



TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. Contract Overview

Consultancy Title:	Conduct a baseline local knowledge opportunities for monitoring, evaluation and early warning at community-level
Location:	Mogadishu Somalia
Practice Area:	Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract
Post Type and Level:	Individual Consultant
Languages Required:	Somali/English
Starting Date:	XX XX 2026
Ending Date:	XX XX, 2026
Duration of Contract:	6 Months (max)

II. Consultancy Assignment

Background

Somalia is highly vulnerable to climate-related hazards, including recurrent droughts, floods, and extreme weather events. These shocks erode livelihoods, increase humanitarian needs, and deepen poverty and displacement. Despite growing investments in climate and disaster risk management, the effectiveness of early warning and response systems is often constrained by limited use of local knowledge, weak community-level monitoring and feedback, and gaps in communication between national institutions and communities.

Under the Multinational Climate Disaster Risk Financing Project, implemented by the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), there is a need to better understand how communities perceive climate and disaster risks, how they currently receive and act on early warning information, and how local knowledge can be systematically integrated into early warning and response.

To support this, the PIU seeks to engage an Individual Consultant to design and help implement a community-centered approach to baseline knowledge, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and early warning/communication mechanisms in selected locations.

SoDMA, the national lead institution for disaster risk management in Somalia, serves as the executing agency for the CDRF–ADRFi project. It is mandated to coordinate disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience-building efforts across the country.

Objective of the Assignment

The overall objective is to design and support the implementation of a community-focused early warning and information system.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Establishing a baseline of local knowledge, perceptions, and practices related to climate and disaster risks.
2. Designing community-led M&E mechanisms for early warning systems.
3. Developing a practical Early Warning System (EWS) action plan that combines indigenous knowledge with available scientific/technical information.
4. Proposing and piloting effective communication and information dissemination strategies to ensure warnings are timely, understandable, and actionable at community level.

Scope of Work

Task 1: Inception and Detailed Work Plan

- Review relevant project documents and national DRR/DRM frameworks.
- Develop an inception report with methodology, tools, ethical approach (including gender and protection considerations), and a detailed work plan.

Deliverable: Inception Report.

Task 2: Baseline Local Knowledge Assessment

- Design survey and qualitative tools (e.g. FGDs, KIIs, participatory mapping) to capture community perceptions of climate and disaster risks, existing early warning practices, and indigenous indicators.
- Conduct or coordinate field data collection in selected communities, ensuring meaningful participation of women, youth, IDPs, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Deliverable: Baseline Assessment Report.

Task 3: Community M&E Design

- Map community structures relevant to early warning (committees, local leaders, women and youth groups, etc.).
- Co-develop a simple, community-based M&E framework for EWS (including indicators, roles, feedback loops).

Deliverable: Basic training material for community monitors on data collection, reporting and feedback

Task 4: Early Warning System (EWS) Model and Action Plan

- Identify priority hazards and related thresholds/triggers.
- Propose a community-level EWS model, integrating local knowledge with national and regional climate/hydro-meteorological information.
- Draft simple Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for issuing, relaying and acting on warnings at community level.

- Prepare an EWS Action Plan for piloting in the selected areas.

Deliverable: Community EWS package including the EWS model, agreed thresholds/triggers, simple SOPs, and an EWS Action Plan for piloting.

Task 5: Communication & Information Dissemination Strategy

- Assess existing communication channels (radio, mosques, SMS, WhatsApp, local announcements, etc.).
- Propose and test a multi-channel communication strategy (including key messages, formats and languages).
- Prepare sample Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (e.g. draft posters, talking points for local leaders, radio spots/scripts).

Deliverable: Communication strategy & IEC Package

Task 6: Finalization and Knowledge Sharing

- Present key findings and products in at least one validation/learning session with stakeholders.
- Integrate feedback and finalize the Baseline report, Community M&E framework, EWS model and action plan, and Communication strategy and sample IEC content.
- Submit a Final Consolidated Report with recommendations for scaling and integration into national systems.

Deliverables: Final Technical Report.

Key Deliverables & Payment Schedule

Deliverable	Description	Payment %
Inception Report and Detailed Work Plan	Outlines the consultant's overall approach, methodology, timelines, and a detailed work plan for completing the assignment.	10%
Baseline Local Knowledge Report	Presents findings from field data on community perceptions of climate and disaster risks, existing early warning practices, and indigenous indicators.	20%
Community EWS M&E Framework and Training Report	Provides a community-based M&E framework for the Early Warning System, detailing structures, indicators, roles, feedback loops, and a summary of the training delivered to community monitors.	20%
Community Early Warning System (EWS) Package	Includes the community EWS model, agreed thresholds/triggers, simple SOPs, and a practical EWS Action Plan for piloting.	20%
Communication & IEC Package	Contains a multi-channel communication strategy and sample IEC materials (e.g. posters, talking points for local leaders, and radio scripts) to support community outreach.	20%
Final Consolidated Report	Integrates all validated deliverables (baseline report, M&E framework, EWS model and action plan, communication strategy) and provides recommendations for scaling up and integrating the system into national frameworks.	10%

Duration & Location

- 6 Months
- Duty Station: Mogadishu, with travel to the four pilot districts when required
- Work is deliverables-based, with intermittent field missions

Performance Evaluation

The Consultant's performance will be assessed on timely submission of high-quality deliverables, depth and rigor of analysis, inclusiveness of consultations, and responsiveness to feedback from SoDMA and AfDB. All payments are contingent on satisfactory completion of the assignment.

Reporting and Supervision

The Consultant will report directly to the Project Coordinator and Adaptation & Resilience Specialist – PIU CDRF/ADRIFI Project. All deliverables shall be reviewed and approved by SoDMA and AfDB prior to payment. The Consultant will also liaise with relevant line ministries and gender focal point for data collection and validation workshops.

Required Qualifications & Experience

The Individual Consultant should meet the following minimum criteria:

- Advanced degree (Master's or equivalent) in Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change, Environmental Science, Social Sciences, or related field.
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in community-based DRR/climate resilience, early warning systems, or related fields.
- Demonstrated experience in participatory assessments, community engagement and M&E in fragile or low-capacity contexts; experience in Somalia or the Horn of Africa is a strong asset.
- Proven ability to design simple, practical tools and frameworks that can be owned and used by communities and local institutions.
- Strong analytical and writing skills, with a track record of high-quality reports in English; knowledge of Somali is a significant advantage.
- Experience working with government institutions.

Ethical Standards

The Consultant shall respect local cultures and communities, apply a do-no-harm approach, and ensure that engagement with stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups, is conducted safely, ethically, and with informed consent. The Consultant must comply with the African Development Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguards, Government of Somalia policies, and SoDMA's data protection guidelines.