

Review of Economic Inclusion Research methodologies and approaches

Terms of reference (ToR) and call for Expression of Interest (EoI) April 2022

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 operates in over 35 districts and cities in Uganda. This social accountability program promotes research and advocacy on economic inclusion and interventions for inclusive planning & monitoring while furthering capacities for accountability at the national and sub-national levels in Uganda. As part of this initiative, ACODE with support from the Hewlett Foundation is undertaking a study to identify and review the existing economic inclusion methodologies and adopt or customize one for measuring the inclusion of government interventions in Uganda.

Background and rationale for the study

Uganda has maintained the quest to attain middle-income status by 2040. The theme for the FY2020/21 to FY2024/25 third National Development Plan (NDP III) is ‘Sustainable Industrialization for Inclusive Growth, Employment, and Sustainable Development. This is in line with other development agendas including the Vision 2040, East African Community (EAC) Vision 2050, Africa Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Plan (SDGs). Inclusive growth is widely used in the NDP III and other government policies but at best, it is simply a byline. For instance, the NDP III states that the overall goal of macroeconomic management will be to ‘accelerate and sustain inclusive economic growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability. It goes on to list seven macroeconomic objectives that underpin the strategy none of which addresses inequality and inclusion explicitly. While the Plan acknowledges widening income inequality, especially among regions, it does not acknowledge other inequalities that underpin income inequality such as age, gender, disability, and ethnicity among others. In addition, it is not clear about the interventions to ensure inclusive economic growth.

Furthermore, the NDP III commitments are made against a backdrop of limited success in economic empowerment and social protection programs. Recent entrants to the list include the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP), the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP), Agri-led industrialization, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), and the most recently launched Parish Development Model (PDM) among others. These economic empowerment programs are faced with a myriad of challenges underpinned by the politicization of inclusion and exclusion of some groups such as the rural folk.

There is growing evidence that for instance UWEP, which was supposed to enable women to access credit and technical assistance in entrepreneurship largely, favors urban women who are more educated and have access to markets and credit compared to their rural counterparts¹.

In addition, achieving inclusive growth in the COVID-19 pandemic aftermath will be much harder given the unequal impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups including women youth, and informal workers. The pandemic has disrupted supply chains and has led to reverse migration, stagnant rural non-farm economies, and devastating consequences for community groups, youth, and informal workers. Therefore, there is a need for a shift toward inclusive economic and fiscal policies to ensure that economic recovery addresses itself to inequality & equity and local economic development. The IMF notes that economic recovery from COVID-19 presents a unique opportunity for countries to build a bridge to the future. Public investment to stimulate weak aggregate demand can help boost more inclusive growth, reduce inequalities, and create economic opportunities for all. The IMF points to the need for increased public investment coupled with smart, effective, and efficient utilization of scarce resources to attain the SDGs.

Objectives of the exercise

The review will aim at designing an approach for assessing Economic Inclusion (EI) in Uganda. The specific objectives of the review are,

1. To evaluate conceptual frameworks that link EI with economic development.
2. To evaluate methodologies and approaches for accessing EI.
3. To propose approaches and methodologies for assessing EI at national and sub-national levels in Uganda.

Scope and duration of the exercise

The study will involve a review of inclusion methodologies including specifying the research design the unit of analysis, scope, and geographic coverage. The review will largely involve document review augmented by in-depth interviews with stakeholders. The review paper will be used internally to design the scoping and inclusion assessments as well as a learning resource for other stakeholders.

Methodology

The review will largely involve document review augmented by in-depth interviews with stakeholders to understand the existing Economic opportunities for women, men, and Youth and inform the identification of a methodology for assessing inclusion.

Expected Deliverables

The Consultant will 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. A draft methodology review paper that will be presented to the relevant ACODE staff

¹ Guloba, M., Ssewanyana, S., & Birabwa, E. (2017). *Rural women entrepreneurship in Uganda: A Synthesis report On policies, Evidence, and Stakeholders* (No. 677-2017-1124).

- for comments among others for validation.
2. A publishable review paper on reviewed methodologies with a customized or adopted methodology for assessing inclusion.

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.
- Extensive research experience and publication.
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.

Call for Expressions of Interest

ACODE calls upon interested and competent researcher(s) to submit their CVs upon which the selection of a consultant will be based. The consultant should also provide:

- (a) A statement of competencies to undertake the exercise.
- (b) A financial proposal in UGX indicating the resources considered necessary for executing the assignment.

The deadline for submission of the expression of interest is Friday, April 22, 2022.

All Expressions of Interest should be hand-delivered or emailed to: christiana@acode-u.org, lydia.aine@acode-u.org copy in; ayesigwa@acode-u.org.