

## Request for Proposals: Evaluation of Oxfam's work to increase citizen engagement and influence on agriculture policies and practices in Burkina Faso and Tanzania

### 1. Background, rationale and purpose of the evaluation

Smallholder producers in Africa manage up to 80 percent of farmland in Africa and are responsible for the majority of the food produced (FAO 2012). Despite the central role they play in local food systems, these farmers face a variety of challenges in producing enough food and income to meet the needs of their families and contribute to broader rural development objectives. They lack access to inputs and services such as quality seeds, irrigation, reliable weather information and extension services, and rights to land and other natural resources are weak as are redress mechanisms when conflicts arise. For women, who make up almost 50 percent of agriculture labor force in sub-Saharan Africa, the risks associated with smallholder farming are compounded by gender inequalities. The gender gap in agriculture - exemplified by reduced access to agriculture resources, few resources tailored to their needs/priorities and harmful social and gender norms, laws, and policies - all further disadvantage women, which leads to lower agriculture productivity and consequently fewer economic opportunities for women and lower food supplies for them and their communities.

In 2014, African governments renewed their commitments to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), to transform rural livelihoods and address poverty, including for women and men smallholder producers who make up a majority of those suffering from hunger. Despite this, progress against hunger has stalled and in Africa the number of people who are food insecure has increased since 2010. While African governments have committed under CAADP to allocate 10 percent of their budgets to the agriculture sector, only Burkina Faso and Ethiopia are meeting their spending targets, and for all countries there are issues related to poor quality of agriculture policies (e.g. lack of transparency and accountability, lack of gender sensitivity) and/or lack of implementation of policies.

In order to address these issues Oxfam has been working across a number of African countries to advocate to governments to meet their CAADP commitments, improve the quality of agriculture policies and increase government accountability for implementation of strong agriculture policies designed to benefit women and men smallholder farmers. Particular attention is focused on ensuring increased awareness of the role and importance of women farmers and improved policy and practices to benefit them. While the approach varies by country, Oxfam and partners seek through this work to create increased space and capacity for civil society and farmer groups, particularly women farmers, to engage directly with their governments to advocate for themselves and hold their governments accountable. In Tanzania Oxfam has developed an innovative approach to community empowerment and engagement, called the "animator model", through which community representatives are nominated to participate in an intensive program focused on building knowledge and skills related to accountability, negotiation and community mobilizing. These animators are then supported to apply these skills in their communities, leading citizens to take action and create change. In Burkina Faso, Oxfam and partners supported rural women leaders representing farmer's organizations and CSO's involved in the agricultural sector to develop the "Rural Women's Manifesto: 10 Measures to Build Burkina without Hunger", which has been the driving force behind a number of policy advocacy and campaign efforts. Oxfam and partners have used the manifesto and other opportunities to create platforms to enable dialogue between small holder farmers, farmer groups, and associations (particularly women) with political parties & politicians, government representatives, and media.

The purpose of the evaluation is to better understand the progress made and lessons learned in influencing policymakers and creating space for citizen engagement and influence on agriculture policies and practices in two of the core countries where this work is taking place - Burkina Faso and Tanzania. The primary audiences for the evaluation will be Oxfam staff and core partners<sup>1</sup> who are part of the agriculture advocacy and active citizenship work in Burkina Faso and Tanzania, as well as other countries in Africa. Secondary audiences include Oxfam management, other Oxfam teams engaging in this type of work, and Oxfam funders.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Confederation Paysanne du Faso (CPF), Colleege des Femmes (CdF), Union Nationale des Etuveuses de Riz (UNERIZ), Secretariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG) et Groupe de Recherche et d'Action sur le Foncier (GRAF)

## **2. Specific object and objectives of the evaluation**

The focus of the evaluation will be assessing progress made so far and on learning what Oxfam and core partners have done well and what should be done differently in order to be more effective in influencing policies and practices at the national and local level that affect women smallholder farmers and ensuring that women farmers are able to meaningfully engage with and influence decision-makers directly. In order to identify these lessons, we will also need to understand the areas where progress has been made so far (and the contribution of Oxfam and core partners) in influencing government policies and practices and increasing citizen engagement with policymakers, particularly of rural women.

The findings and learning from the evaluation will be used to inform the ongoing work and planning by Oxfam's agriculture advocacy teams in Burkina Faso and Tanzania, as well as other teams advocating for improved policies and practices for smallholder women farmers and/or aiming to improve citizen engagement and opportunities for direct influence on policymakers.

## **3. Key questions of the evaluation**

The focus of the evaluation will be on answering the following questions, while exploring particular areas of interest of the team, in line with Oxfam's overall learning agenda for this work.

- To what extent did the efforts of Oxfam and core partners influence the attitudes, policies and practices of government officials (at the national and local level) in terms of creating space for meaningful engagement of civil society engagement (particularly of women farmers) and policies and practices related to women and men smallholder farmers?
  - What outcomes have taken place in these areas? What is Oxfam and core partners' contribution to the key outcomes?
  - To what extent has citizen engagement, particularly of women farmers, had influence on policymakers?
- How can Oxfam and partners improve efforts to create space for women farmers and civil society to meaningfully engage with and influence decision-makers directly at local, regional and national levels?
  - What conditions need to be in place for women farmers and other citizens to engage in advocacy at local, regional and national levels? (e.g. skills and knowledge needed; logistical factors)
  - Which of the key strategies and tactics have been most effective in increasing rural women's access to government officials and/or influencing spaces and in what ways? Which have been less effective? How can this work be improved?
- How can Oxfam and partners be more effective in influencing decision-makers in terms of policy change and/or improved implementation of existing policies related to women and smallholder agriculture?
  - What conditions need to be in place for decision-makers to meaningfully engage with citizens and respond to their demands?
  - What sort of information sways the opinion of target policymakers? What or who influences them?
  - Which of the key strategies and tactics of Oxfam and partners have been most effective and how? Which have been less effective? How can this work be improved?
- Based on the learning, how can Oxfam and core partners improve our work going forward?

## **4. Scope of the evaluation and approach and methods, establishing the basic methodological requirements**

The evaluation will include a case study of each of the 2 countries, Burkina Faso and Tanzania, which provides answers to the evaluation questions (see the core questions above), as well as an overall

report that draws together lessons learned and recommendations across the two cases. In Burkina Faso, the evaluation will examine influence at the national and local level in target municipalities and will involve field work in target geographies. In Tanzania the evaluation will focus on national level influence by women farmers and local organizations, and will involve fieldwork primarily (if not entirely) in Doma that is aligned with a multi-day meeting that brings together community members from across the country who are engaged in Oxfam’s agriculture budget advocacy.

The evaluation team will be asked to propose methodological approaches that are appropriate for evaluating this type of advocacy and social accountability effort and which fall within the time and budget constraints of the contract. The Oxfam commissioning manager and advisory team will work with the evaluation team to refine and agree to a final approach.

## 5. Evaluation team:

The evaluator or evaluation team should have the following skills and competencies:

- Experience conducting evaluations of advocacy and social and political change processes
- Knowledge of and practical experience in the application of conceptual frameworks of analysis related to social accountability and gender
- Knowledge and strong experience in evaluation and data collection methods
- Very strong qualitative and quantitative analysis skills
- Excellent analytical, writing and synthesis skills
- Lead team members with fluency in French and English required, proficiency in Swahili strongly preferred.
- Experience in and understanding of the social and political context in Africa, particularly Burkina Faso and Tanzania and in relation to agriculture policy, preferred

Preference will be given to evaluation teams who have team members from or working in Burkina Faso and Tanzania; this may include short-term partnerships or in-country research assistants engaged for the purposes of this evaluation.

## 6. Schedule, budget, logistics and deliverables.

Schedule:

Deadline	Description
20 February	Expressions of interest due <u>by 11:59 Eastern Standard Time</u>
Week of 26 February	Interviews with eligible consultants
Week of 5 March	Consultant selected ; Sign MOU based on agreed scope and schedule and broad approach.
23 March	Consultant and Oxfam reach agreement on the inception plan, which includes the refined methodology.
30 April	Consultant completes data collection and analysis [note: data collection would involve trips to Burkina Faso and Tanzania]. Consultant presents preliminary findings for discussion with Oxfam staff.
11 May	Consultant conducts additional analysis and/or data collection, if needed. Presents draft report to Oxfam staff.
25 May	Consultant presents final report, executive summary, presentation materials (e.g. powerpoint, handout) data, and final invoice.

Deliverables:

- Finalized methodological approach, including refined schedule & deliverables (23 March 2018)
- Preliminary findings & verbal presentation (30 April 2018)
- Draft final report, draft case studies for Burkina Faso and Tanzania & verbal presentation (11 May 2018)
- Final report, final case studies, executive summary, presentation materials (e.g. powerpoint, handout), raw data, and final invoice (25 May 2018).
- 2 validation workshops with Oxfam staff, core partners and other key stakeholders, 1 each in Burkina Faso and Tanzania (details and timing, to be determined with the evaluation team & Oxfam staff)
- 3-5 presentations/webinars to present and discuss the final results and recommendations with Oxfam staff, core partners and key stakeholders (details and timing to be determined with the evaluation team and Oxfam staff)

*Note: Please note that all presentations with and draft materials for the Burkina Faso team will need to be in French, and we will expect all final products to be in both French and English.*

Budget:

The preliminary proposal/expression of interest should fall within the allocated budget of \$33,000 USD, including leeway for unforeseen events. Proposals will be compared to each other with respect to the feasibility, rigor, and efficiency of proposed methods within this budget limit. It is expected that this will include travel costs to and within both Burkina Faso and Tanzania for data collection, and translation/interpretation services if required.

**7. Process of the selection of the evaluator or evaluation team and expectations for evaluation proposal**

Oxfam invites bids from individuals and groups of individuals with the experience and skills described above. Please send the following to Lisa Hilt at [lisa.hilt@oxfam.org](mailto:lisa.hilt@oxfam.org) by 20 February 2018, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time:

- a brief 2 to 3-page expression of interest with a description of the proposed methodological approach, description of deliverables, a proposed budget, and a brief summary of qualifications
- A CV detailing relevant skills and experience of no more than 4 pages, including contactable referees (if a group, a CV should be submitted for each member of the evaluation team)

Phone interviews with eligible candidates will be held between 26 February and 2 March 2018. Final selection will be made the week of 5 March 2018.

Proposals will be reviewed and selections made based on the following: (1) Quality of the methodological proposal, (2) Profile and competencies of the evaluation team and (3) Suitability of the proposal in terms of budget and timeline