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**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

Département Agriculture, Environnement et Ressources en Eau

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources

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Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation

Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**SELECTION OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FIRMS BY A  
BENEFICIARY OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FRENCH  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**Note Prepared by the West Africa Food  
Security Support Program.  
(PASANAO)**

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## **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **SELECTION OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FIRMS BY A BENEFICIARY OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**Countries :** ECOWAS Region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Bissau Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo)

**Project's Name:** PASANAO

**Funding:** No CZZ-1431

**NAME OF THE CONSULTANCY SERVICE:** « Support for the design of a regional exchange and learning platform on West Africa Social Safety Nets.»

**Date:** November 14, 2014

## **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has secured financial support from the French Development Agency to fund Food Security Support Program in West Africa (PANASAO), and has decided to allocate part of the funding to the study "Support to the design of a regional exchange and learning platform on Social Safety Nets (SSN) in West Africa". This is the subject matter of this Call for Expressions of Interest.

ECOWAS calls for expressions of interest from international Technical Consultancy Firms (TCF) to provide the following services: i) Review of the existing SSN programs in the region; ii) support the development of a regional network for experience and knowledge exchange at regional level; iii) map the needs in terms of capacity building for regional stakeholders on SSN issues, and iv) develop a regional strategy to meet these needs.

Interested applicants shall produce information to support their qualification to deliver such services (brochures, references on the implementation of similar contracts, experiences in similar conditions, required expertise available within the company staff and network, etc...).

ECOWAS shall shortlist about six (6) TCF among applicants to this expression of interest, and send them a Call for Proposals for the provision of required services.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted by **December 05, 2014 at 12h 00** (Lome local time) in PDF format only, to the following e-mails

*amil-pasanao-araa@ecowas.int*

*ami1-pasanao-araa@gmail.com*

*Attention :Executive Director, RAAF»*

Only e-mail for further inquiries to:

- *Amadou Mactar KONATE – Coordinator, PASANAO*  
*(makonate\_araa@ecowas.int) or*
- *Massimo MARTINI – Permanent Technical Assistant,*  
*PASANAO([mmartini\\_araa@ecowas.int](mailto:mmartini_araa@ecowas.int))*

Not later than **November 28, 2014**,

## I. BACKGROUND

In West Africa, majority of the existing social safety nets (SSNs) are “reactive”: they are providing relief assistance to people affected by crises of various kinds. The crises that stuck West Africa over the past years and the gradual erosion of livelihoods have illustrated the limitations of such reactive mechanisms: often too expensive, standardized and difficult to implement at scale and on time. An alternative, or rather a complementary approach to reactive SSNs is predictable SSNs. Predictable SSNs are targeting of the populations based on vulnerability criteria rather than as a response to shock exposure. Predictable transfers to most vulnerable populations first aim at preventing crises, but they are also effective instruments to mitigate the impact of declared crises as they allow early transfers to people more likely to be impacted. Finally, predictable SSNs can contribute to achieve social transformation objectives: a) conditional transfers may favor the consumption of transformative services by excluded populations: credit, education, health, vocational training, b) by reducing the impact of risks on vulnerable populations, preventive safety nets may provide the environments for people to deviate from risk adverse strategies and promote investment. There are multiple experiences of predictable SSNs in West Africa. A majority of the countries in the region are trying to develop such programs, very often with the support of the World Bank. In order to: i) enhance the sharing of experiences between the various countries of the region ii) encourage the implementation of regional standards for the design and implementation of such programs, iii) develop a regional dynamics of motivating the institutionalization of such mechanisms within national food and nutrition policies, ECOWAS adopted the Regional Social Safety Nets Support Program in October 2013. The services to be delivered will support the implementation of this Regional Program.

## II. PURPOSE OF THE CALLFOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

This Call for Expressions of Interest aims at short list international TCF authorized to participate in a tender process for a study targeting:

1. Framing a regional SSN learning and exchange network.
  - Identifying the most relevant stakeholders to invite to a regional learning and exchange network, seeking the right balance between (1) the representatives of the most relevant state institutions in each country of the region, (2) the representatives of regional Institutions (RAAF, CILSS, WAHO, etc.), (3) non governmental stakeholders (IGOs, NGOs, Research Institutions, Consultancy

Firms) with the specific technical expertise, (4) the representatives of the private sector, and in particular from the financial sector.

- Facilitate the kick-off meeting of the regional network with a basic group of about 50 people.

## 2. Regional Diagnosis of capacity building needs for national stakeholders on SSN matters

- Assess needs in terms of capacity building of national stakeholders for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SSN programs. Several levels of analysis will be requested:
  - Differentiation of capacity building needs according to their nature: conceptual, technological, methodological, and institutional.
  - Differentiation of capacity building needs according to social safety nets types(e.g. conditional versus non conditional transfers, in kind transfer versus cash transfers, etc...).
  - Differentiation of capacity building needs according to stakeholders typology, (public, regional, national and local institutions; producers organizations, private sector, non-governmental organizations, etc...).

The study will be structured into **three phases**:

- Phase 1: Inception. Refining the methodological approach, Bibliographic review covering national SSNs programs within ECOWAS zone, haze and selection of 8 to 10 countries to visit during the consultation phase.
- Phase 2: Regional consultation. About 8 to 10 ECOWAS countries must be visited. In each country, organization of a consultation meeting inviting representatives of organizations (governmental and non governmental ones) involved in various SSN programs, with the aim to identify the needs of capacity building in terms of development, implementation and evaluation of SSN programs in the country.
- Phase 3: Reporting and launch of the Regional Network. preparation, facilitation support, drafting of the final report of the kick-off meeting of the regional network.

Three **deliverables** are expected:

- Inception Report, including : i) the methodological framework of the study, ii) the documentary analysis of the existing national programs, iii) the implementation plan of the regional consultation mission, iv) table of analysis of the national social safety networks.
- Final Report, including: i) mapping and classification of the existing SSN programs in the region, ii) mapping of the capacity building needs in the region, iii) strategy for a future regional capacity building support program , iv) identification of members for the regional learning and exchange sharing network, v) list of national and regional experiences relevant for capitalization and/or knowledge dissemination in the future.

- First regional network meeting report.

### **Mobilized Expertise:**

One or several experts, specialist(s) of SSN will be mobilized for about 75 working days. They will be supported by the experts of PASANAO (Coordinator and Technical Assistant) for the implementation of the study (finalization of the methodology, contacts with the resource persons/institutions in the countries, facilitation of consultation missions in some countries, etc.).

### **Time frame**

The study should start in January/February 2015 and be concluded before end of June 2015.

## **III. APPLICATION**

Applicants of this Call for Expressions of Interest shall produce the following documents in one folder:

- References (less than 5 years) for projects, studies or consultations related to social protection matters in developing countries
- References (less than 5 years) for technical assistance and capacity building in the topic;
- CV of potential experts including a senior consultant with the following skills
  - At least 15 year professional experience;
  - Sound knowledge of regional rural development policies as well as in-depth knowledge of national social policies and national food security and nutrition policies in several countries in the region.
  - Proven skills for analysis of national social protection policies.;
  - Experience in countries where such networks have been developed in the past is desirable;
  - Sound knowledge of French and English read, written and spoken.

At least 7 year of professional experience is required of the other available experts.

All written communication relative to this CEI shall be formulated either in French or English.