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## Terms of Reference

Child policy, budget and programme analysis

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## REPSSI

The Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) is a non-profit organization which provides technical capacity enhancement to its partners to strengthen communities' and families' ability to promote the psychosocial wellbeing of their children and youth. Our vision is all girls, boys and youth enjoy psychosocial and mental wellbeing.

REPSSI partners with governments, development partners, international organizations and NGOs to provide programmes that strengthen communities' and families' competencies to better promote the psychosocial wellbeing of their children and youth. We provide technical assistance and lead advocacy for sustained psychosocial support mainstreaming into programmes and services for girls, boys, youth, families and communities in East and Southern Africa so that they live with hope, dignity and happiness. We work at international, regional and national level in 13 countries of East and Southern Africa.

REPSSI is a **technical partner to the Southern African Development Community (SADC)** in their programme for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth. Through this partnership, REPSSI has engaged in the development of the regional OVCY strategy, business plan, Minimum Package of Services for OVCY (MPS) and Psychosocial Support Conceptual Framework, as well as national domestication of these. The Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth is an attempt to address challenges faced by vulnerable children and youth in a holistic manner. The Minimum Package of Services defines the basic services children and youth should have to mitigate the challenges they face and to thrive in their environment.

## PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY

### Objectives

The general objective of this study is aimed at identifying and analysing policies, budgets and programmes for children within five (5) selected countries in the East and Southern Africa region. Countries to be included will be agreed in the inception phase but should include at least one Lusophone and one Francophone country.

#### Specific objectives

- To develop a comprehensive trend analysis of resource mobilization, allocation and public expenditure patterns on children particularly in social protection, education and vocational skills, health care and sanitation, food security and nutrition, child and youth protection, and Psychosocial support.
- To identify good practices in fiscal governance as well as mechanisms for meaningful engagement of children in holding governments to account for their decisions and actions.

## Scope of work

The consultant will be responsible for the following aspects:

- Develop a comprehensive trend analysis of resource mobilization, allocation and public expenditure patterns towards children
- Identify and analyse relevant children policies and programmes in the region
- Identify the gaps and barriers to implementation of current policies and programmes on children
- Identify specific roles for stakeholders (including collaborating partners and members) including the state ministries, and other stakeholders in promoting public investments in children
- Analyse public spending on children particularly in health, education, child protection, social protection and national child rights infrastructure.
- Assess the extent to which current budget levels are adequate to meet stated policy priorities and objectives on children
- Identify key advocacy issues that will be translated into an action plan based on the findings of the study
- Provide policy recommendations to improve the response to budgeting and programming for children
- Review initiatives by SADC, especially the Minimum Package of Services for orphans and vulnerable children and youth (OVC&Y), and other continental bodies that relate to or have a bearing on public investment in children.

## Deliverables

The following deliverables are required:

- Inception report, outlining the proposed methodology and timeline;
- A 40 page analysis report encapsulating the following:
  - Tracing budgeting trends of the governments in the identified countries
  - Interrogating social services including HIV&AIDS budgeting and expenditure
  - Deriving lessons to be learnt from previous investment in children initiatives
  - Flagging exemplary practices;
  - Identifying advocacy issues and proposed action plan
  - Providing clear roles of various child rights stakeholders and developing recommendations for future programming

## Requirements

- Have relevant working experience of at least five (5) years in policy research at the national or regional level
- Knowledge and understanding of budgeting and financial management procedures within the child rights sector
- Proven experience in conducting budget studies within the child rights sector.
- Advanced degree in economics, social policy or public financial management

## Expression of interest

Potential candidates are requested to submit to [hradmin@repssi.org](mailto:hradmin@repssi.org) by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016:

- A 3 paged CV in English or company profile.
- A cover letter, indicating how your skills and experience meet the TORs.
- A work-plan outline and budget (including your daily rate).

Applications not including all of the above information will not be reviewed. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.