

## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

<b>Project:</b>	Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa ( <b>BGFA</b> )
<b>Project countries:</b>	Burkina Faso, Liberia, Zambia, Mozambique, Uganda, with possible extension to DR Congo ( <b>Project Countries</b> )
<b>Sector:</b>	Off grid renewable energy
<b>Funding source:</b>	BGFA via Nefco
<b>Type of contract(s):</b>	Consulting services: Component 1: Provision of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), and Component 2: Local institutional support services
<b>Type of notice:</b>	Invitation for expression of interest
<b>Issue date:</b>	20 September 2021
<b>Closing date:</b>	5 November 2021 at 16:00 hrs Eastern European time ( <b>EET</b> )

**Project/assignment description:** Nefco intends to contract a qualified service provider(s): a consultancy firm, international organisation, service provider or engineering firm or a consortium of organisations with in-depth relevant experience in Project Countries (“**Consultant**”) to undertake the provision of:

- (1) monitoring, reporting and verification (**MRV**) services related to contracted Energy Service Providers’ (**ESPs**) performance under BGFA, results-based finance (**RBF**) agreements for their provision of sustainable off-grid services; and
- (2) institutional technical assistance (**TA**) to local authorities and stakeholders to support ESPs’ project implementation through the development of business environment generally supportive of renewable off-grid services.

The purpose of the Assignment is:

- (1) to support Nefco in generally monitoring ESPs’ project implementation progress and verifying that results forming basis for ESPs payments request have been met; and
- (2) to provide TA support to local Government institutions relevant for the off-grid space in each of the target countries, including but not limited to, market and pricing systems development; policy, licensing and regulatory framework development while working with a range of local and international stakeholders (including local donor Embassies and other relevant off-grid space donors) with the aim to generally improve market conditions through a combination of capacity building and TA (excluding ESPs who are offered targeted business TA provided by a separate service provider), stakeholder outreach and market intelligence.

It is expected that the number of projects to be monitored under this Assignment will be up to 30 with an individual contract size ranging from EUR 1 million to EUR 4 million. The Consultant will work alongside the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the current BGFA Implementation Manager. Further information on the BGFA is available at <https://beyondthegrid.africa/>.

In order to meet the objectives of the Assignment, the Consultant shall undertake the following main activities/tasks:

For Component 1:

- General monitoring of ESPs’ implementation of BGFA funded projects ensuring progress in compliance with contracts signed between Nefco and the ESPs, including impact indicators and

targets in line with the BGFA monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework such as people's increased access to energy, number of jobs created, effects on women and girls and on youth and climate;

- Verifying that results/milestones forming basis for payment requests have been met; and
- Preparing annual status assessments, including review of financial reports.

For Component 2:

- Institutional support is envisioned to be modelled on, but tailored to local conditions, the Off-Grid Energy Task Force established in Zambia (under the pilot programme, Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia (BGFZ)) to engage a range of local and international stakeholders to improve market conditions through a combination of capacity building and TA, stakeholder outreach and market intelligence development;
- Continued support to the Off-Grid Task Force in Zambia and establishment of an Off-Grid Energy Task Force or similar in each of the other project countries, which gathers stakeholders from the government, donor agencies, finance, and the private sector to coordinate activities, share challenges and opportunities, and agree on priorities for action to strengthen the enabling environment for the off-grid market;
- While foreseeing that the Task Forces or similar ad hoc can also provide hands-on capacity building and TA to institutions on demand, it may also as appropriate establish thematic working groups e.g., to clarify and improve import regulations for solar energy products and appliances designed for use with solar home systems, draft policies to regulate the construction and operation of mini-grids, in consultation with the private sector, clarify land rights regulations to de-risk investment in mini-grids etc.

The Consultant is expected to put together a team with appropriate technical expertise in programme management, MRV and institutional TA of off-grid energy projects to successfully achieve the Assignment objectives in the Project Countries. The Consultant is expected to establish an appropriate physical in-country hub in each of the Project Countries from which one or more assigned experts will carry out the Assignment components outlined above.

**Assignment start date and duration:** The Assignment is expected to start in Q2, 2022 and last for up to 60 months, depending on the country programmes.

**Maximum budget available for the Assignments:** Up to EUR 7 million, or up to EUR 1.4 million p.a. (exclusive of VAT) to be tentatively divided up to EUR 5 million for Component 1 and up to EUR 2 million for Component 2.

**Eligibility:** There are no eligibility restrictions on the nationality of the Consultant.

#### **Consultant profile:**

The Consultant will be an organisation or a consortium of organisations with in-depth experience from supervising implementation of internationally financed, in-country based projects with strong emphasis on skills needed to provide MRV services in the SDG7 / decentralised energy access space. The Consultant is further expected to have particular experience from solar home systems and mini-grids (when applicable in a Project Country) and related environmental (including e-waste), climate, social and gender aspects in developing country contexts. Experience from design and delivery of programme monitoring services and provision of technical assistance to local stakeholders are essential and prior experience from off grid RBF instruments will be a clear advantage.

Critical success criteria will include, but not be limited to:

- The Consultant demonstrating a strong existing local presence (or willingness to set up such presence) in the Project Countries that can ensure effective and efficient delivery of the Assignment objectives;
- The Consultant appointing a highly experienced and qualified Team Leader and senior staff demonstrating appropriate skills, authority and understanding of the context and political economy of the Project Countries;
- The Consultant being able to show a strong track record in programme management and MRV of off-grid renewable energy access projects; and
- The Consultant showing organisational flexibility to retain key experts in Project Countries;

In terms of previous experience and financial standing, the Consultant should demonstrate:

- A minimum of 3 contracts of similar annual value, nature and complexity implemented in the last five years; and
- A minimum average annual turnover of EUR 3 million for the last three years for the lead consultant (contracting party).

Based on the fields of expertise and the tasks mentioned above, it is envisioned that the team of the Consultant should consist at least of the key experts listed below. Further, at least one of the listed key experts should be present in each Project Country, and the team should include:

- Team Leader
- MRV expert(s) in off-grid renewable energy access
- Institutional expert(s) in off-grid renewable energy access (including a Task force lead)
- Financial analyst
- Environmental, social & gender specialist

International and local experts proposed for the Assignment should have at least 5 years of experience in the renewable, and preferably within the off-grid energy sector, as well as prior experience from projects/programmes funded by international financiers. It is further expected that all proposed experts have excellent written and communication skills in English. Fluency in local languages, including French and Portuguese is required (where applicable).

**Submission requirements:** Interested Consultants (including consortia) are hereby invited to submit their expression of interest to Component 1 and/or to Component 2 and clearly indicate this in the submission. In order to assess the qualifications and competence of the Consultants seeking to be shortlisted, the information submitted should include the following:

1. Company profile, organization, and staffing concept for the Assignment; including an ability to mobilise an in-country presence and appropriate leadership and proposed experts for the Assignment for up to 5 years;
2. Details of experience with similar assignments related to the off-grid energy sector in Africa, including their locations, duration, funders, budget etc.
3. CVs of key experts available to work on the Assignment detailing education, language skills, qualifications, experience in similar assignments, particularly assignments undertaken in the previous five years, including information on contracting entity/client, project location/country, duration (months and years, from - to), expert months provided, assignment budget, main activities, accomplishments.

The above information shall not exceed 12 pages, excluding CVs.

The complete Expression of Interest (including CVs) shall be submitted in English in pdf file by email to Nefco at [procurement@nefco.int](mailto:procurement@nefco.int) with a copy to [tina.nyberg@nefco.int](mailto:tina.nyberg@nefco.int) to reach Nefco no later than the closing date. The e-mail subject field shall be marked with “BGFA Service Providers - Expression of Interest”. The expression of interest shall be one file (pdf) not exceeding 5MB in size.

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A short-list of up to 5 qualified and experienced Consultants will be made from responses to this notification for both Components. The short-listed Consultants are expected to be invited in November 2021 to submit the full technical and financial proposals from which the highest-ranked Consultant or Consultants (in case the Assignment is divided into two Components) will be selected. The same Consultant may be contracted for both Components.

Nefco reserves the right not to procure any services.