

ActionAid Liberia Strategic Partnership Agreement II

Climate Justice Alternative Case Collection 2023

Background

A key aim of ActionAid Denmark's work in the coming years is 'Developing, promoting and shifting resources towards viable local alternatives led by women and youth in affected communities that reduce emissions while promoting resilience and provide inspiring examples of what the just transition looks like'. The ambition is that partnerships and collaborative work in the global programme on climate justice can be a vehicle to identify, promote and potentially strengthen and scale progressive solutions to the climate crisis. To engage with the complex factors and forces that are driving inequality and destruction of our planet we have to 'think big, start small' and identify tangible, practical and contextual cases of how alternatives to current ways of doing and working look like; concrete examples of models and practices that have the potential to grow and replace the systems that drives inequality and destroys the climate. For ActionAid Denmark and AA Liberia, the track on alternatives can complement and strengthen current work on strategic objective 2 in the SPA through:

- 1) Methodological and financial support to identify alternatives and develop cases that can qualify and exemplify work on climate justice,
- 2) Scoping potential for, and promoting investment in, alternatives through e.g., public investments, not-for-profit or private/impact investors.
- 3) A platform to share and learn from each other and provide cases and practices that can inspire across and support mobilization and campaigning

By 'alternatives' we mean alternatives to current to 1) harmful agribusiness and 2) the centralized and polluting parts of the energy sector, in particular fossil fuels. Concretely, we mean:

1: Sustainable models that are owned and/or led by local communities. In line with AA's principles for a just transition and Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA). Alternative models for producing, processing, distributing food that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance (bio)diversity, respect traditions, and improve equity and/or working practices for re-claiming and managing natural resources.

2: Systems for renewable energy production and consumption that lower greenhouse gas emissions, improve resilience, and benefit the victims of climate change. This could be 1) sources of energy that can replace current fossil fuel consumption, 2) practices and models for decentralization and democratization of processes of production and management of utilities, 3) Community practices and ownership models or 4) New technologies benefitting the communities we work for directly.

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE WORK

NO FALSE SOLUTIONS: Climate change is becoming profitable, greenwashing is becoming widespread; there is a need to distinguish and call out solutions that are only made for profit and do not change the underlying conditions and inequalities - or in many examples do not even lead to reduced emissions, such as carbon off-setting schemes or so-called climate smart agriculture (CSA)

SHIFTING POWER: There is a need for 'alternatives' that go beyond technology and market-based solutions and include shifting power and supporting a just transition towards social justice and sustainability. We support and promote local initiatives and local capacity; we do not develop alternatives ourselves.

WORK ACROSS BOUNDARIES: Radical change only happens if we radically change the way we engage with one another across boundaries of sectors, hierarchies, nations, and ecosystems. There is a need for policymakers, NGOs, actors from the private sector, investors, and research institutions to interact better to promote new solutions and for us to explore what is out there beyond our current work and partnerships.

SPREAD ACROSS BOUNDARIES: We look for models and practices that have transformative potential. This means a potential for scaling, replacing unequal and environmentally harmful systems by growing bigger and wider, affecting more people, or being adopted in different contexts. It can be a potential for '**scaling up**' by changing institutions at the level of policy, rules, and laws, '**scaling out**' by replication and dissemination, increasing number of people or communities impacted, or '**scaling deep**' by changing relationships, cultural values, and beliefs for new ways of working and living to grow.

Against this background, AA Liberia is doing an innovation challenge to collect three cases from young people and women in Liberia. The rationale for this challenge is to transition from raising awareness on issues affecting girls (that everyone knows) to a progressive stakeholders' engagement approach through evidence-based policy advocacy. This initiative is expected to amplify the 'call to action' that brings all hands-on deck, including policymakers, donors, CSOs, and the Media, to confront systemic structures that work against girls' rights, health, and well-being.

The Task

ActionAid Liberia is seeking the service of a consultancy of an individual consultant to consolidate the alternative cases from the innovation challenge and ensure they are in line with all the guidelines listed.

1.0: Purpose and Rational of the Case Collection

ActionAid Liberia is commissioning these alternative cases for the following:

- To conduct innovative challenge to collect 3 promising cases for alternatives in Liberia.
- Support publishing of engaging formats for sharing selected cases in e.g., communication and campaign work (nationally, globally)
- Deepen our knowledge and qualify our position and strategy for different types of investment in alternatives through e.g., public investments, not-for-profit or private/impact investments
- Provide a base from which to qualify our own approach within our climate justice/just transition work and qualify what to invest resources in that can be financed or scaled through advocacy and policy work in the global program.

1.1 Specific Indicators for the case collection

Working with the Program team with technical leadership of the AAL's Program Quality Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Unit, partners, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, the alternative case collection will focus on generating the following indicators:

1. Give the theme: (1) food systems or 2) renewable energy?
2. Summary (4 lines)
 - What is the main idea and its potential?
3. Place and constituency:

4. Name of location and country
5. Name of involved community groups, organizations, networks, individuals.
6. **The problem** (max 10 lines)
 - What is the overall problem this initiative is addressing that needs alternative solutions?
 - What is the background to the problem in the context?
7. **The solution** (max 10 lines)
 - What are the key characteristics and unique features?
 - Who is leading it?
 - What is the target Market?
 - What is the business model?
 - Who is your competition?
 - What is the Unique Selling Proposition?
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8. **Effect and results** (max 10 lines)
 - Numbers & impact: What impacts and results have the case, business or programme achieved so far e.g., Number of beneficiaries?
9. **The key take-aways** (max 10 lines)
 - Useful practices, principles and learning beyond context
10. **Feasibility** (max 20 lines)
 - What are the **technical resources** and capacity available? How established is the solution?
 - What is the **economic viability**, cost and benefits?
 - Does the solution conflict with **legal requirements** (e.g., zoning or media laws). What legal frameworks are in place, what is missing?
11. **Level of experience** (existing, incremental, new)
12. **Potential for scaling** (max 20 lines) - The *potential* of the solution in terms of achieving (more and wider) impact.
 - **Scaling deep:** training, mentorships, networks supporting growth of communities of practice.
 - **Scaling up:** policy, planning and legislation that values and invests in solutions.
 - **Scaling out:** replication in other contexts, access to infrastructure and resources
13. **Financial and Non-Financial Instrument Received**
 - What Innovative financial (e.g., credit, grants, capital markets, etc.) or non-financial support has the project/programme/business received?
 - From whom (donor, investor, venture capitalist etc.) did the project/programme /business receive this support?
 - What level of funding has been committed by the donor/ investor/ venture capitalist etc.?
 - What funding gap exists?
14. **Successes**
 - What success have you achieved so far?
15. **Challenges Faced**
 - What challenges or barriers to your programme or business growth are you facing or anticipate?
16. **Lessons learned**
 - What lessons have you learnt?

17. Opportunities Available

- What opportunities (e.g., market, collaboration etc.) are available?

18. What should we do next (max 5 lines)

- What support and/or financing is needed and for what?

19. Backing documents, knowledge, and inspiration

- Links to report/backing documents, public articles, audiovisual material, key people

20. 3-5 illustrative photos

It is expected that in addition to other sources, the consultant will review:

- All ActionAid climate justice project documents.
- Government data and documentation.
- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Non-State Actors, ECOWAS CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (ECONSA), Liberia Farmers Union, Rural Women Farmers Forum (RWFF), and Network of Farmers and Producers' Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA)
- Other data from UN agencies, INGOs, CSOs.

2.0 Outputs/Deliverables of the activities

Output 1: A detailed inception report outlining the final agreed methodology, cases collection verification tools and workplan to be submitted within four (3) days of signing the contract. The inception report should have sub-sections explaining the methodologies used for consolidating the alternative case collection.

Output 2: Conduct two sessions on screening and primary selection of the models.

Output 3: A comprehensive report on three innovative climate justice alternatives that AAL must scale up to strengthen its work.

Methodology

The case collection must be highly participatory and practical. It must use a wide variety of learning methods to get the best case, consider diverse innovation from young people. The study should employ both qualitative participatory methods to establish the top case concepts. An initial brief but clear methodology will be submitted in the technical offer and will be part of the assessment for selecting the successful consultant. The successful consultant will be expected to operate within ActionAid global feminist principles.

2.1 Coordination, roles, and responsibilities

The selected consultant will be contracted by and report to ActionAid Liberia. The Head of Programs and Policy, Program Quality and Learning Coordinator, and Youth Program Coordinator will be the key points of contact at AA Liberia for the consultants. These people will be responsible for signing key decisions. AAL shall work closely with the consultant, providing constant feedback in the process to ensure quality in the case collection process. Support provided by ActionAid Liberia to the consultant will involve:

- introductory briefings with the consultant(s);
- provision of key organizational documents
- provision of contact details and introductions to key stakeholders.

ActionAid Liberia will provide technical advice on alternative case collection approaches and ensure deliverables meet agreed quality standards and grant requirements. Further logistical support from AAL to the case collection activities in the field will be agreed during the inception phase.

3.1 Standards and Safeguarding

ActionAid expects all assessments, reviews, and collection to be carried out in line with both a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and ActionAid's Feminist research signature and guide. The full Evaluation Standards may be shared on request, but in practical terms the consultant(s) will be required to consider:

- **Community voice representation and inclusion:** It is essential that the case collection reflects the direct voices of the project/program beneficiaries. People should be consulted as part of the study and their voices included in the case collection report as direct quotes and case studies. In line with ActionAid's mandate, the study should prioritize the women and youth smallholder farmers. Consent for use of quotes, names and photos should be sought from all interviewees.
- **Transparency and ethical standards:** The consultant should explain clearly to communities, beneficiaries and all those engaged in the case collection, what the purpose of the exercise is, and how their information will be used. ActionAid's ethical standards for research and case collection should be followed, including a risk assessment covering safety and security risks to communities. As a minimum, the study should 'do no harm'.
- **Women's rights:** Women's rights must be respected in all assessments. All processes should seek to explore how women have been or will be affected by an intervention and the effect on gender relations. It is essential that women's voices are heard clearly in the process. The timing and location of the studies and the assessment team's composition should be designed to maximize women's ability to participate.
- **Transparency about methodology:** The review should include a detailed and transparent discussion of the methodology used and key decisions taken in designing and implementing the case collection. This should include information about the tools that were used and why, methodological limitations and gaps.
- **Compliance with SHEA, Safeguarding and Safety Protocols:** Selected consultant(s) will also be expected to sign and abide by relevant ActionAid policies, including its SHEA and Safeguarding policy, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy, Anti-Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse at Work Policy and Child Protection Policy.

6. Requirements and Experience of the consultant

The consultancy firm or individual/s must demonstrate the following experience and skills in application to be considered for the Job.

- A post graduate degree in Environmental and Development Studies, Social Sciences, Public Policy, or Other related fields.
- Demonstrate at least 3 years of experience in social justice, climate and economic justice, economic empowerment, disaster or emergency response and socio-economic development.
- Demonstrable skill in applying feminist and or women's rights lens.
- Experience working with movements or being part of networks, civil society organizations and other self-mobilized groups.
- Understanding of Human Rights Based Approaches.

- Applying participatory methodologies to reviews or any other related processes.
- Experience in undertaking organizational learning and development reviews.
- Excellent communication skills in both written and oral, shown in writing comprehensive reports with in-depth analysis.
- Ability to work in multicultural, multi-religious and rural communities.
- Have in-depth qualitative research skills.

7. Duration of Assignment

Duration of the case consolidation should be from October 2-7, 2023.

Key Timelines

Action/Output	Timeline	Responsibility
Selection of Consultant and Contracting	29 th September 2023	AAL/Consultants
Inception meeting and 1 st screening, and primary selection of the models received from youth groups and activists.	29 th September 2023	AAL/Consultants
Field observation, story collection and compilation and documentation and consolidation of the alternative cases.	September 30-4 th October, 2023	AAL/Consultant
Submission of first draft report of the case collection.	5 th October, 2023	Consultant
Screening and primary selection of the models - review and give technical feedback on the draft case collection report.	6 th October, 2023	AAL/Consortium/
Submission of final report	7 th October, 2023	Consultant

8. Application Process

All interested parties should submit the following:

- Technical proposal demonstrating their understanding of the assignment and detailed timeline.
- Financial proposal outlining the cost elements.
- CVs of the core team member(s) to carry out the assignment.
- Sample of similar assignment.

Candidates should submit an Expression of Interest by September 28th, 2023 to vacancy.liberia@ActionAid.org