



Call for proposals

Political Economy Analysis of selected sectors in Zimbabwe

1 Background

The Swiss Cooperation Programme for Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2026 outlines 3 key areas of engagement, namely 1) increase food security and unlock economic opportunities, 2) strengthen health service delivery and shock responsive systems for resilience, and 3) improve public sector accountability and citizen participation.

In the past, Switzerland's engagement in Zambia and Zimbabwe followed a regional approach and focused primarily on improving food security and access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services and prevention of HIV/AIDS amongst youth. The new two-country Programme approach provides an opportunity to build upon results and lessons learnt from earlier regional interventions, and to deepen and extend cooperation in specific sectors, including on governance.

With governance as a stand-alone outcome area of the 2023-2026 Swiss Cooperation Programme, Switzerland aims to address fundamental shortcomings in public sector governance, increase social cohesion and the overall impact and sustainability of Swiss interventions in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

In line with SDG 16, Switzerland understands effective, accountable and inclusive institutions on the one hand, and peaceful and empowered societies on the other hand, as key enablers for sustainable socio-economic development to realize the 2030 Agenda. Globally, SDC's engagement on governance is centred around five pillars: i) Promoting democratic governance, participation and accountability, ii) Supporting decentralisation and well-functioning multi-level governance, iii) Combating corruption on all levels, iv) Responding to governance opportunities and challenges arising from digitalization and v) Strengthening governance as a lever and transversal theme.

In all these pillars, Switzerland aims to address governance issues through a systemic and political approach that takes into account foundational factors, structures, processes and actors and gives consideration to underlying power dimensions.

2 Programme Context

Through its new Cooperation Programme, Switzerland aims to address governance from both the supply as well as demand side:

- **Outcome 3.1: Public institutions effectively deliver services in an accountable way and in respect of human rights:** Switzerland's support aims to strengthen public institutions at various levels to increase capacities, accountability and inclusiveness of public institutions to effectively deliver on their mandates.
- **Outcome 3.2: Citizens, specifically women and youth, increasingly participate and influence decision-making:** Switzerland's support aims to strengthen civil society and civil society organisations to promote participation and inclusion at all levels (from household, to community and national structures) with a focus on leaving no one behind and empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups, namely women and youth.

In the past, both SDC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Peace and Human Rights Division have supported governance interventions in Zimbabwe. They addressed a broad range of

issues including Social Accountability, Reconciliation, Human Rights, support to independent Commissions and the General Elections and targeted different stakeholders from central and local government and civil society. With the establishment of a dedicated Governance Outcome, SDC aims to prioritize interventions that tackle the root causes of governance failures, strengthen participation, accountability, transparency and inclusion and bring about tangible results while capitalizing on existing knowledge, networks and relationships. Governance interventions will first focus on Zimbabwe and will include Zambia later on.

In order to gain a better understanding of the governance system, existing and possible interventions in the governance sector in Zimbabwe, SDC engaged in a governance mapping exercise in the first half of 2023 which was followed by a validation Workshop with Embassy staff and selected partners to identify potential areas of interest to be further pursued.

3 Scope and objectives of the political economy analysis

The proposed political economy analysis is one of several steps towards the design of SDC's new Governance Outcome programme and shall provide the analytical framework from which pathways and operational implications will be derived. It shall complement the preceding governance mapping exercise and shall illustrate the ways in which political and economic power is constituted, exercised and contested in selected areas. It shall also highlight how the two dimensions are intertwined and the challenges this might entail when working on Governance. In this sense, it shall give insights into how change might happen and how a Swiss intervention might contribute to creating spaces and enhancing peoples' capacities to effect change.

The PEA shall focus on the following two key areas and provide insights into relevant foundational factors, structures, processes and actors, their interdependencies, roles, power, interests, willingness and capacities for change:

1. Decentralization/Devolution Reform and Local Governance Systems
2. Civil Society Sector with a focus on Civil Society Organisations operating at the local government level, including media organisations

The analysis should put a particular focus on youth and women as actors/changemakers, and gender aspects and dynamics must be explicitly looked at.

More specifically, the analysis shall address the following aspects in the two key areas:

Analysis of foundational factors:

Including national, subnational and international socio-economic and power structures, patterns of inclusion/exclusion within state and society; fault lines of conflict; reach, authority, and legitimacy of the state

Analysis of the "rules of the game" and political settlements

Including inclusiveness of political and economic bargaining processes, competition for political power, the role of social institutions and social communication networks, the role of women and reasons for failure of previous reforms

Analysis of actors and agent

Including their interest, relationships, capacities, leadership incentives and disincentives for changes.

Pathways of change

Including local incentives/pressures for positive change, scope to promote development, reform space, lessons learned from previous programmes and tactical pathways for change.

4 Methods and Approach

To address the study questions, the proposed methodology should include a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches, including a desktop review of existing governance reports and programme reports/reviews and interviews with key stakeholders in Zimbabwe. See 9. *Stakeholders* for a non-exhaustive list of potential stakeholders to engage.

5 Deliverables

- Deliverables 1: **An inception report** which contains the methodology, approach, assessment questions, data collection and data analysis methods, suggested list of key informants and key stakeholders.
- Deliverable 2: **Presentation of preliminary findings:** develop and present a PowerPoint presentation showing preliminary findings to the programme's key stakeholders. Comments made by the key stakeholders will inform the draft report.
- Deliverable 3: **A draft report** which should follow the following structure: **Introduction, Methodology, Analysis, Conclusions, Recommendations and Annexes** to be shared with key stakeholders for comments.
The report should not exceed 20 pages, Arial 11 excluding the annexes.
- Deliverable 4: **Final study report** incorporating all comments received and a **final Power Point Presentation** summarizing the report.

6 Time frame, targets dates

The proposed time frame / deadlines for specific milestones and deliverables and working days is as follows and shall be confirmed in the contract

Date / Deadline	Activity	Proposed working days
30. October 23, 12.00 CAT	Deadline for submission of proposal	
Beginning of November	Award decision	
November	Briefing with Swiss Embassy Harare	1
November	Preparation, desk study, study design	5
November/December	Submission of inception report	
December/January	Field visits, interviews, discussions as per proposed methodology	16
January	Debriefing / presentation of preliminary findings	1
15 days after conclusion of data collection	Elaboration of draft report	5
5 days after reception of comments	Incorporation of feedback from SDC	2
February 2024	Submission of final report	
	Total number of days	30

7. Qualification and expertise

The team of consultants will consist of an international expert and one (or more) local expert. The team will assign a team leader who will be the point of contact for SDC. Expert(s) will have the following minimum qualifications and experience:

- Advanced educational qualifications in political science, public administration/policy, development studies and/or social sciences
- At least 15 years' experience in development research
- Sound knowledge of political, economic and social context and recent developments in Zimbabwe
- Previous experience in political economy analysis and policy analysis in the social sectors, ideally in Southern Africa (please provide 2 reference documents)

- Research experience in Zimbabwe and at least two published/peer reviewed articles in the past five years
- Experience in different methods of data collection and analysis
- Proven experience in adopting a LNOB and gender equality lens
- Excellent report writing skills

8 Financial and technical offer

The technical offer for this assignment should adhere to the following structure, including page limitation:

Chapter	Description	No. pages (max.)
0	Covering letter with signatures	1
1	Technical Offer	5
1.1	Introduction with motivation for the bid	
1.2	Understanding of the mandate	
1.3	Description of the proposed methodology and implementation plan with timeframes, risks, constraints and opportunities	
1.4	Competencies, roles, responsibility of the consultant team	
2	Financial proposal: In USD in accordance with proposed number of days and in compliance with SDC budget template.	1
3	Annexes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CVs of consultants participating (each CV not exceeding 2 pages) - List of similar assignments executed before with contact of references (min. 2) - Others 	

The financial offers must be prepared in USD, indicating separately the consultants' fees/rates and all expenses for travel, accommodation, meals, etc. SDC's financial template will be provided upon request.

All bids/ proposals should be sent by e-mail to:

Mr. Edson Mugore, edson.mugore@eda.admin.ch
 Ms. Liliane Tarnutzer, liliane.tarnutzer@eda.admin.ch

no later than October 30th 2023, 12.00 CAT.

The subject of the e-mail should read **TOR: Political Economy Analysis Zimbabwe**

8 Documents

The following key documents will be made available to researchers interested in submitting their offers for this assignment:

- Swiss Cooperation Programme Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2026
- Mapping for potential entry points in the governance sector in Zimbabwe, 2023
- Review of the enablers and barriers to effectiveness of SAC local actors under the Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture, 2023 (available from end October 2023)
- Governance in SDC, 2020

9 Stakeholders

The following is a non-exhaustive list of possible stakeholders to engage for the assignment.

- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
- Parliament LG Portfolio Committee

- Local government associations
- Local council associations
- National Chiefs' Council
- Women's associations
- Residence associations
- Farmers' associations
- CSOs
- Academia
- Bilateral donors
- INGOs