

Call for Expression of Interests

Final Independent Evaluation

Enhancing Rural Access (ERA) project (part of the EU funded Fourth Rural Development Programme (RDP IV))

Location:	Timor-Leste and districts of Ainaro, Aileu, Bobonaro, Covalima, Emera and Liquica
Application deadline:	31 December 2015, COB
Type of contract:	External Collaboration Contract
Post Level:	International consultant
Languages required:	Proficiency in English
Expected duration:	26 days in between 15 January to 25 March 2016

Background of the Project

The ILO implemented the Enhancing Rural Access (ERA) project since November 2012. The project is the part of the Roads for Development program (R4D) that was designed as the main donor-funded programme to support rural roads in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is one of the least developed countries in the regions. Its economy is essentially agriculture based with about 1.1 million people living in rural areas. Poor infrastructure, in particular, rural road network is the key constraint to the country's economic development. Another constrains is the country's inability to create employment opportunities. The ILO provided support to the identified national training institutions and delivered comprehensive training courses for local partners to ensure the project sustainability. Overall objective of the project was to improve access and income opportunities for rural communities through rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads by trained contractors. And the project was implemented in the Western part of the country including the districts of Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Emera and Liquica. It is due to end on 21st February 2016.

The project immediate objective is: "The access to rural community to services and to income opportunities is improved through the rural rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads."

The three Expected Results are:

- Labour-based rural road rehabilitation contracts effectively executed;
- Local civil works contractors and supervisors competent in contract management;
- Local civil works contractors and supervisors competent in labour-based rural road rehabilitation and maintenance.

2.0 Purpose of the Evaluation

As per ILO policy governing technical cooperation project management, a final independent evaluation is a mandatory exercise for projects exceeding USD 1 million, thus this evaluation is a part of the organisational and donor requirement.

The main purpose of this final evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the ERA project and to review the project's strategies for partnership with domestic partners and to identify opportunities, challenges, good practices and lessons learned that will be useful for strengthening and enhancing similar interventions in the region and to serve as an input to the design of the potential next phase of the project. The evaluation also supports public accountability of the Government of Timor Leste and the ILO.

3.0 Evaluation approach and schedule

The ILO's independent evaluations are conducted following the ILO Evaluation Policy and the Norms Standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group. The evaluation will be managed by an Evaluation Manager who is an ILO official with no prior involvement in the project, and will be overseen by the Regional Evaluation Officer based at the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). The evaluation will be led by an International Consultant (Evaluator – as a team leader) and supported by a local consultant. The evaluation will apply participatory approach by consulting and involving stakeholders and key partners throughout the evaluation process.

The evaluation will use a combination of methods and the final methodology will be determined by the evaluation team in consultation with the evaluation manager. The detailed methodology will be elaborated in the Inception Report

Main deliverables

Inception report: Following comprehensive desk review of the project documents, progress reports, the project published documents, mission reports and the mid-term review reports and interviews with concerned staff and the ILO appointed evaluation manager, the Evaluator will produce inception report including a methodological approach to address the key evaluative criteria and questions as given in the Terms of Reference.

Stakeholders workshop - presentation on the preliminary findings: Upon approval of the inception report, the Evaluator will conduct field missions in selected sites where the project is implementing its programme to interview key informants, ILO staff, representatives of regional organisations that are key project partners and beneficiaries at the national and provincial levels. At the end of the evaluation mission, the Evaluator will present the preliminary findings to the key stakeholders and ERA project management, to validate the information and data collected.

Draft and Final evaluation report: A draft evaluation report (as per ILO standard format) will be submitted to the ILO evaluation manager upon completion of work. Furthermore, the consultant will incorporate comments on the draft evaluation report as they deem appropriate and submit the final report including executive summary.

The evaluation will be carried out in between 15 January- 31 March 2016 with an inception report be available by 27 January 2016, a draft evaluation report (in English) be available by 24 February 2016,

and the final evaluation report should be available by 25 March 2016. The assignment will require travel to Timor-Leste and respective provinces where the project is being implemented. **The dates for field missions is planned between 1-12 February 2016.**

4.0 Professional requirements

Selection of the consultant for the evaluation will be based on the strengths of the qualification and experience provided by the potential candidates through their expression of interests (EOI) for the assignment. Interested candidates should include in their EOI:

- Curriculum vitae or details of their background and knowledge of project evaluation and of the subject areas and target countries of the evaluation (including knowledge of language).
- A list of previous research or evaluation experiences relevant to this assignment
- Statement of availability for the assignment and proposed professional fee (daily basis).
- The statement confirming no previous or current link to the project and no personal relationship with the people who manage the project.

Interested candidates for the Evaluator should have the following profile:

- An evaluation expert in the field of development field with demonstrated technical expertise in evaluation methodologies and previous proven skills and experience in undertaking.
- Expertise in M&E of development projects and programmes, with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the evaluation function of national and international organisations.
- Full understanding of the UN evaluation norms and standards and demonstrated experience in results-based management.
- High analytical skills with experience in conducting interviews and surveys and interpreting data and information.
- Demonstrated technical expertise in evaluation tools and methodologies and is sensitive to the needs and issues of varied stakeholders.
- Experience in working in Timor Leste will be desirable.
- Ability to synthesise and analyse concisely in English.
- Experience in evaluating road development project will be an asset.

The deadline to submit expressions of interest for the evaluation is by close of business on 31 December 2015. Expressions of Interest (EOI) should be sent by e-mail to the Evaluation Manager, Ms Miaw Tiang Tang at tang@ilo.org copy to pamornrat@ilo.org and indicate "ERA project -Final Independent Evaluation" in your email subject line.