



Terms of Reference - Final Project Evaluation Consultant

Countering Internet Fragmentation through Civil Society Engagement
and Advocacy (CIF)
18 November 2024

Global Partners Digital is seeking to contract an external evaluation consultant to conduct a final project evaluation of the project “Countering Internet Fragmentation through Civil Society Engagement and Advocacy”.

About Global Partners Digital

Global Partners Digital (GPD) is a social purpose company working at the intersection of human rights and digital technologies. We work to ensure that human rights underpin how we develop, use and govern digital technologies. Through advocacy, partnerships, capacity building, networks, and research, we shape rights-respecting laws and policies and help build a more diverse digital policy ecosystem.

Background

The project *Countering Internet Fragmentation through Civil Society Engagement and Advocacy* has been implemented by GPD and civil society project partners over the last two years. The project is funded by the US State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (US DRL).

The project aims **to counter Internet fragmentation and enable an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet that promotes and protects human rights.**

Its objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: To strengthen the capacity of civil society to counter Internet fragmentation.

Objective 2: To strengthen the alliance of stakeholders to counter Internet fragmentation.

Objective 3: To shape the outcomes of relevant technical standard-setting bodies to counter Internet fragmentation.



Evaluation objectives and scope

The objectives of the mid-term evaluation are to:

1. Assess the project's design and performance regarding relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability (adhering to OECD DAC criteria).
2. Identify key project successes for target groups, both project partners and the wider community, specifically capturing:
 - a. High-level and incremental changes within the project (especially regarding global advocacy efforts).
 - b. Changes to partner capacity and engagement achieved throughout the project.
3. Capture lessons learned and recommendations for the project's design, operation, and implementation to inform potential future programming. The evaluation should seek to understand operational challenges and identify opportunities for project design and management improvements.
4. Formulate recommendations for future project engagements, with a special focus on
 - a. Highlighting what project activities and interventions should be expanded and amended or reduced to strengthen the impact of future project work
 - b. Outline what additional interventions or engagements could be provided to support project partners and strengthen advocacy engagements.

Deliverables and Methodology

The evaluation should include the following deliverables:

1. An Evaluation Report (12 – 15 pages); analysing the project's main achievements, lessons learned and recommendations for future work;
2. An online presentation of the report to the GPD project team.

The evaluation will comprise of an estimated 15–20 days of work, which should include, but are not limited to, the following elements:

- Collaborative development of evaluation questions, together with the GPD project team and drafting of the initial evaluation plan.
- Desk review of relevant project documentation, reports, mid-term evaluation and data.
- Interviews and/or surveys with relevant project stakeholders (approx. 9–12), including:
 - GPD project team;



- Funder / Project Grants Office Representative at the DRL;
- Global South civil society project partners (subgrantees);
- Project consultants; and external project allies/collaborators.

Timeline and Schedule

GPD anticipates that the evaluation will take place from the end of November 2024 until 30 January 2025.

Budget

The total budget for the evaluation is **USD 12,000** (inclusive of VAT).

Requirements and Proposal Process

GPD is seeking an experienced evaluation consultant with knowledge of digital policy and human rights. Knowledge of technical standards setting is desirable. We encourage applications from individuals living or working in global South countries.

Please indicate your interest by emailing Keerti Rajagopalan <keerti@gp-digital.org> with "CIF Evaluation Proposal" as the subject line. Proposals should include:

- CV including relevant evaluation and field experience
- Short proposal (1-2 pages), incl. proposed methodology, work plan and draft evaluation questions
- Available dates and rates
- Names and contact details for 2 references from evaluated organisations

The deadline for applications is **6pm UTC on 25th November 2024**.