BUDGET ADVOCACY NETWORK

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE REVENUE AND BUDGET CREDIBILITY ANALYSIS

1. Introduction

The Budget Advocacy Network (BAN) in consortium with Christian Aid, Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law (CARL), and Restless Development (RD) with support from the Department for International Development (DFID) would like to contract a consultant to undertake a revenue and expenditure credibility analysis. The consortium is implementing a programme titled 'Strengthening Public Financial Management, Anti-Corruption and Accountability Institutions in Sierra Leone'. The overall purpose of the programme is 'a more effective executive that can raise, allocate and transparently use public resources to drive inclusive development'

Budget credibility describes the ability of governments to accurately and consistently meet their expenditure and revenue targets. At its core, budget credibility is about upholding government commitments and it is important to understand when and why governments deviate from these commitments. When budgets are not implemented as planned, spending priorities can shift, deficits may exceed projections leading to an increase in debt, and critical services may be compromised.

The Government Budget and Statement of Economic and Financial Policies is a document that explains how the Government plans to collect and spent money for a given time period, usually three (3) years with indicative ceilings and budgeted figures for a one (1) year.

Budget figures, especially revenue and expenditure projections, should be based on reliable projections and the proposed revenue and expenditure priorities of the government.

This work is intended to analyse the credibility of Government revenue and expenditure figures in the budget, and how that affects service delivery.

1.2 Aim and Objectives of Analysis

The aim of the consultancy service is to examine the extent, nature, causes and consequences of deviations from approved budgets and policies.

The overall objectives include:

- To track the implementation of revenue proposals in the 2019 budget speech and the 2019 Finance Act from January to June 2019
- To track the progress in the credibility of the government's revenue and expenditure targets in the budget, and give an update on progress for the period January to June 2019.

- To track the implementation of health, education and agriculture budget deliverables as against disbursement made for the period January to June 2019
- To pull out specific analysis and insights into the health, education and agriculture sectors.
- To examine the reasons and impact of any lapses in revenue credibility, and its impact on expenditure and/or debt.

1.3 Specific Task for the Consultant

The consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks/activities:

1. Track the implementation of the revenue proposal in the budget speech and the Finance Act 2019 from January to June 2019 and ascertain why implementation has/had not been carried out
2. Analyse overall revenue and expenditure credibility for 2017 and 2018 and progress for January to June 2019, comparing against performance in the recent PEFA assessment. Give an assessment of any over or under performance, including the impact of arrears.
3. Analyse revenue collected from January to June 30th, including overall achievement of targets and analysis of the impact of any new revenue proposals or changes through the Finance Act.
4. Give an update on the revenue collected as a % of GDP
5. Carry out sector level analysis of disbursement made to health, education and agriculture, and highlight linkages between budget disbursement/credibility and key health/education deliverables as stated in the details budget.
6. Analyse the reasons behind and impact of any over or underperformance on revenue and how the government is responding (e.g. increasing/decreasing deficit, increasing/decreasing expenditure, delaying payments etc.).
7. Conduct interviews with key stakeholders pertaining to the above issue to gather views and data.
8. Produce a comprehensive report showing the linkage between revenue proposal/Finance Act, revenue collected, disbursement to social service (Health and Education) and budget deliverables (Health, Agriculture and Education)
9. Produce a policy brief clearly stating the policy action to be taken to address any budget credibility issues highlighted in the report.

1.4 Scope

This analysis is expected to cover the implementation of the 2019 budget and 2019 Finance Act from January to June 2019. It will also look at revenue collected and expenditure incurred by government from January to June 2019.

1.5 Timeline and deliverables

The analysis is expected to last for one month two weeks.

In summary, the expected deliverables of the assignment include:
- Short inception report
- Draft report

- Final report (following comments from the consortium)
- Policy brief
- PowerPoint presentation of the summarized final report

1.6 Qualification and Experience of the Consultant/Firm

The Budget Advocacy Network is looking to hire a consultant with the following qualifications:

- Master's degree or an equivalent in Economics, Public Policy or Social Sciences etc.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in the field of public financial management and budgeting
- Experience in budget preparation and analysis of PEFA indicators/reports is an asset
- Very good written and communication skills, with examples of published work desirable.
- Ability to manage and analyse large datasets in excel
- Experience of conducting similar assignments, either in Sierra Leone or elsewhere

Interested persons or firms should forward their Expression of Interest (EOI) to:

BAN office 22E Carlton Carew Road Off Wilkinson Road Freetown or via email to abkamara@ban-sl.org on or before **14th August 2019**. Please include your CV, a short proposal on how you would carry out the work and a budget.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified