

Terms of Reference - Mid-Term Project Evaluation Consultant

Global Partners Digital
January 2024

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

Global Partners Digital is seeking to contract an external evaluation consultant to conduct a mid-term project evaluation of its project, “Countering Internet Fragmentation through Civil Society Engagement and Advocacy” (CIF).

Background

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.

About the Programme

GPD is currently implementing the project *Countering Internet Fragmentation through Civil Society Engagement and Advocacy*, which runs for two years and is funded by the United States’ State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. GPD is seeking to contract an external evaluation consultant to conduct a mid-term project evaluation, following the first year of project implementation.

The project has the overall goal to **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.

Deliverables and Methodology

The evaluation should include the following deliverables:

- A Mid-Term Evaluation Report (10 - 12 pages); reviewing the project design and implementation from its start in October 2022 to December 2023. This should particularly include a review of the project design and management to assess the

relevance, suitability and sustainability of the project activities and management. The review should further outline challenges, lessons and recommendations for the remainder of the project's lifetime and similar future programming.

- An online presentation of the report to the GPD project team.

The evaluation methodology should include but not be limited to:

- Desk review of relevant project documentation and data (provided by GPD)
- Interviews with relevant project stakeholders, including (approx. 5–9 interviews).
 - GPD project team;
 - Funder / Project Grants Office Representative at the DRL
 - Global South civil society project partners (subgrantees); and
 - External consultants.

Evaluation Objectives and Scope

The objectives of the mid-term evaluation are:

1. To assess the project's contribution to the stated goal, objectives and planned outcomes.
2. To identify key successes and achievements achieved through the implementation of the project to date.
3. To provide a clear set of lessons learned and recommendations for the remainder of the project's lifetime and similar future programming.

In particular, and relating to the first objective mentioned above, the evaluation should adhere to the OECD DAC Criteria and take into account the project's relevance, cohesion, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact – to the extent these criteria can be assessed at this mid-way point. The assessment of change should include direct or indirect, high level or low level, intended or unintended change.

In addition, GPD would like the evaluator to consider the following questions in their recommendations:

- Can the project provide additional/improved support to the global South civil society partners in their capacity building and engagement at technical standards setting bodies? If so, how?
- How can GPD better capture, measure and communicate incremental capacity and advocacy change taking place under the project?

Timeline and Schedule

Start Date:	05 February 2024
Due Date:	15 March 2024

Budget and Payment Schedule

The total budget available for the mid-term evaluation is USD 5,000 (inclusive of VAT). The fixed fee will be paid according to the following payment schedule:

- 50% of the value of the contract upon start of the contract
- 50% of the value of the contract upon completion of the work

Award Criteria

The contract will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Relevant qualifications and experience
- Strength of the proposed work plan
- Rates and Total Cost
- Availability during the outlined evaluation timeline

Requirements and Proposal Process

GPD is seeking solicited proposals for this mid-term project evaluation from experienced evaluation consultants with expertise in 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> and Daniela Schnidrig <daniela@gp-digital.org> with "Proposal for CIF Mid-Term Evaluation" as the subject line.

Proposals should include:

- CV including relevant evaluation and field experience
- A short proposal (2–3 pages), including:
 - Proposed methodology and work plan
 - Available dates
 - Rates
- Names and contact details for 2 references from evaluated organisations

The deadline for applications is **25 January 2024**.