



Request for Applications: Sustainability in Rule of Law Strengthening

1. Background and context

Advocates for International Development's (A4ID) Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK) Programme is seeking a consultant with expertise in the development sector and knowledge of the rule of law sector to develop a paper on the sustainability of rule of law strengthening interventions.

1.1. About Advocates for International Development

A4ID is the charity that empowers lawyers to use their skills to fight world poverty. Through its pro bono brokerage, legal education programmes and thought leadership work, A4ID is helping the legal sector to meet its global corporate social responsibility to bring about sustainable development.

1.2. About the ROLE UK Programme

A4ID's ROLE UK programme, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), contributes to building long-term partnerships between the UK legal sector and legal actors in ODA-eligible countries to strengthen the rule of law and facilitate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We focus on the eradication of poverty; gender equality; reduced inequalities; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for development.

The ROLE UK Programme supports partnerships between the international development and legal pro bono sectors to provide high-quality pro bono legal and judicial expertise.

1.3. Rationale for the consultancy

A4ID seeks to create the evidence base for the ROLE UK Programme's model of working. This includes assessing the impact of the work and activities supported by the ROLE UK Programme, and making recommendations for further development of the Programme and improved ways of working.

The ROLE UK Programme provides financial and technical support to activities developed within partnerships towards improving the rule of law. The Programme also promotes the generation and application of learning and evidence around how to strengthen the pro bono legal sector's contribution to rule of law and development. Further information on the work the ROLE UK Programme supports is available here: www.roleuk.org.uk.

Sustainability is a key element of our work. Pro bono technical assistance aimed at strengthening the rule of law should be designed to maximise the likelihood that its benefits will continue once the intervention itself has finished. The Programme places emphasis on long-term partnerships and supports strong and sustainable relationships between peers from across the rule of law sector globally.

The topic of sustainability has been addressed in previous publications of the Programme, without being the main focus of these resources. For instance:

- In our [Guide to Judicial Peer-to-Peer Learning to Strengthen the Rule of Law](#) (2020), it is noted that 'many of the organisations involved in peer-to-peer learning, supported by the [ROLE UK] Programme, are very aware of [the shortcomings of peer-to-peer trainings] and are seeking to build sustainability by working with national legal and judicial training institutes, and by developing courses or initiatives that they hope

can be handed over to such institutes (or other parts of the judiciary or justice sector) to run themselves in future’.

- The briefing paper [International Pro Bono: what do we know about what works](#) (2016), ‘Pro bono assignments may be inherently more short term than other types of technical support, but they can nonetheless benefit from explicitly considering the likely sustainability of the work to which they are contributing. If we know that both training and technical assistance achieve better results when they are part of ongoing partnerships, involve mechanisms for longer term mentoring and advice, and incorporate practical learning, then pro bono assignments that support wider assistance with these characteristics are likely to be more effective’.

For monitoring and evaluation purposes, the Programme has also commissioned several evaluations of ongoing supported partnerships. One of the criteria used to evaluate these partnerships is their sustainability, i.e. the extent to which the net benefits of the project will continue, or are likely to continue. These evaluations resulted in recommendations, including as to how to improve the sustainability of said partnerships. Evaluation reports are not publicly available but will be shared with the consultant undertaking this work.

With this paper, the Programme wants to aggregate lessons learned around sustainability of pro bono technical assistance in the rule of law sector in order to provide to its stakeholders a comprehensive resource on the topic of sustainability, offering practical guidance as to how to improve sustainability of their work.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the exercise are:

- To define sustainability in the context of pro bono legal and judicial technical assistance in support of the rule of law,
- To critically review, collate and structure relevant insights about sustainability from previously published Programme resources and partnership evaluations,
- To complement these insights through desk research to offer the most up-to-date summary of the relevant literature,
- To provide practical guidance as to how to improve the sustainability of pro bono legal and judicial technical assistance in support of the rule of law,
- To provide recommendations to A4ID on how its ROLE UK Programme can improve its support to foster sustainability of the supported partnerships.

The exercise will result in one deliverable: A digital paper of approximately 15-20 pages.

3. Focus and scope

In its previous iteration, the ROLE UK Programme supported ad hoc strategic assignments in countries with specific rule of law needs. In its newer iteration (since March 2019) the focus of the Programme has shifted to supporting rule of law work within long-term, dedicated pro bono partnerships. This was a conscious move away from assignment level support, in order to foster greater sustainability of rule of law outcomes.

This paper is primarily aimed at legal/ judicial/ rule of law NGO community working with pro bono technical assistance. We want them to understand the importance of thinking about sustainability from the inception of their interventions and the paper to provide them with guidance as to how to integrate sustainability in their interventions, including with practical advice to make their interventions more sustainable.

The paper is also aimed at A4ID. We want to better understand how the ROLE UK Programme can best support partnerships to increase the sustainability of their work.

Finally, it is aimed at FCDO and other foreign aid donors. We want them to appreciate how peer-to-peer partnerships and rule of law interventions involving pro bono technical assistance can have a sustainable impact, ultimately to fund more of this work in the appropriate contexts.

4. Methodology

This exercise is to be undertaken through a document review, desk-based research, and interviews with representatives of the ROLE UK Programme and, if deemed relevant by the consultant, interviews with selected partners from supported partnerships. It does not entail any in-country time.

Sources of information made available to the consultant will include:

- All relevant documentation on the assignments and activities selected as most relevant (including not publicly available partnership evaluations).
- A list of key persons that the ROLE UK Programme suggests interviewing.

The exercise and the consultant will be managed by the ROLE UK Technical Specialist. Final approval of the reports will be given by the ROLE UK Programme Manager.

This exercise will result in 1 document consisting of approximately 15-20 pages, as outlined above.

The exercise is to be undertaken in late January, February and March 2022 with a final deliverable by **18 March 2022**. It is anticipated that this will be up to **15 days of consultancy** (the Programme team is flexible on this matter).

<i>Indicative timeline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
17-21 January	Interviews of shortlisted applicants	/
w/c 24 January	Selection of the consultant to undertake this work	/
w/c 31 January	Meeting (via conference call) with the ROLE UK Programme team to clarify objectives, finalise methodology, discuss structure of the paper and build understanding of the Programme.	/
February	Desk-based work, including: review of existing sources and literature, identification of additional sources, and preparation of interview questions.	/
	Arranging, conducting and writing up phone and/or face-to-face interviews with Programme team and other stakeholders.	
	Drafting report.	
4 March 2022	Submit draft paper to Programme team for feedback.	Draft paper
11 March 2022	Programme team provides feedback and comments.	



18 March 2022	Finalise paper, integrating feedback and comments, and submit final paper to Programme team.	Final paper
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5. Required competencies

- Demonstrated experience or interest in the topic of sustainability in the international development sector
- Demonstrated experience in the rule of law sector
- Experience of monitoring and evaluating international development programmes
- Experience of collating, analysing and presenting evidence in a clear and structured way
- Excellent written communication skills
- A strong understanding and passion for the role of international legal pro bono work for sustainable development
- A commitment to and understanding of FCDO key priorities, promoting the rule of law and encouraging access to justice
- A proven track record of providing similar services to a comparable client

6. Application process:

- Deadline for submission of applications: **16 January 2022**
- Applications are to be submitted to hannah.bowley@a4id.org (copied to roleuk@a4id.org) with the subject line “Paper – Sustainability in rule of law strengthening” and to include:
 - CV (maximum 3 pages)
 - 1-2-page cover letter which includes how you meet each of the criteria outlined above (please address each criteria in turn, in the order provided above)
 - Your availability in the timelines provided
 - An example of relevant previous written work
 - Proposed costings, inclusive of VAT
 - Name of two referees
- Interviews are expected to take place via Microsoft Teams between **17 and 21 January 2021**
- Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of quality, experience and value for money. Proposed costings should take into account that the ROLE UK Programme is a publicly-funded non-commercial venture.

