

Call for Consultancy: Discussion Paper on models and strategies for investments in community-led alternatives to polluting and harmful energy sources and agricultural practices

Deadline – 20 October 2022

1. Background

ActionAid is a global federation working for a world free from poverty and injustice.

As part of our work on climate justice, we are advocating that private investors (such as pension funds, banks and other financial institutions) as well as public investors (such as governments, but also public pension funds) should shift investments away from some of the major causes and drivers of climate change such as fossil fuels and large scale harmful agricultural practices, and increasingly direct investments towards sustainable and just alternatives. This involves increased investments in innovative community led projects in the global south producing food and energy in sustainable ways and with potential for scaling, including (but not limited to) through agroecological practices and renewable energy production.

We are now looking for a Consultant to work with us to look more closely at what would motivate investors make this shift in investments and the exact forms that this would take, including ways to make relatively small-scale projects in the Global South with an uncertain return on investments more attractive to large investors, primarily in the Global North.

2. Main objectives of the Discussion Paper

As a starting point, this Discussion Paper aims at identifying existing models for investing in community led sustainable alternative modes of food and energy production in the Global South. These should be models that are appealing to either private investors such as banks, pension funds and other investment vehicles, or to public investors or impact investors with a lower expectation on returns on investment and a greater focus on impact.

The Discussion Paper further aims to propose new models of investments that could be attractive in particular for private investors to shift investments away from fossil fuels and large scale harmful agricultural practices (Big Agri) towards scalable community led sustainable production methods for food and energy in the Global South.

Overall, the Discussion Paper should provide a well-researched basis – potentially with case examples – for advocating that large quantities of investments should shift from harmful fossil fuels and Big Agri towards community led sustainable alternatives in the Global South.

3. Specific objectives

The Discussion Paper should explore:

- What currently stops public and private investors from shifting investments out of fossil fuels and Big Agri
- What models of public and private investments (i.e. bundling of smaller projects, co-operatives, investment/credit guarantees etc) would increase the likelihood of investors putting more money into sustainable, community led alternatives in the Global South and which models would be best suited to deliver favourable terms for local investees and greater likelihood of positive local impact.
- How to influence investors to shift significant amounts of investments from fossil fuels and Big Agri towards alternatives.

4. Key Deliverables

The Consultant is expected to produce a Discussion Paper of roughly 20-25 pages that will inform ActionAid Denmark's policy and advocacy work to shift investments from fossil fuels and Big Agri towards community led sustainable alternatives in the global south.

The Discussion Paper should contain:

- An overview of current promising investment models, including case examples where possible
- Ideas for new ways of investing in community led alternatives
- Suggestions for how advocacy to achieve a shift in investment could take place

5. Ways of Working / Methodology

The Consultant will work in close co-operation with AADK staff and will receive both guidance and continuous feedback from AADK.

The Discussion Paper will primarily be based on desk-based research but may also involve interviewing e.g. private and public investors, financial intermediaries and other relevant actors.

It is expected that the consultancy will take around 20 days, but this is subject to negotiation.

6. Qualifications

It is expected that the Consultant will have experience of working with or for impact investors, pension funds, banks or other financial actors, or have experience of looking at sustainable investments from a journalistic or civil society perspective.

The only expected language is English, but reading knowledge of e.g. French, Spanish, Portuguese or other relevant languages is an asset.

The Consultant should preferably be aware of global justice considerations, including climate justice and the links to the fight against inequality, as well as the general concepts of a just transition though this is not a requirement.

7. To apply

To apply, please send a CV and a cover letter to ada@ms.dk by 20 October. The cover letter should specify:

- What relevant experience you have for the consultancy (beyond what is already stated in your CV)
- How you would approach the research and writing of the Discussion Paper. Note that a full table of contents is not needed, simply information about how you propose going about this task.
- Your rate – either a daily rate or an overall rate for the Discussion paper.

Neither your CV nor cover letter should preferably be longer than 3 pages each. Feel free to also provide links to or copies of relevant previous work which can demonstrate your research and writing abilities.

If you have any questions about what you need to submit or about the task itself, please do not hesitate to contact Anders Dahlbeck ada@ms.dk

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