



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES– INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)**

**SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION AND OTHER AFRICAN UNION ORGANS PROJECT –
(Funded by World Bank)
GRANT NO. H9390**

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE: Communication Officer
Reference No.ET-AUC-238211-CS-INDV
Date: June 14, 2021**

The African Union Commission has received financing World Bank which are administered by the International Development Association (IDA) (the “Bank”) and executed by the African Union Commission (“the Client”). toward the cost of the “Series of Webinar on Impact of COVID 19 pandemic on Production of Official Statistics in Africa ”, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

This EOI is prepared to engage an Individual Consultant for a consultancy Services of a Communication Officer Consultant for Series of Webinar on Impact of COVID 19 pandemic on Production of Official Statistics in Africa

A. BACKGROUND

Since the start of 2020, the whole world has been shaken by the COVID 19 pandemic. This pandemic has had a significant impact on the political, economic and social activities of the whole world in particular the African continent. Considered at the outset as a cyclical phenomenon, the COVID 19 pandemic is gradually turning into a structural phenomenon. The consequences of this pandemic are already and will be unprecedented on the economic, political and social activities of African countries over a long period. Many economists already believe that an unprecedented increase in the poor population in Africa is to be expected, the unemployment rate in Africa is very high and many people are at risk of food insecurity.

The activities on the development and harmonization of statistics are also greatly affected by the crisis of the COVID 19 pandemic. This directly affects the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the revised strategy through the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2). The COVID 19 pandemic has slowed down many statistical activities at all level. Many statistical surveys and population and housing censuses have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This state of affairs has a negative impact on the production of statistics, in particular short-term indicators such as quarterly national accounts, consumer price indices, labour market indicators, etc.

With the crisis of the COVID 19 pandemic, we have seen budget reallocations and budget cuts in many African countries in the funds allocated for statistical activities at national, regional and continental levels. A lot of funds have been reallocated to fight the COVID 19 pandemic at the expense of statistical activities. This state of affairs has a negative impact on statistical activities at national, regional and continental level. Very few African countries are now able to comply with the decision of the African Union Conference of Heads of State and Government on the financing of statistics in Africa which requires African countries to allocate at least 0.15% of the national budget for the development of statistics.

Statistics are essential for development at the national, regional and continental levels. Statistics constitute a very element in the implementation of Agenda 2063 / Agenda 2030. This lack of statistics due to the COVID 19 crisis will have a very negative impact on the development of Africa. This deficiency will have an unprecedented impact on the development of Africa. It is therefore necessary for the actors of the African Statistical System to take the appropriate solutions to eliminate the negative impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on statistical production.

To this end, the African Union Commission, mandated by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to lead the development and harmonization of statistics in Africa, wishes to organize, in collaboration with the World Bank, a series of webinars with the main actors of the African Statistical System (AfSS) to discuss the negative impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic in Africa, share the good practices to counter this negative impact and how to modernize the AfSS to be more efficient during crisis and also to discuss the mobilization of internal and external resources of the continent to find adequate solutions to the production of statistics, in particular the financing of the activities of national statistical institutes (NSI), the pursuit of statistical activities at national, regional and continental level according to the National Statistical Development Strategies (SNDS), the Regional Statistics Strategies (SRDS) and the revised Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2).

B. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the consultancy is to bring the necessary support to AUC-STATAFRIC on the management and implementation of the series of webinars on the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on statistical production in Africa to create a continental platform to discuss the negative impact of the COVID 19 on the various statistical activities.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

The Communication Consultant is expected to undertake the following activities:

- I. The communication consultant will lead the program's communication activities, S/he will work with technical team, RECs and AU Member States to document and disseminate successes and lessons learnt from the implemented webinars and develop materials and products to distribute information effectively.
- II. Advice AUC-STATAFRIC and senior leadership on aspects of program's key communication opportunities;
- III. Work with key technical staff to identify, compile, write, and disseminate technical briefs, stories, social media posts, blogs, as needed;
- IV. Design, develop and produce communication and advocacy instruments and materials, including briefing materials, talking points, press releases, articles, outline for videos and visibility materials;
- V. Develop, update and maintain a comprehensive communication strategy to ensure all audiences and stakeholders are aware of AUC-STATAFRIC progress, results, and achievements;
- VI. Track all relevant international, regional, and national conferences and support program staff to develop abstracts; manage and coordinate program conferences and other high-profile events;
- VII. Manage and maintain media relations in all AU Member States and monitor AUC-STATAFRIC media coverage;
- VIII. Assist AUC-STATAFRIC for the start-up activities of STATAFRIC.

Under the supervision of AUC-STATAFRIC, He/She will work in close collaboration with other African organizations, RECs, National Statistical Offices, Training Centers, other African Institutions, International Organizations and any other stakeholders. During his/her assignment, he/she will participate in workshops and meetings on the activities of the consultancy work.

D. Tasks to be completed

The Communication Consultant is requested to:

- Prepare a comprehensive communication strategy for the series of webinars project;
- Develop an advocacy plan to wide-spread the outcomes and impact of the 9 webinars;
- Develop a set of key messages;
- Prepare all the needed communication materials to be shared with the different media outlets nationally, regionally and internationally;
- Prepare a set of press releases to be shared with media and briefing materials after each webinar;
- Conduct communication needs and risks assessments for the project;
- Assist in reviewing and preparing the talking points and speeches for all the involved partners.

The International Consultant will also carry out ad hoc tasks that may be entrusted to him/her by AUC-STATAFRIC.

E. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The Communication Consultant will have the following qualifications and experience:

- Sound and proven experience in communication, journalism, social media, content creation for digital platforms, report writing, management and dissemination.
- The consultant must have a bachelor's degree in media, communication, journalism, public relations or any related field, and
- at least 3 years of professional experience in a communication role.
- The candidate must be able to work in multicultural setting, in good team spirit.
- He/ She must also have excellent communication and interpersonal skills; excellent command of one of the official AU working languages (English, French, Arabic, and Portuguese) and good working knowledge of at least another one.

F. DURATION AND TIMING

The consultancy assignment has a time frame of 245 workings days.

G. DUTY STATION

The Consultant will be based in STATAFRIC, Tunis, Tunisia.

H. REMUNERATION

Remuneration is payable on a monthly basis. It is negotiable but based on qualifications and experience and the applicable AU rates for the level of the consultancy. Fees payable do not include costs associated with project related travels, coordination/organization of project related activities and events, stakeholder dialogues, consultations and workshops. These costs will be met by the AU.

The following shall be made available by the Africa CDC:

- Office accommodation;
- Computer, Photocopying, Stationary;
- Facilitation of Visa and
- Internet Access

I. M.EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

For evaluation of the expressions of interest the following criteria will be applied:

1. General experience - 10 Points
2. Specific Experience relevant to the assignment – 50 Points
3. Qualifications – 30 Points
4. Language – 10 Points

The African Union Commission now invites eligible Individual Consultants (“Consultants”) to submit their CVs in providing the Services and required documents as per the evaluation and qualification criteria. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the World Bank “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016 (“Procurement Regulations”), which can be found at the following website: www.worldbank.org.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00-13:00hrs and 14:00-17:00 hours, Addis Ababa Time.

CVs must be delivered in a written form following **the above criteria** to the emails below before 15:00 Hours Local Time on 30th June 2021

African Union Commission,
Attn: Head of Procurement Travel and Store Division
Building C, Room 327
P.O.Box 3243, Roosevelt Street
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 (0) 11 551 7700 – Ext 4371
Fax: +251 (0) 11 551 0442; +251 11-551-0430
E-mails: tender@africa-union.org;