



The Contract No. FED/2021/423-329

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European Union – Civil Society Fund III

Terms of Reference (ToR)

for

End-of-Project Evaluation

“Augmenting Economic Governance in Ethiopia (AEGE)”

December 2022

Addis Ababa

Ethiopian Economics Association
Terms of Reference for the Final Evaluation of Augmenting Economic Governance in Ethiopia
(AEGE) project

1. Background

The Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) was established as a non-profit, non-partisan and non-religious Professional Association in 1991. It has also been re-registered and accorded legal personality as a local organization in accordance with the Civil Society Organizations Proclamation (No. 1113/2019) of Ethiopia. Its objectives are organized around six main dimensions: support economic policy design through policy analysis and capacity building; enhance economic research and dissemination; promote the discipline of economics; serve as a platform for dialogue on economic issues; promote the professional interest of its members; and facilitate professional linkages between Ethiopian economists and those of other countries.

As part of its overall programme, and with a financial support from the European Union Civil Society Fund III, the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) has been implementing a project titled “Augmenting Economic Governance in Ethiopia (AEGE)” project, contract ref. FED/2021/423-329 in the period February 18, 2021 to February 17, 2023. The project had the overall objective of conducting economic research on topical issues selected based on their relevance to serve as an input to the policy formulating process during the high time when Ethiopia is poised to undertake policy reforms. In addition, organizing different types of discussion forums to deliberate on key socio-economic issues that can bring together diverse groups of the society including policy makers, CSOs, private sector, academia, media, donor communities etc., is believed to contribute in promoting the socio-economic policy making process of the country. The following are specific objectives envisaged to be attained from successful implementation:

- To generate scientific evidence for informed socio-economic policy making;
- To build capacity of stakeholders in designing and implementing socio-economic policies and interventions; and
- Engage stakeholders in selected thematic areas of socioeconomic issues for improved and participatory economic policy making.

In line with these objectives, Ethiopian Economics Association has coordinated the implementation of various activities that are collectively expected to produce the following results:

1. Increased availability of evidence for informed socio-economic policy making,
2. Strengthened capacities of stakeholders in economic policy formulation and monitoring; and
3. Increased engagement of stakeholders and the general public in policy dialogue in the process of economic policy making.

The Ethiopian Economics Association has deployed technical staff for implementation and maintained a system of progress tracking and reporting to the donor as well as other key stakeholders to the project. Now, with the completion of the implementation period the EEA has decided to commission and engage an external consultant to evaluate the overall performance of implementation.

The evaluation will assess the approaches applied for achieving results, with due emphasis on efforts related to capacity building and partnerships (the interplay between the efforts of Partners, Associates, target groups and associations of beneficiaries).

2. Purpose and objectives

The overall purpose of the final evaluation is: to contribute to strengthening accountability to key stakeholders and the internal learning of the Ethiopian Economics Association with regard to performances in programme implementation, generating lessons learnt and assuring result orientation.

This evaluation, within the overall thematic area of Capacity Building has the following specific objectives:

- ⇒ To identify and assess outputs and outcomes of activities implemented as part of the project ‘Augmenting Economic Governance in Ethiopia (AEGE)’. To the extent possible the contribution of the activities to the overall objectives of the project as well as to that of the mission of EEA will be assessed.
- ⇒ In comparison to expected results in project document, assess how and to what extent the approaches applied by EEA contribute to Enhanced Evidence-Based Socio-Economic Policy Making and Good Governance in Ethiopia.
- ⇒ **Relevance** – among others, how well matched are the project interventions to the socio-cultural, institutional, political and economic contexts of the target groups and the country/region? Were opportunities, entry points and risks clearly articulated and employed or managed?
- ⇒ **Efficiency** - Are projects/program inputs consistent with efficient achievement of outputs and outcomes? Have project funds been disbursed in ways consistent with efficient achievement of objectives? Have all partners been able to provide their contributions to the project? Given objectives, were alternative approaches available that could have been used resources more efficiently?
- ⇒ **Effectiveness** - Have the interventions achieved or are likely to achieve their objectives? Have the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI's); targets according to the logframe, been achieved as planned to date? What is the quality of results achieved? What is the likelihood of the Specific Objectives to be achieved as envisaged and measured in the OVI's of the Logframe? To what extent is the choice of intervention channels and mechanisms adequate to achieve the intended results? What are the main obstacles/challenges to achieve the intended results? Has there been any change in objectives? What explains any non-achievement of objectives? Are there any unexpected outcomes?
- ⇒ **Impact:** Did the assumptions at project purpose (Specific Objectives) level remained true over the implementation period? What are the key achievements of the interventions in terms of policy, practice and behaviour change? What are the intended/envisaged pathways from project results to broader overall development outcomes?
- ⇒ **Sustainability:** How likely is it that outputs and outcomes of the interventions will be sustained? What actions/conditions have been put in place to sustain changes in channels and mechanisms? Are capacities supported by the interventions likely to be sustained and result in sustained improvements in the future?
- ⇒ **Coherence:** How compatible was the intervention with other interventions in the country, sector or institution. **Internal coherence** addresses the synergies and interlinkages between the intervention and other interventions carried out by the same institution/government, as well as the consistency of the intervention with the relevant international norms and standards to which that institution/government adheres. **External coherence** considers the consistency of the intervention with other actors’ interventions in the same context. This includes complementarity, harmonisation and co-ordination with others, and the extent to which the intervention is adding value while avoiding duplication of effort.
- ⇒ Assess the usefulness of applied Monitoring and Evaluation systems for achievement, documentation and communication of results.

3. Scope

The EEA wants to maximize the relevance and learning potential of the evaluation. Thus, for this evaluation should be based on a wider investigation of country contexts and specific activity portfolios. This places strong emphasis on the role of the inception phase for specifying the scope, in accordance with the considerations outlined below.

Thematic focus - The project is financed by EU/CSF III the overall objective of which is **to increase the contribution of citizens and CSOs in the development and democratization process of the country**. Accordingly, important focus areas of this evaluation include:

- Capacity strengthening of CSOs and their networks to engage in policy dialogue and effectively influence Government's reform processes and nation-building interventions at Regional and Federal levels;
- Partnership opportunities amongst CSOs (including the media and academia), building on existing networks, supporting emerging networks, and encouraging the building of coalitions and the creation of platforms to exchange knowledge;
- Support the creation of an enabling environment to ensure the development of a credible, accountable, independent, inclusive civil society sector and undertake strategic engagement with all levels of Government.

The chain of results - The project is primarily about “Enhancing Evidence-Based Socio-Economic Policy Making and Good Governance in Ethiopia”. Thus the evaluation will primarily check the achievements of the high-level results and their indicators in the approved Logical Framework Matrix (LogFrame) of the project. The same can be said for improved capacity building efforts. The evaluation will look for indications of broader development outcomes where possible, but the assessment will primarily be based on the work of **EEA**.

Monitoring and Evaluation information for accountability and learning The evaluation will among others examine how results and results monitoring are aligned with broader Overall Objectives (with reference to the indicators included in the Logframe of the project proposal),.

Geographic/ Regional focus:

The evaluation will as point of departure consider project activities at national level.

Time frame: The evaluation is expected to cover the activities implemented by **EEA** during the period from February 2021 to February 2023. This will allow focusing on activities and results related to the specific project, and analyzing the temporal aspects and their implication for the potential achievement of results.

NB. In light of the possible supports from other donors for related activities, the evaluation need to be careful in attributing results to CSF III and others. Also, note that the report will be presented and reviewed by the donor and other key stakeholders.

4. Approach and methodology.

The evaluation falls in two main parts: As part of the inception phase, a desk study will be undertaken by the Consultant to understand the details of the project, the broader context and develop details of the evaluation question, prepare instruments and plan subsequent stages of the task. The second part is the more in-depth information/data collection and analysis of activities, based on discussions and interviews with, partners, project staff and other stakeholders.

The evaluation will be based on both quantitative and qualitative methods. The specific methodology and analytical framework will be finalized during the inception phase, and will be approved by EEA. The

Consultant will ensure triangulation of findings by applying a variety of data collection methods comprising desk research and analysis of existing material; interviews and focus-group discussions with key informants, stakeholders' workshops and direct observation of program implementation.

Desk study: The first point of departure will be the project specific documentation available from the Ethiopian Economics Association. In addition, the Consultant will review reports/correspondences held by and to be made available from EEA; , collaborating government sources, from resource organizations (Network/Apex organizations), higher learning institutions, the media and the likes. Such reports may include: reviews and profiles of CSO institutional and organizational capacities; the approaches and strategies mostly promoted; internal networking for shared learning and joint actions; their participation and/or contributions in the overall national/regional development processes; status/trends in their partnerships with government and donors; status/trends in the operational environment, and the likes.

Workshops: The Consultant is expected to present detailed proposals and the final evaluation outputs to the Ethiopian Economics Association, including group-events, where applicable. In the first place, the inception report (output of the desk review) will be presented to the Project Coordinator of EEA or to the Management of EEA. This encounter is anticipated to enable the Consultant to test the evaluation questions and get endorsement on the proposed approaches to finalizing the assignment. At the finalization phase, a second workshop will possibly be organized so as to help validate the main findings, contribute to cross learning between organizations and facilitate buy-in from key stakeholders (dissemination).

Interviews and discussions with key stakeholders: Interviews should be conducted with key informants primarily face to face and otherwise by phone. Key stakeholders include selected project beneficiaries from amongst Policy makers including parliament, Civil Society Organizations, Political parties, Media, Private Sector, Academia and Researchers, and EEA Members and the donor (EUD/TAU). The Interviews will be conducted in semi-structured form. Key areas for discussion will be identified and questionnaires or interview guides will be elaborated. There would be an interview round during the inception phase (with core technical staff directly working on the project and with representative of the donor) to clarify expectations. Following the inception phase, the second and major round of interview will be conducted by reaching the key stakeholders of the project mentioned above.

Guiding Principles: The evaluation process and evaluators must be sensitive to beliefs, manners, and customs of the social and cultural environment in which they will work. Especially, the evaluation team must be sensitive to and address issues of protection, discrimination and gender inequality.

Fieldtrips: No field trips are anticipated for this assignment.

5. Organisation of the Evaluation

The evaluation will be carried out by an independent, individual external consultant to be selected through open, competitive and fair selection procedure. The Ethiopian Economics Association will be responsible for managing the process and for facilitating initial contact of the Consultant, final beneficiaries and other stakeholders. A project team (focal group) will be established at the head office of EEA to facilitate and provide smooth coordination of the evaluation task.

6. Output

The main outputs of the evaluation consist of the following:

⇒ **Inception report** - not exceeding **15** pages excluding annexes. The inception report should include the results of the desk review, the detailed proposal on methodologies and the elaborated analytical framework for the evaluation, survey instruments, timeline, and process progress indicators. The Ethiopian Economics Association through the project team will review/comment and endorse the inception report as appropriate for the Consultant to commence the next stage activities.

- ⇒ **Evaluation report, draft and final version**, not exceeding **40** pages excluding annexes. The report will be written in English. The draft version will be first reviewed and commented by EEA and the project team before presenting it to the final validation workshop of key stakeholders, likewise, the final version will incorporate feedbacks solicited from the Client as well as from the final validation workshop. The final report must include an executive summary of not more than 4 pages.
- ⇒ In addition to the above, the Consultant is expected to prepare and present concise summary of the findings of the evaluation during the validation workshop.

7. Work plan

The preliminary work plan is as follows:

S.N.	Activities	Weeks					
		W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6
1.	Signing of a contract						
2.	Desk review, interviews and discussions with project staff						
3.	Inception workshop and endorsement of the report						
4.	Data Collection						
5.	Report Writing and submission of draft report						
6.	Validation Workshop						
7.	Final report submission incorporating comments from project staff and validation workshop						

8. Competencies

The evaluation team should have the qualification, knowledge and experience appropriate to the purpose and scope of the evaluation. Required competencies are:

- First, preferably second, degree in economics, project management and relevant fields;
- At least 10 assignments completed in the evaluation of projects/programmes; with at least 50% of them with CSO projects;
- The consultant/s shall have knowledge about CSOs and good grasp of the context and challenges of the operational environment;
- Knowledge and experience with evaluation methodologies (both qualitative and quantitative methods).
- Knowledge of English and Amharic.

Preferable competencies:

- International experience in evaluating CSO projects
- Knowledge and experience in of applying gender balanced and participatory approaches to the exercise.
- Experience in evaluating think thanks and research institutes

9. Background documents

The following are among the key background documents for this evaluation:

- ⇒ The Strategic Plan, and other publications of EEA as relevant;
- ⇒ The final Full Application set of documents including: The Full Description, LogFrame, Budget and Contracts with their Annexes approved by the EUD;
- ⇒ All interim and final reports with narrative and financial components submitted to the EUD;
- ⇒ Intermediate outputs of the project that include training manuals, publications, toolkits, research reports, etc. produced by the Project,
- ⇒ Baseline Report.