



# Terms of Reference: Evidence for Participatory Accounting Mechanisms of Food Security and HIV and AIDS Programmes in Lesotho



## 1.0. Background

Traditionally, efforts to address issues of accountability in Lesotho have focused on improving and/or strengthening the “supply- side” of democratic governance. As such, the two levels of government (National Government and Local Government) play a role in ensuring political checks and balances. Similarly, administrative procedures and internal controls, auditing requirements (both internal and external), and law enforcement (through comptrollers, courts and the police) have been used as top-down means and approaches to improve accountability.

However, there is a need increase attention to improving the “demand side” of democratic governance in Lesotho. That is, strengthening the voice and capacity of citizens to directly demand greater accountability from public officials and service providers. The emphasis in this approach is in actors outside the State, comprising checks and balances on governmental actors within national and local government levels. It involves civil society and non-governmental organizations, as well as an independent media. As such, initiatives to enhance the ability of citizens and stakeholders to engage with public officials and policymakers in a more informed, direct and constructive manner have been getting more attention and support from Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisation. As a result, there is a strong need of exploring and implementing participatory accountability mechanisms for improving accountability, responsiveness and transparency of government.

Participatory accountability mechanisms are relevant where citizens organize and mobilize to evaluate or audit government’s performance and policy decisions through their respective community based organisations. It rests on the premise that when government officials are watched and monitored, they feel greater pressure to respond to their constituents’ demands and have fewer incentives to abuse their power. Therefore, from the perspective of participatory accountability mechanisms, the critical questions and premise are whether citizens have the evidence to effectively monitor and evaluate their governments and decision-makers. It relies on engagement from citizens and/or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to directly and/or indirectly demand accountability and transparency in the public policy and budget cycles. Participatory accountability mechanism (such as social audits, budget tracking, etc) can be an anti-corruption and efficiency enhancing mechanism. However, in Lesotho, there is limited evidence available for communities to engage effectively with the government. As a result, LCN seeks services of a local consultancy firm to undertake a study to develop evidence for CSOs at community level to actively engage with local governments on issues relating to food security and HIV and AIDS.

## 2.0. Purpose of the assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to generate evidence to be used by communities in engaging with community councils on issues relating to accountability and responsiveness of food security and HIV and AIDS programmes implemented by the Government of Lesotho.

## 3.0. Scope of the Study

The assignment will be implemented in the 20 Community Councils of the mentioned districts; Leribe, Botha Bothe, Mokhotlong, Mhaleshoek, Mafeteng, Maseru. The councils are Lilala, Makhoarane, Ts’anatalana, ‘Mamants’o, Ramoetsana, Mashaleng, Silioe, Thabana Mokhele, Seate, Mphokojoane, Menoaneng, Senqebethu, Mokhotlong Urban, Manka, Matsoku, Hleoheng, Maisaphoka, Ramapepe, Nqoe, Likila and Butha Buthe Urban.

## 4.0. Specific Objectives

- Identify food security and HIV and AIDS strategies/[programmes implemented by the Government of Lesotho at community level using the twenty community councils under the Deepening Decentralisation and Non State Actors Project.
- Review the budget allocated to the same programmes per district and per community council.
- Review previous and current plans for the community councils supporting the identified Food Security and HIV and AIDS strategies and programmes.
- Provide an assessment of each programme with regard to Transparency, Participation, Representative Participation and Accountability.
- Review the implementation mechanisms and institutional arrangements of the identified strategies and programmes and assess the effectiveness of such strategies in responding to community food security and HIV challenges highlighting gaps and strengths.
- Identify available support for implementation of such strategies.
- Identify involvement and inclusiveness of communities in the design implementation, budget allocation and monitoring of the programmes
- Identify accountability mechanisms in place that facilitate transparency and responsiveness to the community.
- Identify participatory methods of accountability to be used by communities in engagement with the local community councils.

## 5.0. Key Deliverables

Report indicating the mentioned specific objectives (2 hard copies) and a soft copy in a form of a disc.

## 6.0. Time frame of the assignment

2 months (July-August)

## 7.0. Reporting

The Consultant will report to the Programs Director but will work directly with two LCN programme coordinators (Health and Social Development and Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources). The table below summarises reports that shall be submitted by the consultant and time frames for submission of such report.

Submission	Timeframe
Inception Report with incorporation of a detailed work plan	Within 5 days of contract commencement
Draft report of the activity	After 6 weeks of the contract commencement
Final Report	5 days before contract close out

## **8.0. Requirements**

Bidders should submit technical and financial proposals that address the scope of work outlined above within the suggested timeframe.

- Technical proposal that outlines methodology and work plan.
- Financial proposal.
- Curriculum vitae of core team members.

## **9.0. Profile Consultant**

Consultants should possess the following attributes:

- Relevant post-graduate degree,
- Demonstrate extensive experience in participatory accountability mechanism (social audits, budget tracking, etc)
- Demonstrate massive experience in understanding accountability mechanism of local and nation government.
- Extensive knowledge on HIV and AIDS and Food and livelihoods security policies.
- At least five years practical experience in development with particular emphasis on the NGO sector and local community structures.
- Knowledge of data analysis methods and report writing.

## **10. Payment schedule**

- 30 % of the contract amount shall be paid upon submission and approval of inception report.
- Another 30% shall be paid upon submission of the draft report
- And the 40% of the contract amount shall be paid upon submission and approval of the final report.

## **11. Proposal Submission**

Detailed technical and financial proposals should be hand delivered in two hard copies to LCN by 16 July 2015, 12h00 noon. The submission should be addressed to:

The Executive Director

Reference: Evidence for Participatory Accounting Mechanisms of Food Security and HIV and AIDS Programmes in Lesotho

Lesotho Council of NGOs

House No. 544

Maseru 100

Lesotho

## **12. Disclaimer**

If you do not receive any response within two weeks after the closing date, you must consider your application unsuccessful.