

ADA PROJECT 2755-00-2022: "REDUCTION OF CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES
IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA"

CONSULTANCY FOR RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF DUTY BEARERS (JUSTICE, LAW AND ORDER INSTITUTIONS) AND RIGHTS HOLDERS SO THAT THEY CAN BE SYSTEMATICALLY ENGAGED AND THEIR ISSUES ADDRESSED

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) is a nongovernmental and non-profit organization that was formed in 2008 with the aim of contributing to a conducive and favourable working environment for promotion and protection of human rights, especially the rights of human rights defenders in Uganda.

With funding support from Austrian Development Agency (ADA), The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), and African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) are jointly implementing a two-year project (1st October 2023 to 30th September 2025) titled **"Reduction of cases of human rights violations and abuses in selected districts in Northern Uganda."** These districts are Lira (Lango sub region), Pader (Acholi sub region), Moroto (Karamoja sub region) and Kampala (central region as the coordinating district).

This is the third phase of projects implemented by the partners, building up on two previous interventions. The first phase (2014-2017) and the second phase (June 2018 to June 2021) aimed at promoting human rights awareness and understanding in order to improve the access to and delivery of justice in the Eastern region of Uganda in the districts of Soroti, Tororo, Mbale and Jinja and later in the Central districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono and Gulu in Northern Uganda achieving a marked positive effect on the relationship between district law enforcement agencies, civil society and the public.

The overall goal of this current project is reduction in cases of human rights violations and abuses in selected districts in Northern Uganda. The overall project objective is to enhance human rights awareness for improved access to justice in Northern Uganda.

The expected results of the project are to enhance capacity of access to justice actors, duty bearers and human rights defenders (HRDs) to apply human rights standards in the implementation of Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, the Human Rights Enforcement Act and public order management, enforcement and implementation; Increased awareness among community members including women and men of the human rights standards to be respected and protected under the Prevention and

*ADA PROJECT 2755-00-2022: "REDUCTION OF CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES
IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA"*

Prohibition of Torture Act, the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, and public order management generally and knowledge creation, dissemination and networking amongst human rights actors.

A total of 5,482 (2,349F/3,133M) direct beneficiaries have been targeted during the course of the project. From the above overall total of direct beneficiaries, 1,322 (661F/661M) are projected to be duty bearers and 4,160 are rights holders. A total of 394,450 (179,725 F/179,725M) are the anticipated indirect beneficiaries of the project.

The project is targeting members of the public, law enforcement officers, Access to justice implementing agencies, human rights defenders at local level and local government officials in the project districts of Lira, Pader, Moroto and Kampala.

The direct beneficiaries include: Police, Prisons and Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (high, middle and lower ranking officers), Magistrates, Judges, Registrars, Officers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (State Attorneys), Advocates, Local Government Officers (Chief Administrative Officers, Resident District Commissioners, District Community Development Officers), Youth, Human Rights Defenders, journalists, women, indigenous groups, community members including the elderly, children, persons with disabilities, among others.

A total of 359,450 (179,725 F/179,725M) are the anticipated indirect beneficiaries of the project and these include all the listeners outside the project district with radios who will be tuned in and listening to the project's radio talk shows and radio programmes and those who have subscribed and follow the Human Rights Centre Uganda's social media Pages like X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and YouTube.

2.0. RATIONALE FOR THE RESEARCH

This research aims to identify the specific needs and challenges faced by both duty bearers (within the Justice, Law and Order Institutions and rights holders, in order to facilitate their systematic engagement and address their concerns. The research will focus on understanding the barriers and enablers to effective human rights implementation, with the goal of improving both the capacity of Justice, Law and Order actors and the ability of rights holders to claim their rights.

3.0. SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY TASKS

The consultancy shall cover the following:

1. Identify specific needs and challenges:

ADA PROJECT 2755-00-2022: "REDUCTION OF CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES
IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA"

- **For Duty Bearers (Justice, Law and Order Institutions):** This includes assessing their capacity (authority, resources, commitment), as well as identifying any practical, logistical, or knowledge-based barriers they face in fulfilling their human rights obligations.
 - **For Rights Holders:** This involves understanding their awareness of their rights, their access to justice mechanisms, their experiences with human rights violations, and any barriers they face in seeking redress.
2. **Systematic Engagement:**
- The research will inform strategies for effectively engaging both duty bearers and rights holders in dialogues, consultations, and collaborative initiatives.
 - It will explore how to create platforms and mechanisms for ongoing communication and feedback between these groups.
3. **Addressing Issues:**
- The research will provide recommendations for addressing the identified needs and challenges, including potential interventions, policy changes, capacity building initiatives, and resource allocation strategies.
 - It will also inform the development of targeted programs and interventions to promote human rights and accountability within Justice, Law and Order Institutions.

Areas of Focus

1. **Capacity Building:** Assessing the training needs of Justice, Law and Order actors on human rights, legal procedures, and effective communication.
2. **Resource Allocation:** Examining the availability and distribution of resources (financial, human, and logistical) within the Justice, Law and Order Institutions.
3. **Access to Justice:** Evaluating the accessibility and efficiency of courts, police stations, and other Justice, Law and Order institutions for rights holders.
4. **Awareness and Empowerment:** Measuring the level of awareness among rights holders regarding their rights and available legal remedies.
5. **Accountability Mechanisms:** Assessing the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for holding duty bearers accountable for human rights violations.
6. **Community Engagement:** Exploring the role of community-based organizations, traditional leaders and other informal justice institutions in promoting human rights and access to justice.

ADA PROJECT 2755-00-2022: "REDUCTION OF CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES
IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA"

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE CONSULTANT/DELIVERABLES

1. The consultant, upon receipt of the Terms of Reference shall submit:
 - i) An application/expression of interest (EOI)
 - ii) Technical and Financial proposal to HRCU in relation to the call for applications.
2. Following the review and selection process by HRCU and communication, the successful candidate shall undertake the following tasks:
 - i) Prepare an inception report on how the Report will be generated.
 - ii) An assessment of the general human rights situation in Northern Uganda with a focus on the selected districts of Lira, Pader, Moroto and Kampala.
 - iii) Review of past reports regarding activities conducted by HRCU under the current project in the selected districts to get information on the issues that arose from the duty bearers and human rights defenders in the districts.
 - iv) Explore and conduct research on the needs of Justice, Law and Order actors and rights holders/duty bearers in Lira, Moroto, Pader and Kampala so that they can be systematically addressed.
 - v) Compile and share a draft report of the findings of the research.
 - vi) Lead HRCU staff and other selected stakeholders through the review of the draft report at a validation meeting that shall be organised by HRCU.
 - vii) Incorporate all the responses and feedback received from/at the validation meeting into the draft report.
 - viii) Share a final report with all comments and feedback incorporated or addressed.
- ix) Prepare and submit to HRCU a soft copy and two hard copies of the final report of the study/research.

4.0. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

- The consultant shall use a well-structured methodology to ensure comprehensive and accurate findings.
- These will include among others Literature review to gain an understanding of existing research, policies, and discussions related to the needs of Justice, Law and Order actors and rights holders.
- Data collection using both qualitative and quantitative methods: semi-structured interviews with key informants; focus groups and surveys.
- The consultant will use the most appropriate approach based on the his/her personal experiences in dealing with similar assignments.
- HRCU is open to innovation and other approaches, but specifically approaches leading to the effective execution of the assignment. Throughout the methodology, the consultant will ensure ethical considerations are adhered to.



ADA PROJECT 2755-00-2022: "REDUCTION OF CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA"

7.0. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- The applicant should possess appropriate technical, professional, academic and working experience in relevant fields of Law, Human Rights, Research, Monitoring, Documentation and Public Policy, among others.
- The applicant must have proven experience and background in completing similar assignments or tasks within the required timeframe.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English

8.0. FEES AND COSTS ESTIMATE

- The total fees to be paid for the assignment shall depend on the consultant's experience and application submitted.
- Each applicant is expected to quote an estimated cost in Uganda Shillings for this particular assignment.

9.0. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The thematic research or study shall be conducted over a period of thirty (30) days from the time of signing the contract to undertake the assignment.

1.0. APPLICATION PROCESS AND LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION

Interested applicant(s) should send their expression of interest in undertaking the assignment and a detailed technical and financial proposals (in Ugandan shillings) with a copy of the current CV and similar work/report to snalukwago@hrcug.org and copied to info@hrcug.org not be later than **Friday 17th October 2025 at 5:00pm**.