

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NATIONAL CONSULTANTS FOR COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

Evaluation of FAO interventions carried out under the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), created in December 2005, provides loans and grants to United Nations (UN) agencies to support rapid reaction and response to alleviate the human consequences of emergencies, disasters and crises around the world. The UN Food and Agriculture Agency (FAO) is the fourth largest recipient of the fund and CERF funds represent the third largest source of funding for FAO emergency projects.

The FAO Evaluation Service is planning to conduct an in-depth evaluation of FAO CERF-funded interventions in 2009, focusing on project results and impact at country level. The evaluation will include a series of country case studies in the following countries: Burundi, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Niger, Madagascar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yemen.

In these countries, the FAO Evaluation Service is therefore calling for expressions of interest from national consultants with strong experience in conducting evaluations and surveys in rural areas.

Under close supervision by the FAO Evaluation Service, and following the guidelines and methodological approach which will be provided in-country during an initial orientation session, the team of national consultants in each sampled country will be responsible for:

- reviewing the documentation available at the FAO Representation on CERF-funded projects;
- assembling a map of project locations and a typology of interventions; purposively selecting 5 to 10 locations for field work;
- organising, selecting participants and facilitating focus group sessions with communities in each selected location to discuss the strengths, weaknesses and impact of the projects;
- conducting interviews with key FAO partners in programme implementation (NGOs, decentralised administrations and line ministry representatives at national level); and
- analysing the results and drafting a case study report.

The duration of the consultancy will be approximately three to four weeks and will be scheduled from May to September 2009, depending on the selected consultants' availability and the schedule of FAO initial orientation missions.

Essential Qualifications

Candidates must not have been involved in the design or implementation of any FAO project funded by CERF in the respective country. The selected consultants will possess:

- i. A university degree in social studies, agriculture or related disciplines;
- ii. Significant experience in social studies, surveys or evaluations in rural areas;

- iii. Excellent listening skills and an aptitude to pay due respect and attention to poor illiterate people in rural settings and to decision makers at national level alike;
- iv. Fluency in the major local languages spoken in the survey area, and in French, English or Spanish according to the country; and
- v. Qualitative data analysis and report writing skills.

Desirable Qualifications

- i. Previous experience conducting/taking part in independent evaluations;
- ii. Previous experience in the field of agriculture and rural development;
- iii. Work experience in emergency settings; and
- iv. Knowledge of FAO structure and its organizational/institutional mechanisms.

Application Process

Interested candidates should send their application by **Friday, 29 May 2009** by email to CERF-Evaluation@fao.org. Please specify “Application for CERF Evaluation” in the subject line.

Applications should be composed of the candidate’s detailed Curriculum Vitae or Personal History Form (available at http://www.fao.org/VA/vac_en.htm), and should include:

- i. Information on sex, age and nationality;
- ii. Expected daily fee rate (exclusive of expenses) – note that candidates will be required to provide evidence of rates for previous employment;
- iii. Availability between June and October 2009.

Applications from qualified women candidates are strongly encouraged.

Only those applicants being considered for appointment will be contacted.