

CALL FOR SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY

EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE EISA ZIMBABWE PROGRAMME SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION

15th April to 29th April 2019

TERMS OF REFERENCE

EISA is commissioning an end of programme external evaluation of the European Union (EU)funded in Zimbabwe entitled “**SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION**” project number: **FED/2015/365084**. The project period was from 2 July 2016 to 31 December 2018, extended for four months from 1 January 2019 to 30 April 2019. The purpose of this external evaluation is to assess the quality of the overall programme, its results based on the programme’s set objectives and overall goal and its impact. The external evaluation will also delve into key lessons learnt and provide recommendations for future programming.

1. BACKGROUND

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) has provided technical assistance to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) since 2010. Through a framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ZEC, EISA initially provided technical assistance to ZEC from 2010-2014 through the project entitled “Promoting Democracy in Zimbabwe through supporting the Referendum and Electoral Processes”. The project aimed at contributing to a transparent, peaceful and credible electoral process. One of the key outcomes of the project was holding of a peaceful constitutional referendum and participatory electoral process in 2013. Domestic, Regional and continental observation missions recognised the efforts made by ZEC in ensuring that the process was peaceful, inclusive and participatory, albeit under challenging political circumstances. Similarly, the end-of-programme independent evaluation found that ZEC had increased its stakeholder outreach capacity through EISA’s support.

For ZEC to sustain the gains made in the 2013 electoral cycle, EISA continued to support the ZEC through deepening its engagement with stakeholders for inclusive, participatory and peaceful 2018 elections. The MoU between ZEC and EISA was initially renewed from December 2013 to December 2017 and further extended from January 2018 to December 2023.

The support to the ZEC since July 2016 under the project entitled “Support to institutional strengthening in the framework of the new constitution” has entailed broader support to the democratic process, including capacitating voters and involving electoral stakeholders. Most importantly, EISA assisted in providing permanent fora for ZEC-

stakeholder interaction as well as ensuring follow ups on road maps agreed with stakeholders.

Despite the ZEC's improved rapprochement with electoral stakeholders in the 2013 electoral cycle, the build-up to the 2018 harmonised elections faced several challenges, top among which was the issue of the newly introduced bio-metric voter registration (BVR) system. In line with the 2013 constitutional obligation to register voters, the ZEC began in earnest to introduce a new voter registration system, the BVR, that was adopted mid-2016. Registration of voters had since independence been performed by another statutory body, the Registrar General of Voters (RGV). Thus, much of ZEC's efforts in 2017 were dedicated to setting up the infrastructure for voter registration within limited time. This included among others the expansion of ICT infrastructure such as data centre and server capacity; procurement of the BVR kits; developing outreach strategies and the rolling out of the voter registration process. All this was amidst contestation by some political and civil society actors who challenged the ZEC on technical aspects of the new system and roles and access to the system by various stakeholders. A major deficit within this context was the lack of effective resolution of differences throughout the voter registration process leading to some political parties and CSOs de-campaigning the BVR system and registration process.

The voter registration process commenced in September 2017 and ended in February 2018. Building on the gains made during the 2013 electoral cycle, EISA supported the ZEC on outreach strategy development for the registration process and working jointly with the ZEC and other electoral assistance agencies, developed information tools on the registration of voters and inspection of the provisional voters roll. EISA also provided support to the translation of voter education materials into 16 official languages and braille. Following a successful voter registration that produced a record highest number since independence of over 5.6 million registered voters, EISA intensified its support to the ZEC's outreach processes including promoting collaboration between the ZEC and CSOs in shaping the content of voter education materials and holding of frequent stakeholder engagements. In addition, EISA enhanced the ZEC's capacity to manage election-related disputes through the establishment and support of multiparty liaison committees (APLCs) at national and provincial levels.

Another critical area of support in outreach processes has been the enhancement of the partnership between the ZEC and the media. Cognizant of the media's comparative advantage to reach large masses of the population, EISA collaborated with the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) and ZEC to educate the media on the electoral process for improved election reporting. The capacity of journalists from the print and electronic public and private media houses was enhanced through a series of workshops that included election simulation exercises. Finally, the voter turnout in the 2018 harmonised elections was 75 percent. This level of participation shows an unprecedented number of the

electorate who took part in the elections due to the efforts of the ZEC and supported by cooperating partners including EISA as well as CSOs.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to peaceful, transparent and credible electoral processes in Zimbabwe.

The specific objectives were:

- 1) To strengthen the relationship of ZEC with its key electoral stakeholders;
- 2) To promote informed participation of citizens in the electoral process;
- 3) To promote accurate and impartial election reporting

3. THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- 1) ZEC's continuous engagement with electoral stakeholders and other confidence enhancing demarches are implemented;
- 2) ZEC's capacity for voter education is enhanced;
- 3) The media's capacity for balanced and accurate election reporting is increased
- 4) Management and administration of elections enhanced
- 5) EISA's electoral support to the ZEC is monitored
- 6) Strengthened EDR mechanisms for electoral dispute prevention and resolution at the national and provincial level.

4. BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAMME

Among the beneficiaries of the programme are the ZEC, CSOs, political parties, media, Chapter 12 Commissions and other statutory bodies as well as the citizens of Zimbabwe.

5. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The purpose of the evaluation is to draw lessons that will inform EISA's future support to the ZEC and its electoral assistance interventions across the continent Specifically, the evaluation should:

- (i) assess the quality of the overall programme;
- (ii) Assess the delivery of expected programme results, objectives and overall goal;
- (iii) Assess the nature, extent and overall effect of the "Support to institutional strengthening in the framework of the new constitution" Project to the Zimbabwe electoral processes;

- (iv) Identify factors which facilitated or hindered the achievement of results both in terms of the external environment and those internal to EISA and document lessons learnt. These should include but not limited to assessing the strengths and weaknesses in programme design (including the Theory of Change and Logical Framework), management, coordination, and human and financial resources;
- (v) Provide the key lessons learned and recommendations for future interventions.

This evaluation will focus on the period from July 2016 to April 2019. The key respondents of this evaluation are EISA, electoral stakeholders including CSOs, faith-based organisations (FBOs), media, political parties, donors and ZEC.

6. METHODOLOGY

Based on OECD DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation, the consultant will develop a suitable evaluation methodology that considers the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the programme, involving selected relevant stakeholders into the analysis. Considering the overall context of dynamism and fluidity that characterises the programme's operating environment, the analysis must also extend to the programme's sensitivity, adaptiveness and flexibility in response to changing political contexts and circumstances.

The consultant/s is expected to draw upon the following for data collection and analysis:

- Desk top research: programme reports, management and financial reports, and monitoring and evaluation documentation. This information will be provided by EISA
- Training materials, research, reports and publications produced as part of the programme's outputs. This information will be provided by EISA
- Key informant interviews with a sample of the programme beneficiaries in Zimbabwe
- Interviews with key EISA programme staff based in Harare and Head Office staff supporting the programme based in Johannesburg
- Interview the relevant donor staff assigned to the project

It is anticipated that the consultant/s will have one in-country visit to conduct interviews with local partners and beneficiaries outlined in this document. Some interviews can be conducted telephonically/skype, depending on the availability of identified key informants as well as logistical considerations. The review will be conducted over 10 days commencing on the 15th April and concluding on the 29th April 2019

7. DELIVERABLES

The consultant/s is expected to deliver the following:

- Evaluation Inception Report: this must present the evaluation framework and methodology including setting out a work plan and timeline within 3 days of signing the contract;
- Evaluation Draft Report: this should be submitted by the 27 April 2019

- Evaluation Final Report: this should be submitted by the 29 April 2019

8. SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant/s should have the following expertise and/or experience:

- Proven experience of evaluation of elections, political governance, and democratic governance programmes in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Knowledge and experience of developing and using theories of change;
- Knowledge of different approaches to programme evaluation;
- Proven expertise in use and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data;
- Sound evaluation record, including knowledge of international evaluation standards.

9. RENUMERATION

Interested and suitably qualified individuals must submit their CV outlining availability in line with the approximate timeline and indicate their daily rate in their applications.

10. ABOUT EISA

EISA is a non-partisan international non-governmental organisation established in 1996 focused on electoral services and political processes. Its core business is to provide technical assistance for sustainable capacity building of electoral management bodies, political parties, parliaments and civil society organisations operating in the democracy and governance fields in Africa. EISA also provides expert advice to its pan-African, regional and national partners throughout the continent, thus helping build solid institutional foundations for democracy. EISA has had and has field offices in 17 African countries.

8. APPLICATIONS

Applicants are invited to send their application and CV to Ms Ilona Tip, Operations Director: Email: ilona@eisa.org.za

Closing date is 11 April 2019, 17h00. EISA reserves the right not to appoint.