



TERMS OF REFERENCE

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| Assignment Title | Consultancy to conduct a Political Economy Analysis on the Political Empowerment of Women in Malawi |
| Project | Promoting Gender Transformative and Youth Inclusive Democracy |
| Type of Contract | Short-Term |
| Contract Period | 20 days |
| Supervisor | Gender Justice Programme and Policy Manager |
| Location | Various depending on need of the assignment |
| Country | Malawi |

Background and Context

Oxfam in Malawi under the Southern Africa Cluster has Program Priority on Gender Justice, which is focused on Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Empowerment. The goal of the Gender Justice is that *Diverse women, girls, and marginalized groups fully realize their rights, exercise their leadership, and live a life free from violence, discrimination, and poverty*. One of the priorities under the Gender Justice Program is the Transformative Women's Leadership (TWL). The TWL seeks to ensure that *Diverse women, including young women, have full agency, exercise their rights, and shape decisions in all levels of social, economic, and political life*. This work is in line with the National Gender Policy and the Government of Malawi's commitment to promote the political participation of women through its regional and international agreements such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development.

Description of the Programme

Oxfam in Malawi under the Transformative Women's Leadership (TWL) pathway supports the Political Empowerment of Women in line with the Government's National Program on the Political Empowerment of Women and Decision Making and the Political Empowerment of Women (PEW) Strategy.

With funding from the European Union, Oxfam in Malawi, and its partner Women's Legal Resources Centre (WOLREC) are implementing a project on Promoting Gender Transformative and Youth Inclusive Democracy in Malawi, under the wider European Union supported Malawi Democratic Governance – (*Boma Lathu*) Program. The Project aims to *enhance the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups to meaningfully participate in political and decision-making structures and processes*. The Project has national level coordination and influencing activities but will be specifically implemented in 7 pre-selected target districts of Rumphi, Mzimba, Dedza, Salima, Machinga, Mulanje, and Nsanje, and will focus on the following pillars:

1. Increased commitment and action to adopt and enforce legal and policy frameworks related to Women, Youth and other Marginalized groups' participation in politics and decision making.
2. Inclusive and gender transformative political party regulations and practices that include Women, Youth and other marginalized people's representation and equal participation at all levels.
3. Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities have capabilities and are empowered to participate in politics, governance processes and decision-making positions.
4. Women, Youth, and Marginalized groups have improved access to economic opportunities that enable them to contest and be viable for decision making positions.

In line with this Project, the Consortium of Oxfam and WOLREC seeks services of a qualified consultant to conduct a study with focus on Political Economy Analysis on the Political Empowerment of Women, Youth, and other Marginalized Groups in Malawi.

Objectives of the Assignment

The Overall Objective of the study **is to assess the political and economic factors that influence political participation of women, youth, and disadvantaged group in Malawi.**

The Specific Objectives of the assignment are as follows:

1. Assess the current political landscape (including laws, policies, institutions, practice, norms) in Malawi with a focus on the equal participation and representation of women, youth and marginalised groups in politics and political decision-making processes.
2. To understand the potential drivers for voter decisions, their interests, incentives towards women's and youth political participation and leadership related to the 2025 General Elections.

3. Identify and analyse the formal and informal opportunities and barriers that are currently shaping, or have potential to shape Women, Youth and Marginalised groups' equal participation in politics and decision-making structures ahead of the 2025 General Elections .
4. Based on information obtained from the study, provide practical recommendations for overcoming the identified barriers, leverage on identified opportunities to enhance the inclusion of Women, Youth, and Marginalised groups participation in political and decision-making structures in context of the 2025 General Elections.

Methods and Scope of the Assignment

The assignment will adopt a mixed method- combining quantitative and qualitative strategies in the study. The scope of the assessment includes a review of relevant documents related to the political empowerment of women in Malawi and consultations with relevant stakeholders from CSOs, Political Parties , Parliament and relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies. It will also include some focus group discussions, key informant interviews with key stakeholders among them; District Gender Officers, Youth Officers, NICE Officers/ volunteers, Traditional and Religious Leaders, District CSOs in gender and women's rights etc and community members in impact districts of the Project.

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

By the end of the consultancy assignment, the Consultant will have delivered the following completed tasks:

1. An inception report approved by Oxfam clearly outlining the proposed methodology, work plan, data collection tools and a mapping of stakeholders to be engaged.
2. Draft report presented.
3. Final report clearly outlining key findings based on the four specific objectives approved by Oxfam.

Media Products

The consultant will be guided by the Oxfam Media and Comms Team on the communications requirements as adhered to by Oxfam, such as consent forms and guidance on photographs to use.

Required qualifications, skills, and Experience.

- Minimum of a Master' degree in Law, Public Administration, Gender Studies, Political Science, or relevant social sciences. Those with a PhD will have an added advantage.

Experience:

- Demonstrated experience in conducting political economy analyses, especially with a focus on gender and governance issues.
- Proven in-depth knowledge, expertise, and practical experience in the democratic governance sector in Malawi.
- Research expertise in gender and women's political empowerment in Malawi
- Strong analytical and research skills.
- Familiarity with the political landscape in Malawi
- Excellent communication and report writing skills.

Competencies:

- Fluent in English.
- Excellent analytical skills.
- Active listening skills.
- Strong facilitation skills.

Submission Instructions

Interested consultant (s) should submit their Technical and Financial Proposals in electronic copy form specifying **'Consultancy to Conduct a Political Economy Analysis on the Political Empowerment of Women, Youth, and marginalised groups in Malawi.** The proposals should be submitted by

17:00 hours local time on Friday, 8 March 2024

All correspondence for the consultancy should be addressed to:

Internal Procurement Committee (IPC)

Oxfam in Malawi

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