

Terms of Reference

Building an Inclusive Citizen-led Engagement and Accountability System for Social Protection in Lagos State

Lagos Civil Society Participation for Development (LACSOP) in partnership with Socio Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), and Women Liberation and Transformation Group (W-LIT)

1. Background and Introduction

At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Lagos experienced a fast decline into hunger, poverty and crime, as its poor population saw their options for survival decrease without adequate safety nets or social protection benefits. This situation led to a speedy adoption of a new **Lagos State Social Protection Policy (LASSPP)** in 2020 and presented the State a new opportunity to begin a sincere and collaborative effort to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, such as unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age.

However, this opportunity could be lost without the availability of an active and inclusive citizens' engagement and an accountability system to ensure that the policy is implemented so as to reach the desired impact. It is against this backdrop that this project seeks to establish a robust accountability mechanism for enhanced social protection in Lagos State. The project is a joint effort led by LEAP Africa, in collaboration with four other Lagos-based civil society organisations (CSOs) working to champion democracy namely, Socio Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), and Women Liberation and Transformation Group (W-LIT).

The project will include extensive research, awareness programmes, data utilisation, engagements with citizens groups and various levels of government including the local governments and the legislative bodies. It will adopt an inclusive approach that will place gender and social inclusion at the centre of the intervention

The project is be jointly implemented in the following ways:

a. Policy Review and Analysis

To probe the implementation gaps of the LASSPP, this project will collect primary and secondary evidence on the government's social programmes before and after the adoption of the Policy. The study will also assess the inclusion and access of vulnerable persons including PWDs in the LASSPP.

b. Capacity Building and Networking for CSOs

To ensure that citizens and CSOs in Lagos are aware of their guaranteed social protection rights, this project will conduct a blended capacity building programme for selected CSOs, CBOs and OPDs across 10 LGAs in Lagos state. This training will include modules anchored on four pillars: Social Protection, Accountability, Civic Engagement and Leadership.

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c. Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement

Based on the evidence gathered, this project will include sensitisation, awareness raising and advocacy activities through engagement with the media and relevant government agencies targeted to bridge the gap between citizens and the government and increasing accountability on the LASSPP.

2. The Problem Statement

Going by multiple data sources, Nigeria's current poverty profile looks bleak. According to the 2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria report, 40% of Nigerians live in poverty representing about 82.9 million people (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic is also projected to have pushed 5 million Nigerians into poverty in 2020, while other pandemic-dependent factors exacerbate the risk for unrest and unemployment especially in light of Nigeria's majority youth population.

The impact of poverty on Nigeria's nascent democracy cannot be overemphasised as it limits the full participation of the masses and excluded groups in the decision-making process. Poverty, deprivation and lack of awareness also exacerbates the violation of the fundamental human rights of vulnerable groups especially women, children, youth, and persons living with disabilities. On one hand, this culminates in a situation of political apathy fuelled by mass poverty. On another, it makes the poor susceptible to being weaponized as tools for political manipulation, political thuggery and violence. These issues of exclusion and apathy from democracy and governance have stifled the growth and development of civic and citizen engagement that is inclusive of youth, women, persons with disabilities and the CSOs working with them in Nigeria.

Consequently, the non-prioritisation of socio-economic rights by the Nigerian government is a major driver of poverty, hence the need to continuously advocate for provision and access to affordable education, health care and potable water as well as ensuring social protection of poor Nigerians. In recent years, social protection instruments have been adopted by the Nigerian government at the federal and state levels to tackle the impact of increasing rates of poverty and vulnerability. In 2017, Nigeria adopted a National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), with a Revised Draft National Social Protection Policy developed in 2021 aimed at supporting the poorest and most vulnerable. Evidence points to awareness and capacity gaps of both government officials and civil society actors about the types, uses, design and implementation of social protection programmes in Nigeria (Aiyede et al. 2015).

Social protection rights and other socio-economic rights are included in chapter 2 of the Nigerian constitution of 1999 (as amended). However, these rights are not justiciable as Nigerians may not be able to challenge authorities in court when those rights are violated. Nonetheless, Nigeria has ratified human rights treaties, including the African Charter on Human Rights and People's Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which guarantee the rights of Nigerians to social protection and other socio-economic rights such as education, health and water.

In 2020, Lagos State faced the reality of the absence of a social protection policy that should provide a safety net for its teeming poor population when it imposed a state-wide lockdown. The pandemic

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also triggered an increase in poverty, crime, hunger and violence - including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) within the state. With 26.4 million inhabitants and a growth rate of 3.2%, Lagos is the most populous of Nigeria's 36 States and the FCT. The state stands the risk of having 17.1% households delve into transient poverty, while 4.2% of them will remain in poverty for a decade or beyond - due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This reality led to a speedy adoption of a new Lagos State Social Protection Policy (LASSPP) in 2020 and presented an opportunity to initiate a collaborative effort to reduce poverty and vulnerability in the state across all levels.

The Lagos State Social Protection Policy aims "to establish a framework that is gender-sensitive and age-appropriate and inclusive of persons with disability to ensure a minimum social floor for all Lagos residents for a life of dignity" (Lagos State Government, 2020, p. 10-11). However, the policy remains fraught with critical implementation gaps, lacks clear pathways for the inclusion of CSOs in facilitating citizen engagement, and does not effectively synergise the multiple efforts of MDAs in the state. More importantly, the policy is currently not publicly accessible making it difficult for citizens to be aware of its provisions and hold the government accountable

3. Project Goal

Inclusive social protection practices through the capacity building of 25 CSOs, evidence-based advocacy and grassroots policy engagements in Lagos state.

4. Objective

- a) Empower CSOs in 10 LGAs in Lagos to integrate advocacy for inclusive social protection, provision and access to public services and accountability mechanisms in their program design and implementation
- b) Foster collaboration among CSOs working on women, youth and PWD inclusion in the LASSP to engage in peer learning, networking and knowledge-sharing
- c) Increase demand for government accountability on inclusive policy design and implementation through robust media and citizen engagement

5. Purpose (outcome)

CSOs, CBOs and beneficiaries, particularly the most vulnerable (persons with disability, women and youth), are drivers of a citizen-led and inclusive engagement and accountability system for an enhanced social protection in Lagos State.

6. Task

In fulfilment of the goal in collaboration with the Consortium, **LACSOP** is calling for technical experts to conduct 3-year LASG Social Protection-related budget analysis

7. Tentative timeline

This scope is expected to be delivered between August to September 2022.

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8. Timeframe

The assessment and budget analysis of social protection related sectors shall be for a period, up to 7 days, spread between September 7-15 2022. Final Report due September 22, 2022. However, LACSOP expects a draft report by September 17th, 2022, for an initial inputs, before finalizing.

The consultant will conduct the analysis and provide a detailed context report identify existing structures to be mobilized and engaged to lead on the project's campaign.

The consultant will be in close communication with LACSOP leadership and will update the Project Manager and the Project Officer. Frequency of communication and updates to be agreed.

9. Deliverables

A detailed report highlighting amongst others:

- A detailed Report on SP-related Budget Analysis
- Conceptual analysis of all sectors identified
- Key issues, challenges and opportunities for sectors and social protection in the State
- Analysis, Interpretation, and Implications for Programming
- Detailed prefix and references.

10. Required Knowledge and Experience

The Consultant is expected to have the following qualifications.

- Minimum of Bachelors degree in Development Economic, Political Economy, Economics, Public Administration, Statistics, or any of the related social science disciplines.
- At least 10 years progressive experience working in the areas of democracy and development research
- Excellent facilitation, writing and reporting skills
- Computer literate and able to apply Microsoft Office and other analytical tools efficiently
- Excellent communication and interpersonal relation skills
- An excellent team player
- Experience of conducting budget analysis
- Experience working with, and a strong understanding of, gender and social inclusion programming
- Proven ability to plan and manage work efficiently including to competing deadlines

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- Excellent English writing and communication skills
- Ability to work unsupervised and with a high degree of independence
- Proven ability to identify risks and issues and to escalate as appropriate

11. Submission of Expression Of Interest (EOI)

Interested consultants are invited to apply by sending a technical proposal (max 8 sides of A4) for the budget analysis in SP related sectors; including data collection methodology and work plan, sampling strategy, and data collection tools; CV detailing competency, links to sample of past works, and any other relevant information, demonstrating skill and experience in this area.

The selected consultant will sign a contract with LACSOP before execution.

Applicants should include an invoice detailing daily rate. Applications should be submitted in Microsoft Word file electronically to: **info@lacsop.org** with the subject **line Budget Analysis on Social Protection in Lagos**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.