

Market orientation

Local Coordinator for TTCD - ref. 202509007

Organisation: The Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (in Dutch: Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, RVO) supports private and public organisations with funding, international business partners, knowledge, and regulations.

More information about RVO can be found on: www.rvo.nl and <http://english.rvo.nl/> and for Private Sector Development on: <https://english.rvo.nl/topics/private-sector-development>.

Purpose of the notification

The purpose of this market orientation is to determine whether there are parties who can and want to carry out the work within the available budget, timeframe and requirements set.

This market orientation is not a request for proposal. It is not allowed to send a proposal or motivation letter.

Extent and duration

The Framework Agreement will commence on **1 December, 2025** and ends by the 31 December 2028.

Budget indication

Your remuneration for the execution of the contract amounts to a fixed price of €140,000 excluding Dutch VAT and (if applicable) including local VAT, travel costs and all local costs.

Purpose of the assignment

The purpose of the market orientation is to identify interest of candidate(s). available and able to carry out this assignment.

Framework Agreement

A framework contract will be concluded with the winning bidder. This agreement is an umbrella contract that sets out the general terms and conditions for purchasing services over a set period. It creates a structured, pre-agreed way to place future orders ("call-offs"). Within this framework, multiple sub-projects can be initiated and executed over time, each falling under the overall scope of the agreement. While this project provides a general direction and outline key responsibilities, the actual activities and deliverables may be adjusted in response to local realities, emerging opportunities, and project needs on the ground.

Background

In 2025, the European Union Action titled "TAKIWAMA" commenced, this Action aims to improve the sustainable environmental preservation and sustainable economic development within the watersheds of Lake Tanganyika bordering Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. One subcomponent of this overall Action is the Tanganyika Transport Corridor Development (TTCD) project, implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) with funding from the EU Delegation in Burundi and co-funding from the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This project contributes to improved regional integration and application of sustainable and inclusive economic practices in Lake Tanganyika.

Please see ANNEX I for an explanation of the project background.

Project purpose

The Tanganyika Trade Corridor Development (TTCD) project is coordinated primarily from the Hague, while its implementation takes place in Bujumbura and surrounding areas. This

geographical distance creates challenges in maintaining consistent communication with local stakeholders, ensuring timely oversight of activities, and addressing emerging issues on the ground. Without a dedicated local coordinator, there is a risk of misalignment between project planning and execution, reduced stakeholder engagement, and delays in achieving project objectives. Hence, a locally based coordinator is therefore essential to bridge the gap between the project team in the Hague and the local context, safeguard the quality and timeliness of activities, and to liaise with community, institutional, and other relevant stakeholders. Hence, RVO is seeking a locally based Project Coordinator to support the implementation of the TTCD project.

The following results need to be achieved during the assignment:

1. Overall project coordination

- Day-to-day project activities are implemented on time and within budget;
- Clear timelines and milestones are communicated and followed;
- Work packages are aligned and contribute to the overarching project goals;
- Internal reporting deadlines are consistently met;
- Coordination between local partners and the project team in the Hague is smooth and continuous;

2. Administrative and Logistical Support

- Well-maintained project administration;
- Travel and accommodation arrangements are handled efficiently;
- Project events and missions are organised smoothly and relevant stakeholders are well-informed;
- Well-maintained relationships with implementing partners, sub-contractors and other relevant third parties, with up-to-date knowledge of their ongoing activities and progress.

3. Stakeholder engagement

- Local stakeholders are regularly informed about project progress;
- Stakeholder meetings and workshops are successfully organized and documented;
- Strong relationships are established with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders;
- Partner organisations feel well informed and engaged in the project;
- Feedback from relevant stakeholders is collected and integrated into the project activities;
- The project enjoys strong local visibility and acceptance.

4. Supervision of activities

- Strong harmonisation between individual work packages and the overarching Takiwama project objectives;
- Effective communication and harmonisation between the project team, relevant stakeholders, and project implementers.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

- A robust MEL framework is in place, operational, and aligned with the project's logical framework and EU and Dutch requirements;
- Project progress and performance trends are clearly visible through regularly updated indicator tracking;
- Evidence-based decision-making is strengthened through the consistent application of a functional MEL system;
- Risk of underperformance is reduced thanks to early detection of issues via MEL data;
- Adaptive management becomes possible because lessons learned and best practices are fed back into project planning.

Profile requirements

The following section outlines the key competencies, qualifications, and relevant experience required to carry out activities under this project. These criteria will serve as the basis for evaluating the suitability of the proposed candidate(s). It is essential that all competencies are supported by concrete examples drawn from previous assignments, preferably in comparable contexts or regions.

Qualifications and experiences

- University degree in Business Administration, International Development, Public Administration, Transport/Infrastructure Studies, Economics, or a related field ;
- At least 7 years of experience in project coordination/management or stakeholder management in an international or regional development context in Sub-Saharan Africa, preferably in the Great Lakes Region and with Burundi;
- Fluency in French and English both spoken and written is mandatory, proficiency in local languages is highly desirable;
- Experience in field monitoring, collecting project indicators, and drafting progress reports;
- Demonstrated experience in task delegation and coordination is essential. As some deliverables may require the engagement of third-party service providers/subcontractors, strong communication and collaboration skills are critical to ensure smooth implementation;
- Familiarity with regional governance and the regional regulatory framework, transport infrastructure or cross-border cooperation in the Great Lakes region;
- Knowledge of port operations, transport corridors, value chain development, or cross-border trade facilitation is a strong asset;
- Demonstrated ability to work with a wide range of stakeholders, including government bodies and the private sector.

Network requirements

- Has a good network in connected key cities (e.g. Kalemie, Uvira, Kigoma, Mpulungu or Bujumbura) or can demonstrate the ability to meet these requirements if needed ;
- Has access to informal networks, trusted relationships with the local private sector and preferably local groups or can demonstrate the ability to meet these requirements if needed;
- Has a good network in the public sector and is able to coordinate with national governments, port authorities, customs officials and other relevant government agencies or can demonstrate the ability to meet these requirements if needed ;

Personal Attributes

- Demonstrated strong organizational skills;
- Demonstrated ability to engage with provincial authorities, port officials, local cooperatives and civil society organizations in at least one of the four countries (DRC, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia);
- Proven experience in designing, implementing, and monitoring project plans ;
- Affinity with themes such as sustainable trade, environmental protection, local economic development, or transport.
- Competences: strategic thinking, leadership, diplomacy and negotiation skills, relationship building, technical expertise in transport/port logistics, result-oriented, problem solving ;
- Experience with EU-funded or Dutch-funded development programmes is an advantage, or experience working with or reporting to international donors (e.g., EU, RVO, GIZ, USAID, FAO, or WFP) is desirable.

In case you possess this demonstrable experience you are invited to express your interest to the contact person mentioned below.

Application

Interested companies are invited to send an expression of interest including your CV(s) and the attached filled in ANNEX II, Response form to RVO by e-mail to leonie.verhoef@rvo.nl. Kindly state the name of the contact person of your company and his/her e-mail address.

You do not have to send any additional documents; please only send your CV(s) and the attached filled in response form.

As a result of the market orientation RVO can decide to start a follow-up process. Interested parties can be invited in this process to submit a request for proposal. If more than 5 applicants respond to the market orientation a supplier selection can take place on the basis of a selection prior to the request for proposal.

In case of a follow-up process, no distinction will be made between parties that have or have not participated in the market orientation.

Deadline

The deadline for responding to this market orientation is set at **22 October 2025**.

Leonie Verhoef
Procurement Consultant

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