



Pooled Funding models: Governance systems and operational aspects

Consultancy Description

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| Location | Dakar or home-based in a similar time zone |
| Contract | Consultancy |
| Starting date and duration | Phase 1 until September 15, 2023 Phase 2 in 2024 |

About ICVA

Founded in 1962, ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) is a global network of over 150 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in 160 countries, operating at global, regional, national, and local levels, whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice. ICVA promotes and facilitates effective NGO engagement in the humanitarian sector, with a focus on Forced Migration, Humanitarian Coordination, Humanitarian Financing, and cross-cutting system-strengthening issues.

Background to the consultancy

Many donor governments, in line with their Grand Bargain commitments, place an emphasis on pooled funds as an opportunity to channel funds to local partners when direct funding is seen as too difficult. Under the [Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) work organized through the IASC, pooled funding of all types – both through OCHA and other sources – was also highlighted as part of the solution to channel funds faster to frontline humanitarian responders.

This increased attention to pooled funding has led to the emergence of new models and approaches led by a variety of actors. These include the new Regionally hosted Pooled Fund model of OCHA in West and Central Africa, Start Fund, NEAR Change Fund, the new NGO-led Sahel Regional Fund, among others. While the range of pooled funding options have started to expand and overall funding to both new and original pooled fund mechanisms continue to grow, there are also several challenges to address.

Through this consultancy, ICVA is seeking to assess the governance system of the NGO-hosted and NGO-led [Sahel Regional Fund](#) (SRF) and its added value against other new pooled funding models, develop forward-looking recommendations towards an independent governance system of the SRF, and compile good practices and lessons learnt from other pooled funds. In a second phase, ICVA will seek to assess the relevance of the operational model of the SRF, in comparison with other pooled funding models, will be developed.

Consultancy objectives

First, there is a need to assess the governance model of the NGO-hosted and NGO-led Sahel Regional Fund. The consultant will be expected to:



- Complete a comparative analysis of the governance model of the Sahel Regional Fund against other pooled fund models (Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa, START Fund and Aid Fund for Northern Syria) to assess the added value of the SRF governance model.
- Compile good practices and lessons learnt from other pooled funds' governance models, aiming at enhancing access to, efficiency and impact of pooled funds to the benefit of people affected by crisis.
- Develop recommendations for an independent and efficient governance system governance system of the SRF.

Second, there is a need to assess the relevance of operational model of the Sahel Regional Fund and its complementarity with other pooled funding models (Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa, START Fund and Aid Fund for Northern Syria).

Consultancy outputs

In support of the first objective, the consultant will develop a single report by September 15 articulated around three dimensions:

1. A comparative analysis of the governance model of the Sahel Regional Fund against other models ([Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa](#), [START Fund](#) and [Aid Fund for Northern Syria](#)), assessing the added value of the SRF governance model, including the accessibility by NGOs (particularly local partners), inclusiveness and timeliness of allocation and disbursement of funds.
2. A compilation of good practices and lessons learnt from other pooled funds' governance models – organizational/mandate-driven and independently administered.
3. A set of recommendations for an independent governance system of the Sahel Regional Fund.

In support of the second objective, the consultant will develop:

4. A written comparative analysis of the relevance of the operational model of the Sahel Regional Fund as a vehicle for effective humanitarian financing against the criteria of strategic relevance of fund allocation, flexibility to respond to sudden onset emergencies, cost efficiency, risk management, quality of partnerships, evaluation, and learning (MEAL), promotion of innovation, and knowledge-sharing.

Methodology

Desk review of existing documentation; key informant interviews with NGO field staff, OCHA Country-Based Pooled Funds staff, NGO-led pooled fund staff, and others as appropriate; and close collaboration with the ICVA West and Central Africa Representative, the ICVA Humanitarian Finance team and other Policy Team colleagues and Regional Representatives as appropriate.

Reporting lines

The consultant will work jointly with ICVA West and Central Africa Representative based and report back to them.



Consultant requirements, competencies, and skills

- Expertise in the humanitarian sector and an established understanding of how humanitarian pooled fund works – ideally through practice experience interacting with pooled funds.
- Experience in planning research work, conducting key informant interviews, literature reviews and documenting results.
- Fluent in English and conversational French with proven writing and editing skills, including the ability to develop materials ready for publication with limited external editing.
- Proven ability to work autonomously and/or in a virtual work environment and meet agreed deadlines with limited direct oversight.

Note: Throughout the work, the consultant must be registered in accordance with legal requirements in their country of residence and must be able to submit documentation that proves that they are meeting all legal obligations for the consultancy, including full compliance with ICVA regulations and its safeguarding policy.

ICVA's selection process includes rigorous background checks and reflects our organizational integrity and commitment to make humanitarian action more principled and effective.

Applications including a cover letter describing relevant experience and skills, CV (resume), and proposed planning and daily consultancy rate should be sent by email to Recruitment5@icvanetwork.org.

The closing date for applications is June 14th COB.