



CARIBBEAN (NGO) POLICY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CPDC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP AND FORMULATE: ONE RESEARCH PAPER TO INVESTIGATE THE IMPACTS OF SOVEREIGN DEBT AND CLIMATE-RELATED EVENTS ON VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE CARIBBEAN

I. BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) is a legally registered non-profit headquartered in Barbados and established in 1991. CPDC serves as a regional umbrella NGO for organisations comprising of small farmers, women, youth, Indigenous People, rural populations and faith-based organisations located across CARICOM. CPDC also has strong networking partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities, artisans, micro-entrepreneurs, human rights, and workers. Altogether, it serves some thirty-five (35) regional, sub-regional and national (local) NGOs working at the grassroots level in economic, social, and cultural areas in the Caribbean. The Centre also has working relationships with many other NGOs and development partners across the region.

The organisation was mandated to work with NGOs and civil society to understand how policies affecting Caribbean people are made; to share information about policies and decision-making processes; to work to influence and bring change to the developmental process, and to support and to lobby for policies which improve the lives of Caribbean people. In fulfilling its mandate, the CPDC seeks to build the confidence and the ability of the Caribbean peoples to influence public policy.

Funded by the Open Society Foundation (OSF), CPDC has implemented a project entitled “Confronting the Debt Challenge within the Caribbean, Charting a Sustainable Path for Caribbean Development”. The project aims to coordinate a Caribbean civil society solutions-oriented regional policy and advocacy strategy to highlight and address the adverse effects of high debt levels exacerbated by public health crises, climate change effects, and the historical development deficits caused by the structural vulnerabilities of Small and Vulnerable Developing States (SVDS). CPDC through this advocacy campaign, is aiming to build a case for Caribbean Debt relief and restructuring based on its inherent climate and economic vulnerabilities.



II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Consultant is expected to provide thematic technical assistance to the CPDC to increase access to development solutions and primary information on the effects of high national indebtedness and climate-related disasters on vulnerable groups in the Caribbean. In this context, the paper will examine the vulnerabilities of marginalized social sectors in the region and proffer advocacy strategies and policy solutions to address the social and developmental needs of these groups.

Vulnerable groups can be defined as populations with specific characteristics that make them at a higher risk of falling into poverty than others living in the same area. These groups are often less able to participate effectively and, in some cases, have little negotiating power to articulate their positions. Traditionally, these groups have been the victims of violations and accordingly require distinctive protection for the equal and effective enjoyment of their human rights. These groups include the elderly, Indigenous Populations (IPs), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), At-risk children and youth, Individuals and households affected with HIV/AIDS, Women, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Groups, Sex workers, Victims of sexual exploitation and/or abuse, Homeless and those excluded because of economic standing, migratory background, ethnicity, cultural beliefs.

The Consultant will serve as an external contractor functioning in a research capacity to ensure a coordinated approach to implementing research and developing a research paper. The candidate should have appropriate, relevant experience working on Climate Change and Social Developments with knowledge of economics.

General Objective

1. To undertake an assessment report on vulnerable groups in the Caribbean to highlight the impacts of unsustainable sovereign debt and climate-related events on their lives, to inform gender-sensitive policies and programmes focused on addressing the development needs of marginalised groups.

Specific Objectives

1. To contextualize the current development concerns and challenges experienced by vulnerable populations in the Caribbean Region using, but not limited to, the following indicators:
 - a) Poverty and social inclusion
 - b) Unemployment rates
 - c) Cost of living



- d) Access to health, long-term care and social protection
2. To identify the vulnerabilities of marginalized social groups in Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica and Jamaica, and examine the impacts of national debt and climate-related events on their livelihoods and standard of living for the period 2010-2020. The assessment should utilize gender analysis to investigate the following indicators and any other key statistics recommended by the consultant:
 - a) Analyze the effects of sovereign debt on the provision of social programs and social safety nets for vulnerable groups, highlighting the implications on their lives
 - b) Identify the main social and economic impacts that natural disasters have had on the livelihoods of vulnerable populations
 - c) Identify the primary social service and other developmental needs of vulnerable groups as it relates to mitigating and responding to the effects of natural disasters
 3. To analyze the key development challenges raised by vulnerable groups and develop policy responses for sovereign governments and civil society organisations to mitigate and remedy the aforementioned issues
 4. To develop a summary report and a 10-12 page slideshow presentation based on the findings of the assessment report.

III. PROFILE/CONSULTANCY QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

The Consultant/s is expected to have the following qualifications/specialised knowledge/experience required to complete the task:

Qualification and Experience

- A relevant post-graduate university degree in Economics, Development Studies or a related field with at least seven years of experience in Macro Economic Policy

Other Experience and Knowledge Requirements

- Minimum of seven years progressively responsible professional work experience within the, Economic Sector, economic and/or fiscal policy and research, NGO sector or donor institutions, and in project administration,
- Proven experience undertaking participatory research processes
- Excellent written and spoken English



- Excellent knowledge in the use of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.).

IV. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Consultancy shall be for the period 5 December 2022 – 7 April 2023

V. DELIVERABLES

The Consultant is to produce deliverables as below:

- An inception report including the breakdown of the approach to the assignment within five days of contract signing
- A draft of the research paper by 27th February 2023
- A second draft of the research paper by 24th March 2023
- A final draft of the research paper by 5th April 2023

VI. MANAGEMENT

The Consultant will be directly supervised by the Officer in Charge or a designate.

VII. CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP OF FINAL OUTPUT

The Consultant may not disclose any private CPDC information revealed in the course of this assignment. The Consultant has no legal claim on any products resulting from this assignment for which payment has been duly made.

VIII. VIII GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS

Interested persons are requested to submit the following:

- A cover letter to the attention of the Officer in Charge, Caribbean Policy Development Centre
- Evidence of the applicant's history of delivery of similar programmes; and **Examples of similar work**
- A Technical and Financial proposal outlining the cost for the undertaking of the assignment. The Financial Proposal should provide details of the costs broken down by days/tasks against proposed outputs. The Technical Proposal should outline the technical needs and requirements for the consultancy.

Submissions are to be sent to the Caribbean Policy Development Centre via electronic mail - cpdcsubmissions@gmail.com with the subject line: **Consultant to Develop and Formulate: One Research Paper to Investigate the Impacts of Sovereign Debt and Climate-Related Events on Vulnerable Groups in The Caribbean.**

All applications must be submitted by 18 November 2022 by 5:00 p.m. (UTC/GMT -4).

CPDC will only respond to the successful applicant(s). Only persons meeting the criteria as outlined in Terms of Reference should apply.