

Request for proposal for NIERA End Term Review Consultancy Services

Ref:-A/RFP/NETR/1/2022

1. Background

The [Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa \(NIERA\)](#) hosted at [the United States International University Africa \(USIU-A\)](#), is an independent network of East African scholars that conducts Decision-Focused Evaluations (DFE) of social and economic development programs to improve people's well-being. NIERA's [membership](#) currently includes 41 active alumni of the [East Africa Social Science Translation \(EASST\) Collaborative](#), a multi-institution research network administered by the [Centre for Global Effective Action \(CEGA\)](#) hosted at the University of California, Berkeley. Each member of NIERA is equipped with multi-sectoral expertise (high-level academic degrees and experience in conducting rigorous evaluations) and are expected to promote its use across various thematic areas in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

In October 2019, the Network received a grant from the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) to advance its mandate over a twenty-six-month period. This mandate is anchored on four pillars namely; Capacity Building, Evidence Generation, Policy Outreach and growing sustainably into the Network of choice for advancing DFE in Africa. In pursuit of these pillars, NIERA seeks to deliver results under four key objectives namely:

- **Objective 1:** To develop capacity in decision-focused evaluation research, dissemination and application;
- **Objective 2:** To generate evidence that is decision-focused
- **Objective 3:** To promote dissemination and use of decision-focused IE evidence in practice and policy making;
- **Objective 4:** To grow sustainability into the network of choice for advancing decision-focused IE research in Africa.

2. Objectives of the End-Term Review

The End-Term Review (ETR) will assess the progress of the program against stated outputs and outcomes over a twenty-six (26)-month period from January 1 2020 to February 28, 2022, identify key achievements and recommend course corrections, if necessary.

The review will assess the performance of the program and captures program achievements, challenges and best practices to inform future programming. It will also review the recommendations of the project Mid Term Review (MTR) and assess the extent to which these were implemented. The evaluation will further identify, and document key lessons learned and propose practical recommendations for follow-up interventions

Key Focus Areas

The following key questions based on [OECD-DAC criteria](#) will guide the End-Term Review:

3.1 Relevance

- To what extent are the stated outcomes and outputs for the NIERA program as stated in the implementation matrix and strategy document been achieved?
- To what extent did the objectives and design respond to target audiences' global, regional and country needs and priorities, and continue to do so?
- What factors have contributed to achieving or hindering achievement of the intended outputs and outcomes?
- Was the strategy adopted and inputs identified, realistic, appropriate and adequate for achievement of the results?

3.2 Effectiveness

- Have the program management strategies been effective in delivering desired/planned results?
- Have the strategies and tools used in the implementation of the program been effective?
- Is the program effective in responding to the needs of the target audiences, and what results can we show?

3.3 Efficiency

- Has the program been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions?
- To what extent have the project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and communication supporting the implementation?
- Are there more efficient ways and means of delivering more and better results (outputs and outcomes) with the available inputs?
- How efficient are the management and accountability structures of the program?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the program's implementation process?
- Are the activities and outputs of the program consistent with the intended impacts and effects?

3.4 Impact and Sustainability

- Is the project oriented towards achieving the expected impacts? What are the effects of the project, intended or unintended, positive or negative, short term or long term?
- Can the program approach or results be replicated or scaled up by or with other partners? What would support their replication and scaling up?
- Are any further activities / inputs needed to ensure sustainability of the program?
- Will the changes caused by this program continue beyond the life of the program?
- What motivations /mechanisms exist for partners to continue playing these roles?
- What are the risks facing sustainability of program outputs and outcomes?

3. Methodology

The consultant should propose the methodology to be used to carry out the review that adopts a consultative and participative approach. The proposed methodology should address sufficiently the preliminary issues and questions outlined within the ToR, specifying the review issues, questions, methods of data collection and analysis that will be undertaken. **Proposals that include a framework mapping each key question in the OECD-DAC criteria above with their appropriate indicators, potential data sources and analytical approaches will be scored highly.** The proposed methods should, at the minimum, encompass a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The end-term review should include but not be limited to the following:

i. Basic documents for review

The consultant will review relevant program documents including but not limited to:

- NIERA's annual implementation plan;
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework;
- Strategy documents including Theory of Change;
- Program progress reports (both narrative and financial);
- Program activity frameworks.
- Program activities' reports.
- Mid-Term Evaluation Report

ii. Interviews

The Consultant will conduct virtual interviews with the relevant stakeholders. Appropriate data collection tools shall be developed by the consultant and discussed with the Secretariat for approval. Key informants will be drawn from the key program target audiences across East Africa including program designers and implementers, policy makers, grant funders, researchers, media practitioners, NIERA partners and NIERA members.

4. Deliverables/Expected Outputs

4.1 Inception report

The consultant is expected to produce an inception report (**due on 11th February 2022**) detailing the following:

- A comprehensive description of the consultant's understanding of the ToR and indicating any major inconsistency or deficiency in the ToR and proposed amendments.
- A detailed methodology for the review including a final refined set of evaluation questions based on consultations with the Secretariat.
- The proposed team members and a description of their respective roles.
- An operational work plan and timeline for the entire review period.
- An evaluation dissemination/uptake plan.

4.2 Draft Report

The consultant is expected to generate the first draft report by the end of the third week after inception of the assignment. This draft report will be presented and discussed with key stakeholders including the Secretariat, Country Leaders and members. Inputs from these discussions will be incorporated into the final report.

4.3 Validation of the report

A short PowerPoint outlining preliminary findings and any areas that require further attention or discussion prior to drafting the final report.

4.4 Final Report

The final report shall be no more than 20 pages, Arial font size 11, single-spacing, normal margins (excluding annexes and the report should be in the **Word** format) and submitted to the Secretariat within two weeks of receiving comments on the draft report. This report will be the detailed End-Term Review report covering items outlined in the scope of this ToR with special attention to main findings and conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations.

4.5 Final Presentation

A session or workshop focused on disseminating the key findings of the review to core stakeholders. A short PowerPoint should be created and shared by **25th March 2022** as part of this deliverable.

5. Schedule of the assignment

The review will be carried out for 60 days and is scheduled to take place in the period between 4th February 2022 and 31st March, 2022.

6. Supervision and Work Arrangements

The consultant will work under the overall guidance and support of the NIERA Secretariat through the Program Manager.

The consultant will work closely with the project manager. All submissions will be made electronically unless other means are needed.

7. Qualification of the Consultant

- Master's degree in Public Policy and Management, Public Administration, Development studies, or any other relevant university degree.
- At least 7 years' experience in program evaluation in a development context and proven accomplishment in undertaking evaluations, including leading evaluations of multi-stakeholder programs for development organizations in East Africa.
- Extensive experience of program formulation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

8. How to apply

Interested consultants are requested to submit the following:

- i. A Technical and Financial proposal, which should include a description of the proposed methodology to be used and a schedule of, planned activities.
- ii. CV(s) of the professional(s) with suitable references to undertake the consultancy.
- iii. Two (2) samples of previous work.

Consultants who meet the requirements of the assignment should submit their proposals on email to procurement@usiu.ac.ke and copy to ammaina@usiu.ac.ke not later than **26th January 2022 1700HRS. The subject line must read [NIERA END-TERM REVIEW]**. Proposals should be no more than 10 pages long, Arial font size 11, single-spacing with normal margins. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Appendix: Evaluation Criteria

CRITERIA		Maximum Points	Score
PHASE ONE – PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION			
1a	Mandatory/ Statutory Requirements (where applicable)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attach the profile of the firm - Attach a valid relevant licences - Attach a certified copy of the Certificate of Incorporation/Certificate of Registration - Attach a certified copy of PIN & VAT Certificates - Attach a certified copy of a valid Tax Compliance Certificate 	Failure to submit all the documents required may lead to rejection of the proposal	-
1b	Met deadline for submission		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliance with the format and response to requirements of the TOR i.e. proposal no more than 10 pages long, Arial font size 11, single spacing, normal margins 	-	-
PHASE TWO – TECHNICAL EVALUATION		Maximum Points	
2	Firms/Consultants Relevant Experience for the Assignment		
a	Firm's/ Consultant's capability and capacity - Firm's/Consultant's Capacity statement including relevant experiences related to the assignment 30%	30	
3	Methodology and Approach		
a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the assignment & TOR - Adequacy of the approach - Methodology & work plan - Detailed analysis of both methodology & work plan - Appropriateness of Methodology and work plan - Completeness of description of the methodology Effectiveness of the work plan and the time frames 35%	35	
4	Budget		
a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear & justified against project activities and goal. Clear demonstration of Value for Money 20%	20	
5	Human Resource Capacity		
a	Qualifications and competence of the key staff for the assignment Competencies & Skills of Senior staff 15%	15	
Total		100	