



Study to Assess Inclusion in Economic Empowerment Programs in Uganda.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS) AND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

February, 2023

1.0 Introduction and Background

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) through its Centre for Budgeting and Economic Governance (CBEG) aims at promoting inclusive economic policies and furthering transparency and accountability in the governance of public expenditure, for equitable access to quality services for women, men and youth in Uganda and, consequently, improving their welfare. The CBEG currently operates in 26 districts in Uganda. This social accountability program promotes economic inclusion research and interventions for inclusive planning & monitoring while furthering capacities for accountability at national and local government levels in Uganda. As part of this initiative, ACODE with support from the Hewlett Foundation is undertaking a Study to Assess Inclusion in Economic Empowerment Programs in Uganda.

Despite decades of sustained high growth rates, improvements in poverty and inequality have been constrained in all East African countries¹. Widening national GDPs and the benefits of economic growth have not been shared equitably leaving millions of citizens on the fringes of society. High unemployment rates, high levels of inequality, gender gaps, and the informal sector have persisted while access to public services and social protection coverage remains limited to a small fraction of the society. To tackle these development challenges, Economic empowerment programs were introduced as a path toward gender equality, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth. Therefore, proper implementation and monitoring of these programs is important if they are to achieve their intended objectives.

1.1 Rationale for the study

Uganda has maintained the pursuit to attain middle-income status operationalized by the theme for the third National Development Plan (NDP III - FY2020/21 to FY2024/25), 'Sustainable Industrialization for Inclusive Growth, Employment, and Sustainable Development. This is in line with other development agendas including the Vision 2040, East African Community (EAC) Vision 2050, Africa Agenda 2063, and the SDGs. Inclusive growth is widely used in the plan and other policies but at best it is simply a by line. For instance, the NDP III states that the overall goal of macroeconomic management will be to 'accelerate and sustain inclusive economic growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability. It goes on to list seven macroeconomic objectives that underpin the strategy none of which addresses inequality and inclusion explicitly.

Additionally, the NDP III commitments are made against a backdrop of limited success in economic

¹ African Union Commission/OECD (2018), "Dynamics of growth, jobs and inequalities in East Africa", in Africa's Development Dynamics 2018: Growth, Jobs and Inequalities, OECD Publishing, Paris/African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

empowerment and social protection programs. Recent entrants to the list include the Parish Development Model (PDM), Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP), the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP), the Agri-led industrialization, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), and Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) among others. The economic empowerment programs are faced with a myriad of challenges underpinned by the politicization of inclusion and exclusion of some groups such as the rural folks. There is growing evidence that UWEP, which was supposed to enable women access to credit and technical assistance in entrepreneurship largely, favors urban women who are more educated and have access to markets and credit compared to their rural counterparts ².

1.2 Objectives of this exercise

The Study on Assessing Inclusion in Economic Empowerment Programs in Uganda will focus on assessing the inclusiveness of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program; specifically;

1.3 Specific Objectives

- i) Identify key Inclusion interventions and policy areas in the UWEP program
- ii) Assess the inclusivity of the design and implementation of the UWEP
- iii) Ascertain the level of inclusivity of the targeted beneficiaries under the program.
- iv) Examine the level of awareness of UWEP services to the target beneficiaries.

1.4 Description of the assignment

ACODE is commissioning a study to assess the Inclusiveness of the Women entrepreneurship program (UWEP) and is desirous of enlisting the services of a consultant to undertake the assignment.

1.5 Study Scope

The Study will focus on assessing the level of inclusiveness of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program and will cover 10 districts in Uganda³ The scoping study report will target the MoFPED, NPA, MGLSD, line ministries, local governments, special interest groups, development partners, academia and the general public.

2.0 Methodology

The assessment will follow [a framework for assessing inclusion developed by ACODE](#) and will largely involve document review augmented by in-depth interviews with stakeholders to understand the existing Economic opportunities for women and inform the identification of a methodology for assessing the inclusiveness of women.

² Guloba, M., Ssewanyana, S., & Birabwa, E. (2017). *Rural women entrepreneurship in Uganda: A Synthesis report On policies, Evidence, and Stakeholders* (No. 677-2017-1124).

³ Gulu, Lira, Arua, Mbarara. Kabarole, Rukungiri, Mukono, Luweero, Mbale, Soroti.

3.0 Expected Deliverables

The Consultant will submit the following deliverables to ACODE within the agreed period. All submissions should be done in soft copies as and when required.

- An Inception Report and Presentation, including a work plan outlining the approach, detailed methodology, assessment tools, activities, and timelines to carry out the assignment. The details of the tools for the analysis developed based on research questions and the assessment methodology. The Inception Report will include report on the existing data sets. The final report will be disseminated at meetings, on radio, Television, and online.

4.0 Reporting

The Consultant will report to the Project Manager CBEG.

5.0 Qualification Requirements

The successful candidate for this assignment should possess the following;

- At least a Master's Degree in Development Economics, Development Studies; or other related fields
- Excellent Understanding of government programs and policy development processes.
- Extensive research experience and publication with a bias on inclusion.
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.

6.0 Call for proposals

ACODE calls upon interested and competent Consultants or firms to submit their financial and technical proposals to undertake this study. A statement of competence to undertake the exercise should be part of this application. **The deadline for submission of the expression of interest is Wednesday, February 28, 2023.** All Expressions of Interest should be hand-delivered or emailed to: Lydia.aine@acode-u.org ; copy in; jmbabazi@acode-u.org .