

**Call for Expressions of Interest**  
**Appraisal of Sector Working Groups in Uganda**  
**ACODE**  
**August, 2019**

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### **Introduction**

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) through its Centre for Budget and Economic Governance (CBEG) works to promote transparency and accountability of public expenditure in Uganda. Transparency and accountability in Uganda is a product of several actors working together through various fora such as the Sector Working Groups (SWGs). The SWGs are an important feature of the accountability framework in Uganda. The SWGs are a lasting outcome of Sector Wide Approaches (SWAs) – a public expenditure management reform globally popularised in the 1990s.

In the early years of implementing the SWAs, one of the defining outcomes was the increased channelling of donor funds through budget support to improve coordination between government of Uganda and its development partners. While budget support has been on the wane in light of accountability challenges faced by various sectors, SWAs have had a lasting impact on the public financial management practices in Uganda.

Key among the lasting impacts of the SWAs, was the formulation of Sector Investment Plans and the operationalization of the SWGs. The SWGs are still functional to-date and are a major feature of the annual sector review processes. The SWGs are often comprised of civil society organisations, development partners as well as sector ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs); under the auspices of the line ministry for the given sector. The Sector Working Groups therefore play major roles in the formulation of policies, intra-sectoral resource allocation as well as monitoring and evaluation of public expenditure in the sectors<sup>1</sup>.

### **Why Study the SWGs?**

The Sector Working Groups undoubtedly play a major role in shaping policy and resource allocation decisions in various sectors. However, given the pre-eminence of project support (far out-stripping budget support) and the high levels of public debt acquired to fund development projects over the last five years, it is relatively unclear how effective the SWGs are in contributing to the management of their respective sectors.

ACODE is therefore desirous of undertaking a study to assess the functionality of the SWGs in Uganda with the view of gaining insights to guide its programming as well as increase effectiveness of its transparency and accountability work. In addition, ACODE is seeking to understand the operational dynamics of the SWGs and make recommendations on how their effectiveness can be improved.

## **Detailed Scope of the Proposed Study**

The study is expected to provide detailed insight into several operational aspects of the working groups. The study findings should therefore be able to provide responses to several questions, including but are not limited to;

- What are their roles and functions in relation to the, planning, budgeting and accountability of the sector?
  - What are the key processes and activities?
  - what are the key outputs and outcomes
  - What guidelines and policies do they use in executing their mandate?
- what is the level of functionality
  - What is the composition of the working group?
  - What is the frequency of their meetings and when was the last meeting held?
- What are the challenges they face related to the environment in which they operate, legal framework, funding?
- What is the structure of the working group?
  - Who are key actors and what are their roles?
  - Who do the working groups work with and how?
- How effective are the working groups and how can their effectiveness be improved?
  - How are the SWGs perceived by other actors?
- What opportunities exist for CSO actors to inform the work of the sector working groups?

In undertaking the study, the reference period will be taken to be the last five fiscal years. The particular sector working groups to be assessed include those in the sectors of agriculture, works and transport, education, health, accountability, water and environment.

## **Study Design and Approach**

The study is a purely qualitative assessment in design. It is therefore expected that the data collection will mostly employ document review and key informant interviews as the main data collection methods.

## **Timelines**

Given the nature of the assessment, ACODE expects the study to be conducted in a maximum of 25 working days from the commencement.

## **Deliverables**

The consultant is expected to produce a number of deliverables in course of the study including;

- An inception report with a detailed approach to be taken in conducting the study
- Data collection tools

- A draft study report and;
- A final study report

### **Expected Competency**

ACODE is seeking to contract an individual consultant to lead the undertaking of the study. The consultant will however work with resident ACODE staff, a measure aimed at building resident capacity. The following competences are expected of the consultant;

- Advanced degree in economics, development studies, public policy and other relevant fields
- A minimum of seven years of relevant experience
- Demonstrable knowledge of public expenditure management in Uganda
- Proven track record in undertaking and publishing related research

### **Submission of Expression of Interest**

ACODE invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) as per the terms of Reference set out in this call. Interested applicants are requested to submit an EOI that includes their understanding/interpretation of the assignment, a brief description of the proposed methodology, a CV detailing relevant experience and their expected daily rate while undertaking the study.

The EOI should be addressed to the **Executive Director, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)**. These should be submitted by email on [acode@acode-u.org](mailto:acode@acode-u.org) or delivered to Plot 97-98 Kanjokya Street, Kampala – Uganda by **Close of Business (5pm) on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**. Applications submitted after the deadline shall not be accepted. **Please note that due to the expected volume of applications, only successful applicants will be responded to.**

### **Endnotes**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199556229.003.0009>