



Institute of Social Policy and Research
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



Term of Reference for a Consultancy to Conduct South Sudan National Budget Analysis for 2023-2024

Number of Task Days: 14 days

Start Date: August 21, 2023

Under the Project: Enhancing citizen participation for a Transparent and Accountable Budget.

Location: Juba, South Sudan

INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Social Policy and Research (ISPR) is the leading public policy research organization that offers national and regional expertise to civil society groups, the private sector, and the government in seeking appropriate approaches to address policy issues. As the lead organization, ISPR is working with Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development (CEFoRD), which is a youth-led non-governmental organization, to enhance citizen participation in the budget process for a transparent and accountable national budget.

ISPR and CEFORD are currently working on a project: Enhancing citizen participation for a Transparent and Accountable Budget.

The project is implemented in Juba, (Central Equatoria State) Yambio (Western Equatoria State), and Wau, (Western Bahr El Ghazal State). The project has two outcomes, namely.

1. Strengthened citizen participation in the national budget process.
2. Strengthened Government Engagement with Citizens on the Budget Process.

The Budget is the government's most important economic policy tool and provides a comprehensive statement of the nation's priorities. The Interim Constitution of South Sudan 2011 as amended and the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act, 2011, mandate stakeholders to engage in the national budget process. Both the Constitution and the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act call for the active participation of citizens and civil society in the budget process because the budget is financed by oil and taxes from citizens. The laws give the power to approve the budget and provide oversight to the national assembly through the Members of parliament. Parliament has a fundamental role in authorizing budget decisions and holding government to account” and governments should “provide for an inclusive, participative, and realistic debate on budgetary choices.

In accordance with Article 88 (1) of the Constitution and guided by the requirement of the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act 2011, South Sudan’s Finance Minister on June 20, 2023, presented the proposed national budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 before parliament. The proposed national budget totals SSP 1,837,873,440,803. It is also expected that parliament may increase the proposed budget as they continue to debate over it.

Toward this end, ISPR and its consortium partner are working with the National Ministry of Finance and Planning and, the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTLNA) to Strengthen the

Capacity of Key Government Actors in the Budget Process. ISPR also conducted National Budget Analysis for 2021-2022 and it will provide a baseline for the analysis of 2023-2024.

OBJECTIVE

Given the above, ISPR seeks to engage the service of a consultant to undertake a detailed analysis of the 2023-2024 National Budget. The analyzed budget will generate evidence for members of parliament, government agencies, civil society, media, national, regional, and international actors, and the public to catalyze debates and increase their understanding of national interests and service sectors' budget allocations.

ANALYSIS SCOPE

Budget Analysis is done in partnership with a government based on the current National Budget before parliament. The consultant will work directly with the Specialized Committee of Finance and Planning to get up-to-date budget figures to inform the analysis.

The budget analysis will include an analysis of trends as well as key observations and recommendations to be used as an advocacy and capacity-building tool for improved levels of spending, inform Public Finance Management (PFM) practices, and more effective and efficient service delivery in sectors such as Health, Education, Agriculture, and Infrastructures and economic empowerment sectors directly linked to women, youth, and marginalized groups.

The analysis will also need to show if the budget has adequately responded to the needs of the Revised National Development Strategy for South Sudan – 2021- 2024 which expresses national aspirations to transition from dependence on humanitarian aid to a development path using the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus approach and has adopted a comprehensive implementation framework anchored on collaboration with development partners.

The analysis will aim at establishing an evidence base for subsequent activities to improve the budget outcomes in the different sectors, programs, policies, debt obligations, and other borrowing. The consultant is also free to compare South Sudan's current budget with other countries that have best practices on budget making including the type of budget they should inform the recommendation for South Sudan.

DELIVERABLES

The Consultant will work with ISPR and consortium partner and the office of the Committee on Finance and Planning of RTNLA. The Budget Analysis Consultant will be required to work on and submit the following deliverables:

- 1) Inception report on the assignment which provides an interpretation of the TOR, a proposed methodology and work plan, as well as an annotated outline of the final report.
- 2) A draft budget analysis report that addresses the required focus areas in detail.
- 3) Draft budget briefs (Policy papers), each dedicated to the key focus development areas mentioned above and the budget impact on communities in South Sudan through these sectors.
- 4) A draft budget analysis report that includes inputs and feedback by ISPR and consortium partners,

- 5) Final budget briefs that include inputs and feedback from the ISPR
- 6) Present the Budget Analysis Report with summarized recommendations in a one-day validation workshop which will be organized by the Committee of Finance and Planning (RTNLA)
- 7) Present the Final Budget Analysis and Briefs Ready for publication.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Service Provider will be paid 100% After receipt of satisfactory deliverables as outlined above in meeting the ISPR quality standards and acceptance of the final analysis and briefs, suitably incorporating all feedback received.

DESIRED COMPETENCIES, TECHNICAL BACKGROUND, AND EXPERIENCE

The development of a Budget Analysis requires the consultant to work with parliament, government offices, ministries, and CSOs. The nature of budget analyses requires expert skills and an understanding of economics, social development, social policy, gender, and budgeting.

The Consultant needs to be able to locate, identify, interpret, and analyze a broad range of policy, statistical and budget data. The primary skills, knowledge, and experience required range from the complexities of the budget system and the ability to explain the contribution of each stakeholder; to fieldwork experience; knowledge of South Sudan. The consultant, where necessary can also conduct Key Informant Interviews with Chairpersons of Specialized Committees of RTNLA and officials from the National Ministry of Finance and Planning to gather information regarding the budget process and their experience.

- Advanced university degrees in economics, public financial management, or related area.
- Solid knowledge of PFM instruments and proven experience (at least 5 years) with government social sector budget analysis at national and decentralized levels.
- Knowledge of how CSOs work to create evidence to inform public policy based on the South Sudan context.
- Consultant must be present in South Sudan as no travel cost will be covered,
- Must be reliable and able to work with minimum supervision.
- Experience with collecting and working with complex financial data sets.
- Advanced data analysis skills, including advanced Excel.
- Good analytical and writing skills and the ability to present results in simple language, making use of visual aids (maps, graphs, and other tools).
- Must be able to finalize the task within 14 days.
- Excellent spoken and written English and where necessary Arabic.

CONSULTANCY ARRANGEMENT

ISPR together with the Specialized Committee of Finance and Planning:

- Provide the Consultant with relevant documents,
- Provide the Consultant with full support in any further analysis of the data where necessary,
- Facilitate communication with the relevant stakeholders,
- Give feedback on the draft, final reports, and all other deliverables prepared by the Service Provider.

All documents and data provided to the consultant are confidential and cannot be used for any other purposes or shared with a third party without any written approval from the ISPR.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Consultant is expected to provide the following:

- Cover letter (must indicate availability to undertake the task)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Technical proposal with a detailed description of methodology clearly describing the interpretation of these Terms of Reference and a recommended methodological approach and a work plan.
- Financial offer in USD expressed based on the number of days for the consultant as described in the TOR including 20% tax.

Applications should be sent to info.ispr2017@gmail.com with the subject line “**Consultancy to Conduct South Sudan National Budget Analysis for 2023-2024**” by 17h00 Central Africa Time (CAT) on August 16, 2023.

Applications submitted without this information will not be considered.