

TERMS OF REFERENCE
**Consultancy on Africa Information Highway: Senior Expert in Strategic Planning and
Innovation in Data and Technology**

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
Statistics Department (ESTA)
Avenue Joseph Anoma
01 B.P. 1387
Abidjan 01
Cote d’ivoire

Email : K.L.KOUAKOU@AFDB.ORG;
B.ADINGRA@AFDB.ORG
M.KOUTA@AFDB.ORG

A. Background

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) holds that if the fight against poverty has to be won, there must be improvements in the quality and quantity of statistical data on all components of development. Reliable data is critical to setting goals and targets as well as evaluating project impact. Reliable data constitutes the single most convincing way of getting the people involved in what their leaders and institutions are doing. It also helps them to get involved in the development process, thus giving them a sense of ownership of the entire development process.

Through its Statistics Department, the AfDB is contributing to the effective development of the statistical capacity and systems of its regional member countries for the provision of timely and reliable data for policy formulation.

The individual consultant will be recruited to serve the Statistics Department through its Africa Information Highway (AIH) initiative.

The Africa Information Highway (AIH) initiative was launched by the Bank in 2012 with the primary objective of improving statistical data access in Africa by providing all African countries with an Open Data Platform (ODP).

I. Objectives of the Assignment

The first and main objective of the assignment is to build strong strategic and sustainable partnerships around the AIH activities, as the Bank believes that strong partnerships are key to implementing successful programs. The consultant will also lead the work of the Statistics Department’s Data Innovation Lab, which aims to support African countries in building their capacities to compile augmented statistics from new data sources and big data using cutting-edge technologies. In addition to capacity building, the Lab will also aim to foster collaboration with different actors involved in the data and official statistics domains. Input from these actors, gleaned from platforms such as

regional and national brainstorming initiatives hosted by the Lab, will also enable the Bank to better address the targets data needs in development frameworks like Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The consultant will be part of member of the core team working foron the implementation of the joint project jointly funded by the Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation to support AfDB's effort to support the implementation of thefor the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

Finally, the senior consultant will lead the design and execution of the integrated statistics and technology strategy focused on the role of the Africa Information Highway (AIH) in data collection, processing, dissemination and use.

J. Main activities and deliverables

The consultant is expected to travel extensively within the region, and will be primarily involved in supporting AIH work in the field.

The consultant will be recruited to complete the following activities:

1. Guide the design and execution of the integrated statistics and technology strategy focused on the role of the Africa Information Highway (AIH) in data collection, processing, dissemination and use including the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
2. Lead the work of the Data Innovation Lab, draft its work program and supervise the work of the team to increase the use of new sources of data and big data as a complement to official statistics within the Bank and in RMCs.
3. Build internal and external partnerships with public and private actors including SMEs and Startups and raise funding to support the implementation of the Data Innovation Lab and AIH strategies.
4. Assist in managing the implementation and reporting on the joint project between AfDB and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
5. Conduct stakeholders mapping, identify sources of funding and draft project proposals.
6. Develop work and action plans for the implementation of the AIH integrated statistics and technology strategy for data collection, processing and dissemination, including SDMX.
7. Align the AIH's integrated strategy for data collection processing and dissemination with the African Development Bank's strategic vision to inform its data needs.
8. Conduct a comprehensive diagnostic of the AIH platform and its use by all partners including the Regional Member Countries (RMCs) and propose solutions to expand its use beyond data dissemination and reporting.
9. Coordinate the efforts of the team to draft terms of references for the system upgrade and help supervise the delivery of the system by the consultant.
10. Evaluate the role the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard is playing within the AIH platform and propose practical steps to expand its use to other data domains within the system and at country level.
11. Assess the role the AIH should be playing in reporting progress under the Sustainable Development Goals at country and regional levels, and recommend actions to strengthen it.
12. Promote the use of the Africa Information Highway (AIH) platform at the highest level in RMCs as well as at regional and international events.

13. Supervise the work on data literacy and the promotion of statistics among African youth through competitions to promote the emergence of community-based solutions to local challenges in data systems.
14. Coordinate the AIH's effort in promoting coordination mechanisms for data collection and use, and promote the use of data by decisions makers for better development outcomes.
15. Undertake missions to RMCs to train and/or support the implementation and management of the AIH.
16. Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Task Manager.

Deliverables:

The consultant will be required to submit a written report after each country implementation mission outlining key recommendations.

D. Administration and Reporting

Under the overall guidance of the Division Managers of ECST.1 and ECST.2, with the general supervision of the project's Task Manager.

E. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of this contract is **twelve months (12)** renewable based on performance.

F. Qualifications and Experience Required

The successful candidate should have demonstrated superior skills in working effectively with a wide variety of Statistical platforms. He/she must be capable of providing training to counterparts in RMCs and building capacity on the management of the AIH.

In addition, the successful candidate should have:

- At least a Masters' Degree in Statistics, IT, Development Economics or related field
 - A minimum of ten (10) years working experience in statistical capacity building in RMCs with strong focus on data and technology
 - Excellent knowledge of Information and Technology Systems, especially as used in developing countries for statistical purposes
 - Experience with data innovation and in designing and launching innovative data driven projects on the continent
 - Good understanding of methods and tools to design and implement innovative projects as a standalone projects and within established organizations
 - Experience with statistical strategic planning in RMCs and at the international level
 - At least 10 years' experience working with international organizations
 - Familiarity with and a supportive attitude towards processes of strengthening local capacities and Statistical agencies
 - Familiarity with SDMX and its use for reporting on regional and global development agendas
 - Expertise in field data collection, statistical analysis, data dissemination.
- Expertise in AIH and capacity building in RMCs on the use of the AIH is an asset

□ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; □
Ability and willingness to travel regularly within Africa.

Other Competencies:

Demonstrated ability to work in a multicultural environment and establish harmonious and effective relationships with national partners