

TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR

CONSULTANCY TO MONITOR AND DOCUMENT ATTACKS AGAINST JOURNALISTS -MEDIA AND DIS/MISINFORMATION CASES IN LINE WITH THE PANDEMIC OF COVID-19 IN SENEGAL, GHANA AND KENYA AND PRODUCE COUNTRY BRIEFS, REGIONAL TRENDS REPORTS

Background

ARTICLE 19 is an independent NGO dedicated to promote, protect, develop and fulfil freedom of expression and the free flow of information and ideas in order to strengthen social justice and empower people to make autonomous choices. This is implemented through key programmatic strategies such as Law and Policy, Transparency, Media, Civic Space, Digital, Media Freedom, Protection, Gender & Sexuality.

Since 1987, A19 has enhanced international and regional legal standards by developing instruments ensuring respect for RTI and FoE. Such instruments include the African Union Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to information and the Model Law on Access to Information for Africa. A19 has also put access to information to the international agenda through Goal 16.10 in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

We also develop/implement ad hoc projects in the different regions and countries we are operating in around the world.

Since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic, A19 has been in front to assess responses plans and alert/advice on their incidence to FoE and ATI while advising on means to prevent and deal with disinformation and continue promoting media diversity and opened civic space and transparent governance of public services. In this frame, A19 is taking part of a consortium led by FPU to implement the EC funded project “**COVID-19 response in Africa: Together for reliable information**” aiming at assisting crucial media outlets in Africa to survive the COVID-19 crisis.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to better informed populations that are aware of how to protect themselves against COVID-19, to mitigate risks and limit the number of casualties.

The **Specific Objective (Outcome)** is to provide the essential, timely support and materials to independent media and journalists in Sub-Saharan Africa to fulfil their role of providing quality and reliable information and to help them overcome the risks they are facing during the crisis with the following intermediate outcomes :

IO1 : will provide sub-grants to journalists and media houses in Sub-Saharan Africa, many of whom are left with little income-generating options as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

IO2 : an online co-working space will connect African journalists encouraging them to consult and ask questions to one another on all kinds of issues related to COVID-19

IO3 : multi-tiered advocacy efforts (national, regional and international) to protect freedom of expression and information during the crisis, based on accurate, timely information on the infringement of these rights allowing journalists across the continent to continue doing their work in times of crisis and beyond.

Service Scope

To monitor incidents of dis/misinformation on COVID-19 pandemic by duty bearers, as well as identify, verify, and report cases of violations and infringements to Press freedom and right to information including attacks against journalists and media workers in Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal. The consultant will undertake the below scope of work:

1. Virtually and through networks and own channels research, monitor situations of dis/misinformation originated by the sources above on COVID-19 pandemic in targeted countries
2. Virtually monitor and identify cases of violations, infringements to Press Freedom and right to information and attacks against journalists and media houses in targeted countries
3. Identify, research and document cases of changes in legislation and/or emergency legislation, policies, or government guidelines put in place as a result of C-19 that have the potential or have already infringed or compromised FoE and AtI, media freedom, from the beginning of the pandemic and regularly throughout the contract.
4. Review existing information, previously gathered by A19 WAF to identify gaps and address them
5. Document each case identified
6. Develop draft country reports on the status of dis/misinformation on COVID-19 Pandemic in targeted countries
7. Develop case reports on violations, infringements to Press Freedom and right to information attacks against journalists and media houses in targeted countries
8. Development of draft light country reports. The content should include existing legal frameworks in-country and a general assessment on changes to FoE and RtI resulting from the pandemic.
9. Develop regional analytical report resultant from the monitoring the targeted countries with action points, towards the end of the consultancy
10. Work with in country advocacy partner on development of plan of action to mitigate harm to journalists per country (Senegal, DRC, Nigeria)

Project outcome

- An Inception report that includes the methodology of delivery of tasks framework, tools and detailed work plan.
- 1 brief on COVID-19 dis/misinformation submitted putting together data from the 3 countries.
- At least 12 cases of C-19 relating attacks against medias identified, verified, and documented (4 per country in average but the number can be different from a country to another).
- 3 brief action reports with recommendation on safety mechanism (one per target country), on attacks of journalists targeting policymakers at the national level.
- A regional analytical report resultant from the monitoring the 3 targeted countries and will include information from other sources.
- 3 draft reports, country overviews and parts from other reports for EU delegation (one per country)
- Advocacy partners have received thorough support to identify and refer cases to national mechanisms and to update and implement their advocacy plans based the above findings and ad hoc reports are available.
- As requested, information provided to the A19 Law and Policy department on legislation and emergency policies relevant to C-19 and restrictions to FoE/ATI for legal analysis and provide inputs to the 3 subsequent country light/analysis reports (one per country will be produced.
- As requested, significant contribution provided to the UPR paper design based on accurate research and reports/data pre-produced.

These documents will be developed in close collaboration with A19 experts.

Timeframe of deliverable and milestones:

June-September 2021 indicatively. The regional analytical report may be produced/updated after September 2021. Consultant will agree on a calendar of delivery upon selected including deliveries for June and July

Payment schedule

The payment shall be provided after satisfactory delivery of all materials against an invoice provided by the Contractor

ARTICLE 19 West Africa

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT

We require a consultant/consultancy firm with the following attributes:

1. Solid knowledge and experience in desk research in media and social media, including networks and personal contacts to identify and verify the cases.
2. Knowledge and experience to interact with the media sector in the West African region
3. Knowledge and experience in human rights-based monitoring approached applied to press freedom and access to information
4. Willingness to collaborate in the research and production of documents with other A19 teams.
5. An academic background reflecting the requirements stated above will be an added advantage.
6. English and French writing capacity with fluency in at least one

Previous experience in doing similar work with A19 and/or other stakeholders

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested and eligible applicants should apply to senegal@article19.org with copies of the following attached:

1. Technical Proposal: Profile of the consultant; brief explanation about the Consultant/s understanding of the TOR and how they plan to accomplish the tasks including a list of similar previous work/experience and a CV clearly showing the relevant expertise. If possible, please join a copy of a similar report produced or an e-link to it.
2. Financial Proposal: The financial proposal should provide itemized cost estimates for services to be rendered (applicable taxes and all-inclusive costs of undertaking are to include as no other fee will be disbursed beyond the agreed amount that will be negotiated based on initial submission).

Submissions will be assessed on a rolling basis as we would like the selected consultant to start the service provision the earliest possible in June 2021. The offer will be closed upon the best consultant is selected.

ARTICLE 19 reserves the right to cancel this tender at any time before commitment.

Any other note or condition

N/A