1.0 Introduction

1.1 About PEN

PEN is a Kenyan Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered since December 2001 as Poverty Eradication Network. PEN believes that a strong civil society sector is fundamental to the development of any country and its ability to have sustainable impact upon poverty. PEN was established to contribute towards the eradication of absolute poverty in Kenya, through building and strengthening the institutional capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and other not-for-profit organizations and public institutions. See more at: https://penkenya.org/

1.2 Background

The civil society in Kenya continue to play an important role in promoting good governance and encouraging public participation at the county level. However, these efforts are often uncoordinated and poorly implemented. In this regard, the project plans to commission a baseline study on the state of engagement between the county government and civil society actors. This baseline report will inform the project’s interventions based on the best practices and lessons identified to strengthen the various CSO networks as well as establish engagement frameworks where none exists for an effective government – civil society engagement.

2.0 Objectives of the Assignment

The main objective of the assignment is to develop a Baseline Study on the engagement between County Governments and the Civil Society Organizations in Kenya. Specifically, the consultant will be expected to:

- Conduct a baseline study on the status of the engagement between County Governments and the CSOs in Kenya with a specific focus on select counties (8 counties) documenting relevant case studies.
- Develop a report with key recommendations on frameworks and modalities to enhance County Governments – Civil Society Organizations engagements.

3.0 Scope of the Assignment

The assignment is expected to run through the months of October and November 2022.

- Review case studies on County Government – CSOs engagement;
- Review relevant laws, policies and guidelines such as County Government Act (2016), Public Participation Guidelines, Access to Information Act, etc.
- Work with Research Assistants who will develop county-specific case studies for inclusion into the baseline report.
- Make a presentation of draft report in a half-day validation workshop.

4.0 Deliverables
The consultant will be expected to deliver the following:

- Draft baseline study report on the status of the engagement between County Governments and the CSOs in Kenya.
- Facilitate a half-day validation workshop
- Final baseline report after consideration of the feedback from the validation workshop

5.0 Qualifications and Experience

- A degree in social sciences with five years of experience working with the devolved governance structures in Kenya with a particular focus on civil society engagement
- Previous experience conducting baseline studies for the civil society sector, especially on democracy and governance.

6.0 How to Apply

For consideration, please submit an expression of interest (and inclusive of methodology, experience, and financial proposal) no longer than 8 pages, and 2 – 3 samples of previous work in English with the email subject ‘EoI – CSO – County Government Engagement Baseline’ to info@penkenya.org by October 21, 2022 (close of business, Nairobi time). Applicants, if shortlisted, will be required to subsequently submit references.

Due to high volumes of applications received, should you not have received feedback on your application within one week of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful. We reserve the right to withdraw any of our vacancies at any time.