

Consultancy to conduct an analysis of the 2021/22 Budget and assess its alignment to the MGDS III Agenda and Priorities

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.

MEJN is implementing a social accountability project titled "*Enhancing Social Accountability for Better Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III Development Results and Outcomes*" with funding from IM Swedish Development Partner.

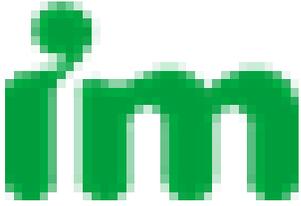
About the Project

The project aims at enhancing compliance and responsiveness by duty bearers in the implementation of the MGDS III for development results and outcomes which will translate into improved public services for Malawi and societal change at large. The MGDS III is the medium term strategy that articulates Malawi's long-term development aspirations. The strategy covers the period of five years, from 2017 to 2022. The objective of the strategy is to move Malawi from a productive, competitive and resilient nation through sustainable agriculture and economic growth, energy, industrial and infrastructure development while addressing water, climate change, environmental management and population challenges.

MEJN realizes the need for a better engagement between the citizens and government, through participatory processes in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. One of the objectives that MEJN strives for is to empower stakeholders so that they are well informed and economically literate to credibly take part in engaging duty bearers and service providers on policies that affect their lives.

Objective of the Consultancy

MEJN is, therefore, seeking to engage a consultant as a continuation of the policy progress review of the MGDS III to analyse the 2021/22 Budget Analysis to determine the level of investments and compliance to the MGDSIII. The analysis will guide MEJN Secretariat and other stakeholder in their engagement and advocacy with duty bearers for allocation of resources to areas that will lead to realization of better MDGS III development results and outcomes.



Objectives of the Task

- To assess whether the 2021/22 budget is aligned to MGDS III agenda and priorities including the flagship projects; and
- Document advocacy key messages around the MGDS III visa vis the investments through the nation budget that can be used to engage parliament and other stakeholders

Specific Tasks of the Consultant

- Present and submit an inception report confirming the consultant understanding of the study;
- To analyse the budget against priorities and targets identified in the MGDS III;
- To conduct a trend analysis covering budgets for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 to ascertain the extent to which their implementation has improved MGDS III development outcomes;
- Review the 2021/22 budget against international budget standards and best practices;
- Assess budget allocations and implementation status of at least two sampled flagship projects under the MGDS III;
- Review relevant literature to gain understanding of the context and key issues affecting the Malawi economy;
- Conduct interviews with any relevant stakeholders;
- To identify key lessons from the implementation of the MGDS III that should inform the formulation and implementation of the successor plan;
- Facilitate at an engagement meeting with parliamentary committees
- Present Budget analysis finding report to Parliamentary Committees;
- Finalize the report by incorporating comments at engagement meeting and submit final draft to MEJN; and
- Prepare a two-paged write-up on key recommendations to be considered in the 2021/22 Budget.

Deliverables

- An Inception report detailing understanding of scope;
- 2021/22 Financial Year budget Analysis report aligned to the MGDS III policy report to MEJN;
- Two-paged write-up on key recommendations to be considered in the 2021/22 budget; and
- Power point presentation based on the results.

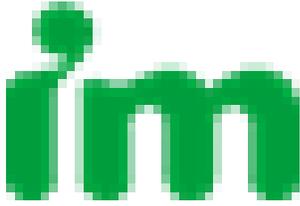
Management:

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 take 10 person days and 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 national Budget Analysis and MDGS III policy documents that Malawi government is implementing plans and other related documents.

Submission Expressions of interest

- Consultant, single sourced should send an email for their applications to mejn.ipc@gmail.com with a copy to rschiputula@yahoo.com, with a copy to 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.
- Proposal indicating an understanding of the assignment, methodology and budget.

- End -