

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### impact evaluation expertise in financial sector development

#### A. Introduction

FSD Africa (“the Company”) seeks to appoint an expert institution, hereafter referred to as “the Consultant”, to help the Company, and the FSD Network<sup>1</sup> strengthen their approach to measuring financial sector development impact.

The Consultant’s scope of work will include three key tasks:

- (i) provide FSD Africa’s Development Committee<sup>2</sup> with capacity and domain expertise to fulfil its mandate to monitor the Company’s developmental impact;
- (ii) independently review the performance of the entire Network (including FSD Africa) against its financial sector development strategy; and
- (iii) ensure the integrity of the FSD Network’s combined Measurement and Results Management (MRM) system.

Expected to commence work in the first half of 2020, the Consultant will work on a drawdown basis under an initial one-year contract (renewable), with a projected input of 200 person-days per annum.

#### B. Background

The appointment of an institution to fulfil this role comes at a time when the FSD Network (including FSD Africa) is refreshing its development approach and seeking additional funding from DFID for a multi-year programme extension in which FSDs will continue to operate autonomously (albeit under a common, high-level strategic framework) but with some programme functions, including MRM, partially centralised at FSD Africa.

The FSD Network’s new direction of travel (“FSD 2.0”) involves tying financial system development to real and social sector outcomes more explicitly. The FSD Network believes that by addressing key gaps in Africa’s financial system, it can greatly contribute to the SDG goals, more specifically SDGs 1, 5, 8, 9 and 13. FSD 2.0 seeks to (i) create and sustain jobs, (ii) increase individuals’ access to basic services (for instance housing and healthcare) (iii) help individuals, households and communities in target countries cope with climate change.

FSD Africa’s Development Committee Terms of Reference provide for the appointment of an Independent Expert to help the Committee fulfil its functions. These include *inter alia* evaluating FSD Africa’s progress

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<sup>1</sup> A family of financial sector deepening, or FSD programmes, operating across sub-Saharan Africa

<sup>2</sup> FSD Africa Board Committee responsible for looking after the Company’s development impact

towards the achievement of expected development impacts, as well as assuring FSD Africa's Board of the integrity of the Company's MRM systems (data quality, timeliness and usefulness of insights etc.).

In June 2019, the Committee's Independent Expert stood down. In considering how best to re-fill the position, FSD Africa concluded that its interests (and those of DFID – its core funder - and the FSD Network) would be best served by greatly expanding the scope of work of the Independent Expert and by developing a longer-term relationship with an academic or research institution (or consulting firm) that would be able to provide more capacity and a broader range of MRM domain expertise than a single individual could offer.

A relationship like this would allow the institution to continually strengthen the MRM capacity of the Network by involving a number of individuals, each with complementary skills and experience, in the measurement work of the Network, whilst at the same time providing independent assurance to the Board of FSD Africa and DFID on the integrity on the FSD Network's measurements systems (including those of FSD Africa).

### **C. Objectives of the Assignment**

Generally, there will be three aspects to the Consultant's work: (i) *proving* impact – determining whether the FSD Network (including FSD Africa) is producing the developmental returns sought by DFID and other stakeholders (ii) *improving* impact – helping FSD management teams, their governance structures and DFID determine how to shape future projects and investments to enhance impact (iii) *assuring* impact – ensuring that data collection systems and data quality are robust and that insights and claims of impact are verifiable to a high standard.

The objective of the assignment is therefore to provide high quality, multifaceted technical advice on a continuous basis to enhance the quality and credibility of the FSD Network's MRM systems; and to assure the FSD Africa Board and DFID, through evaluations, audits and other similar activities, that the FSD Network's MRM systems can be relied upon.

### **D. Scope of Work**

- Provide independent expert advice to DFID, FSD Africa's Development Committee, and the FSD Network Council<sup>3</sup> on the current state of knowledge - theory and evidence – relating to the impact of the financial system on sustainable development
- Provide advice on the design of a pragmatic long-term FSD 2.0 evaluation agenda
- Carry out studies that help the FSD Network fulfil this agenda
- Provide advice on the evaluation frameworks for use by FSDs, including FSD Africa. This will include advice on Theories of Change (at programme as well as project level), logframes and other results measurement frameworks
- Provide advice on terms of reference for specific evaluations or other studies
- On a selective basis, carry out independent reviews on the FSD 2.0 portfolio, including assessing the value derived from the different instruments deployed by FSDs, including concessional investment capital.

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<sup>3</sup> The representative body of the FSDs, comprising their CEOs

- Carry out quality assurance checks on FSD Africa’s results measurement system, including on the centralised function that FSD Africa will manage to aggregate and analyse the combined results of the FSD Network
  - This will involve reviewing FSD Africa’s evaluation framework, and annual measurement plans, conducting MRM system audits and advisory support and performing high-level data quality checks

While the Consultant will formally report to FSD Africa’s Development Committee (and, for operational matters, to FSD Africa’s Director of MRM, Kevin Munjal), it is envisaged that the Consultant may in future also report to DFID for independent assurance purposes. While this is not a near term requirement, the Consultant should propose how they might cater organisationally for this need in future, should it arise, in order to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest. In such circumstances, it will be important for the Consultant to be able to demonstrate that its close working relationship with FSD Africa and the FSD Network will not compromise its ability to give an independent view.

#### **E. Expressions of Interest**

In light of the above, you are invited to submit an expression of interest (EOI), which should contain:

- i. The names, CVs and location of key individuals
- ii. an outline of team structure
- iii. a short statement of why you believe your institution has the right experience and blend of expertise for this assignment. You are required to provide case studies of any similar or otherwise relevant assignments that you have conducted in the last seven years
- iv. confirmation of your availability to carry out this work, giving details of any prior calls on your time
- v. daily charge-out rate for each team member (in GBP)
- vi. any other information that you consider important at this stage, including key questions for further clarification, or concerns

Your EOI, which should not exceed 4 sides of A4 (font size 11), excluding CVs, company brochures etc., should be sent to FSD Africa at [bids@fsdafrica.org](mailto:bids@fsdafrica.org) by **5 pm (EAT) 26 Tuesday November 2019**. Please indicate in the email subject “Expression of Interest – Impact Evaluation Expert Institution”.

Interested institutions will later be invited to submit detailed proposals.

#### **Contact**

Questions or comments in respect to these terms of reference should first be directed to FSD Africa at [bids@fsdafrica.org](mailto:bids@fsdafrica.org).