



*Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice*

## **INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRODUCING A GENDER, DEBT & TAX JUSTICE TOOLKIT**

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development is seeking for qualified research consultant(s) to produce a Toolkit on Gender, Debt and Tax Justice.

### **ABOUT ZIMCODD**

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) is a socio – economic justice coalition established in February 2000 to facilitate citizens` involvement in making pro – people public policy. ZIMCODD views indebtedness, the unfair global trade regime and lack of democratic people– centred economic governance as root causes of the socio – economic crises in Zimbabwe and the world at large.

### **Vision**

Socio-economic justice in Zimbabwe anchored on a vibrant people-based movement.

### **Mission**

To take action against the debt burden and socioeconomic injustices through movement building and alternative policy formulation.

### **Introduction**

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) seeks to produce a Toolkit on Gender, Debt and Tax Justice. The generated toolkit will promote women and youth agency in demanding a just public debt management and tax system in Zimbabwe. This is critical given the unjust taxation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups through a number of presumptive and consumptive taxes used to pay off public debt while sacrificing public service delivery. The imposition of presumptive taxes on the informal sector has adversely affected the viability of informal sector trade, while at the same time, exposing informal traders to often violate and corrupt tax recovery processes by authorities. The produced output will be a tool to raise the level of economic literacy on issues of gender, debt and tax justice at the community level. With the aim of influencing citizen involvement and participation in public policy, the toolkit will further educate policy makers, women, youths and male gender champions to demand a just, equitable, sustainable and redistributive debt and tax system in Zimbabwe.

### **Context**

The last decade has seen an unprecedented increase in debt levels globally, including in the global south. This new “wave of debt” is according to the World Bank, “[the largest, fastest and most broad-based increase in debt](#)” witnessed in “emerging and developing economies<sup>1</sup>”. The Spiralling

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eurodad.org/stop\\_the\\_new\\_debt\\_crisis\\_from\\_derailing\\_womens\\_rights](https://www.eurodad.org/stop_the_new_debt_crisis_from_derailing_womens_rights)

public debt means that public budgets are bearing the increased weight of debt service payments in many countries including Zimbabwe. History has shown that as debt servicing increase, public resources are diverted from public service investments towards debt payment and this often leads to privatisation of these services. This therefore poses a threat to fulfilment of women's rights and equality as debt servicing reduces resources available to deliver quality and gender sensitive public services and this underscores the need for a gender focus to tackle the resultant injustices. The subject of Public Debt has been discussed in numerous forums with the focus being on its impact on macro-economic stability, economic growth, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), public sector expenditure and service delivery. While the socio-economic implications of public debt have received fair attention on both the international, regional and national arena, a lot still needs to be done to shift the focus to the gendered impacts of public debt in Zimbabwe. This is because the focus has largely been on how unsustainable debt can impact negatively on human rights and development while the gendered impacts have gone unnoticed. The call for gender, debt and tax justice has never been more critical than in the COVID-19 context, where increased borrowing is plunging the nation further into a debt trap with women and youths bearing the brunt of regressive taxation, corruption, illicit financial activities, odious and illegitimate debt. Against this background, ZIMCODD is producing a toolkit on Gender, Debt and Tax Justice to stimulate pro-people, gender-responsive debt and tax policy alternatives in Zimbabwe.

### **1. Aim**

The purpose of the toolkit is to contribute towards enhanced capacities of women and youth to lobby and advocate for progressive taxation and a sustainable public debt management system. The toolkit will further be used to engage policy makers so as to influence a deliberate policy shift by government towards gender responsive public service delivery.

### **2. Objectives**

The development of the Toolkit on Gender, Debt and Tax Justice is premised on the following objectives:

- To influence local and national economic policy instruments towards gender, debt and tax justice to enhance Gender Responsive Public Service (GRPS) delivery by December 2021.
- To enhance the capacity of women and youths to demand transparency and accountability for effective and efficient public debt management by December 2021.
- To increase economic literacy through the provision of a tool kit on Gender, Debt and Tax Justice which promotes progressive taxation and an inclusive economy in the context of COVID-19.

### **3. Scope and focus of the Assignment**

- The scope and focus of the assignment are to provide technical expertise and scientific research support to enable ZIMCODD to produce a well-informed toolkit on Gender, Debt and Tax Justice in Zimbabwe.

### **4. Deliverables**

- A credible Gender, Debt and Tax Justice Toolkit ready to be published by ZIMCODD.

### **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

The consultant will be responsible for:

- Preparation of a work plan, methodology and present an inception report to ZIMCODD.
- Data collection based on approved tools.
- Submitting the draft and final toolkit to ZIMCODD in accordance with the requirements and timeframes of the Terms of References.
- Presenting the Toolkit to ZIMCODD and any other platform as communicated by ZIMCODD.

## 6. To Apply

Interested applicants with demonstrable experience, education and expertise in research on Public Finance Management, Economic Analysis, Gender Analysis, Public Policy Analysis and Local Governance should respond to the call for expression of interest no later than 28 July 2021 by email to ZIMCODD.

Applications should include:

- Expression of Interest (EOI) demonstrating the aspiring consultant's understanding of the assignment, proposed methodological approach, proposed budget (3 pages maximum)
- Detailed CVs of the aspiring consultant and the research team demonstrating their work profile and past experience in similar assignments.
- Three (3) contactable professional references

The consultant/team will be selected through a competitive process based upon thorough and fair scrutiny of the proposals of the competing interested parties.

## 10. Time Frame

The timeline for the assignment is 14 days from the date of awarding of contract.

## 12. Terms of Payment

Payments will be done according to agreed terms and budget with the successful applicants.

## 13. Key Contacts and Reporting

The consultant will work with the ZIMCODD Programmes Manager for this assignment.

**Send your Expression of Interest and supporting documents to: zimcodd@zimcodd.co.zw by COB Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.**