



Terms of Reference (ToR)

Mid-Term Review of the ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa Strategic Plan (2024–2027)

Background

ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa (EAF) is a Public Benefit Organisation that promotes and protects freedom of expression, including media freedom and access to information. ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa works across the region in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

ARTICLE 19 works for a world where all people everywhere can freely express themselves and actively engage in public life without fear of discrimination. Our work is situated in the following thematic areas: Civic Space, Information Integrity, Digital Rights, Media, and Protection. As a think-do organisation, we produce research, support diverse partners, and engage with state and non-state actors to promote transparency, citizen participation, and democratic governance.

ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa is implementing its three-year Strategic Plan (2024–2027), which aims to promote and protect FREEDOM of EXPRESSION and ACCESS to INFORMATION across Eastern Africa. The strategy is anchored in five strategic goals:

- Safe and inclusive digital space
- Media freedom and protection
- Strong civic space and movements
- Access to Information and transparency
- Institutional strengthening and sustainability

The strategy is being implemented in a dynamic and evolving context characterised by shrinking civic space, digital governance challenges, funding constraints, and democratic regression in the region.

In line with the organisation’s Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework, a mid-term review (MTR), will be conducted at the midpoint of implementation to assess progress, generate learning, and inform adaptive management for the remaining strategy period.

Objectives of the Review

The mid-term review aims to provide an independent assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan (2024–2027), focusing on performance, relevance, and learning.

Specifically, the review will:

1. **Assess Strategic Progress**
 - Measure progress against planned outputs, outcomes, and indicators across all five strategic goals
 - Examine alignment between activities and intended results
2. **Evaluate Relevance and Contextual Responsiveness**
 - Assess how well the strategy responds to the evolving regional context (political, economic, digital, civic space dynamics)
3. **Assess Effectiveness and Impact Pathways**
 - Analyse the extent to which interventions are contributing to intended outcomes and change pathways
4. **Review Efficiency**
 - Evaluate the use of financial, human, and technical resources in delivering results
5. **Assess Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement**
 - Review effectiveness of collaborations with civil society, media, state actors, and regional bodies
6. **Review MEAL Systems**
 - Assess the functionality of monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning systems
7. **Generate Lessons and Recommendations**
 - Provide actionable recommendations for strategy refinement, prioritisation, and implementation

Review period: From August 2024 to mid-2026.

Methodology

The review will adopt a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative data. The consultant is expected to propose a detailed methodology, which should include:

- Desk review of key documents (strategic plan, annual reports, work plans, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) data, financial reports)
- Key informant interviews (KIIs) with staff, partners, and stakeholders
- Case studies of key interventions

The methodology should be participatory, inclusive, and gender-sensitive, and grounded in ARTICLE 19's ethical and safeguarding principles.

Deliverables

The consultant/team will deliver:

Inception Report

- Detailed methodology
- Evaluation matrix
- Work plan

Draft Mid-Term Review Report

- Preliminary findings
- Analysis and emerging recommendations

Validation Workshop

- Presentation of findings to ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa

Final Mid-Term Review Report

The final mid-term review report should include clear visualisation (charts, diagrams, or illustrations) to support the analysis and highlight key aspects during the review period.

Duration and Timeline

The consultancy is expected to last for 6 weeks

Required Expertise

The consultant/team should demonstrate:

- Proven experience in strategic plan evaluations
- Expertise in human rights, governance, media, or civic space programming
- Strong knowledge of the Eastern Africa context
- Experience with theory-based and utilisation-focused evaluations

- Strong analytical and report-writing skills
- Experience in facilitating participatory processes

Ethical Considerations

The consultant/team will be required to:

- Ensure confidentiality and informed consent
- Apply do-no-harm principles, especially for at-risk groups (journalists, activists, minorities)
- Ensure independence and objectivity

Successful applicants will be required to comply strictly with ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa 's policies, including its safeguarding standards.

Application Process

Interested consultants/firms should submit:

- Technical proposal (methodology and approach)
- Relevant experience and references
- CVs of key personnel

Consultancy budget: Kes 600,000 inclusive of all field costs and disbursements

Applications should be sent to: kenya@article19.org; copying Carol.Ger@article19.org, by 18 May 2026.