

Impact study consultant- Haiti

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to conduct an endline qualitative impact study of EarthSpark's 'scaling mobile-enabled, clean-powered, community-sized smart grids in rural Haiti' project.

Introduction

EarthSpark International is a non-profit organisation working to eradicate energy poverty and build climate resilient communities with a specific focus on solutions in Haiti. They are proving and de-risking a model for solar-powered, community-scale electricity systems that deliver affordable 24/7 electricity to rural communities. Their current focus is expanding their solar-powered community microgrids from 2 to 24 grids in Haiti in the next 4 years to serve over 80,000 people.

EarthSpark's scaling mobile-enabled, clean-powered, community-sized smart grids in rural Haiti is a sixteen month project (April 2020- July 2021), funded by GSMA's Humanitarian Innovation Fund. The aim of the grant is to reduce climate-induced internal displacement by building community climate resilience through the enhancement and scaling of clean, reliable, and affordable energy access microgrid systems and services in rural Haiti. This will be achieved by delivering electricity to communities with mobile-enabled smart grids, and collaborating with Digicel Haiti to improve end-user engagement by integrating bulk SMS, text-based shortcode, customer kiosks, and mobile money functions.

This Terms of Reference (ToR) seeks to commission an impact study consultant to work with EarthSpark and The Research People to explore what has changed for individuals, households and communities on their adaptive, anticipatory, and absorptive capacity to deal with climatic and other humanitarian shocks. This impact study will provide a body of evidence and recommendations to enable EarthSpark to continue to grow their microgrid model in Haiti and beyond. This impact study feeds into EarthSpark's MEL framework. It will also support GSMA's wide learning agenda on the impact of mobile-enabled humanitarian innovations.

Project Description

Project Name	Scaling mobile-enabled, clean-powered, community-sized smart grids in rural Haiti
Organisation	EarthSpark International
Donor	GSMA
Project Start Date	April 2020
Project End Date	July 2021

Project Impact & Outcomes	<p>Impact statement: Access to EarthSpark's clean energy microgrids and mobile-enabled energy literacy build community resilience to natural and man-made shocks.</p> <p>Outcome 1: Households and businesses are connected to mobile-enabled energy access microgrids.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Customers use mobile money banking for energy transactions.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Customers can access and understand their energy use data via digital kiosks.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Customers understand how to productively or efficiently use microgrid electricity.</p>
Geographical areas of Implementation	Les Anglais and Tiburon, Haiti and up to two additional towns within a 2 hour drive from Les Cayes, Haiti

Purpose of the Impact Study

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop and conduct a qualitative impact study of the project. The specific objectives are to:

- Assess the impact of the EarthSpark's clean energy microgrids and mobile-enabled energy literacy to build community resilience to natural and man-made shocks.
- Build a body of evidence on energy access and resilience.
- Develop key recommendations for EarthSpark on building community resilience into their projects.

This consultancy will explore the following learning questions and sub-questions. These learning questions were developed based on testing the key assumptions of the Project Theory of Change (annex 1). The questions highlighted in yellow are the focus for primary data collection within this study. Data for the other questions will be collected by EarthSpark through their internal data collection processes.

Learning questions	Sub-questions
Are ES microgrids cheaper, more convenient, and higher quality energy sources for local communities?	Do customers believe they receive a good quality service?
	Has the microgrid provided a more reliable source of energy than alternatives?
	Are customers making a cost saving? If so, how much per month?
How can micro-grids be leveraged to improve community resilience to climate shocks and other humanitarian	What is the most significant change for households connected to the micro-grids?
	Has access to local energy increased the adaptive, anticipatory, and

crises?	absorptive capacity of connected households?
Has the introduction of mobile technology made the service better for end-users?	Have customers adopted and used mobile money and other mobile support options?
	Does mobile money and engagement increase household energy literacy and outreach?

Methodology

We are interested in reading proposals from consultants which include using participatory action research techniques, which aim as much as possible to minimize the extractive nature of external evaluations and build in opportunities for communities to also reflect on and inform emerging findings.

The impact study will be based on developing qualitative research techniques which put the viewpoint of customers and their communities at the centre, such as the Most Significant Change technique. We are also interested in combining this with tried and tested models around household and community resilience, such as the 3A's framework (adaptive, anticipatory, and absorptive capacity). Primary data collection is expected to be conducted in 4 EarthSpark micro-grid connected communities with customers. The methodologies chosen will inform the number of people consulted, but we expect a variety of stakeholders to be consulted from the 4 communities, such as EarthSpark customers (women, men, business owners...etc.), EarthSpark community governance group, EarthSpark staff and community leaders.

The consultant(s) should propose their methodology, anticipated scope and analytical framework, taking into account the primary data collection needed, in addition to analysing the data collected by EarthSpark through customer satisfaction surveys and light-touch market surveys.

The evaluation must be conducted in accordance with the Research People's [code of conduct](#) for evaluation practitioners.

Key deliverables and timeframe

Evaluation Activities and Deliverable	Timeline
Consultant contracted	1st April 2021
Inception Report: The inception report provides EarthSpark, TRP and consultant(s) with an opportunity to verify that they share the same understanding about the consultancy and clarify any misunderstanding at the outset. An inception report must be prepared by the consultant before going into the full data collection stage. It must detail the consultant's understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each process will be developed and how	30th April 2021

each learning question will be answered by way of: proposed methods, proposed sources of data and data collection/analysis procedures. The inception report must include a workplan which details a step- by- step plan of work that specifies the methods the evaluation will use to collect the information needed to address the learning questions, analyze data, interpret the findings, and report the results and who is responsible.	
Data Collection & key findings workshop: After the primary data collection in Haiti and reviewed data collected from EarthSpark is analysed. The consultants should prepare and deliver a presentation to the responsible team. That presentation must include the preliminary key findings as a way of debriefing on the data collection process and community insights into resilience building.	28th May 2021
Impact study: The consultants must provide a draft impact study, based on the agreed outline in the inception phase, that responds to the learning questions and provides recommendations. After feedback from the responsible team, finalise the study.	18th June 2021

Reporting Lines

The responsible team or steering group will be made up of a multi-organisational group from EarthSpark, GSMA and The Research People.

The steering group will provide strategic oversight and steer for the evaluation, reviewing the inception report and proposed methodology and analytical approach.

EarthSpark will be the daily point of contact, supporting the logistical organisation of the evaluation. Providing the technical inputs and the necessary project information and documentation to complete the evaluation.

The Research People, who will be managing the contract with the consultant, will provide contractual oversight and evaluation of technical inputs.

Qualifications and experience required

We invite applications from consultants able to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and experience.

The consultancy is expected to be developed by national or international consultants. We encourage Haitian institutions to apply and/or partner with other international institutions to deliver this work. We do not expect to include large international travel budgets and would look preferably on a partnership approach with a Haitian team to conduct the study.

If a consultant team, it should consist of a team leader who will be responsible for undertaking the evaluation from start to finish and for managing the evaluation team under the supervision of EarthSpark (and the Research People), for the data collection and analysis, as well as report drafting and finalization in English. This person should have strong experience leading impact studies on resilience and using action research methodologies.

The qualifications and/or specialized knowledge/ experience required are:

- Extensive experience undertaking qualitative impact studies, especially using methodologies which support less extractive data collection analysis techniques.
- Expertise in evaluating resilience projects
- Knowledge and experience in working with or evaluating access to clean energy projects.
- A strong commitment to delivering timely and high-quality results
- Team members and/or data collectors fluent in Haitian Creole and English.

Available Budget

The maximum budget available for this work is £27,000.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals should be in English and include:

- A concise summary of the team and demonstration of suitability and relevant experience as per the above (maximum three pages)
- Your proposed approach and outline methodology to achieve the required deliverables and outline workplan
- Your proposed budget broken down by activity and including allocations for individual team members.

You may wish to include (attached as links or appendices):

- Examples of relevant work and materials produced.
- References or testimonials from previous partners or clients.

We are looking for proposals to demonstrate a concise and clear communication style.

Proposals can be submitted as Word documents or PDF files by the **5pm GMT 1st March 2021 to Catherine Komuhangi**, catherine@theresearchpeople.org

If you have any questions regarding this Terms of Reference, please submit them to Catherine Komuhangi, Catherine@theresearchpeople.org by 12 noon (GMT), Monday 22nd February 2021.