



Consultants Sought for Upcoming Assignments

January 8, 2021

The [Center for Values in International Development](#) is a new (May 2020) non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, USA that is comprised both of development ethicists and development practitioners, working together to build a bridge over the current divide that separates these two communities. The values that lead development practitioners to care about human suffering and to work in this field are very real and highly motivational, yet they are hardly ever discussed in any systematic way on the job. And given the widespread and profoundly values-based realities of poverty, poor health, patriarchy, insecurity, sexism, exploitation, violence, exclusion, racism, lack of freedoms, poor governance, sub-standard education, growing inequalities, and inadequate access to essential services, it is arguably quite surprising that ethicists have not yet been much more directly involved in advising practitioners, including assisting them to develop the moral discernment skills needed to sort through, research, analyze, measure, justify, and hopefully improve the normative impact of their decisions and actions.

The Center is currently actively marketing several carefully selected philanthropic organizations, as well as traditional relief and development donors, to build our portfolio of work. Illustrative areas in which the Center is focusing, and for which additional consulting expertise is likely to be needed, include (but are not limited to):

- Building a moral vocabulary: Expanding and deepening international relief and development policies, strategies, program design, and evaluation approaches so that moral and ethical factors and concepts are given appropriate consideration, offering values-based motivation for sustainable equitable implementation, and strengthening stakeholder participation via accessible language;
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion: Enriching the existing discourse on gender equity and equality, gender-based violence, male engagement, anti-racism, and social justice to also embrace principles of inclusive development, sensitive to diversity and the inclusion of all marginalized and vulnerable populations;
- Tracking ethical performance and results (monitoring, evaluation, and learning): Assisting relief and development organizations and firms, as well as donors and foundations, to effectively monitor and evaluate the alignment of their formally stated

mission and values (possibly including developing some new indicators, where appropriate) with the actual way their work is performed, and in the quality of the results that they achieve;

- Educational and professional resources: Documenting relevant actual case studies, including assistance in the creation of podcasts, webinars, and videos addressing moral and ethical dilemmas and opportunities within relief and development practice, for use in strengthening ethical discernment skills among practitioners and as a pedagogical resource for educating students in international development ethics;
- Research and analysis: Providing normative data collection, analysis, specialized studies, data mapping, indicator and index development, stakeholder mapping, and related quantitative and qualitative research in which moral and ethical factors are explicitly addressed and evaluated;
- Transformational leadership: Training current and upcoming leaders in the moral and ethical dimensions of leadership and followership, visioning processes, leadership communications, reciprocity, participation, and secular moral accountability;
- Democracy and governance: Expanding the existing discourse and content of democracy and governance strengthening to incorporate relevant moral and ethical concerns (including but not limited to human rights legal and moral issues), address public service ideals, and engage on aspects of universal human dignity, public trust, integrity, accountability, deliberative democracy, participation, transitional justice, and legitimacy;
- Sustainable Development Goals: Ensuring that the SDGs are approached and fulfilled with appropriate reference to moral and ethical considerations;
- Building a public constituency in support of international relief and development: Providing support to philanthropists and relief & aid donors to incorporate values-based perspectives to make a persuasive case for attending to moral obligations that transcend national boundaries, such as issues of commitment to universal human dignity, responding to worsening global inequalities, understanding the very human realities of suffering linked to poverty and conflict, and the urgency of attending to climate change and environmental justice;
- Individual employee mission-based values: Provide institutional guidance to practitioner and donor organizations and firms to better support the individual mission-based orientation of their employees. Most people who are active in international relief and development are motivated to pursue these careers because of personal values commitments and ideals, yet organizations (donor and practitioner) and firms in which they work seldom provide institutionalized (regularly scheduled) opportunities to employees for them to discuss their values and ideals, or to cultivate their ethical discernment skills. The Center will advise such employers on how best to recognize, foster, deepen, expand, and celebrate these important personal drivers of engagement; and
- Special ethics support: Provide case-by-case ethical discernment and advisory services to practitioner organizations and firms as needed, ideally through retainer arrangements.

Expression of Interest Requested

The Center for Values in International Development requests emailed expressions of interest, together with a current CV, from anyone who is appropriately qualified and interested to support our work as described above. Typical areas of expertise that we seek include:

- a) International development ethicists, philosophers, sociologists, social workers, and human rights experts
- b) International development practitioners with a demonstrated interest in human rights, social justice, gender equality/equity, inclusive development, democracy strengthening, governance, environment and climate change, health, education, transformational leadership, youth, disability, LGBTQ+, the elderly, indigenous populations, anti-corruption, conflict mitigation and peacebuilding, etc.
- c) Private sector advisers active in corporate social responsibility
- d) Practitioners in international relief, migration, and asylum
- e) Practitioners in monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL)
- f) Researchers (qualitative and quantitative) and research ethicists

In most of the Center's work, international development ethicists are partnered with practitioners, so both "end of the bridge" are well represented.

Remuneration will be based on competitive daily rates, and factors of relevant past experience. Assignments will range in scope and duration, and to the extent possible the Center will be sensitive to other time, employment, teaching, and similar commitments that such consultants may have.

If interested, please email Chole Schwenke at the Center for Values in International Development, including (a) a short biographic statement, (b) a current Curriculum Vitae, (c) an indication of areas of particular interest, and (d) the name and contact details of one reference. All expressions of interest received that are responsive to this request will be responded to in a timely manner.

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