PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE STRATEGIES AND PLANS IN AFRICA

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance invites qualified researchers (individuals or organisations) from Africa to tender for the study to unpack the implications of COVID-19 to the implementation of economic and climate strategies in Africa. The deadline for the submission of bids is 10th February 2021.

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 has generated direct and indirect fallouts across many sectors in Africa. Some of the most palpable include:

- **Direct loss of lives**: Direct and indirect COVID-19-related mortality projections will range from 1.8 and 5.3 million added deaths in Africa by 2030. Furthermore, we are seeing poor health indices due to increased mortality and morbidity, a reversal in gain from previous public health interventions in a context of poor healthcare systems.
- **Food insecurity**: Disruptions in supply chains due to the global lockdown of markets and transportation have marshalled food shortages and inflation across the region.
- **Economic impacts**: Destruction of livelihoods and loss of jobs arising from lockdowns have slowed economic activities and widened inequalities.
- **Climate change impacts**: COVID-19 has increased the vulnerability of populations in regions affected by the adverse effects of climate change. Climate change has also made disasters more likely during the COVID-19 pandemic and their impacts more severe on those displaced.

Through a Grant provided by Christian Aid (CA), PACJA will work jointly with Tax Justice Network (TJNA) to conduct a study to understand these ramifications in Africa from the lens of climate justice. Specifically, the activity aims to understand how COVID-19 has/or is affecting the implementation of economic and climate strategies and plans - based on the insights of lived experiences of people in Sub-Saharan Africa affected by the pandemic.

JUSTIFICATION

Although COVID-19 has not spared any region of the world, there is little doubt that the poorest in the global south will be affected the most – due to weak and fragile health systems, poor and inadequate safety nets, as well as poor and often non-existent Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) facilities.
This is compounded by the fact that the poorest people often lack adequate capacity to anticipate and manage such shocks and already bear the brunt of several other challenges such as droughts, floods, landslides, locust invasion, water scarcity, deepening poverty, and inequality among others.

Climate change and the spread of COVID-19 are mutually enforcing. Climate change-induced droughts and floods directly weaken clean water access and sanitation, which in turn limit personal and household hygiene and facilitate the spread of the Corona Virus.

The pandemic in reverse worsens the existing economic stresses situation in the African continent. The crisis has wiped out jobs and livelihoods especially, with tens of millions of people becoming unemployed since March 2020. Falling incomes and disruption to trade and transport have made food increasingly unaffordable for many people in these countries.

At the same time, a growing burden of unsustainable debt before the pandemic and reduced revenue for the developing countries during the pandemic has now become a major brake on public spending, placing public services including healthcare provision at much further risk.

THE STUDY FOCUS

Our focus, therefore, is to collate new evidence and information on impacts of COVID-19 via narratives and stories of the real lived experiences of people, as well as comprehensive review of governments’ Covid-19 response and recovery plans and priority sectors across Africa countries; Nigeria, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Ethiopia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

We intend that this new evidence reflects not only people’s experiences but also personal insights on how they are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic (while tackling the climate crisis) and supply critical thinking on how some of the issues that emerge need to be included in current and future planning for handling pandemics (and crisis) of this nature. The Researcher will make efforts (whenever possible) to reach different sub-groups of the populations, in terms of gender, age, people with disability, among others.

NATURE OF THE STUDY

The Research will be a “quick” scoping study (of the 10 countries), providing feedback and insights from the people, as well as document current responses by the governments through policies (recovery strategies, plans) and utilization of funds (tax revenues, loans and grants) and their impacts on the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Paris Agreement, specifically transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, green economic development pathways.

On economic justice, the Research will equally figure out the impact of the pandemic on socio-economic activities, while making use of a Scorecard tool developed by Christian Aid to establish the economic and climate relevance of some on-going government bailouts to corporates, SMEs as well as any cash transfers to the populace.

PACJA will lead the climate justice research components while Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA) will support the economic justice study, specifically the work on Scorecards.

THE STUDY PURPOSE

The study will assist in developing a possible Africa Just and Green Recovery Advocacy Strategy with key messages touching on climate and economic justice and support the Africa Division’s climate and
economic justice advocacy work in the 10 countries, while at the same time informing regional advocacy work with PACJA, TJNA and other CA partners. The Project will also contribute to CA’s Global COVID-19 Response Strategy, by contributing to the 3Ms as follows:

- **Minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread to communities**: by raising further awareness through increased advocacy informed by research findings on impacts of the pandemic
- **Mitigate the poverty and social impacts**: by outlining advocacy recommendations that respond to poverty impacts, protecting livelihoods, food insecurity and seek to counter social unrest and violence.
- **Modify existing humanitarian and development programmes** by preparing the African Regional COVID-19 Response strategy that is informed by research findings from the CA countries

**MAIN DELIVERABLES**

The researcher must produce:

- 01 detailed inception report detailing how they intend to collect, analyze and present data (methodology and work plan).
- 01 research report of no more than 20 pages\(^1\) that capture, analyses and interpret key findings and deduces key recommendations
- 01 executive summary that captures the main findings and recommendations of the study
- 01 PowerPoint presentation of the key findings and recommendations
- Datasets collected in the course of the study

**TIMEFRAME**

PACJA expects the Researcher to submit the final Report 30 days following the signing of the consulting contract.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicants must show or prove a track record in conducting similar studies.

**APPLICATION**

Interested resource persons should send their technical and financial proposal to info@pacja.org copying kobia@pacja.org, on or before 10\(^{th}\) February 2021 at midnight East Africa Time.

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\(^1\) Arial, 11pt text size, 1.5pt line spacing