

Basic principles for inclusive tendering.

Why create protocols for insuring inclusivity? Basic requirements

1. Reduce surprises from those not included or risks unperceived before
2. The community interests are safeguarded
3. The chosen vendor is capable of performing the work to address issues which are often not included such as involvement of all stakeholders with desirable outcomes
4. The local residents' skills are utilized to improve overall project quality due to increase in local accountability
5. Using ongoing development investments to fulfil national and global SDG goals to leave no one behind and to use investments to generate more livelihoods and circulate money locally

What are the basic principles on which the procurement protocol process should be designed?

1. First of all the tender has to test the capacity of the tenderer: The project description must in detail include all the challenges of Informality. By and large conventional regulatory frameworks have clear and traditional exclusions. These barriers have to be acknowledged and breached to the extent possible or impact for vulnerable acknowledge from the start
2. A legal partnership needs to be formed between the entities involved in the process with clear set of roles , responsibilities and stake of each of the entity
3. The process of procurement needs to be detailed out by this partnership and should include:
 - a. Expectations and detailed list of activities and scope of the work for which procurement is sought
 - b. Should be able to produce/ have complete information of the area, eg.# of Households, Structures, Delineation of the slum area and all qualitative and Quantitative, spatial relevant information about the area through community engagement processes and not standard research survey methodologies.
 - c. The cost and financing plan- Three viable financial solutions should be prepared as options which can be integrated in the larger city plan and design options.
 - d. The eligibility criteria of the tender applicant must address the requirements of local and international capacities separately.
 - e. The process of selection of agency - The tenderer must have experience if not must have organizations who have basic skillsets to engage with informality as prerequisite.
 - f. Minimum extent of local skill employment - minimum set of activities from the detailed set which needs to be outsourced or procured through local residents' skills. Must demonstrate community's willingness to explore possibilities and capabilities of preparing plans.

Why procurement processes today do not support involvement of communities?

1. The involvement can be possible at several levels
 - a. Ensure full documentation of all who will be impacted
 - b. Involve them in developing the documentation of their presence and the challenges they face
 - c. Create space for participation in developing solutions

- d. Produce potential for task project delivery items that local individuals and communities can do to be done by them often because resident communities, though experienced do not have the paper work or documentation skills to participate in the tender.
2. Often tender eligibility conditions require the tender applicant to have other sophisticated legal documentation such as registration and qualifications, which not many community organizations or contractors possess
3. Because, the tender inviting authority or the procurement design team is usually the one paying for the project. Including community representation with fair veto powers alleviates this issue.
4. Procurement processes are extremely legal and involvement of informal contractors is seen as a risk.

The involvement of community contractors is preferred because it alleviates the issue of local accountability (other than providing local employment of course). While this involvement is to be insured in every project, the extent of involvement will depend on the project activities and its outcomes. When entire set of activities of a project can have a local expertise match, certain projects require professional expertise, with certain activities that can be performed by local community contractors.

Up two more overarching statements and implications which we should treat as foundational in the documentation. We start with the 2030 global agreements that all the countries have signed in the United Nations (SDGs Climate change, and others)

1. We need to separate the requirements for what we seek from
 - a. Those who design the tender through the procurements (which we seek to influence) and have
 - i. To make investments in accurate and complete information about the geographic location details of past exclusions and
 - ii. Legal frameworks that presently exclude who what and where; the incentives to produce inclusion
 - iii. Make clear provisions for those who have been excluded in the design and financing bids so that adequate staffing of professionals to design this are included in points given
 - iv. All stakeholders formal and informal are included.
 - b. The values and commitments we seek from those who will win the bid. The past minimalistic (we were not told) makes them as complicit in the exclusionary process as those who design the tender. They have to seek
 - i. Details or demand in pre bid meetings for data information on exclusion.
 - ii. Demonstrate agreements to work with all stakeholders
 - iii. Demonstrate acumen to acknowledge that early preparation for inclusion and managing risks early are better than delays in project that lead to additional costs escalation and reputation risks.