

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM · MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Thabani Mabodoko

REF: ADM/038/2022

Deputy Country Director (Operations)

UNDP Liberia

DATE:

26 May 2022

cc: UNDP Procurement

FROM:

Mr. Uchenna Emelonye Country Representative

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OBJET: SUBJECT:

ADVERTISIMENT REQUEST NATIONAL CONSULTANT -

SWEDISH PROJECT

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would like to request recruitment for a National Consultant for a 45 working days period of 1 July to 20 August 2022 to conduct a comprehensive monitoring and assessment of cases of indefinite imprisonments and pretrial detainees who have served their prison terms but are still held in custody within the Liberian Prison System and design and implement strategies for remedial actions in conformity with international human rights standards.

Kindly find attached FA form for cost recovery and supporting documents for ease of reference. Your assistance and support is highly appreciated.



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Terms of Reference for National Consultant to conduct comprehensive monitoring and assessment of cases of indefinite imprisonments and pretrial detainees who have served their prison terms but are still held in custody within the Liberian Prison System and design and implement strategies for remedial actions in conformity with international human rights standards.

Duty Station/Location: Monrovia, Liberia

Application Deadline: 31 May 2022

Type of Cartad National Consultant

Language required: English

Branch: Africa

Starting Date: 1 July 2022

Expected duration of the assignment: 45 working days within the period

of 1 July – 20 August 2022.

Background

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is the United Nations agency with the mandate to promote and protect the human rights of all persons all over the world. In Liberia, the office is supporting the government to enhance her capacity to deliver on her international human rights obligations, concomitantly strengthen national 'institutions' capacities to carry out robust monitoring and documentation of human rights developments across the country, analyzing patterns and trends, and then reinforce existing network structures to conduct effective advocacy for redress for human rights violations/abuses where

necessary.

OHCHR-Liberia also supports the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), the national institution with the mandate to promote and protect human rights, strengthen the rule of law and consolidate peace and reconciliation to effectively fulfil this daunting yet noble national duty of international importance.

OHCHR engages in comprehensive human rights monitoring in all the 15 counties in Liberia and supports the INCHR, the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform, and other organizations that are into human rights work to monitor all prisons and police detention facilities. Preliminary findings of OHCHR's recent monitoring of some of the prisons have shown that the congestion and overcrowdedness in prisons are due to prolonged pretrial detention and also the perverse practice of the perpetual holding of the convicts that have served their prison terms pending restitution for the crime or other monies arising from the crimes for which they have already served out their prison terms. The practice is in keeping with section 59.5 of the Panel Code of Liberia, which stipulates that "Unless restitution has been made prior to sentencing, the court shall include in the sentence an order directing the defendant to return the property or pay its value to the person wrongfully deprived thereof, or pay the person whose property was damaged through the intentional or reckless commission of the offence, the amount of loss suffered thereof."

The provision in the law and the practice violate human rights principles of the rights of persons in places of detention and are a disadvantage to convicts whose criminal actions are determined by poverty caused by lingering social inequalities. However, the full extent of the practices and the number and categories of convicts affected by the above factors are unknown and need to be fully addressed to conform to human rights standards. It is against this backdrop that OHCHR is engaging a national consultant to conduct thorough research on the situation of indefinite detention in all prisons across Liberia and identify the number and causes of prolonged pretrial detentions in all prisons. The consultant must produce a comprehensive report from the findings and formulate and implement where possible innovative as well provide advocacy strategies that OHCHR will implement through its partners to remedy the

situation and ensure that the fate of inmates who have served their prison terms and those still awaiting trial are determined in conformity with international human rights standards.

II. Objectives of the assignment

 To conduct comprehensive research, monitor and assess the Liberian Prison System and identify and implement innovative strategies that will to address the issues of indefinite imprisonment for convicted inmates and find solutions to address the prolonged detention.

III. Methodology

1. The consultant should draw on varied methodologies to discharge the assignment. The assignment includes monitoring the prisons, desk research, interviews, focus group discussion, meetings and consultations with INCHR, Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform, Bureau of Correction and Rehabilitation, MOJ, Human Rights Protection Division and other agencies/bodies that can aid the assignment. The consultant will work closely with OHCHR in carrying out the assignment.

IV. \$cope of work

- 1. The National Consultant will work under the overall supervision of the Deputy Country Representative of OHCHR, and the direct guidance from the designated program lead to perform the following tasks. The consultant will conduct comprehensive research that will include visits and assessments of all the prisons in Liberia to examine first-hand the crisis in the Liberia prison system, including the issue of indefinite imprisonments and prolonged pretrial detention. The outcome of the monitoring exercise will be the publication of a public report by OHCHR around September 2022.
- 2. The consultant will design and implement innovative strategies that will address the problem of indefinite imprisonment in the prison system, whereby persons remain in indefinite imprisonment after serving out prison terms for failure to pay

civil debts, restitution or other monies arising from the crimes for which they have already served out their prison terms.

V. KEY OUTPUTS

- 1. Inception report with a proposed work plan and methodology;
- 2. Report of prison monitoring and assessment
- Draft a Public Report detailing findings of the research and assessment of the Liberian Prison system on the prolonged and indefinite imprisonment of convicts that have served their prison terms.
- 4. Design and Implement Strategies to address restitution cases to end convicted inmates' prolonged and indefinite imprisonment.
- 5. Final report and Debriefing Session.

VI. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

OHCHR will evaluate the consultant's performance based on timeliness, innovative advocacy strategies, responsibility, initiative, communication, accuracy, and quality of the products delivered

VII. REMUNERATION

OHCHR will determine remuneration commensurate with the consultant's qualification and experience in keeping with UNDP standards for hiring a National Consultant.

VIII. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Academic Qualification:

≪Postgraduate or other advanced university degrees (at least Master's or equivalent) in Law, International Development, International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Institutional/Organizational Development, Social Sciences or any other relevant discipline.

Experience and other skills:

At least 10 years of professional experience in human rights and administration of justice, gender or other closely related issues;

- ∢A legal person with a speciality in cases of public interest
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in Liberia's legal system and similar previous assignments is an added advantage
- Experience in researching, gender mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting human rights or gender issues;
- ≪strong knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and internetbased research),
- Excellent report writing skills; good oral and written communication skills; ability to work closely with public, non-governmental, international and civil society organizations;
- «Must have strong organizational (interpersonal) and communication skills, make
 decisions on time; the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
 analyze data for decision making; and the ability to gain 'others' support for ideas,
 proposals and solutions and get others to take action to advance work objectives;
 maintain high ethical/ professional standards and integrity.

IX. Desirable

Experience and knowledge of Liberia's legal and prison system. **Documents to include when submitting for the consultancy:**

- Interested individual consultants must submit all relevant documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications;
- ∠Detailed CV and profile, with at least three referees
- Motivation Letter describing their interest in the assignment and why they are the most suitable for the work:

FINANCIAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

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