



► REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Mapping study of the social and solidarity economy in **ETHIOPIA**

Position	Individual National Consultancy
Deadline	4 September 2023
Duration	2 months
Estimated effort in days	25 days in total

1. Background

Over the last several years, the social and solidarity economy has received increasing attention across countries and regions due mainly to its perceived role as a tool to achieve inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery and development. The successive adoptions of ILO's [Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy](#) and [its Strategy and Action Plan \(SAP\) on Decent Work and the SSE](#), as well as the [UN Resolution on the SSE](#) confirm the momentum around this alternative and inclusive human-centred model of entrepreneurship.

In Africa, the institutional recognition accorded to the SSE varies from country to country but remain limited. Only five African countries have a legal and institutional framework specifically dedicated to the SSE. ¹ Fully aware of this challenge, with technical support from the ILO, the African Union has developed a ten-year SSE strategy and its implementation plan towards a comprehensive, coordinated and mutually reinforcing policy framework of actions to legitimize, support and expand the SSE in its Member States as one of the post Covid-19 recovery and reconstruction strategies.²

¹ ILO: *Social and solidarity economy: Social innovation catalyst in Africa* (2022)

² ILO: [The African Union holds a Consultative Meeting of Civil Society Organizations on its draft Ten-Year Strategy on the Social and Solidarity Economy and its Implementation Plan \(2023-2033\)](#)

The term 'social and solidarity economy' as such is relatively recent in Africa, and in many African countries, this term does not (yet) belong to the language commonly used by policymakers and researchers; this however does not mean that these countries did not have a social and solidarity economy. On the contrary, one could say that Africa was the continent in which the social and solidarity economy plays the most prominent role, as all African countries had a large number of organisations that pursue SSE objectives.³The term "SSE" appeared on the African continent during the first decade of the 21st century, initially in French-speaking North and West Africa before timidly spreading to the rest of the continent. The principal components of the SSE in sub-Saharan Africa, i.e. cooperatives⁴, mutuals⁵, self-help associations⁶, social enterprises⁷ and rotating savings and credit associations/Tontines⁸ are relatively well researched in sub-Saharan Africa, whereas much less literature exists on the state of SSE as a movement, in its entirety in Africa.^{9 10}

Box 1. Definition of social and solidarity economy

The SSE encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social, and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets. SSE entities aspire to long-term viability and sustainability, and to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and operate in all sectors of the economy. They put into practice a set of values which are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability, and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods. According to national circumstances, the SSE includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE.

Source: ILO Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy (2022)

Despite the enthusiasm around the SSE, it should not be seen as a miracle solution to each and every development problem. It is therefore important to properly consider the

³ Borzaga C. & Galera G.: *The potential of social economy for local development in Africa: an exploratory report* (2014)

⁴ See for instance Wanyama, F.; Develtere, P.; Pollet I.: *Reinventing the Wheel? African Cooperatives in a Liberalized Economic Environment* (2009)

⁵ See for instance Waelkens M-P.; Criel B.: *Les mutuelles de santé en Afrique Sub-Saharienne - état des lieux et réflexions sur un agenda de recherche* (2004)

⁶ See for instance Hamer J-H: *Preconditions and Limits in the Formation of Associations: The Self-Help and Cooperative Movement in Subsaharan Africa*

⁷ See for instance: Littlewood & Holt : *Social enterprise resilience in sub-Saharan Africa* (2018)

⁸ See for instance: Reito: *ROSCAs without sanction* (2019)

⁹ See for instance: Tremblay C.: *Advancing the Social Economy for Socio-economic Development: International perspectives* (2009)

¹⁰ Schwettmann J. (2022)

forms taken by the SSE in a given context, assess what the SSE can contribute to the achievement of national priorities, and which type of SSE entities is best suited to pursue specific national strategies. This would raise the visibility of the SSE and, thereby, make it a more prominent and impactful development actor.¹¹

2. Scope of the assignment

Under the supervision of ILO's Cooperatives Unit and in close collaboration with ILO Country Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Special Representative to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa together with the African Union Commission, the objective of this consultancy is to carry out a rapid mapping exercise of the social and solidarity economy in Ethiopia.

The main objective of the assessment is to analyze the forms taken by the SSE, assess the priority needs for strengthening the development of the SSE, as well as the opportunities and challenges of its entities in particular with respect to the current and potential contribution to the implementation of national strategies.

Specific tasks to be covered by the consultant include:

- Conduct a desk review of existing relevant literature on the SSE and its trends at regional level as well as in Ethiopia including on its entities,
- Conduct a desk review of relevant policies, legislation and national strategies documents related and/or impacting the development of the SSE and its entities,
- Map relevant SSE stakeholders in particular main SSE representatives at national level and relevant public authorities in charge of the development and/or its entities,
- Elaborate the research methodology and tools (e.g., checklist, interview questionnaires) for assessing the SSE, its forms and contribution to decent job creation as well as key national strategies in Ethiopia and case studies of relevant SSE entities,
- Assess the challenges and opportunities for the development of the SSE and its entities in preselected sectors with high potential for decent job creation,
- Produce a diagnostic analysis report based on the above objectives which includes but is not limited to a desk review, overview of the SSE landscape in Ethiopia (incl. forms of the SSE), stakeholders mapping, examples of good practices of the contribution of SSE entities to national priorities, analysis of challenges and opportunities for SSE development in general, and in sectors with

¹¹ Schwettmann J. (2022)

high potential for decent job creation. The report will include recommendations for future interventions in this field.

3. Methodology

The methodology to be followed by the consultant will include the following components:

- a. A desk review of relevant documents related to the legal framework of SSE entities and selected national strategy documents. The ILO will also provide documentation it may have available.
- b. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) with relevant stakeholders such as representatives of SSE entities, SSE support organizations, public authorities, social partners and private sector actors. The main objective of the interviews will be to gather in-depth information, including perceptions, views and factual information on the current situation and potential for SSE development. The consultant should take specific measures to ensure the inclusion women and youth as interviewees.

An interview/FGD plan as well as the draft interview guide / FGD guide questionnaire should be included in the inception report. The interviews could be done either face to face or remotely.

4. Deliverables

Specific deliverables expected from the consultant include the following:

Deliverables	Explanation	Estimated days required
1. Inception Report and Work Plan	This document should include detailed work plan with a tentative list of the stakeholders to be interviewed; Specific research questions; interview and FGD guide / questionnaire; Initial bibliography for the literature review;	3
2. Draft mapping study based on reviews, interviews and FGDs	The draft report should include a literature review; Analysis of the SSE landscape e.g. forms of SSE, legal environment, assessment of challenges faced by SSE entities, opportunities of SSE in terms of sector with high growth potential; case studies of good practices of SSE	20

	entities highlighting ongoing SSE initiatives in the country, Recommendations for future interventions and the way forward; Complete list of interviews; Bibliography; Annexes on the organizations and people interviewed; interview questionnaires; list of stakeholders identified during the mapping exercise	
3. Final report	Revised report based on the comments to the draft report	2

5. Qualifications required

- i. Advanced University Degree in law, social and solidarity economy, social sciences or another relevant field
- ii. At least five years of experience in SSE or cooperative development, at national and/or international level
- iii. Demonstrated experience in conducting legal analysis
- iv. Experience developing practical training manuals, and/or research instruments
- v. Strong demonstrated analytical ability
- vi. Ability to verbally convey complex technical issues to a diverse audience
- vii. Excellent analysis and report writing skills, including ability to elaborate high quality documents in English
- viii. Demonstrated ability to develop presentations and verbally convey complex technical issues to a wide range of stakeholders.

6. Assignment timeframe and payment schedule

The mapping study must be produced over a maximum 2-month period, starting on 18 September 2023 and final deliverable must be submitted no later than 18 November 2023.

Payment Schedule

1. 30% upon submission of inception report
2. 70% upon submission of final report

7. Application process

Candidates interested in this consultancy are invited to submit a technical proposal which should include: i) tasks to be performed; ii) suggested methodology; iii) work plan; iv) detailed financial proposal; v) CV of the person who will undertake the consultancy. At least one copy of a similar task developed under a previous contract should be submitted.

Please also make sure to provide references for previous work done which is being cited in your application. Submissions should be sent to coop@ilo.org no later than by 8 September 2023.