

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SUBJECT:

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATABASE OF SAFEGUARDING
CONSULTANTS
FOR
FINANCIAL RESILIENCE THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
AND EXPANSION (FinRISE) PROGRAMME**

REF: AGF/RFP/CD/2025/001

Launching Date: 17th February, 2025

Closing Date: 28th February, 2025

1700 Hrs EAT

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATABASE OF SAFEGUARDING CONSULTANTS

1. Background

1.1 About the Mastercard Foundation

Created by Mastercard International in 2006, the Mastercard Foundation ("the Foundation") is a Canadian registered entity with charitable status, regulated by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). As one of the largest private foundations in the world, it operates independently with its own Board of Directors. The Foundation's mission is twofold:

- Providing programs and services that enable children and youth to access education, understand and utilize technology, and develop the skills necessary for success in a diverse and global workforce.
- Supporting microfinance programs and services that empower financially disadvantaged individuals and communities, fostering financial inclusion and economic growth.

1.2 About the African Guarantee Fund (AGF)

The African Guarantee Fund (AGF) is a Pan-African non-bank financial institution whose primary mandate is to support financial institutions (FIs) in Africa in scaling up their SME financing through partial loan guarantees and capacity development assistance. AGF bridges the financing gap between financial institutions and SMEs across the continent.

AGF was established in 2011 by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Additional shareholders include the French Development Agency (AFD), the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), the Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU), and KfW Development Bank. AGF has physical offices in Kenya, Mauritius, and Togo.

1.3 About the Financial Resilience through Institutional Strengthening and Expansion (FinRISE) Programme

The Financial Resilience through Institutional Strengthening and Expansion (FinRISE) is a three-year pilot program, with a budget of USD 47.7 million, implemented by AGF. The program aims to demonstrate that financial inclusion for women and youth-owned agrifood micro and small enterprises (MSEs) can drive sustainable and inclusive growth. FinRISE will test scalable financial and non-financial support mechanisms to create dignified and fulfilling employment for youth across Sub-Saharan Africa. The program will be implemented in Kenya (Eastern Africa), Zambia (Southern Africa), and Côte d'Ivoire (West Africa - Francophone).

2. Objectives of the Assignment

The safeguarding initiative within the FinRISE program aims to ensure that lending and collection policies protect the welfare of youth and women. This includes developing financial products and policies that:

- Prevent harm to the target population.
- Empower and protect youth and women from exploitative financial practices.
- Promote ethical lending and collection policies.
- Enhance financial education and awareness.

To achieve these objectives, AGF seeks to onboard a number of **Safeguarding Consultants** who will provide technical support to FinRISE partners in mainstreaming safeguarding principles within their programs.

3. Scope of Work

The consultants will be responsible for:

1. **Assessing Safeguarding Risks:** Conducting capacity assessments to identify safeguarding gaps and risks in financial service providers (FMSs), MFIs, fintechs, SACCOS, and other stakeholders.
2. **Developing Safeguarding Tools & Guidelines:** Creating contextually relevant tools, policies, and guidelines for implementing safeguarding measures.
3. **Training & Capacity Building:**
 - Delivering training sessions for AGF staff and FinRISE partners on safeguarding principles and ethical lending practices.
 - Developing training manuals and digital safeguarding resources.
4. **Enhancing Reporting Mechanisms:** Assessing and improving reporting channels to ensure accessibility, confidentiality, and effectiveness, especially for vulnerable groups.
5. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Establishing tracking mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding measures and ensure compliance with ethical lending policies.
6. **Developing Youth-Friendly Materials:** Creating simplified versions of safeguarding policies, reporting procedures, and response mechanisms tailored for youth and women.

4. Deliverables & Outputs

The expected deliverables when supporting the FMSs and other partners in the FinRISE programme include:

- Conduct safeguarding capacity assessment/gap analysis of FMSs.
- Develop a contextually relevant assessment tool to assess safeguarding practices for FMSs and other partners.
- Assess the existing reporting channels and mechanisms and provide recommendations to make them accessible (especially for youth with disabilities) and confidential.
- Provide a detailed assessment report highlighting gaps in FMSs and other partners safeguarding mechanisms. This report must include program specific implementation plans to mainstream safeguarding within FinRISE program.

- Support FMSs and other partners to develop contextually relevant safeguarding policies and to adopt the same through incorporating relevant guidelines.
- Develop youth-friendly versions of the policy, reporting procedures and response mechanisms for safeguarding
- Develop tools and guidelines to support the implementation of the safeguarding policies and guidelines in FMSs as well as pipeline partnerships (these may include developing training manuals for staff; executing training and development of digital safeguarding resources; developing a program responsive referral pathway for safeguarding as part of our risk mitigation approaches etc.)
- Develop a contextually appropriate mechanism to enable staff to continuously monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding mechanisms which will have been cocreated with partners.
- Design and deliver training for AGF management and staff on safeguarding principles, ethical lending practices.
- Works with FMS and other partners to set up monitoring mechanisms to ensure that lending and collection policies are being adhered to and are effectively protecting women and youth.

5. Eligibility

This request is open both individual consultants and organizations specializing in capacity building/technical assistance across Africa however Organizations and consultants based in Kenya (Eastern Africa), Zambia (Southern Africa), and Côte d'Ivoire (West Africa - Francophone) are highly encouraged to apply .

6. Consultant/Team Qualifications

The ideal consultant(s) must possess:

- **Expertise in Safeguarding Principles:** Strong knowledge of safeguarding standards and best practices.
- **Experience in Women & Youth Economic Empowerment:** Proven experience in developing financial inclusion strategies for women and youth.
- **Financial Services Expertise:** In-depth understanding of financial products, markets, and inclusive financial policies.
- **Policy Development Skills:** Experience in advising governments and financial institutions on inclusive financial policies.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ability to engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including financial institutions, women entrepreneurs, and development partners.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation Competence:** Experience in developing frameworks to measure the impact of safeguarding policies.
- **Financial Literacy & Inclusion Certification** is an added advantage.

7. Reporting & Coordination

Selected consultants will report to the AGF project team and will be assigned to work with specific FinRISE partners to enhance safeguarding principles. Regular progress reports and status updates will be required to ensure alignment with program objectives and timelines.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant Experience & Qualifications
 - Demonstrated understanding of safeguarding issues in the financial sector.
 - Qualifications and expertise of team members.
 - List of relevant assignments undertaken, with contact details of previous partners.
2. Proposed Methodology & Work Plan
3. Financial Proposal
4. CVs/Resumes of Key Personnel

9. Submission of Proposals

Interested applicants Interested firms with the required qualification and experience may submit their Technical & Financial Proposals to the following address: procurement@africanguaranteefund.com on before **28th February 2025 at 1700hrs EAT**

Successful bidders shall be contacted directly via email.

NOTE: -

AGF reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to select or reject, either in totality or partially, any or all proposals made in the context of this RFP/TOR. Any such decisions made will be final and no correspondence will be engaged in, other than to inform the bidders of the outcome of the process.