TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Meta Analysis: From Open to Inclusive Governance Grant Program

01 June to 30 September 2024
1. Who we are

The Voice programme is an innovative grant facility initiated by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and managed by Oxfam Novib and Hivos since 2016. It operates in over ten countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, East and Southeast Asia, aiming to empower marginalised groups, including People with disabilities; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) people; Women facing exploitation, abuse and/or violence; Vulnerable youth and elderly; Indigenous people and ethnic minorities.

The programme seeks to directly support rightsholder-led initiatives to ensure improved access to resources, employment, citizen engagement, political participation, social services, health, and education. To date, Voice has provided grants to 700+ projects (involving 1200 organisations or groups), having allocated close to Euro 59 million. It has also implemented over 1100 linking and learning initiatives in the 10 Voice focus countries and at the multi-country level. These include communities of practice, knowledge exchanges, peer-to-peer learning events, awards and Indabas that facilitate new connections, replication of innovations and sharing of experiences.

Over the last 7 years, the internal systems, ways of working and make-up of teams have evolved considerably. This has been informed by continuous learning with Voice stakeholders and the implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review in 2019. Working across the different geographies and consortium partners, learning has shown the value of diversification in our approaches and responses to engage with Voice rightsholder groups on sensitive issues within the different contexts. To learn more about Voice visit our website at www.voice.global

Voice is now seeking a researcher/research team to conduct a meta-analysis of the outcomes and learning emerging from six projects funded by Voice under the ‘From Open to Inclusive Governance’ grant and how that relates to general developments in the sector.

2. Background

In February 2020, with support from the Hewlett Foundation and in cooperation with the Trust, Accountability, and Inclusion (TAI) network (formerly the Transparency & Accountability Initiative), Voice launched the ‘From Open to Inclusive Governance’ grant. The grant sought to support initiatives aiming to enhance the inclusion of rightsholder groups (e.g. women, youth, people with disabilities/albinism, survivors of gender-based violence, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ community) in governance, public decision-making, and service delivery. Since August 2020, with support from this grant, six projects involving 17 organisations have been implementing initiatives ranging from community-led research and data generation to education of rightsholders on policy processes and active influencing and advocacy. Throughout this process, they have been accompanied in a reflective and iterative learning process by the Coady Institute aiming to strengthen their citizen-led accountability and advocacy efforts.

3. The overall purpose of this assignment

In line with our aspiration to be a learning program, Voice is keen to understand the higher-level outcomes and lessons emerging from these six projects, to serve as a resource for practitioners working to enhance inclusive governance as well as for their supporters. Towards this analysis, we have identified some preliminary learning questions:
4. Learning questions

**PROJECT LEVEL QUESTIONS:** Understand what has happened at the level of the six projects to identify themes/angles for a meta-analysis?

- What are the significant outcomes of these five/six projects after almost 4 years?
- Are there any significant commonalities in the trajectories and outcomes of these five/six projects? Are there any significant differences?
- Is there any linkage/connection between the projects? If yes, have the linkages and connections had any outcomes in and of themselves?
- To what extent are the results achieved by the project sustainable?

**CONTEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS:** Understand what has happened in the context to identify themes/angles for a meta-analysis?

- How have the six projects adapted to the dynamic civic space context in their countries?
- How have the six projects influenced the political, social, legal and economic context in which they are operating?
  - What strategies have been found most useful to continue holding the line in the face of growing blowback against human rights defenders, and particular communities?
  - Have there been any ripple effects from the five/six projects to the civil society organisations/social movements in Kenya and Uganda?

**META LEVEL QUESTIONS**

- How have the initial assumptions underlying the start of the collaboration between Voice, TAI and the Hewlett Foundation held through to the end, e.g.,
  - That rightsholders groups have had their voices included/heard in transparency, accountability and good governance spaces,
  - That participation of rightsholders in the transparency, accountability and good governance spaces has made these more open and inclusive to rightsholders' perspectives. Have any specific changes transpired as a result of this openness and inclusion?
- How has the foundational assumption underlying Voice – that capacity strengthening through grant making as well as linking and learning contribute to increased capacity of rightsholders to demand accountability, to lobby, and to advocate – held up?
  - Any insights on trust/relationship/alliance building within and among the rightsholders groups?
  - Any insights on how the capacity of rightsholders was strengthened (e.g. which types of interventions/support were most effective) and how this impacted their ability to make their voices heard, demand accountability, lobby and advocate?
  - Any insights on the role of (semi)-structured learning and accompaniment focused on knowledge and skills related to transparency, accountability, and advocacy for inclusive governance?
  - Any insights on trust/relationship building and influencing with power holders and duty bearers?
  - Any practical insights on aspects such as time frame, resource needs, etc.

5. Assignment Details

- The assignment will allow for a flexible timeline of the assigned hours, working towards the agreed deliverables.
6. Expected deliverables
- A meta-analysis report responding to the learning questions above.

This report will form the basis of a knowledge exchange among Voice grantee partners and other relevant stakeholders.

7. Key principles and instruments
The following are key principles of the Voice programme. By accepting this work, the consultant agrees to honour these principles to the maximum during the assignment and in interaction with any participant or team member.

**Leave No One Behind** - No person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, sexual orientation, race, or other status – should be denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities. The consortium sees civil society as a platform for citizens to raise their voice, key to vital democratic societies and inclusive and sustainable development. Putting the furthest first.

**Nothing About Us Without Us!** (Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis"), a saying highlighted since the 1990’s by the movement of People with disability. This slogan communicates the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy. In line with this saying, Voice will promote full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by the Voice interventions and the individual grantees’ projects. Further it will support people-led lobby and advocacy and encourage learning on successful inclusive approaches.

**Inclusion** – is related to attitude, communication, accessibility & participation. It can be understood as a set of linked, unending processes to do with the participation of individuals: the creation of settings, systems (procedures, policies, and laws) that encourage participation; and with putting ‘inclusive’ values into action. All three are about everyone rather than about a particular group.

Respect for diversity requires Voice to be open, respectful, and self-reflective. Voice promotes people-led action and human-centred innovation. Voice seeks to collaborate with creative, edgy, and innovative frontrunners to bring that diversity to life.

8. Coordination
The consultant will work in direct coordination with the Voice programme manager, the Voice linking and learning coordinator, and the Coady Institute. Regular updates and decision-making moments will be planned at the start of the consultancy.

9. Engagement Period
Selected consultant is expected to be available for:

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1 The commitment to 'leave no one behind' has been a key feature of all the discussions on the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
2 http://www.indexforinclusion.org/themeaningofinclusion.php
• A minimum of 21 days in the period 01 June to 30 September 2024 based on an agreed calendar.

10. Applicant assessment and track record

• Proven experience conducting relevant research and analysis in the field of human rights and development. Experience working with programmes on diversity and inclusion is desirable.
• Proven experience in using participatory methodologies to gather data/information, do analysis and reflect on the preliminary findings.
• Demonstrated work and lived experience in the East Africa region is highly desirable.
• Experience with creative research approaches is welcome.
• Excellent English speaking and writing skills.

If worked with Oxfam or Hivos before, the applicant organisation must have a clean financial record.

11. Application procedure

We require persons interested to send us an expression of interest to facilitate engagement and required preparation. The maximum amount available for this consultancy is Euro 10,000.