



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP INCLUSION SENSITISATION AND TRAINING MATERIALS.

1. Introduction

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 covers 35 districts in Uganda. This social accountability program promotes economic inclusion research and interventions for inclusive planning & monitoring while furthering capacities for accountability at Uganda's national and local government levels. As part of this initiative, ACODE with support from the Hewlett Foundation is for a consultant to develop manuals for sensitization of citizens and training CSOs on analysis and monitoring for inclusion in the budget process. These materials will facilitate participation and accountability through engagement and advocacy of the citizens.

2. Background and rational

Over the past decade, Uganda's economy has been growing impressively at an average of about 6% but the growth has not been inclusive. Across the same period, poverty and income inequality rates have increased in the country. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicates that poverty rose from 19.7% in the calendar year 2013 to 21.4% in the calendar year 2017 before falling to 20.3 in the calendar year 2020. Taking vulnerability into consideration, an estimated six out of every ten Ugandan's are either poor or vulnerable to poverty implying that majority of the Ugandans have not benefitted from the country's impressive economic growth rates.

The outbreak of the Corona virus pandemic exposed fragilities and worsened the situation and the country is still recovering from its effects. While several Macroeconomic indicators remain positive with a growth rate of 4.7% in Fy2021/22, the other indicators are worrisome. The majority of Ugandans are struggling to make ends meet, aggregate demand is low, businesses are struggling to stay afloat, the banking sector is bedeviled by non-performing loans, tax revenue performance falls short of targets and the government is struggling to pay bills amidst rising debt burden. This is further catalyzed by lower projected global growth, higher inflation, and prolonged dry weather conditions that have affected food security.

In addition, with the expected population growth over the next 10 years, it is now estimated that average annual GDP growth rates will need to exceed 8 percent for Uganda to have a chance of reaching lower-middle-income status by 2030. There is concern that the pandemic has already constrained the implementation of the National Development Plan III which is under review and the realization of its goals of improving economic growth, reducing poverty and improving people's wellbeing. It is therefore imperative that policymakers consider innovative ways for Uganda to reach its development goals amid global challenges presented by Covid-19.

One of the key development challenges facing Uganda and the world is achieving inclusive growth and productive employment. Despite efforts and progress, there is still significant inequalities between men and women across the world. The UNDP notes that inequalities remain in access to paid employment and pay between men and women in some regions. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public decision-making, all remain huge barriers.

This has been worsened by COVID-19 with millions of Ugandans expected to have slipped into poverty, with many having lost incomes due to the closure of many small and medium-sized enterprises that employ most Ugandans. The country's economic stimulus package has done little to save vulnerable and informal jobs thus increasing the risk of widening economic exclusion and inequality. These challenges are compounded by opacity and weak accountability that characterize the implementation of these types of initiatives. There are hardly coherent outcome targets for the programs and impact is hardly evaluated if so information on the intended beneficiaries and vulnerable groups including women and youth is not publicly available.

It is also important to point out that under Uganda's decentralized system, local governments are at the frontline of implementing economic empowerment and social protection programs. Despite an elaborate decentralization structure with five tiers and political oversight, accountability at Local Government level remains weak with serious implications for efficacy of government programs. Weak accountability at local government level is underpinned by among others limited access to information by accountability institutions and low capacity to interpret information and exercise their authority. Recent work under ACODE's Local Government Councils' Score Card Initiative (LGCSCI) revealed that most statutory bodies that are supposed to support Local Government Councils in exercising their oversight role have neither been oriented on their functions nor trained and funded as required. Their performance too is rarely evaluated save for Local Councils in 35 districts which are assessed under ACODE's Scorecard Initiative.

Orienting and training accountability institutions at Local Government (LG) level on inclusion and equity is important for ensuring that economic empowerment and social protection programs are inclusive. There is, therefore, need to develop tools for inclusive planning and monitoring for accountability institutions while mobilizing the citizens, especially women and the youth to participate in planning and demand for accountability. At the same time, Uganda's shift from a sector-based planning approach to program-based planning since July 2020, makes tools used for mainstreaming gender in planning and gender monitoring obsolete. For instance, the gender issues identified in the Gender Compacts follow a sector approach yet the emphasis is now on the 20 programs laid out in the NDPIII. There is therefore an opportunity and need to develop new tools for inclusive planning and demanding accountability in relation to the same.

3. Objectives of the exercise

The objective of the exercise is two-fold;

- i) Developing sensitization materials focusing on opportunities for citizen participation in the budget and demand for accountability. This material will further be simplified into simplified and illustrated charts.
- ii) Developing Manual for training CBOs on inclusion analysis and monitoring of programs and budgets at the district level. The training will fill the capacity gap created by the introduction of program-based planning which made tools used before obsolete. It is expected that the people trained will use the knowledge in executing their work in relation to budget monitoring and accountability.

4. Expected Deliverables

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

1. Sensitization Manual for focusing on opportunities for citizen participation in the budget and demand for accountability in Uganda's budgeting process.
2. Simplified and illustrated content or the Citizen's Sensitization Manual.
3. Training Manual for CBOS on inclusion Analysis and Monitoring of programs and district budgets.

5. Qualification Requirements

The successful candidate for this assignment should possess the following;

- At least a Master's Degree in Development Economics, Social Sciences; Development Studies; or related fields
- Excellent Understanding of government programs and the budgeting process
- Excellent understanding of the policy development process.
- Experience in inclusion analysis and Monitoring of programs both at the national and district level.
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.

6. Call for Proposals

Thus, ACODE would like to invite proposals from interested individuals and firms to submit their technical and Financial proposals for this exercise. The consultant or firms should also provide a statement of competences along with the application. **The deadline for submission of the proposals is 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