



Consultancy to Conduct a Policy Review and 2021/22 National Budget Analysis in relation to Social Protection with particular focus on the Health, Education and Extractive Sectors.

Terms of References

Background

Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) is a network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that seeks to promote participatory economic governance through budget advocacy and popular participation in various economic policies and processes. MEJN's core purpose is to create partnerships that will ensure that Government policies and actions are of direct benefit to the poor. It also aims at creating sustainability in the civil society programming, for effective conduct of activities in promoting the welfare of the people.

In pursuit of its mandate, MEJN is implementing a social accountability project titled "Fighting social and economic Inequalities in education, health and social security sectors" with funding from the **Norwegian Church Aid/Danish Church Aid (NCA/DCA) Malawi Joint Country Programme**.

About the Project

The project seeks to enhance responsiveness of duty bearers to right-holders demand for fair and equitable finance and redistribution of resources in education, health and social protection sectors by 2024.

Malawi has high level of poverty and inequality. The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line has stagnated at about half of total population. It was at 52.4% in 2004, at 50.7% in 2010 and at 51.5% in 2016. About 1 in 5 (21%) are ultra-poor. The 2019 Human Development Report shows that Malawi has a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.485 classifying Malawi as a low human development country.



Income inequality as measured by gini coefficient over the same period widened from 0.39 to 0.45 and marginally narrowed to 0.431. While inequality is higher in urban than in rural areas, poverty is more severe in rural areas than in urban areas implying that while in urban areas the problem is inequality of income, in rural areas the problem is equality of poverty which is even a worse problem. Inequality also varies by region with southern region showing highest inequality (gini coefficient 0.50) and central and northern regions almost at the same level (gini coefficient 0.35 and 0.34 respectively)². The 2019 Human Development Report shows that the richest 10% of the population controls 38.1% share of total income while the poorest 40% has 16.2% share of total income.

Social inequality is the ability of one group of people having easy access to scarce resources in a community than another group owing to their relationships and power. Social inequality manifests in education, health and gender outcomes. Although fighting inequality in Malawi has long been a key policy issue, the problem of inequality is still significant. Significant investments have been made by government and other stakeholders in poverty reduction efforts such as social protection programs such as Fertilizer and Input Subsidy Programme (now Affordable Agriculture Input Programme - AAIP), school bursary, school feeding programme and cash transfer, among others, yet the livelihoods of the beneficiaries have not improved, and they are failing to graduate from these supports. Moreover, despite registering positive economic growth in the past decade, Malawi has not managed to significantly reduce poverty among its citizens, and inequality remains wide, suggesting that the country needs deliberate strategies to make economic growth inclusive and pro-poor. Inequality continues to be a concern in Malawi and often people are trapped in poverty.

The advent of COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 has aggravated to the existing inequalities. According to the studies, the pandemic has push over 70% of the Malawi population into vulnerability due to disruption in value chains which has resulted in commodity price increases, loss of jobs and businesses.

¹ NSO (2005, 2012 and 2017), Integrated Household Survey, various reports, Zomba

² MEJN (2020), Consultancy to conduct Progress Policy Review and 2020/2021 Budget Analysis with focus on Social Protection Policies under Education and Health Sectors for Fighting Social and Economic Inequalities, Terms of Reference, Lilongwe



MEJN realizes the need to impact on government budget decisions with regard to allocation and spending of funds in order to fight the existing social and economic inequalities. MEJN also realizes the need for a better engagement between the citizens and government, through participatory processes in policy implementation and as well as analysis.

Objective of the Consultancy

MEJN is seeking to engage a consultant to conduct a 2021/22 Financial Year Budget Analysis and a review of the Social protection policies in education, health and extractive industry to determine the extent to which the 2021/22 budget and the policies contribute towards fighting social and economic inequalities. The review will guide MEJN Secretariat and other stakeholder's engagement and advocacy to duty bearers for fair and equitable finance and redistribution of resources in education, health and other social protection sectors as well as extractive sector.

Objectives of the Task

Policy review

- To assess the effectiveness of social protection policies in education and health in the COVID 19 pandemic era and beyond;
- To analyse how implementation of Social protection policies in education and health has been impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic;
- To assess progress being made in the implementation of social protection policies in education and health sectors;
- To review policies in the extractive sector and assess their contribution to the fight against social and economic inequalities;
- To document how communities living in close proximity of mining site are socially and economically affected by mining activities;
- To establish the contribution (current and potential) of the extractive sector to public revenue;
- To identify best practices and available strategies to ensuring that revenue from the extractive sector contribute to fighting inequalities;

- To identify advocacy and engagement Issues to guide MEJN and its network members in the engagement with the Malawi government at national and district levels;
- Enhance MEJN Secretariat's capacity to engage duty bearers in implementation processes;

Budget analysis

- To analyse the 2021/22 Budget and ascertain levels of investments and commitments in the education, health and extractive sectors that contribute to fighting social and economic inequalities;
- To present trend analysis in-terms of allocations from 2018/19FY, 2019/20FY, 2020/21 and 2021/22FY;
- Document advocacy messages around the Social protection policies in education, health and extractive sectors to be used to engage parliament and other stakeholders; and
- Prepare a two-paged write-up based on the findings of the study to be used for engagement with duty-bearers.

Specific Tasks of the Consultant

- Present and submit an inception report confirming the consultant understanding of the study;
- Conduct a desk review of all relevant literature;
- Familiarise oneself with existing effort government has achieved in implementation of the Social protection policies in education and health as well as the extractive sector;
- Carry out primary research and analysis on the implementation of policies in extractive sector and the Social protection policies in education and health both at national and subnational level.
- Conduct interviews with any relevant stakeholders;
- Present draft report to stakeholders at national validation workshop
- Finalize the report by incorporating comments at validation workshop and submit final draft to MEJN; and
- Present findings of the research at the validation and dissemination/launch meetings to provide an opportunity for the report to gain support from a wide section of interested parties.



Deliverables

- An Inception report detailing understanding of scope;
- Extractive sector policies and Social protection policies in education and health review and budget analysis report submitted to MEJN;
- A two pager of budget recommendations to be considered in the 2021/22 Budget;
- Power point presentation of the findings of the study; and
- Presentation of the study findings to parliamentary committees

Management:

The consultant will be under the supervision of MEJN Director of Programmes with advice from MEJN Internal Procurement Committee (IPC)

Duration of the Assignment: The assignment will be for **10 person days** for the budget Analysis component until the legislature are engaged. Later a comprehensive policy review which shall **be billed up to 20 person days.**

The budget analysis exercise is expected to commence by **28th May 2021.**

Core Competencies & Qualifications:

Essential

- Lead Person should have Masters' Degree in Social Science or related field;
- At least 5+ years relevant working experience in research, data collection and analysis, and monitoring and evaluation involving projects of a multi-sectoral and multi-country nature
- Experience in working with civil society and/ or with state representatives
- Demonstrable knowledge of how to devise interview instruments and monitoring and evaluation templates;
- Experience in convening and moderating meetings/ focus groups/ interviews with diverse participants, such as senior officials and civil society representatives;
- Excellent report writing and research skills, including a proven track record in writing assessments, guidelines and evaluations. Ability to prepare succinct, analytical publications and reports;
- Strong interpersonal skills including a proven ability to liaise and mediate between a diverse group of stakeholders (civil society and government officials in particular);



- Fluency in spoken and written English and knowledge of the official language of the respective country is an asset;
- Excellent organisational skills including the ability to work with minimal supervision, to set priorities and to deliver tasks on time.

Desired

- Local referees and experience working in Malawi, including working with government and the civil society;
- Track record of managing a similar project, with limited budget and time, but with demonstrated results;
- Extensive knowledge of the Social protection policies in education health and agriculture that Malawi government is implementing plans and other related documents.

Submission Expressions of interest

- Interested consultants should email their applications to mejn.ipc@gmail.com with a copy to rschiputula@yahoo.com and verabanda2011@gmail.com. The applications should be received by close of business on 26th May 2021.
- An up-to-date CV;
- Cover letter indicating interest and required competencies;
- A summary of experience related to the required competencies and skills above; and
- Proposal indicating an understanding of the assignment, methodology and budget.