

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to conduct a study on the impact of the Senior Citizens Grant in reducing household-level poverty, with a particular focus on children under the care of older persons.

1.0 Background

HelpAge International is a registered charity in the UK, leading an international network focused on ageing issues and supporting older people globally. HelpAge works with 171 partners in 90 countries to help older people claim their rights and challenge discrimination and poverty, so that they can lead dignified, secure, active and healthy lives. HelpAge operates through a Global Team with staff based across the world.

The European Commission (DG INTPA) is funding a global action on improving synergies between social protection and public finance management. The four-year global action is implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) represented by HelpAge International in Uganda. The programme supports governments to expand national social protection coverage through systems-strengthening, through technical support, explorative research and capacity development on Public Finance Management (PFM) towards more effective, evidence-based and inclusive budgeting processes for sustainable financing of more inclusive social protection systems in 8 countries including Uganda.

2.0 Overview

The evidence from the social protection literature shows that social pensions can have substantive impacts on children's health and schooling outcomes as older people often use their pension income to support children under their care. For instance, in Namibia older people give around half their pensions to children to help with schooling, food and other costs. Similarly in China, the pension scheme has led to more pocket money and caring received from grandparents, as well as improved health and higher schooling rates for children under 15 years.

Given that about 15 per cent of the children in Uganda are cared for by their grandparents, the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) can potentially have an important impact on inter-generational transmission of poverty.

3.0 Purpose

This study aims to assess the impact of the SCG in reducing household-level poverty, with a particular focus on children under the care of older persons.

This study is in line with Uganda's Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Research Agenda, which highlights the need to collect evidence on the impact of direct income support on inter-generation transmission of poverty.

4.0 Scope of Work

The study is expected to be carried out in Uganda in relation to the current social protection programmes and specifically the SCG.

The consultant expected to identify an appropriate research design, develop an inception report outlining methodologies, approaches, tools for the study as well as identifying key data sets relevant to the study.

The overarching research question to be answered by this impact evaluation is *'What is the impact of the SCG on the wellbeing of older people and children living in recipient households in Uganda?'*

More specifically, the purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the SCG on poverty levels of recipient households and the wellbeing of older people and children living in recipient households. The study will further explore how the SCG affects intra-household dynamics, in particular the relationships between older people who receive the SCG and grandchildren living in their households.

Primary questions of interest may be categorised under; include: Impact on SCG recipient households, Impact on children, Impact on intra-household dynamics/relationships (qualitative analysis)

4.1 Deliverables

- A research report (between 35 and 40 pages, including references, tables, and figures).
- A policy brief to summarise the findings in the report.

The format of the research report should have the following sections, Executive summary, Introduction, Research methodology, Approach, Methods of data collection, Limitations, Research findings, Conclusion, and recommendations.

4.2 Timelines

- The study will be conducted in July - August 2023
- Timeframe is negotiable depending on agreed methodology.

4.3 Cost

The estimated cost for the consultancy will not exceed 50,000,000 UgSh.

5.0 Skills and Experience

The following skills and knowledge are necessary to carry out the consultancy:

1. University academic qualification (MA) in development studies, public policy, social protection, human development or equivalent;
2. Minimum of 5 years' experience of conducting similar research assignments with reputable organisations.
3. Knowledge of Uganda's social protection sector and stakeholders.

4. Knowledge of PFM principles, processes and stakeholders in Uganda.
5. Good data analysis skills
6. Excellent communication and English writing skills.

Equal Opportunities

HelpAge International is committed to creating an inclusive working environment, promoting and providing equal opportunities and respecting diversity in employment. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified individuals regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Safeguarding

Everyone has a role in creating and sustaining a safe and respectful working environment, where no one comes to any harm or is maltreated. At HelpAge we take our responsibilities very seriously and will take action against wrongdoing. We will do everything we can to ensure that we do not engage people that pose a safeguarding risk and will undertake criminal record checks as required.

Diversity and Inclusion

HelpAge International is dedicated to creating a diverse and inclusive environment for all its employees and extending the culture of inclusion into our work.

We believe that our workforce should reflect the wide diversity of the communities we serve, and that diverse voices should be elevated and intentionally integrated into our work. We embrace difference and diversity of identity, experience, and thought, and actively strive for inclusive behaviors across our organization and work regardless of gender, race, disability, age, nationality, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, marital status, pregnancy, social status, and political beliefs.

Submitting expressions of interest (EOI)

All expressions of interest should include:

- **Technical proposal:** (maximum 3 pages) including: brief explanation about the firm/consultants with emphasis on previous experience in this kind of work; profile of the consultant(s) to be involved in undertaking the study, understanding of the TOR, the study methodology, key contacts from similar work carried out, examples of past related pieces of work.
- **Financial proposal:** The financial proposal should provide cost estimates for services rendered including professional fees (daily rates x number of days) to carry out the assignment.

EOIs received by any other means other than that stated in the "How to apply" column of the website will not be taken into consideration and any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification.

Selection of the consultant will be undertaken by a panel and based on the experience of the consultant, the quality and relevance of the technical and financial proposal (i.e. value for money, within resources available). Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted.