? What were challenges and success factors?
- Use of digital tools: What types of digital tools were used for data generation and data-driven advocacy, and what is needed to increase the effectiveness of these tools (both in terms of generating data and using/presenting data to decision makers)?
- Quantitative vs. Qualitative Data: What are commonalities and differences between quantitative and qualitative data and their capability of describing the marginalisation / discrimination / exclusion of marginalised communities? And what are the conclusions for the use of the two types of data in the production of policy recommendations?

Cluster 3: external factors for success / enabling political environment

- Collaboration with government: What were the most important learnings with regard to the collaboration with local and national governments? What have been challenges and factors for success? What concrete steps / agreements / processes are necessary to enable a smooth and *ongoing* collaboration (also beyond elections) between civil society data protagonists and authorities at the local and national level?
- Civic spaces: What civic spaces were used for engaging in data-driven policy advocacy in different countries? What legal / legislative channels and participatory spaces exist and can be effectively used to give marginalised communities a voice? What improvements are perceived necessary / what are current challenges and critical factors for success?

Cluster 4: capacity building and innovative approaches for future civil society data action

- Capacity building: Which concrete needs for capacity building have been detected, focussing on data generation and data-driven advocacy? How can the international (donor) community best support data protagonists from civil society?
- Locally driven data action amidst COVID-19: What was the impact of the pandemic on the overall work of civil society data protagonists? What were consequences for local data generation, training workshops, and data-driven advocacy? What learnings for future data generation efforts were made? What are the overall consequences from a perspective of innovation and use of new technologies?



The Centre invites qualified individuals or organisations (“Offerors”) to submit a proposal for the requested services. The application needs to be submitted by 9 May 2021. Interviews of finalists will take place between 12 and 14 May.

The contract offered to the selected consultant will be a **Services Agreement**. The agreement will be provided to the Offeror whose offer will be the most advantageous to the Centre in terms of cost, functionality, and other factors as specified in this call.

The Centre as the hiring organisation reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all offers and discontinue the call process without obligation or liability to any potential Offeror or other party.
- Accept other than the lowest price offered.
- Award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions or requests for best and final offers.
- Award more than one contract.

Required Qualification:

- Master’s degree in a relevant field (Political Science, International Development, Public Policy, etc.) or commensurate years of experience in a relevant field
- Strong track record in the conceptualisation and authoring of short, visually appealing knowledge articles for a wider expert audience
- Experience of working with (I)CSOs
- Native English speaker or equivalent English skills
- Knowledge on the situation of marginalised groups in the context of the SDGs and international development is a major asset
- Experience with regard to community-driven data and data-driven advocacy is an asset

Proposal preparation instructions:

Proposals are expected to be comprehensive and include the information set forth below. Elaborate or unnecessarily voluminous proposals are not desired. All proposals must be submitted in English.

1. Proposal Narrative, no more than 3 pages, including:

- A brief description of the Offeror’s experience and expertise in the field that illustrates overall qualifications and capabilities
- A brief description of the Offeror’s understanding of the scope of services and proposed methodology for the work

2. Resume or CV of individual or principals, in the case of a consulting firm

3. List of Past and Current Clients

4. Cost Requirements

The Offeror should include a detailed budget, which at a minimum includes the daily rate and level of effort for each person who will work on the services described above. All budgets must be in Euros (EUR). Please note that we expect the consultancy to encompass no more than 13 working days.

5. Proposal Submission: Proposals, including any attachments, should be sent electronically in PDF format to: pkoblowsky@icscentre.org. Be sure to include in the subject line: “**Call for tenders – Making Voices Heard and Count**”