

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Monitoring & Evaluation Consultancy

Youth as Change Agents: Fighting Corruption and Sexual Bribery

Profile of CEJ

Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) is a women's organization based in Colombo, working primarily with war-affected women from the Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities and the rights of those affected by political violence and other forms of civil unrest. CEJ also works on issues of democracy, rule of law, and social inclusion and brings a gender perspective into all its work. CEJ engages with policymakers, and government officers and strengthens grassroots-level women's capacities to claim their rights. CEJ also works closely with youth across Sri Lanka on key areas such as preventing violent extremism and reconciliation.

Project Background

Sri Lanka first entered the ranking of the Corruption Perception Index put forth by Transparency International (TI) in 2002, with a score of 3.7 and ranking 52nd among 102 countries. The latest ranking of 2020 puts Sri Lanka at a score of 3.8 (38/100) which causes its rank to settle at 94th among 180 countries. This is an unfortunate development as Sri Lanka had recorded a score of 4 (40/100) in 2012 which ensured that the country's positioning on the scale for scoring was marginally better. The 2020 Global Corruption Barometer depicts a bleak picture for Sri Lanka, where 79% of people think government corruption is a major issue, while 16% of people who used public services over a period of 12 months paid a bribe to obtain these services. The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) for 2020, published by Transparency International revealed that 52% of the respondents in Sri Lanka believed that corruption has increased in the previous 12 months¹. A 2019 report published by the Transparency International Sri Lanka office found that 80% of the respondents believed corruption within the government to be a big problem.² Further, in Asia, Sri Lanka's sextortion (or sexual bribery) rate at 17% is second only to that of Indonesia (18%). The report identifies that 44% of people perceive that most or all Members of Parliament are corrupt while 40% and 39% of people respectively are of the same opinion regarding Local Government officials and Police.

The Commission To Investigate Allegations of Bribery And Corruption Act No 19 of 1994 established a permanent commission to investigate bribery and corruption in Sri Lanka (CIABOC) which is the main anti-corruption agency of Sri Lanka. The 20th Amendment to the Constitution removed the constitutional

¹ Survey was conducted between March to September 2020. See https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/GCB_Asia_2020_Report_Web_final.pdf page 8

² *ibid* at page 11

recognition of the CIABOC enabling the parliament to remove the CIABOC through legislation passed by a simple majority³. The amendment further diluted the independence of the commission members by replacing the Constitutional Council under 19A with the Parliamentary Council under 20A through which members are appointed to the CIABOC⁴. The GCB report for the 2020 survey further reveals that 57% of the Sri Lankan respondents believed that the anti-corruption agency is performing badly in the fight against corruption.⁵ Though the CIABOC was established to fight against rampant corruption it has been unable to change the deeply entrenched culture of corruption within the country.

CEJ research has revealed that sexual bribery (SB) in the public sector is common where women are asked for sexual favors in return for public services. CEJ has documented 45 case studies of sexual bribery of war-affected Sinhalese military widows, Tamil and Muslim female heads of households. This research was the foundation for CEJ engaging in further interventions on sexual bribery that include raising awareness on sexual bribery among communities, advocating for law and policy reforms, and for further research on the prevalence of SB in other communities. Youth rarely have opportunities to engage in conversations on issues of governance, bribery, and corruption and a focus on SB is critical given its prevalence in Sri Lanka.

To address these issues, CEJ is implementing a project titled **'Youth as Change Agents: Fighting Corruption and Sexual Bribery'** with the overall aim to specifically provide selected youth with the skills and knowledge to advocate for the elimination of corruption, with a focus on eliminating sexual bribery in the public sector. Through this, the project hopes to ensure that university students and youth groups have the agency and leadership skills to participate in the promotion of transparency and accountability. This would be achieved through capacity-building sessions on principles of open government, sexual bribery and corruption, governance and democracy, issues of war-affected women, legal and policy frameworks to address these issues and, comparative global best practices on youth and open government initiatives. The project will also provide a platform for selected students to engage with different stakeholders through collective small-scale advocacy initiatives and through social media and mainstream media campaigns. Moreover, the selected University students will also engage in small groups discussions with rural youth in order to share their knowledge on corruption, bribery and sexual bribery.

The project aims to achieve this through the following objectives:

1. Provide youth with knowledge on principles of OGP to engage on issues of transparency, accountability and governance.
2. Provide youth with an understanding of issues faced by war affected women on bribery and corruption including sexual bribery, so that they collectively advocate for its elimination in the public sector.
3. Create a platform for youth with support and tools to advocate with lawmakers and policymakers

³ Article 55 of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution

⁴ Article 41(A) of the 20th amendment to the Constitution

⁵ The global corruption barometer report (n 8) at page 18

on social media and to directly engage with them on issues of transparency, accountability and governance.

Scope of Work

CEJ seeks the services of a consultant to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the activities that take place throughout the project period. The consultant will initially develop a comprehensive M&E framework based on the project proposal and other relevant documents. This will be completed in a consultative process with CEJ. The focus will be on the implementation of activities, input, output and outcomes. M&E will also function as a tool to assess the impact and effectiveness of a project to generate useful information which will contribute to learning, improved performance and accountability. Subsequently, the consultant will work in close coordination with CEJ staff and will report to the Executive Director of CEJ to carry out the monitoring during the course of the project and evaluation towards the end of the project. This consultant will assess the design of the project, implemented activities and its scope and measure them against the intended project and donor objectives. The consultant will note the practical and contextual challenges faced during implementation and their impact on the overall project activities.

The following activities will be carried out in the span of 9 months in 3 phases:

Phase 1 (October-November 2022):

- Attend meetings with CEJ and the donor as required.
- Develop a M&E design and workplan
- Review project-related documents
- Develop an M&E work plan
- Develop relevant monitoring tools for the project activities

Phase 2 (November 2022-June 2023):

- Monitor and evaluate ongoing activities Eg Monitor student engagement in during the online sessions on Corruption, Bribery, Sexual Bribery and OGP principles, assess data gathered through the rapid poll results and social media interventions carried out by the university students. Evaluate student engagement in producing opinion pieces on the relevant topics.
- Review data gathered using the M&E tools.
- Monitor and evaluate the implemented activities in terms of their sustainability, expenditure and overall progress.

Phase 3 (March-September 2023):

- Conduct evaluation using appropriate methodology to evaluate the effectiveness of the project in accordance with the guidelines put forward by CEJ/donor.
- Develop a comprehensive and informed M&E report of the project based on the requirements of CEJ and the donor.

Qualifications and Experience

- Education: University Degree preferably in Social Sciences.
- Experience: At least 5 years of experience in the M&E task in development projects implemented by national/international NGOs/UN bodies/ Government.
- Experience in liaising with relevant stakeholders at a professional level.
- Language Requirements: Fluency in written and spoken English and Sinhala/ Tamil.

Consultancy fee

Negotiable. The consultancy fee will be paid during the 3 phases upon submission of the deliverables.

Timeline/Duration

The proposed time period of the consultancy would take place in 3 phases between October 2022 - July 2023. The consultant is to hand over the completed report by July 2023.

*Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Interested candidates may send a resume to ashmidha.cej@gmail.com with names and contact details of two referees with the email subject line **ND2 M&E Consultancy CV** by 8th November 2022.*