

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy on Africa Information Highway: Expert to Support Field Work in Data and Statistics in Regional Member Countries

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Statistics Department (ESTA)

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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).

B. Objectives of the Assignment

The main objective of this assignment will be to support countries to continue and improving the AIH implementation.

One key feature of the AIH to be further developed during this assignment is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Data Hub Platform, which allows all African countries to manage and report data relating to progress made on SDGs. In this regard, the AfDB has provided each African country a SDGs Reporting Platform and created a Regional Hub to facilitate management and easy

access to SDGs data across Africa. The SDG Data Hub is a key addition to the AIH, as it helps to facilitate the monitoring of several regional initiatives, most notably the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across Africa. This tool has already been developed and installed, with additional enhancements to soon be included to facilitate tracking data at sub-regional levels. Technical assistance will be provided to countries to install a mechanism, with the participation of all sector ministries, to review data availability, identify relevant data sources, take stock of benchmark data, and periodically update data on the SDG Data Hub to track progress towards the SDGs.

The consultant will also participate in the implementation 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 the most updated technologies. In addition to capacity building, the Lab will also aim to foster collaboration with different actors involved in statistics. 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 in development frameworks like Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

C. Main activities and deliverables

Activities:

The consultant will be recruited to complete the following activities:

1. Undertake missions to RMCs to train and/or support the implementation, update and management of their Open Data Portals.
2. Ensure that all portals falling under his responsibility contain up to date content.
3. Undertake AfDB/IMF joint missions to introduce countries to the Data Submission Tool (DST) and to the ODP.
4. Assist countries with the update and management of their SDGs hub.
5. Actively participate in research activities under the Innovation Lab for the use of new sources of data to complement official statistics.
6. Actively participate in the implementation of the activities planned under the joint AfDB and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project
7. Take a lead role on drafting progress and end of the year reports to the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.
8. Actively participate in organizing infographic competitions in RMCs using RMCs' Open Data Platform.
9. Actively participate in organizing competitions in RMCs to engage youth in statistics.
10. Assist RMCs in establishing the governance structures necessary to enable a coordinated update of the portal with a special focus on SDGs.
11. Assist RMCs in enhancing data use for evidence based policy and decision making by capitalizing on the AIH.
12. Conduct Open Data portals performance assessment and propose new strategies to best support countries to upgrade their portal performances.

13. Assist/Guide RMCs in preparing progress reports on the AIH implementation, and analyze these reports in terms of problems and actions needed.
14. Identify barriers to effective data portal management and work with the AIH focal persons to develop appropriate supportive strategies/solutions.
15. Identify equipment needs, delivery systems, and personnel requirements that ensure broad country support for the AIH.
16. Regularly prepare a storyline for the ECST newsletter after conducting missions.
17. 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 needs to be able to provide training to counterparts in RMCs, and build capacity on management of the AIH.

In addition, the successful candidate should have:

- A University Degree in Statistics, Economics or related field
 - A minimum of five (5) years working experience
 - Familiarity with technical assistance to countries in the area of statistics
 - Excellent drafting skills in English
 - Familiarity with and a supportive attitude towards processes of strengthening local capacities and Statistical agencies
 - 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