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Request for Application (RFA) RFA No: ANEEJ/ACTNAIJA/2025/01

Call Title: Comprehensive Study on the Accessibility of Social Protection Programmes by Vulnerable Groups in Nigeria

Issuing Organization: Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) on behalf of the Act Naija! Consortium

Project Title: Act Naija! – Civil Society Action to Strengthen Social Protection in Nigeria

Funding Partner: Brot für die Welt (BfdW)

Issue Date: 30th July, 2025

Closing Date: 1st September, 2025

Contact Email: procurement@aneej.org

1. Background

Act Naija!¹ – Civil Society Action to Strengthen Social Protection in Nigeria is a three-year initiative co-funded by the European Union under its Human Rights and Support to Civil Society in Nigeria programme. The project is implemented by a consortium comprising Brot für die Welt (BfdW), the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ), and the New Initiative for Social Development (NISD).

Social protection is one of the most essential mechanisms for reducing poverty and inequality and promoting social justice. In Nigeria, a country with vast economic potential yet staggering levels of poverty, the importance of a robust and inclusive social protection system cannot be overstated. Social protection in Nigeria is insufficiently developed, lacking comprehensive frameworks and systems that address the needs of vulnerable groups such as children, women, youths, elderly, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and persons with disabilities (PWDs). According to studies ([Adesina, 2017](#); [Anugwom and Anugwom, 2023](#)), the country's social protection mechanisms have failed to incorporate local knowledge and best practices,

¹ “Naija” is a colloquial term coined by Nigeria’s youth to evoke a sense of national pride and identity, distinct from the older generation’s view of the country. It reflects a new beginning and a hopeful future for Nigeria. The term emphasises the vibrant, resilient, and optimistic spirit of Nigerians, capturing the essence of their culture, unity, and aspiration for a better nation. The word is often pronounced with emphasis and attitude, showcasing the speaker’s deep connection to Nigeria and its evolving identity. Source: Labaran, B. (1 October 2010). Nigeria at 50: What does Naija mean? BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-11447252>

thus limiting their effectiveness in addressing poverty and inequality. This gap is exacerbated by weak governance structures, particularly at the sub-national levels, where social protection policies are either inadequately implemented or non-existent. A thorough assessment is required to understand the extent of access, identify gaps, and recommend actionable solutions to improve inclusivity. As part of its activity implementation under the project, ANEEJ is soliciting applications from suitable researchers to undertake this piece of work.

2. Objective of the Study

To conduct a comprehensive study on the accessibility of social protection programmes by vulnerable groups (including women, youths, the elderly, and persons with disabilities) in selected Nigerian states and the FCT, focusing on participation, equity, and systemic gaps.

3. Scope of Work

The study will cover:

- A review of the current landscape of social protection programmes in Nigeria (project States: Borno, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Kogi, Ondo, Osun) and FCT.
- Outline current initiatives that target vulnerable populations, such as women, young people, the elderly, people with disabilities, internally displaced people, and the urban/rural poor.
- Number of vulnerable groups accessing the social protection programmes
- Field research in selected LGAs (3 per state) including using interviews, focus groups, and surveys to identify barriers preventing access to social protection.
- Identities and intersectionality and its impact on social protection services for vulnerable groups.
- Examine national and sub-national policies, laws, and strategies related to social protection.
- Identify gaps or inconsistencies in existing frameworks that hinder inclusive and equitable access.
- Examine the role and influence of key stakeholders (Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, NASSCO, Development partners/donors and CSOs/CBOs,
- Evaluate the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms and platforms.
- Assess the results and impacts of key social protection programmes on the well-being of vulnerable groups:
- Assess whether marginalized and vulnerable groups are equitably included in programme design, targeting, registration, and delivery.

- Examine the use of digital platforms, ID systems, and grievance redress mechanisms in promoting or hindering access.
- Produce an inception report, draft report, and a final validated comprehensive report.

4. Deliverables and timelines

- Inception Report: Detailed methodology, work plan, and specific timelines within 5 days of signing the contract
- Assessment tool - 5 days
- Conduct interview with identified stakeholders in seven States (Borno, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Kogi, Ondo, Osun) and FCT - 22 days
- Submit draft report with preliminary findings and analysis to the consortium (Bdfw, ANEEJ & NISD) for review – 6 days
- Present the report at a stakeholders’ meeting for validation and discussion and use the feedback from stakeholders to review the report – the date of the meeting will be scheduled by ANEEJ and made known to the consultant -6 Days
- Submit final report to consortium through ANEEJ – 6 days

The assessment is expected to last for a period of September 1-October 20th, 2025 (50days). This includes field work, data analysis, and report writing.

5. Remuneration

Applicants are required to submit a detailed financial proposal. The budget should include professional fees and travel costs.

6. Procurement Procedure

This procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the consortium's procurement policy and EU co-funding requirements. The procedure includes:

- **Open competitive bidding** through public circulation of this RFA.
- **Minimum of three valid proposals** received before evaluation can proceed.
- **Bid Opening & Evaluation Committee** composed of at least three members, ensuring no conflict of interest.
- **Evaluation Criteria** shall consider:
 - Technical quality and approach (40%)
 - Relevant experience and team capacity (30%)
 - Cost-effectiveness and value for money (20%)
 - Feasibility and delivery timeline (10%)

- **Due diligence checks** on the selected applicant(s) will include reference checks and confirmation of eligibility (no conflict of interest, no history of misconduct).
- **Contract award** will be made to the most economically advantageous bid that meets technical and compliance thresholds.

7. Required Qualifications and Experience

- At least 2 Leaders of the consulting firm should have a B.sc or higher degree(s) in social work, Sociology, Development Studies or related field.
- Proven experience conducting inclusive research and evaluations, especially in social protection.
- Demonstrated knowledge of vulnerable group dynamics and intersectionality.
- Strong analytical, report writing, and facilitation skills.
- Evidence of previous similar work done
- Commitment to gender equality and social inclusion will be an added advantage.

8. Reporting and Supervision

The consultant will report to the consortium through Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) and work in close coordination with the GESI Manager, Human Rights and Legal Officer, and Monitoring and Evaluation Managers of the Act Naija! Project.

9. Application Process

Interested individuals/organisations are required to submit the following:

- Technical proposal (including methodology, work plan, and team composition)
- Financial Proposal (breakdown of professional fees and costs)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) of 2-3 of the lead consultant/ team members
- Evidence of previous similar work done

10. Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Applicants must declare any potential or actual conflict of interest in relation to this assignment. ANEEJ reserves the right to disqualify any applicant found to be in conflict or engaged in unethical practices.

11. Data Protection and Ownership

All data collected during the assignment shall be the property of Act Naija! consortium. The consultant must ensure confidentiality and compliance with data protection regulations, including the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR 2019) and, where applicable, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). All personal and sensitive data collected shall be

securely stored and used only for the purpose of this assignment, in line with informed consent protocols and the consortium's data protection standards.

12. Submission Deadline

All proposals must be submitted by 5:00pm 1st September, 2025 to:

Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

Email: procurement@aneej.org All document must be submitted in pdf format

Subject for email submission should be: "Application for Comprehensive Study on the Accessibility of Social Protection Programmes by Vulnerable Groups in Nigeria"

Late submission will not be considered.