Call for Expressions of Interest
Technical Support for Integrated Evidence and Tailored Dashboards for Data-Driven Decision-Making

About CAMFED

Founded in 1993, CAMFED is an award-winning pan-African movement and NGO revolutionising how girls' education is delivered. To do this we have established a gold-standard system of accountability to the young people and communities we serve, and have created a model that radically improves girls' prospects of becoming independent, influential women.

The organisation operates as a global consortium. Operations are led in our Africa offices in Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – and soon Kenya. You can learn more at https://camfed.org/

CAMFED has ambitious plans to further scale our operations and support improved education and livelihoods opportunities for all young people. We track and evaluate our performance across a range of monitoring, programmatic, financial and research metrics.

About the project

CAMFED is committed to ensuring meaningful use of our evidence base, including by the young women and community partners who lead the work. The CAMFED Association has 280,000 members and over 25,000 stakeholders contribute evidence to our program database. We work in over 176 districts across five countries, with over 6,500 partner schools. We are committed to working collaboratively with government and strategic partners to improve education for all children. That means ensuring that relevant, accurate evidence and analysis is available for a range of different stakeholders and audiences in a timely fashion.

We have identified a strategic opportunity to further strengthen our evidence systems in order to better serve the needs of all stakeholders engaged in delivering education and livelihoods at the levels of both direct implementation and systems transformation.

We intend to initiate a project to develop improved processes and systems around data collection, collation, storage, assurance, analysis, presentation and easy access for relevant stakeholders. This will allow us to more easily evaluate performance and impact, in a more timely and flexible fashion, providing shared understanding across all our teams and a strong basis for informed decision-making and taking actions.

To lead this work, we are seeking to engage an independent external consultancy partner with expertise for MERL (monitoring, evaluation, research and learning) data science, user experience and delivering data technology solutions.

The partner should have experience of working with globally distributed organisations and projects in Africa. There is likely to be a requirement to travel to some of our locations in order to consult with colleagues and stakeholders. All work must be conducted in line with CAMFED's child protection, safeguarding and ethical guidelines.

Scope of work

We are considering the project in two phases - an initial scoping phase, and a second delivery phase. In the first instance, we wish to contract a partner for the scoping phase.

We expect that one of the key outputs during the scoping phase will be a menu of evaluated and costed options to pursue and ultimately a projected delivery plan. There will be the opportunity for the chosen partner to also fulfil part or all of phase two if appropriate, though any decisions about that will be contingent on the outcome of the scoping work and our required procurement criteria.

Within the scoping phase, there are two distinct aspects: A) data processes / systems, and B) user interfaces / data visualisation.

A) Data processes and systems
We wish the partner to identify and document the existing sources of data, nature of the data, methods of collection and processing, location(s) stored and details of the relevant systems used to collect, process and store. This will be informed by conversations with enumerators sharing data, MERL and IT team members, analysis of systems, tools and existing documentation of KPI data sources, methodologies and analysis. We also would like to consider how to smoothly incorporate other complementary datasets, for instance data that is in the public domain or owned/provided by partner bodies, considering also issues of the quality, completeness and availability of such data. This could include, for example: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Education Management Information Systems (EMIS).

B) User interfaces (UIs) and data visualisation tools
We aim, as far as possible, to deliver a unified experience for users. This may take the shape of multiple systems with ready-made UIs we could potentially use, customisable UIs, widgets, apps and plug-ins that could be embedded into a larger interface. There may also be good reasons in some cases to keep certain data visualisation tasks separate from others, for simplicity, speed of processing, or other user-led design reasons. Functionality should include sign-off mechanisms and customised presentation according to thematic, geographic and timeline scope of interest.

The scoping phase will involve collaborating with colleagues and stakeholders globally to understand their perspectives and needs, and subsequently co-creating the delivery approach by exploring and prioritising the identified requirements.

The outputs of scoping should include a detailed situation analysis, along with an outline of the various technical options available.

CAMFED will assemble a core project team including MERL and IT leads to work with the consultant, and a nominated project administrator. The Chief Impact Officer will be the overall project owner and executive sponsor.

We expect the partner to factor in regular project meetings so we can work together as the picture becomes clear.

Project activities

We expect that key activities will include those listed below, but we are also looking to tap into the knowledge of our contracted partner in terms of how to approach the project and what activities you believe would be valuable.

- Needs assessment consultations/workshops with key stakeholder groups to understand how stakeholders currently engage with CAMFED's evidence base, what would make that engagement more meaningful and recommendations for what dashboards should feature.

- Stakeholder groups to be consulted include:

  - CAMFED staff across a range of functions
  - Government partners including those Ministries and Agencies responsible for: Education, Gender, Enterprise, Youth, Agriculture, Green Economy/ Climate Resilience and Statistics
  - CAMFED Association members - young women supported to go to school with CAMFED's support who lead the work in various Guide Roles (280,000+ membership network)
  - Strategic partners including donors
  - Community stakeholders - members of Community Development Committees and District Business Committees
  - School-based partners including School Based Committees (including parent representatives), Heads and Teacher Mentors

To note, the consultant may not need to conduct all these consultations directly across the five countries. There is expected to be a facilitated process designed in collaboration and with support of CAMFED MERL team members.

- Understanding and documenting key evidence areas or variables that are of most interest to stakeholders to support a range of objectives including: performance monitoring, addressing challenges, capturing learning, celebrating achievements, informing policy and practice. This should prioritise CAMFED KPIs as the key metrics which CAMFED is committed to tracking and reporting on, as identified through the collaborative development with young women and partners of our Strategic Plan. Other metrics that are recommended for tracking / reporting should be documented.
- Consideration of mechanisms / functionality for quality assurance and review / sign-off.
- Consolidation of all user input related to data use needs and most preferred ways to engage with the data and evidence by user type; bearing in mind practical factors such as access to technology and connectivity.
- Technical review / audit of our current program database and platforms currently used for storing CAMFED's evidence base.
- Evaluation of potential solutions available that could help deliver increased speed and efficiency in calculating and presenting key metrics tailored to audience needs.

- Based on the findings of the needs assessment consultations, provide an evaluation of the pros/cons and approximate cost impact associated with each potential solution including recommendations.
- Prototyping and testing options for the possible end solution, taking into account everything learned.
- Produce final report and solution roadmap.

Timings

Project Duration: approximately 4-5 months.

Our desired timings are:

- Issue brief - 5th December 2024
- Consultant dialogues - December/early January 2024
- Applications due - 15 January
- Shortlisted consultants Q&A, presentations and selection - 31 January 2025
- Begin project - 5 February 2025
- Full report and presentation delivered - April / May 2025
- Action plan agreed - May 2025
- Next steps and phase two begins - June 2025

How to Apply

Once you have had an opportunity to review this brief, you can request, a 30-minute video call with members of the core project team at CAMFED to better understand needs and fit before you submit a formal response. Please email to organise this.

Please confirm you have received this brief and if you intend to submit an application by email to Catherine Boyce, Chief Impact Officer - CAMFED, cboyce@camfed.org by **18th December 2024.**

If you decide to apply, please submit your application by email by **16th January 2025.** This should include:
1) Summary of proposed approach to the work
2) Evidence of relevant experience, credentials and expertise of the team that would lead the work. Please include examples of relevant work
3) Budget including day dates for specified roles
4) Availability to start the project
5) 2 references

Following receipt of applications, we expect to shortlist 3 potential consultants for formal evaluation, including a Q&A session followed by a presentation from the consultant.