



MASHRUUCA TAAKULAYNTA
ISGAARSIINTA
ICT SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT (P152358)
Project Implementation Unit

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST/APPLICATIONS

COUNTRY/STATE: Federal Republic of Somalia
PROJECT: ICT Sector Support in Somalia, Phase 2
GRANT NUMBER: P 152358
POSITION: Higher Education Network Specialist
TYPE OF CONTRACT: Individual Consultant, (International Hire)
REFERENCE NO: GFRS/ICT/2015-16/C2
DURATION: 60 days over the course of one year
DUTY STATION: Mogadishu
EXPECTED START DATE: On contract signature, expected February, 2016

The Federal Government of Somalia through the Ministry of Finance, through the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has received a grant from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to provide a program of ICT Sector Support, 2014-2018 and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract to be signed with individual consultants for the post of Higher Education Network Specialist to support the Higher Education Sector in Somalia.

The Federal Government of Somalia is the Recipient of the ICT Sector Support in Somalia program endorsed by the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) and funded under the Somalia Multi-Partner Fund (MPF) administered by the World Bank.

Under the second phase of the program, the World Bank Group on behalf of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is seeking to recruit an Individual Consultant as a Higher Education Network Specialist. The internationally recruited consultant will be part of a two-person Technical Support Team (TST), providing technical assistance focused on designing, advising, and monitoring the implementation of the establishment of a Somalia Higher Education Network, including support to the SomaliREN and the MPT as SomaliREN adjusts its governance structure to suit the roles and responsibilities of a mature National Research and Education Network (NREN) organizational body. The Network will focus on higher education network infrastructure, and include building out a national backbone and local loops linking to end-user institutions, as well as Points of Presence linking the national network to regional and global RENs (UbuntuNet and GEANT, respectively).

The Project Development Objective is *“to contribute towards the process of developing a regulatory framework for the telecommunications sector and building an ICT infrastructure in Somalia”*. The second phase of the project has three components:

1. Enabling Environment, focusing on supporting the regulatory and governance framework for the sector, following the anticipated passage of the new Communications Law. This will provide for ongoing support to the Ministry and new regulator and will facilitate a new activity on support for the implementation of an effective mobile-money framework.
2. Efficiency and equity in access to connectivity, which will support:
 2. 1.The establishment of a framework for SIM card registration;
 2. 2.The establishment of communications rooms in key ministries across different economic zones, including Puntland;
 2. 3.Supporting the Somali Research and Education Network (SomaliREN), including through provision of advance purchase of internet bandwidth and capacity-building
3. Support and Capacity-Building for the Project Implementation Unit within the MPT, and a Project Coordination Unit for local implementation in Puntland.

Sub-component 2.2, “Supporting Connectivity to the Higher Education Sector,” encompasses four sub-activities:

- (1) Bandwidth/connectivity support capacity for universities and tertiary institutions, through a demand aggregation scheme and via competitive tendering. This would be carried out in collaboration with Universities in the higher education sector, and with parallel financing from the AfricaConnect program. This high-speed bandwidth will also facilitate the interchange of education and research content between higher education universities, including, but not limited to SomaliREN member institutions. There is also scope for demand aggregation of international bandwidth requirements with component 2.3 (Communications Rooms for Ministries). Bandwidth in Mogadishu will be covered principally through the AfricaConnect program, whereas in the rest of the country a separate procurement would be carried out using the funds from the Bank program.
- (2) Construction of a Network Operations Centre (NOC) and a local distribution network (using a mix of fibre, microwave and satellite) used to manage and maintain the higher education network. This will include training and capacity building for NOC staff on the distribution of bandwidth (through a university internet exchange point), monitoring the performance of the telecommunication network, carrying out basic cybersecurity tasks, optimizing the network's performance, and facilitating billing, etc.;
- (3) Covering the costs of a counterpart investment of membership to enable Somalia to participate in the AfricaConnect21 program; and
- (4) Supporting training and capacity-building in particular to support the operation of the REN network by staff of the SomaliREN and by their local counterparts in each university served.

Detailed terms of reference for the post indicating expected consultant qualification and assignment duration are posted on <http://www.hiiraan.com>.

The Project Implementation Unit on behalf of the Ministry invites individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

Expressions of Interest and attachments: a CV, two referees and scanned copies of testimonials must be sent by email to piu.procurement@gmail.com. The Consultant shall make clear reference in the subject field specifying **Ref No: GFRS/ICT/2015-16/C2**, not later than **February 29, 2016, 14:00 hrs.**

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the latest revision of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grant by the World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011(revised July 2014) for individual consultants.

Mr. Mohamed Ware
Project Manager
ICT Support Project
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

