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**Consultancy: Lead Country Researcher**  
*Study on Refugee-Led Responses in Eastern Africa*  
*Terms of Reference*

**Overview:**

We are looking to award four consultancies for **Lead Country Researchers** in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda** to collaborate on the development and implementation of the study “**Evaluation of Refugee-Led Organisations in Eastern Africa**”. The four consultancies are funded by a consortium of donors through research grants to Carleton University through [Local Engagement Refugee Research Network](#) (LERRN) and in partnership with the [Refugee Studies Centre](#) (RSC) at the University of Oxford.

**The Lead Country Researcher positions are designed for candidates who hold refugee status or are otherwise affected by displacement** (e.g., as asylum seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, former refugees, etc). They will contribute to the development of the project’s research methodology, manage its implementation, collaborate in data analysis and the preparation of results, and play an active role in the mobilisation of research results through academic and policy outputs. The Lead Country Researchers will be supported in their work by colleagues from LERRN and the RSC.

**Location:** The Lead Country Researchers will need to be able to collaborate with a multi-sited research team using remote technology and will be based in their place of habitual residence in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, or Uganda.

**Travel:** Lead Country Researchers will be based in one of the four countries of focus, and may be expected to travel to Nairobi, Kenya for team meetings, when and where deemed safe and where travel is possible.

**Duration of the assignment:** 240 days over a 12-month period.

**Remuneration:** Payment to be determined based on the qualifications of the selected applicant.

**Application deadline:** 29th March 2021.

**Expected start date:** 19th April 2021.

**Research project background & scope:**

The [Refugee Studies Centre](#) (RSC) at the University of Oxford and the [Local Engagement Refugee Research Network](#) (LERRN) are planning to undertake a longitudinal study to understand the factors that influence the impact of refugee-led organisations (RLOs) as service-delivery providers in humanitarian settings in Eastern Africa. It is commonly claimed that RLOs can be more effective, efficient, and legitimate in their responses compared to other humanitarian actors. However, there is a lack of systematic evidence to support such claims.

The project has three main aims: 1) document the scope of RLOs’ activities in the region and explain their impact on humanitarian responses (*impact*); 2) understand the opportunities and constraints, including local, national, and international politics, that shape the work of RLOs (*politics*); 3) identify best practices from RLOs and mechanisms to reduce the barriers that RLOs encounter in order to enhance their impact (*mechanisms*).



Research will take place in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda**. Our intention is to identify a minimum of 10-15 refugee-led organisations within each country giving a **minimum of 40-60 organisations in the entire study**. Selection criteria for our overall sample will be co-designed and include considerations such as representation from urban and camp/settlement locations in each country, and a range of locations, nationality groups, and activities in each country in order to explore variation across contexts.

The research processes will be **led by refugee researchers, from start to finish, with refugees comprising a majority of the core research team**. The Lead Country Researchers will be involved in co-developing and refining the research questions, co-designing the research tools, conducting and analysing the qualitative and quantitative data collected, co-producing the results, and will be actively engaged as partners in the publication and dissemination processes.

**Scope of work & responsibilities:**

As part of a research team, individual Lead Country Researchers will:

- Collaborate with the team to develop a methodology appropriate for the project;
- Lead on the implementation on the project methodology in their country of focus;
- Design and implement a data collection strategy appropriate for their national context;
- Advise on the process to secure research permits, as appropriate, for their national context;
- Facilitate linkages with refugee-led organisations in their national context;
- Contribute to cross-national knowledge exchange and learning;
- Contribute to the analysis of data collected across contexts;
- Contribute to the preparation of research results;
- Contribute to the mobilisation of research results; and
- Participate in research and policy dialogue activities throughout the project.

**Requirements:**

**Eligibility:**

The four Lead Country Researcher positions will be filled by researchers who hold refugee status or are otherwise affected by displacement (e.g., as asylum seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, former refugees, etc.)

**Minimum qualifications:**

- Completed a relevant degree (e.g., International Development, Refugee Studies, Development Economics, Political Science, Law, Public Policy, Public Health, Social Work, Sociology, etc.), with a preference given to candidates who have completed a graduate degree or specialised training in social sciences methodology;
- Skills and Knowledge:
  - Demonstrated experience in research methods and collaborations relevant to this project;
  - Demonstrated experience in preparing research results through reports and research papers in fields relevant to this project; and,
  - Experience working independently, in cross-cultural contexts, and in a dynamic research team environment.



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- Advanced writing skills in English and preference for languages spoken in the regions of the country where the study will take place.

While all eligible candidates are encouraged to apply, preference will be given to candidates who contribute to the diversity of the research team, especially in terms of the profile of researchers, the representation of nationalities, and the range of methodological expertise necessary to undertake this research.

**Application process:**

To apply, please send the following materials to [RLOea.recruitment@gmail.com](mailto:RLOea.recruitment@gmail.com) with the subject line "Lead Country Researcher Application" by Monday 29th March:

1. CV (2 pages maximum)
2. 1-2 writing samples relevant to the position (2,000 words maximum, excerpts welcome, and from work that you authored independently)
3. In Word or PDF format, write a letter introducing yourself that includes only the following points:
  - One paragraph describing your academic background.
  - One to two paragraphs describing your research skills and examples of projects where you have used them. Explain how these connect to the study.
  - One paragraph describing past experiences working independently, in cross-cultural contexts, and in a dynamic team environment.

If you have any questions about the application process, please write to [RLOea.recruitment@gmail.com](mailto:RLOea.recruitment@gmail.com). You are also invited to attend an information session during which we will talk through this document and hold a Question & Answer session for prospective applicants. These will take place on the following dates and can be accessed on these links – no advance registration required:

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March @ 1pm EAT <https://zoom.us/j/98817976383>
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March @ 5pm EAT <https://zoom.us/j/99304703569>

**All applicants will be contacted and informed of the outcome of their application.** Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in an intake and orientation session on the week of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. The orientation will take place virtually, with alternative options offered to candidates with limited internet access.