

TERMS OF REFERENCE
RESEARCH STUDY ON TRANSACTION COSTS

Organization	NEAR - Network for Empowered Aid Response www.near.ngo (Hosted by Adeso – African Development Solutions, www.adesoafrica.org)
Position Title	Consultant: Research Study on Transaction Costs
Reporting to	Executive Director - NEAR Network
Working with	NEAR Project Manager
Starting Date	June 2017
Closing Date	December 2017
Deadlines	August 11, 2017 – Draft presentation of initial findings December - Final Paper Due

ABOUT ADESO

Adeso is an expanding and vibrant African based international development and humanitarian organization. At Adeso, we work with African communities who are yet to realize their full potential; working inside these communities to create environments in which Africans can thrive. Our belief that economic, social and environmental security is the bedrock of a healthy community drives the nature and intent of our programming. We work to prevent and overcome situations that adversely affect community well-being by: reinvigorating the economy, developing skills for life and work, providing humanitarian aid, and influencing policy.

ABOUT NEAR NETWORK

Adeso together with other local and national NGOs have come together to form a global network which was launched in May 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. The network, NEAR (Network for Empowered Aid Response), is a movement of local organizations with a bold ambition – to reshape the top-down humanitarian and development system to one that is locally driven and owned, and is built around equitable, dignified and accountable partnerships.

CONTEXT

One of the NEAR’s goals is to contribute to the international body of knowledge and dialogue regarding effective implementation of humanitarian programs. As such, it will aim to strengthen SNGOs’ capacity to research and publish evidence-based publications that provide support for direct funding of SNGOs in relief work and awareness about SNGOs’ contributions to the global humanitarian system.

NEAR will work closely with think tanks and/or universities with research experience and international credibility to collaborate with southern research institutions to conduct a study on the work of local and national NGOs in *three* locations (Syria, Somalia, and either Nepal or South Sudan) and the financial flows to national actors. The proposed partnership between northern and southern organizations will provide an opportunity for the southern organizations to demonstrate capacity, learn, and increase their international recognition.

This north-south collaboration among the researchers will bring various perspectives that will enhance the quality of the work to be produced.

The results of this study will contribute significantly to the global humanitarian system's body of evidence regarding the most effective means of implementing relief work. As such, NEAR will use the information to advocate for policy and programming changes at the international level. To support this work, the network will pursue publication of study results in peer reviewed literature, which helps establish the credibility of results, stimulate discussion, and spur ideas for further scientific investigation.

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

- To strengthen SNGOs capacity to research and publish evidence-based publications that provide support for direct funding of SNGOs in humanitarian assistance and create awareness about their contribution to the global humanitarian system.
- To understand the amount of funding both directly and indirectly that goes to local and national humanitarian actors from international NGO's, UN agencies and the donor community in three countries: Syria, Somalia and either Nepal or South Sudan, over the course of one financial year, and to quantify the amount of funding by type (e.g. overheads, capacity development, etc.).
- To analyze the type of partnership in place between the donor and the local actors as per the Principles of Partnership.
- Strengthen the capacity of SNGOs to conduct research and publish evidence-based publications that provide support for direct funding of SNGO in relief work. To collaborate with southern research institutes.
- It is important that this research study on financial aid flows not only fill existing gaps but is heavily focused on answering questions that are relevant to affected people first.
- The research must also contribute to the growing body of evidence about the importance of shifting power and resources to affected communities and local organizations.
- Applicants can apply for one, two, or all three of the countries and will be selected based on capacity and budget.

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Develop sound methodology for the research.
2. Set up a reference group to ensure involvement of network members in design of the study, focusing on recent and long lasting emergencies where there have been large financial flows.
3. Support national researchers in analysis of the funding context for local and national humanitarian actors in Syria, Somalia and either Nepal or South Sudan. (Consultants can choose to apply for one, two or three countries.)
4. Engage and support national researchers to engage with international NGO's, UN agencies, and the donors based in Syria, Somalia and either Nepal or South Sudan, who are funding local and national humanitarian actors either directly or indirectly. (Consultants can choose to apply for one, two or three countries.)
5. Engage and support national researchers to engage with local and national humanitarian actors who are getting and those not getting direct and indirect funding from UN agencies, international NGO's and donors.
6. Research and document the amount of work being done by local actors in monetary value and the geographical reach of the population in need compared to how much has been raised by the international community in the name of the affected communities.
 - Thorough review of literature
 - In-depth case studies
7. Carry out at least 5 studies (Feasibility, Baseline Survey, and Program Evaluation) to identify areas that need improvement.
8. Provide recommendations on how to create a fiscal space that involves local actors and promotes local ownership, efficiency and increase local capacity to manage funding for humanitarian response work.
9. Identify what have been the best practices and what are the barriers for donors to provide funding directly, and for local actors to access funding.
10. Identify and analyze the different funding partnership modalities/mechanisms to local and national humanitarian actors in Syria, Somalia and either Nepal or South Sudan (e.g. available pooled funding modalities and national consortiums managing donor funding, etc.; consultants can choose to apply for one, two or three countries).

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience conducting summative evaluations of complex financial data; Demonstrable skills and experience in analyzing budgets expenditures and utilization at the national or regional and international level.
- Technical understanding of humanitarian financing and current humanitarian financing debates.
- Experience working with national and local organizations and actors.
- Excellent analytical, writing and synthesis skills; writing in accessible format.
- Ideally, have familiarity with Oxfam and Oxfam's evolving approach to policy and campaigning or similarly structured global social justice organizations.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications should be sent to jobs@near.ngo by **June 2, 2017** with 'Research Study on Transaction Costs' on the subject line. The selection committee will review all applications as they arrive. All applicants must meet the minimum requirements described above, and those unable to meet these requirements will not be considered.

Each application package should include the following:

An application letter addressing the selection criteria including how the consultant's previous experience matches the consultancy objectives as well as the interest for the position. It should also indicate the candidate's availability and consultancy rates. The letter should be no longer than two pages.

- A detailed full-fledged proposal detailing how the candidate proposes to undertake the whole exercise.
- A sample of recent work.
- Updated CV including relevant work experience and qualifications.
- Contact details of three (3) references.

Applications not including all of the above information will not be reviewed. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The NEAR Network is an equal opportunity employer