1. **Background**

The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) commissioned a study which sought to analyze the link between illicit financial flows (IFFs) and social protection, specifically the potential of curbing IFFs to expand fiscal space to invest in social protection systems in East and Southern Africa. With a focus on Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Social protection is a set of interventions whose objective is to reduce social and economic risk and vulnerability, and to alleviate extreme poverty and deprivation. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) notes that effective social protection structures, policies, systems, and programmes can play a major role in reducing poverty and vulnerability, redressing inequality, promoting inclusive growth and development of human capital (ILO, 2014).

In Eastern and Southern Africa, nearly half of the population lives on less than US$1.25 a day. Current economic and social vulnerabilities are further exacerbated by political instability, economic shocks, food insecurity, high human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevalence, limited supply of services in remote areas, as well as vulnerability to disasters.

In recent years, political commitments to build social protection systems have been made in Africa. Social protection is one of the 18 thematic social issues of the Social Policy Framework for Africa, which is the African Union’s (AU) overarching policy instrument (Windhoek, 2009). A number of plans of action and declarations have confirmed the commitments of AU Member States to develop national social protection strategies (Livingstone, 2006), improve and strengthen social protection schemes (Ouagadougou, 2004), extend social protection to uncovered groups and implement social protection floors (SPFs) (Yaoundé, 2010).

Scarring effects induced by the COVID-19 pandemic combined with climate-related issues present long-term risks to the outlook of Sub-Saharan African economies, constraining the region from reaching the twin goals of ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity. While potential output in advanced economies is expected to revert to its pre-pandemic trend in 2022, it will be down by 4.2 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. Elevated debt levels, limited fiscal and monetary space, and various shocks from the global economy constitute obstacles for the Sub-Saharan African countries to achieve the twin goals.

Funding of social assistance programmes is still a major challenge for African countries, due to public finance deficits and because social assistance is rarely prioritized in public revenue allocations, which typically favor sectors such as defense, education, and health. The largest share of social assistance expenditure goes to older persons, children, and persons with disability. Countries need to create more fiscal space to finance expanding coverage and more generous payments on social assistance programmes. One option is to raise more tax revenues, but this must be done in a way that is perceived as fair, does not harm the poor, and is politically acceptable.
Other options include reducing tax avoidance, illicit financial flows, and general price subsidies. Further, reducing illicit financial flows and tax avoidance are key areas for improving tax collection capacity. These are particularly prevalent in lower middle-income countries, which tend to combine availability of economic resources with limited institutional capacity for surveillance and control.

In terms of fiscal space, IFFs imply potentially foregone government revenues. The immediate impact of foregone revenue is felt through underfunded budgets where governments allocate paltry amounts to critical sectors such as health, education, and income grants to vulnerable members of the society. If governments fail to mobilise enough resources because of tax evasions and avoidance through trade mispricing, transfer pricing etc., budget deficits become unavoidable. Budget deficits entail that governments will be spending more than they have. What can be gleaned at this juncture is that IFFs and social protection are intimately linked as taxes are needed to finance social protection. What this means is that, holding other factors constant, the achievement of social protection requires curbing IFFs. If countries successfully manage to curtail IFFs, there will be more resources to fund national budgets. Consequently, this will mean enough resources for social security programmes and ultimately a reduction in poverty and inequality and a better life for citizens.

One of the proposed measures for governments to increase their fiscal space to invest in social protection is tackling IFFs. UNCTAD estimates that Africa loses approximately US$88.6 billion annually through IFFs, almost double the funds received in form of official development assistance (ODA) (US$ 48 billion). The number of illicit outflows is so substantial that in many countries annual illicit outflows exceed the annual health financing gap. Consequentially reducing illicit financial outflows, especially for resource rich countries, could contribute substantially to expanding social assistance financing.

2. The Scope of the Assignment

The expected results will be production of one infographic video that will complement the already existing information and data on the connection between social protection and IFFs. Data for the infographic video will be sourced from a recently conducted study report by AFRODAD on linkages between IFFs and social protection. However, the consultant will be expected to look for more data to further support and enrich the production.

The format of the video will incorporate a combination of types of infographics based on the data to be presented. For example, the consultant can choose to use animations in presenting some data and use visual articles in another, the idea is to use creative means to communicate the information to a mass audience. The infographic video will highlight data on social protection and IFFs and make the connection on how reducing the latter can expand social assistance financing.

The infographic video will form part of AFRODAD’s advocacy tools to influence policies on curbing IFFs and improved social protection. In terms of outcomes, AFRODAD expects to realise an increased understanding by civil society organisations and duty bearers on the need to increase fiscal space for greater social protection.
3. **The infographic seeks to achieve the following purpose:**

**Reach a wider audience:** Infographic videos have the advantage that they are interesting and can reach a wider audience who may not have time to read voluminous research reports. The video shall be a simplified version of the study report findings and shall be widely shared via AFRODAD social media platforms, during meetings and direct emails and WhatsApp groups.

4. **Expected output**

An infographic video (1) on the linkages between IFFs and social protection.

5. **Qualifications and experience**

AFRODAD is looking for a person(s) with knowledge and a clear understanding of social economic issues in Eastern and Southern Africa. The individual must be in possession of a University graduate degree in communications, Economics or Social Sciences with experience in public finance management/governance. A minimum of 4 years of professional experiences in undertaking similar or related task; adequate familiarity with production of videos for a mass audience consumption, breaking down complex terms to more understandable and clear terms and excellent writing and oral communication skills in English language.

**To Apply**

All those interested should send an CV, expression of interest (EoI) with budget (US$). The consultant will also share a personal and verifiable dissemination plan to publicise the message further. The consultant will share related sample work as well to verify stated experience and her/his workplan to recruitment@afrodad.org. The deadline for submissions is 11th August 2022. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

***