



Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)

Terms of Reference for the Study on the Analysis Budget Allocations to Local Governments for COVID-19 Response and Recovery (FY2020/21)

Background

As the Government of Uganda prepares to counter the threat of COVID-19, local governments feature prominently in the overall national preparedness plan. In FY 2019/2020, the government approved a supplementary budget of UGX 304.5 billion (approximately US\$80 million) to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, with local governments and the Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) receiving UGX66 billion (approximately US\$16 million).¹

At the national level the Covid-19 response has so far involved, bolstering the capacity of the health system to test and manage cases, distribution of food to vulnerable, surveillance & enforcement of control measures, and financial & monetary measures. As the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic takes center stage there is a risk that other areas may suffer reduction in funding. This may reduce the efficacy of the Covid-19 response as a whole. Also the low prioritization of Local Governments may see little resources trickling down to Local Governments. Moreover the funds may address a narrow range of activities that may not directly contribute to alleviating the plight of the vulnerable people.

Local governments are the driving force to shape and deliver local response measures. The Presidential decree on COVID-19 recognized them as essential services that must continue along with healthcare and security. District task forces are responsible for case management, surveillance, health promotion, resource mobilization and enforcement of control measures as well as for continued delivery of basic services. However it is not clear what the role of Local Governments beyond the District Task force has been in the implementation of the response and the level of funding available to them for this purpose. This study aims at examining the allocation to Local Governments specifically for Covid-19 response for FY 2020/21.

Main Objective

The main objective of the study is to ascertain the amount of funds appropriated in the budget for FY 2020/21 for Local Governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its allocation across different functions.

¹ UNCDF (2020). Ugandan Local Governments, The Driving Force Behind The COVID-19 Response
<https://www.uncdf.org/article/5507/ugandan-local-governments-the-driving-force-behind-the-covid-19-response>

Specific Objectives

- a) To analyse budget allocations to Local Governments for COVID-19 response and recovery for FY 2020/21.
- b) To examine how Covid-19 has impacted on funding of Local Governments for FY 2020/21 including local revenue performance.
- c) To provide recommendations for MoFPED, Ministry of Local Government, Local Government Finance Commission and Local Government on funding Covid-19 response at Local Government level.

Scope

The study will focus on the sectors with decentralised functions as stipulated in the third schedule of the Local Government Act. It will, therefore, focus on sectors such as Agriculture; Health; Education; Water and Sanitation and Environment and Natural Resources and Roads focusing on components implemented by local governments.

Further, the study should be able to look at loans or donor contributions where central government commits to co-fund the implementation of interventions in local governments to respond to COVID-19. The study should also analyse direct appropriations to Local Governments meant for COVID-19 response and recovery.

The consultant will mainly review relevant government documents including but not limited to:

- a) The National Budget Framework Papers for FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21
- b) Sector Budget Framework Papers for FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21
- c) The Ministerial policy statements FY 2020/21
- d) Sector investment plans
- e) Budget Performance Reports
- f) Budget call circulars

Qualification

The Consultant should have a minimum of master's degree in Economics, economic policy or its equivalent. The consultant should have knowledge of public finance management and experience in conducting similar studies.

Duration

The assignment will be completed within one month. Interested persons/firms should send in their technical and financial proposals (PDF Format) by 5: 00 pm Friday, August 28, 2020, to acode@acode-u.org