** Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL)**

Expression of Interest (EOI) For Consultancy Services for Data Analysis and Report Writing.

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) is a member of a consortium of four agencies implementing a ten-month DFID-funded Accountable Grant on Public Financial Management, Revenue and Anti-corruption in Sierra Leone. Christian Aid is the lead partner, along with Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law, Restless Development, and Budget Advocacy Network (otherwise known as “the Consortium”).

In response to the threat of corruption to Sierra Leone’s development aspirations, the government and its international development partners are cooperatively working to combat corruption through effective anti-corruption strategies such as research and public education, prosecution and prevention. Corruption has an impact across the economy of Sierra Leone, affecting extractives and the private sector, government management of finances and procurement, down to petty corruption and bribes for access to services. Data from the ‘Pay no Bribe’ campaign shows that in just 2 years, over 71,000 people reported having to pay a bribe (this is an underestimate of the total, given the project isn’t nationwide and a significant number of cases are unlikely to be reported). High corruption and inadequate service delivery leads to lower motivation of citizens to pay tax.

As part of efforts to respond to the scourge of corruption and inform future anti-corruption strategies in Sierra Leone, the Consortium seeks to undertake a research aimed at gauging public perception, identifying persisting challenges in the fight against corruption, and making practical recommendations on how to respond to incidence of corruption, particularly in the public sector. The overall purpose of this exercise is to develop a credible and comprehensive report on public perception – including fears and hopes – about national response efforts to corruption. The report should capture gaps and opportunities for a more robust and effective response to the fight against corruption. The report should also capture public views regarding ongoing efforts to address the culture of impunity in the country, improve public discourse, influence the strengthening of accountability-based systems, and ensure improved compliance with recommendations by anti-corruption institutions.

Overall objective:

The overall objective of this exercise is to produce a credible, comprehensive report on citizens’ perception of the nature and extent of corruption, as well as ongoing anti-corruption efforts, in order to proffer practical recommendations on the gaps in and opportunities for addressing corruption in Sierra Leone.

**The Assignment:**

The consultant(s) will be required to play an active role in a research aimed at producing a report on public perception about corruption in Sierra Leone. Specifically, the consultant(s) will be required to facilitate a workshop of anti-corruption practitioners, business leaders, public servants, donors, and civil society leaders for the development of data collection tools. The workshop will last for a day, and it is expected that two sets of data collection tools will be developed at the workshop. The tools will be developed through a participatory process and once validated by both the consortium and other relevant actors, they will be used to collect data from the wider public as well as from key experts and practitioners. Restless Development, a consortium member, will hire and train enumerators who will use the survey questions to collect data across the 16 districts of the country. The consultant(s) will be required to analyse the large amounts of data collected across the country by volunteers of Restless Development and produce a comprehensive report with practical recommendations for anti-corruption efforts in the country.

Beyond the data collected the consultant will also be required to utilize existing but credible data compiled by both local and international organisations for the purposes of trend analysis and proffering useful recommendations on anti-corruption strategies. The consultant will also be required to supplement the data collected through a small number of expert interviews, to help identify and test findings and recommendations.

 Specific tasks:

* To participate in the development of data collection tools and methodology (comprehensive survey questionnaire and sampling frame) for research on corruption perception in Sierra Leone;
* To support the training of the data collectors in order to ensure they understand the survey questionnaire.
* Work with the consortium partners to a conduct field test of the tool and amend questionnaire accordingly
* Utilise existing sources of data and analysis on corruption perceptions through a desk review (list of main data sources below)
* Carry out a small number of expert interviews in Sierra Leone to test findings and recommendations
* To deliver a comprehensive research report comprising data collected via questionnaires and key expert interviews. The report should include key findings and practical recommendations for addressing corruption in Sierra Leone. The report should also breakdown analysis into different groups, to test differences in corruption perceptions by region/district, age groups, disability and between men/women.
* To give a presentation on the final report to a diverse audience of stakeholders.

In summary, the assignment is to cover the following key questions as far as possible within the time scale:

* What is the overall public perception of the nature and scale of corruption?
* Is there a sense of optimism about the government’s anti-corruption strategies?
* Does the public believe that the existing strategies are effective?
* What are the other strategies that the public think need to be implemented?
* What are some of the drivers of corruption?
* Which public sector institutions are perceived to be the most corrupt?
* Which public sector institutions are perceived to be the least corrupt?
* Which other public sector institutions – apart from the ACC – could be most useful in the fight against corruption
* Has the public been very supportive of the fight against corruption?
* Are there any differences in the perceptions of corruption between different groups in society?

**Audience and use:**

The report is intended to be used by government and non-governmental bodies such the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the President, Audit Service of Sierra Leone , Parliament of Sierra Leone, and service delivery sectors such as justice, health, education, energy and water. It should also be useful to donors, researchers, private sector and non-governmental organisations. It is also intended to be shared with members of the public to stimulate debate, enrich their knowledge and help them participate actively in the fight against corruption. The report should help the youth, women, girls and persons living with disabilities leverage their voices in the fight against corruption.

**Key Sources (non-exhaustive)**

* U4, Overview of Corruption and anti-corruption in Sierra Leone (<https://www.u4.no/publications/overview-of-corruption-and-anti-corruption-in-sierra-leone>)
* Data from the Pay No Bribe Campaign (<https://www.pnb.gov.sl/what-is-pnb/>)
* Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (full dataset at <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018#detail>)
* Global corruption barometer, – Africa, report and data (<https://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Joint/partner%20publications/ab_r7_global_corruption_barometer_report.pdf>

**Timetable**

* Finalised research proposal and survey instrument questionnaire (August 22nd)
* A comprehensive Survey Report (18th October)
* A summarized policy note (28th October)
* Powerpoint presentation and discussion of the survey findings in Freetown (8th November)

**Qualifications and competencies**

We are looking for a consultant or a team of consultants with extensive experience in research, survey design, data analysis and report writing. The consultant(s) should have over 10 years’ experience working on governance, economics and finance and anti-corruption, including experience in corruption perceptions and corruption work in similar contexts. Experience working in Sierra Leone will be an advantage. The consultants should have a degree in development, governance, economics or a related field.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Interested persons/firms should submit their applications to info@carl-sl.org or submit hard copies at the headquarters of the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law at 51 upper Brooke Street, Freetown on or before 30th July 2019. These applications should include timelines, budget and brief overview of the methodology they propose to use, including how they would draw up the sampling frame and survey questionnaire. A short note on the profile of the firm or a short bio of the consultants applying for the assignment and samples of previous work must accompany the applications.

For further information, please visit the CARL Website: [www.carl-sl.org](http://www.carl-sl.org) or send an email to info@carl-sl.org or contact 076-672841