Supporting Public Financial Management reform in Sudan: consultancy opportunities

ODI is looking to recruit a number of positions to work in Khartoum to support the reform plan of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP).

The positions will work alongside our existing team of Sudanese and international experts with support from our UK based Technical Advisory team in the Development Policy and Finance Programme (DPF). The roles would suit experts with extensive in-country experience, including developed networks within the relevant state institutions, experience of public financial management and experience of providing technical assistance (TA) to governments.

Background

ODI’s support to the Ministry of Finance in Sudan is part of our broader Development and Public Finance (DPF) programme which covers both domestic and international sources of finance. Our work on public finance focuses on the nexus of public finance management (PFM) and development, while also providing policy and implementation support to ministries of finance, revenue authorities and other public agencies. The programme encompasses a core team based in London and a wider network of associates and consultants.

DPF’s main advisory work has been delivered through a series of Country Partnerships, predominantly under ODI’s Budget Strengthening Initiative (BSI), which provides strategic advice and practical assistance to ministries of finance in fragile and transitional states, building capacity in all areas of public financial management from planning and budgeting, systems reform and aid coordination, as well as support for service delivery at the local level. ODI works effectively alongside more conventional TA providers and provides the comparative advantage of a strategic and flexible approach designed to adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities.

We have been providing advisory support to Ministries of Finance, Revenue Authorities and others in the DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somaliland & Puntland, Sudan, South Sudan, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Nepal, Rwanda, Mali and Uganda, and have carried out research in many other country contexts.

Project overview

ODI’s support in Sudan will address five areas and take forward the following activities.

1. The formulation of a problem-driven PFM reform action plan with cross department and development partner coordination. The activities proposed to achieve this output include:

   1.1 A capabilities assessment to identify the key constraints to implementing solutions to identified problems;
   • Conduct an analysis of fiscal data and information (e.g. budgets versus actual expenditures);
   • Carry out interviews with key stakeholders (by teleconferencing if necessary due to COVID-19 travel restrictions);
   • Prepare (and translate) the assessment report;
   • Discuss the findings and recommendations of the assessment with MoFEP and other stakeholders.
1.2 The establishment of PFM reform coordination team and PFM reform action plan;
• Establish a PFM reform coordination team;
• Transform the findings and recommendations of the assessment into a prioritised and sequenced draft PFM reform action plan (including translation);
• Hold consultations with relevant stakeholders and finalise the PFM reform action plan (including translation)

1.3 The coordination of external technical assistance to support the implementation of PFM reforms.
• providing ongoing support to regular monitoring of progress on the PFM Reform Action Plan and its update as other diagnostics (i.e. the PEFA assessment, PETS, and Health PER) are carried out;
• Implementation support to priority PFM reforms in coordination with other technical assistance providers.

2. The establishment of an Analysis and Monitoring Unit (AMU) in the Research and Policy Department that has the capability to monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of economic reforms. The activities proposed under this output include:
2.1 The development of a structure for the unit including: terms of reference and workplan; and a needs assessment;
2.2 The development of key processes and tools to deliver the workplan;
2.3 Implementation support, funding and capacity building.

3. The establishment of an Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) that promotes greater alignment of development assistance with government priorities. The activities proposed under this output include:
3.1 The development of a structure for the unit including: terms of reference and workplan; and a needs assessment;
3.2 The development of key methodologies, tools, and research budget to deliver the workplan;
3.3 Implementation support, funding of research outputs, and capacity building.

4. Support to the budget cycle, process, and management. The activities proposed under this output will include support to the relevant departments/units (budget, treasury, macro, and debt) and flow from the recommendations of the capabilities assessment (see output 1 above) and include:
4.1 Advice and support to the heads of relevant departments on organising their teams along functional lines and identifying their capacity building needs;
4.2 Technical assistance to implement new tools or adapt existing processes for coordinating and managing various inputs and outputs of the budget process;
4.3 A mix of capacity building including formal training on budget processes and on the job mentoring and training.

5. **Supporting improvements in health sector PFM.** This will be specifically targeted at the cross government appointed team that will ultimately carry out a PER and PETS for the health sector, and include:

5.1 Formal training sessions on conducting spending reviews;
5.2 Support to carry out initial scoping to identify the availability and gaps in data and information required to carry out the spending reviews;
5.3 Support in to carry out the PER and PETS and present the findings to policymakers.

**Overview of the position(s)**

The project is looking to hire additional support which can be used to support reforms in the five areas described above. Specific expertise which can support the budget process both at the central level as well as in the Ministry of Health is of particular importance, but support will also be required to increase the Ministry’s analytical and research capability alongside support for aid co-ordination.

Experience in managing large scale reform programmes and experience in developing capability and capacity within a central Ministry are also key attributes. Ideally candidates will be able to work flexibly across the five designated areas of support.

**Education and Experience**

The ideal candidates will possess:

- (Post-)graduate qualification in economics, public administration, development studies, business administration and accounting, or other professional equivalent
- Extensive experience and expertise regarding country level political and socio-economic context, stakeholders, institutions, and government
- Ability to speak/learn Arabic
- Excellent analytical and writing skills

**Closing date:** 25 July 2021

**Interview date:** Week commencing 2 August 2021

**Role start date:** ASAP

*To apply, please email a CV, your fee rate and an indication of which role you wish to apply for, to dpfrecruitment@odi.org.uk. The deadline for applications is 11:59 GMT on Sunday 25 July 2021.*