

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT MID-TERM REVIEW OF ACTIONAID NIGERIA'S COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Established in 1999, ActionAid Nigeria (AA Nigeria) is an affiliate of ActionAid International, one of the leading international organizations focusing on rights, poverty eradication and social transformation in about 47 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas through programmes such as education, food security, health, just and democratic governance, women's rights and human security in conflict and emergencies. As part of the global mission of ActionAid International, AA Nigeria works with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.

In Nigeria, we have worked in 34 states supporting programmes/projects interventions in about 600 communities and in not less than 167 Local Government Areas promoting pro-poor programmes at all levels. We are committed to maintaining solidarity with poor people and taking sides with them, even against all adversity.

AA Nigeria commenced HIV & AIDS work in Nigeria in 2000 with an initial grant support from MacArthur Foundation. Since then AA Nigeria has implemented several HIV & AIDS programmes with civil society organizations, networks and coalitions to deliver on its HIV & AIDS mandate. Currently, AAN works on these thematic areas ; Women's Rights, Right to Just and Democratic Governance, Right to Health, Right to Education, Right to Food, Right to Human Security in Conflict and Emergencies and Partnership Against Poverty, which are guided by its Country Strategy Paper (2009 – 2013); *Fighting Poverty in the Midst of Plenty 2 (FPMP2)*.

### 2. BACKGROUND

In 2011, AA Nigeria will embark on a Mid Term Review (MTR) of its Country Strategy Paper 2009 – 2013 (CSP). This is a unique opportunity for AA Nigeria to refocus attention on interventions needed to achieve its overall purpose. It will assess the extent to which the aspirations of the CSP have been achieved since its adoption at the 2009 Programme Meeting. The MTR will also generate authoritative evidence which will assist AA Nigeria as well as its partners in making informed decisions to improve policy and practice in order to fully attain the agreed targets by 2013.

The proposed Mid Term Review is in line with existing Accountability Learning and Planning Systems (ALPS) framework that seek to ensure that *ongoing learning* and critical reflection on change take place through our work and through our engagement with poor and excluded people and other stakeholders, and lead to improved programme quality. Hence, the MTR will assess performance against the country strategy and generate learning to improve future work and strategic direction.

Furthermore, the MTR is also of particular historical significance as it is taking place at a time AA International will be developing a new strategy. This provides an opportunity to also assess how AA Nigeria's context aligns to the promises made in the new AA International Strategy, examine the implication of this and provide guidance on strategic alignment with the international strategy.

The final report of the MTR will be presented to the Country Management Team (CMT) Meeting in September 2011. Key findings from the process will reflect lessons and recommendations to inform future strategic actions on the CSP implementation.

### **3. RATIONALE/MANDATE**

The Country Strategy Paper 2009 – 2013 (CSP) provide a framework by which AA Nigeria effectiveness in achieving its objectives and sustainable impact on the lives of poor and excluded people would be measured and judged. The CSP builds on past achievements, seeks to close persistent poverty gaps, reflect AA Nigeria's response to the changing realities of the country as they impact on poor and excluded people, and engages with new and emerging challenges. The CSP formed part of AA Nigeria's contribution to the AA International Strategy Rights to End Poverty (RTEP) 2007 – 2011.

The Mid Term Review as well as other methods of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are mandated by the CSP. The MTR will be a participatory, collaborative and constituent centred process that will:

- Provide data on programme progress and effectiveness
- Improve programme management and decision-making
- Promote accountability to stakeholders, including funders
- Provide data to plan future resource needs
- Provide data useful for policy-making and advocacy

The Mid Term Review exercise provides a backdrop for: (a) assessing the efficacy of the CSP for attaining our mission of working with the poor and excluded to eradicate poverty and injustice; and, (b) highlighting the most salient lessons arising from implementation of the CSP.

#### **Guiding Principles**

The very existence of the CSP provides the guiding principle for the MTR process. Accountability to the commitments made in the CSP and progress towards agreed targets by AA Nigeria are therefore key guiding principles for the process.

#### ***Other implied principles include the need to be:***

- Focused on AA's theory of change – based on AA Nigeria's comparative advantages and niche in its/her areas of work
- Tailored to country realities and needs
- Grounded in empirical evidence on poverty and injustice and good practices in addressing them
- Oriented to results – processes, outcomes, and impacts
- Focused on building and replicating success

#### 4. MTR OBJECTIVES

As set out in the approved MTR Terms of Reference, the MTR will aim to:

1. Assess the extent to which AA Nigeria has achieved the aspiration of the CSP since it came into effect in 2009.
2. Assess how AA Nigeria has used its resources (both human and financial), systems and processes to get the results/meet agreed targets.
3. Identify persistent challenges and gaps to the CSP achievements (policies, architecture?? technical capacity, resources etc).
4. Examine the changing context in relation to the current realities of the country.
5. Examine the extent of convergence and divergence of CSP with the new AA International Strategy.
6. Based on objectives 4 and 5 above, make recommendations for aligning CSP to the new AA International Strategy.

#### 5. SCOPE AND SCALE OF THE MTR

The consultants will design and refine (as required), the evaluation protocol/methodology and undertake the data collection, analysis and report writing. The following key outputs will be required from the consultants:

- Evaluation protocol, including the survey design & instruments and detailed work plan.
- Process and methodology report after field work.
- Draft report in hard and soft copy.
- Power Point presentation of key findings.
- Final Report in hard and soft copy in a format to be proposed by AA Nigeria.

Dates for deliverables will be outlined in the Contract to be signed by AA Nigeria and the consultants.

#### 6. EXPERTS REQUIRED FOR THE EVALUATION

The following expertise is required to execute this evaluation: Human rights programme analyst with gender and/or feminist background; Economist (*with a strong background in cost effectiveness analysis*); and Media professional.

##### Key persons specification

It is anticipated that the evaluation will be conducted by three (3) consultants who will have the following experience and skills:

- A minimum of Master degree in relevant field is required
- Proven experience (not less than 5 years) working in relevant field
- Ability to analyse and synthesise in writing relevant information relating to the scope of the evaluation
- Sound experience in participatory review and evaluation methodologies
- High-level presentation, facilitating, communication and reporting skills
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work as a team player
- Capacity to deal with conflicting priorities and timely delivery of high quality work.

##### **Desirable:**

- A person with an eye for detail, fluency in written and spoken English

The consultants should be willing to adopt participatory process and collaborate with the project staff from AA Nigeria and partners in planning and data collection. However, analysis of data, conclusion and recommendations will rest with the consultants.

## **7. TIME FRAME FOR THE EVALUATION**

The MTR is scheduled to begin in the second week of September, 2011 and it is estimated to take 24 days of effort, including evaluation design, data collection, data analysis, dissemination of major findings and report writing. The final report will be submitted to AA Nigeria not later than 12 October, 2011.

## **8. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Interested consultants are invited to submit detailed proposal (no more than 8 pages A4 paper size) outlining the proposed methodology for the evaluation, including sampling and data collection methods, survey instruments, data analysis techniques, reporting format and time frame. Detailed curriculum vitae of individual consultants should be included as an appendix to the proposal which must be submitted electronically to: [vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org](mailto:vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org) **not later than 9 September, 2011**. All enquiries regarding this Expression of Interest should be in writing via email to: [patience.emesiani@actionaid.org](mailto:patience.emesiani@actionaid.org) before the closing date in order to receive a response.

