



Call for a Bilingual Consultant

Qualitative research on African realities on: fraternal cooperation, local leadership and decolonisation of aid.

July 2023- December 2023

Caritas Africa is inviting written technical and financial proposals from an individual consultant or an academic institution to carry out the assignment outlined in the Terms of Reference below.

Application process

The written proposal should comprise:

1. **A technical proposal consisting of:**
 - an up-to-date curriculum vitae, and
 - Research methodology and a workplan, (no more than 3 pages in total).
2. **Financial proposal indicating the amount to be charged for the assignment, which should be quoted in Euros.**

The proposal and any supporting documents, evidence of previous work must be in English or French.

Selection Criteria

Caritas Africa will place great emphasis on ensuring that the objectives of this assignment are met. The selection criteria will be based on: technical capacities, understanding of the humanitarian and development discourse and value for money.

The proposal should be submitted by e-mail no later than the close of business (17:00 UTC) on July 10. E-mail proposals should not exceed 10MB.

The email address is: secaf@caritas-africa.org

Timelines:

- Mid-July 2023: recruit a bilingual researcher (French/ English) with a background in social sciences and who understands the research topic
- August 2023: Inception meeting, define sample size and research methodology
- September 2023: data collection/ 6 Zonal reflection meetings
- October 2023: Data analysis, research validation
- November 2023: Copy editing, Review,
- December 2023 Publication



Terms of Reference

Background

This document summarises a series of research activities that will feed into conversations, dialogue and reflections on fraternal cooperation, local leadership and decolonisation of aid in Africa. The outcome document is intended for use by partners of Caritas in Africa working on the localisation agenda.

In the recent past, Caritas organisations have engaged in reflections on local leadership¹, fraternal cooperation, and decolonisation of aid². This stems from the calls to “shift the power and resources” from the north to south.

Caritas Africa region groups together 46 National Caritas organisations in 46 African countries including adjacent islands in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. All these organisations, including the Regional Executive Secretariat, rely on partner support and funding to realise their mission to serve communities in need and promote social justice. However, service delivery takes place in the context of a Western view to development³; exemplified by: unequal north-south power dynamics, resources still remain in the hands of a few, limited funding for local actors, knowledge from Africa is perceived as contextual, in some cases local organisations are perceived to “lack capacity” and, partnership quality is shaped by a donor-recipient relationship.

Notably some progress has been made to change the dynamics, they include: allocation by some partners program budgets towards capacity sharing⁴, facilitating direct linkages to the back donor, access to multi-year funding, increased representation of the global south in international fora and support towards core costs.

The opportunity

Caritas Africa in its general assembly launched a 7-year strategic plan that will run from 2024-2030. To build resilient communities in Africa, Caritas Africa intends to implement all activities through the lens of localisation and fraternal cooperation. Additionally, as part of its advocacy agenda strategic orientation 4, objective 3 calls for “*advocacy towards an enabling environment and support for local leadership, voice and influence in humanitarian and development sectors.*”

Research objective & questions

The overall research goal is to: examine the considerations of power and how Caritas organisations and other civil society actors envision a locally led system of development that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of those it purports to serve.

The research will respond to the following questions:

¹ Local voices must inform problem-solving and decision-making about development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding efforts. If not deliberately anchored in inclusion, localisation efforts risk either reproducing western leadership models and ideals or reinforcing dominant local power.

² See Caritas Africa report on localisation Key Trends and Opportunities in Humanitarian Localisation. Perspectives from Caritas Africa National Organisations.

³ Superiority and privilege of Western thought and approaches

⁴ Caritas internationalis localisation commitments 2% towards capacity



- What would a decolonised system or localisation look like at the Regional, National and Diocesan level?
- How do Caritas Member organisations and other CSO actors want their partners to take into account localisation and fraternal cooperation in their engagements with them?
- Based on the current context, what factors enable or hinder local leadership, decolonisation of aid and fraternal cooperation in Africa?
- What are the changes that are needed towards locally driven approaches and ways of working?
- What is the role of the bishops responsible for Caritas in the realisation of the aspirations of fraternal cooperation and local leadership?

Research methodology

The research relies on qualitative data from: existing literature, document analysis and; semi-structured interview questions (administered online- eg survey monkey , google forms or virtual calls).

Data will be collected through online platforms from: Caritas Africa member organisations, civil society organisations and faith leaders in Africa and, will be analysed through qualitative research methods.