



# Opportunity in international development



## Team Leader - Director of Research and Operations

### The Evidence Fund, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO)

KPMG East Africa is seeking an experienced research professional to lead an impending global research and evidence programme that will be funded by FCDO. The Evidence Fund, will support a broad spectrum of evidence needs to generate operationally relevant research, analysis, evaluation and syntheses to inform policy and programming decisions will be implemented across Africa, Asia and Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

### About KPMG

KPMG is a global network of member firms located in 147 countries employing 219,000 people. KPMG International Development Advisory Services (IDAS) Africa adopts a pan-African approach to development work, managing innovative multidisciplinary programmes and projects. IDAS Africa is part of a global network of international development professionals in KPMG. The KPMG IDAS Africa team is based at our headquarters in Nairobi, and works together with the Southern Africa and West Africa hubs and a 'network of champions across the twenty countries of KPMG in Sub-Saharan Africa. KPMG IDAS Africa also works closely with KPMG offices around the world on global development programmes.

KPMG IDAS is a respected programme and fund manager with extensive experience in building development partnerships between private and public entities, civil society organisations and local communities. We work effectively with a wide range of clients from governments, bilateral and multilateral development agencies to entrepreneurial start-ups across Africa.

### Background to the Evidence Fund

The Evidence Fund will bring together several programmes previously delivered across FCDO's Research and Evidence Division (RED) into a single coordinated platform programme and will support urgent, mid- and longer-term knowledge generation, synthesis, translation and engagement.

The Evidence Fund will serve FCDO's Research and Evidence Division which supports FCDO country offices, FCDO policy advisers and external agencies to make the best use of available evidence and generate new knowledge. The direct recipients of these services will be three FCDO Regional Research Hubs (for East Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa), and the FCDO Evaluation Unit.

### Responsibilities

KPMG is seeking an experienced Team Leader to serve as the Director of Research and Operations to lead the overall delivery and operations of The Evidence Fund. Demonstrable experience leading and delivering FCDO/UK government programmes will be essential. Previous experience in managing research and evidence platforms that have influenced research priorities, resulting in policy making uptake will be key for this role.

The Director of Research and Operations will be responsible for the overall strategy, direction and operations of the programme and ensure successful performance and delivery of outputs and results. He/she will provide leadership, guidance and oversight for the design of high-quality research processes, evaluation and evidence products targeting policy, country specific and regional priorities available for use by FCDO and the international development sector. This position will play a key role in developing good working relationships with counterparts at FCDO, interfacing with policymakers across the UK Government, international and host-country stakeholders.

The Director of Research and Operations will lead a lean team of regional research coordinators (in each of the three regions) and a centrally based contracts, procurement and finance team. He/she will also manage a pool of peer reviewers and research providers. The position will report to KPMG's senior management team.

### Skills and expertise

- Advanced academic qualifications in international development, social science or a related discipline with at least 12 years working at senior level in international development;
- Experience in management of research programmes with academic/think tanks or similar institutions and being able to demonstrate successes in effective linkages between evidence/research and policy processes;
- International portfolio and supplier management experience at a senior level, particularly in relation to strategic leaderships and delivering programmes funded by development partners (essential);
- Proven experience of bringing together programme ambition with operational delivery across number of sub-suppliers, delivery components and countries;
- Expertise in the management and delivery of research, evidence and evaluation programme including ensuring effective quality assurance and peer review;
- Strong track record of managing delivery of suppliers through commercial mechanisms/ frameworks;
- Strong track record of managing risk, and adaptive and flexible approaches to delivery in complex portfolios;
- Expertise in working cross-sectors, bringing together political, economic and development issues;
- Experience in leading and managing a multidisciplinary team (including current remote and virtual working arrangements);
- Experience in at least one of the regions covered by the Evidence Fund (East Africa, South Asia, Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Wider experience will be advantageous.

### Duration and location

- This is a 3 year programme (with a possibility of another 3 years extension) anticipated to commence in the third or fourth quarter of 2021. These dates are tentative and could be delayed due to the current realignment of FCDO programmes following the UK Government integrated review.
- We expect the team lead and the core team to deliver the programme out of KPMG East Africa's Nairobi hub. Flexible working arrangements and locations in London/UK may be considered. Travel to the target countries may be required subject to COVID-19 status and directives at the time.

Due to the short timeline for this opportunity, we ask you to send your CVs in by **18 June 2021** to **DASproposals@kpmg.co.ke**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

**\*Please note that at this stage the scope of work is indicative and may be subject to change once the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the programme is released and as the opportunity develops. Appointing a successful candidate will be contingent on the outcome of the bid\***

