



Rte de Lausanne 107
1197 Prangins – Switzerland

T +41 22 365 15 00
F +41 22 365 15 05

info@peacenexus.org
www.peacenexus.org

Call for Expressions of Interest

Consultancy on peacebuilding localisation assessment tool

Starting date:	March 2024
Application deadline:	4 March 2024
Location:	Home-based
Language requirements:	English
Duration of assignment:	March-May 2024

The PeaceNexus Foundation

The PeaceNexus Foundation is a Swiss based operational foundation. It provides a range of capacity building services with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of organizations that play a role in building peace. Its service areas include: organizational development for peacebuilding champions; developing organizational capacities for conflict sensitivity; and supporting inclusive dialogue with business to develop solutions to local peacebuilding challenges. The foundation provides support to international partners and local partners in our focus regions of West Africa, Central Asia, Western Balkans and South-East Asia (Myanmar). While most of our partners are national or local organisations, we also support INGOs or ‘intermediaries’, and engage in peer-learning with other funders that are interested in supporting localisation in practice.

The Steering Group

This assignment contributes to peer-learning between private and public funders. A group of four funders, including PeaceNexus Foundation, Humanity United, the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will serve as a Steering Group for the assignment.

Background to the assignment

It is critical to move power, agency, and decision making to those most impacted by conflict. This is a vision we are collectively invested in, while recognizing the realities of the current system. While most funders are exploring options to fund local peacebuilding actors directly, realistically the bulk of the peacebuilding budget will continue to be passed through intermediaries (traditionally mostly INGOs and the UN) due to capacity and fiduciary restraints on the side of funders. Funders can nevertheless influence the quality of intermediary practice with respect to the localisation agenda in many ways. For example, they can enable experimentation and innovation, set minimum standards, or incentivise and support organisational reform processes.

Despite strong policy support for the localisation agenda in policy statements, there is no consensus on what this means in practice for donors, intermediaries, and local organisations working on peacebuilding. Most intermediaries claim to support local peacebuilding efforts, but most still



operate within funding frameworks that reduce local partners to service providers or implementers of strategies crafted by INGOs or donors. To begin to address this, we want to explore together with other funders and grantees, the development of tool(s) to assess different dimensions and qualities of intermediary practice with respect to localisation.

Objectives

The overall purpose is to develop a tool that helps assess the quality of peacebuilding intermediaries with regards to localisation, using a shared benchmark. The voluntary use of the tool should serve to catalyze improvements in practice. The overall purpose of this first phase of the assignment is to develop options for tools that may serve this purpose. It will inform a decision on the kind of tool(s) to be developed in a subsequent phase.

The tool should be useful for funders, intermediaries and local organisations:

For funders, it should assist in decision-making processes on who to fund and how to fund to promote improvements in practice.

For intermediaries, it should create clarity on minimum good practice standards and clarify different dimensions of localisation for different kinds of organization.

For local organisations, it should assist in decision-making on who to partner with and how to partner by providing insights into how funding partners can empower local organisations.

Methodology/process

The assignment may include the following steps:

- Review of the literature and existing tools shared by the Steering Group, inception call and 5-10 key informant interviews.
- Create an overview of archetypes or ‘models’ of intermediaries. This should include information on their size, roles and functions, their governance, structure and funding and operational approach.
- Provide suggestions for key indicators of being a good quality intermediary for each archetype/model. Dimensions could include, but not be limited to: governance, partnership and funding modalities, human resources policies.
- Explore whether the combination of archetypes/models and key indicators leads to a spectrum of quality intermediaries or to standards adapted to model/function.
- Develop options for tools to be developed. These could include, for example, a (self) assessment tool based on questionnaires, standards frameworks with indicators, or a spectrum of approaches. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each approach and when and how the tool could be used by funders or grantees.
- Provide recommendations for additional support funders could provide intermediaries to advance their practice.

Estimated timing: 12 days



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- Present findings at 3 hour workshop with funder steering group in mid-April. The workshop is likely to be hybrid format, including an in-person afternoon event in Berlin (TBC)
- Finalise report/inputs for future consultation workshops

Estimated timing: 3 days

Deliverables:

The main deliverable of the assignment is a written report and powerpoint presentation to be finalised after the workshop, which is tentatively scheduled for late April.

Timeline

Since the workshop date has yet to be confirmed, applicants are encouraged to state their availability for dates in late April and early May.

- Recruitment of consultant: mid-March
- Inception briefings and inception report mid-March
- Draft written report a week before workshop
- Workshop to review report late April (or possibly early May)
- Final report/inputs two weeks after workshop

What is required

- Demonstrated experience in designing or working with organisational assessment tools
- Knowledge of peacebuilding donor practices
- Knowledge of INGO/network peacebuilding organisations
- Knowledge of localisation policies and practices
- Strong communication skills to present results

Application

Application procedures: Applications should include a letter detailing relevant past professional experience and brief bio or CV and a tentative workplan for the assignment phase that includes an estimation of the time and budget (based on a daily rate and estimated travel costs) for this first phase.

Please submit your application by 4 March to recruitment@peacenexus.org with the **subject line:** **Application Localisation Tool Consultancy *First Name Last Name***.