

Request for research proposals

Supporting development policies towards sustainable livelihoods, industrialization and resource mobilization in Tanzania

Background

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and the Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development, known as the UONGOZI Institute (UI), are implementing a [collaborative research project](#) aimed at informing the development and implementation of policies towards economic transformation and sustainable development in Tanzania and the East African region.

While the project focuses more broadly on promoting sustainable development in Tanzania, the research to be undertaken through this request for proposals is aimed at enhancing the understanding of the dynamics, challenges and opportunities in relation to sustainable livelihoods, industrialization, and resource mobilization in Tanzania. Below is more specific information on each theme.

Sustainable livelihoods

Like most countries in Africa, Tanzania has a diverse, complex and growing informal sector, which is a key source of livelihood to low-income and vulnerable groups of the population, particularly in urban and rural areas. However, the sustainability of most economic activities remains a challenge due to various constraints — such as access to credit, markets, integration into the formal sector, and viable financing options, among others.

Industrialization

There has been renewed interest on the need for industrialization, not only in Tanzania but generally across Africa. Tanzania's vision is to become semi-industrialized country by 2025. However, the growing literature on industrialization shows that key drivers such as firm-level productivity, domestic capabilities and export competitiveness remain a challenge. This calls for exploring the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and export competitiveness in promoting industrialization.

Domestic resource mobilization

Domestic resource mobilization has recently received growing attention as a key to sustainable development, particularly in view of the current global challenges and dwindling foreign aid. Mobilization of domestic revenue is critical for meeting the growing developmental needs of the dynamic Tanzanian economy and reducing the economy's vulnerability to external shocks. Some of the challenges the country is facing include a narrow tax base, tax evasion, a large informal sector, and the fast-growing but complex Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and extractive sectors.

Offer and expectations

In order to enhance the understanding of the dynamics, challenges and opportunities in the focus areas outlined above, UNU-WIDER together with the UI invite proposals from qualified researchers under the three research themes, particularly in the following areas:

Sustainable livelihoods

- Challenges and opportunities in formalization of informal business activities
- Viability and sustainability of street vending in Tanzania
- Constraints and enablers to growth of female-owned businesses
- Opportunities and challenges of small-scale farming
- Promoting artisanal and small-scale mining as a business
- Enhancing market access and the safety of women traders in Tanzania

Industrialization

- Firm productivity and industrial growth
- Factors behind the low transition of firms from self-employed to employer status
- Alternative industrialization strategies besides manufacturing
- Avenues for innovative energy sources to promote sustainable industrialization in Tanzania
- Constraints to competitiveness of manufacturing exports
- Impact of a single custom territory in the East African Community (EAC) on Tanzanian exports

Domestic resource mobilization

- Informality and tax compliance in Tanzania
- Opportunities and challenges of widening the tax base and resource mobilization in the emerging and fast-growing sectors such as ICT, real estate, and extractives
- Gender implications of the current tax system

Proposals from individuals (or groups of individuals) as well as non-profit organizations are welcome. Applications from suitably qualified women and developing country researchers are particularly encouraged.

Individual researchers will be issued Consultant Contracts (CTC), while non-profit organizations will be issued an Institutional Contractual Agreement (ICA) by UNU-WIDER. Based on the qualifications of the lead researcher and an assessment of the research proposal, a total research honorarium in the range of US\$6,000-10,000 for an accepted proposal will be paid for a working paper of a maximum 10,000 words, including a 1-2-page brief of the main research findings.

¹ The deliverables must be deemed satisfactory by the project focal points before payment is made. The final papers will be featured on the project website and considered for publication as WIDER and UI working papers under the collaborative project.

All successful applicants will be expected to:

- Produce a relevant research paper of sufficient quality to merit publication in the project working paper series
- Produce 1-2 pages summary of the main research findings
- Attend (one author per paper) a workshop in 2020 (date and venue TBC) where the work-in-progress will be presented to other researchers and selected experts. Costs of attending this workshop will be borne by UNU-WIDER in accordance with United Nations University travel policy.

¹ In case of co-authorships the honorarium will be divided equally among the contributors.

Important dates

10 June 2019	Announcement published
30 June 2019	Final opportunity for questions on the request for research proposals
31 July 2019	Proposals due
31 August 2019	Target date for informing on final funding decisions
30 September 2019	Target date for completion of necessary administrative procedures
31 December 2019	Target date for submission of first drafts of papers
Mid-January – February 2020	Target window for review workshop
30 April 2020	Target date for submission of final papers

Evaluation process and criteria

Proposals will be scored using the following criteria: technical merit (35 points); technical capabilities of the researchers (30 points); policy relevance (35 points). Based on this assessment, a pool of suitable proposals will be determined. From this pool, a decision panel will select the proposals to be accepted. The decision panel will consider additional criteria such as coverage of relevant topics.

A maximum number of two (2) proposals per researcher may be received, and only one (1) contract per individual researcher may be awarded (the panel may consider more awards in the case where the researcher is part of multiple teams). All proposals should be submitted in English. Only the final decision on whether to accept the proposal or not will be communicated to applying researchers.

Other considerations

For successful proposals:

- 1 Researchers or their institutions (non-profit) will sign a consultant contract or an institutional contractual agreement with UNU-WIDER that follows the UNU conditions of service for [Consultant Contracts \(CTC\)](#), or [Institutional Contractual Agreements \(ICA\)](#).
- 2 Researchers/institutions will transfer copyright of research produced under the contract to UNU-WIDER. The purpose of this copyright transfer is to allow UNU-WIDER to effectively negotiate with editors of journals and book publishers in order to seek the most desirable possible publication outlet for a related set of papers. If no (further) publication is to be expected by UNU-WIDER, the copyright can be transferred to the author(s).
- 3 Please note: UNU-WIDER only commissions original research which has not been published elsewhere. To ensure the quality and originality of research, all submitted studies are analysed with the iThenticate software at the first deliverable stage and prior to publication.

Proposal submission details

- 1 The technical proposal should be no more than five pages of A4 paper in length, excluding cover page and references, using 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, and standard margins. The cover page should contain the complete contact information of each researcher, and a 200-word proposal abstract. The proposal should cover the research question, main methods/methodology, data, and expected contribution to the policy debate.
- 2 The submission of proposals is done electronically by a form on the [RFRP announcement page](#). There are three forms to select from; one for individuals, another for groups of individuals, and a third one for non-profit organizations. Details (such as address, gender, nationality, date of birth) of all researchers involved are required to be entered in the form, and the cover page, the proposal and short CVs (five pages or less) of each researcher uploaded. Please familiarize yourself with the form in advance.
- 3 Submission of a budget is not required for the proposal.
- 4 Any questions on the call for research proposal process should be sent to researchproposal3@wider.unu.edu by 30 June 2019. All questions and responses will be published on the RFRP announcement page. Selected answers will be updated on a rolling basis.