



THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT IN UGANDA

An analysis of the status and condition of Civil Society Organisations in Uganda (2019/20)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

1. Introduction

The Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) is a National Platform for NGOs in Uganda. Its mission is to provide a sharing and reflection platform for NGOs to influence governance and development processes in Uganda and enhance their operating environment. UNNGOF envisions an NGO sector that is coherent, respected, and well-informed, actively contributing to citizens' wellbeing and safeguarding their rights. UNNGOF's mainstream programming is anchored around three program areas namely; 1) Civil Society Strengthening, 2) Policy Advocacy and Engagement, and 3) Civic Space and Governance Monitoring.

UNNGOF is searching for a consultant to conduct an analysis of the status and condition of Civil Society Organisations in Uganda between 2019 and 2020. The main objective of this study is to examine the internal and external factors and trends that have impacted CSO operations, programs, and operating space. The study will cover a wide range of parameters such as internal governance, relationships, operating space processes, and trends.

2. Background

Civil society organizations (CSOs) also known as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have evolved significantly in the last three decades. The NGO landscape has transformed dramatically in scale and profile since NGOs became prominent actors in development (Banks, Hulmes, and Edwards, 2015 p.707) and the democratization process. Civil society is as diverse as it changes, reflecting Uganda's broader social and political trends, linking with the state and the market in evolving ways (Deconnink & Larok, 2021). Regarded as the third sector, the sector has evolved from a subsidiary in state and international relief programs into a fully-fledged sector, growing in size and scope from 200 organizations in 1986 to more than 13,000 organizations in 2018.

Ugandan civil society organizations have played a significant part in shaping public policy and ensuring state accountability — by creating awareness, delivering social services, participating in policy processes, organizing and building the capacity of citizens, and challenging state excesses.

The increasing focus on exacting social and political accountability has strained the sector's relationship with the state. As a result, the state has put in place many laws and regulations that have the potential to curtail CSO operations, thus shrinking their operating space. Recently, the sector is battling with the impact and effects of the COVID 19 pandemic that significantly affected its operations and programs for a big part of 2020. These changes point to the need for the sector to continually track the developments and trends that have impacted its work and status.

3. Purpose of the consultancy

The consultant will assist UNNGOF to conduct a study in the state on the State of Civil Society for 2019 and 2021. This study will document the factors and trends that have impacted the CSO sector in Uganda.

4. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the internal and external factors and trends that have impacted CSOs since 2019 to date. The study will cover a wide range of parameters such as internal governance, relationships, operating space, and political and economic trends.

Specifically, the study will seek to establish;

- The socio-economic and political developments and trends that have impacted the operations and programs of the CSO sector between 2019 and 2020.
- Key challenges (internal and external) affecting the growth and development of organizations in the sector in the last two years.
- The opportunities that the sector can leverage to overcome the key challenges affecting its growth.

5. Methodology

The study will apply robust and credible methodologies whose findings can be authenticated. It will select a sample frame that gives a statistically significant result as possible. A questionnaire will be used to obtain data on NGOs, and Key Informant Guides will be developed to solicit information from key informants. The analysis will be such that the findings can be relevant, easily accessible, and widely utilizable, and can be regularly updated.

6. Scope of the study

The study will have national coverage, covering a minimum sample of 40 districts and targeting CSOs in those districts. The study will cover two years (2019/20) and will focus on Civil Society Organisations including International, national and sub-national CSOs working on different themes such as;

- Human Rights – women and gender.
- Health and Education
- Livelihoods and Environment.
- Civic space and Governance.
- Advocacy
- Humanitarian response.

7. Outputs

The major output within the above-stated objectives is a comprehensive study report on the value and contribution of CSOs to Uganda's development. The specific outputs are:

- i) Complete survey data set including
 - Survey tools
 - Sets of questionnaires
 - KII guides
- ii) Methodological and implementation plans

- iii) Literature review
- iv) Training, reviews, and reflection reports.
- v) Survey process reports
- vi) Inception report for the study with detailed methodology and draft assessment instructions/tools.
- vii) Draft and final report of the study

8. Time Frame

The entire consultancy shall take 45 days spread across a period of two months. An inception report shall be provided by the successful consultant within 05 days after the award of the contract.

9. Requirements

- 1) The Consultant (s) should have a Master's degree in the relevant field with proven experience in design and managing similar research projects. If an organization, the lead researcher, and the members of the team should have excellent academic and research background and have a proven track record in conducting similar assignment
- 2) Minimum 10 years experience in designing, implementing, managing, and coordinating research and or assessment.
- 3) Experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection, validation, entry, and analysis using statistical software and drafting skills.
- 4) Demonstrable experience with similar assignments and demonstrable understanding of the civil society in Uganda.

10. Submission

Interested Consultants/Firms are invited to submit the following:

- Full Technical and Financial proposals
- Detailed technical proposal will include proposed methodology indicating the overall process including sampling, quality assurance, time frame, etc. for undertaking the study
- Clear work plan including outputs/deliverables and detailed time frames
- The financial proposal will include detailed budgets containing total costs as per man-day rates, work plan, and any other costs anticipated in undertaking the process of the assignment
- Detailed CV of the consultant/firm with a full description of the profile and experience
- Contact details of at least two independent referees with in-depth and proven knowledge of the applicant's expertise and relevant work experience
- Sample of 2-3 relevant studies previously produced
- A cover letter outlining the suitability of consultant or consultancy firm for the assignment, motivation, and summarizing relevant experience

Full Technical and Financial proposals should be sent via email or hand-delivered to UNNGOF by close of business Friday 27th August 2021 to the address below:

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