Mbala Municipal Council
Responses Aligned to Devolved Functions (Referenced to ISA Questionnaire)

3.2 Administrative Decentralization – AD-EFF1

Question:
To what extent has the transfer of devolved functions resulted in improved delivery of public services?

Response:
Since the transfer of devolved functions, service delivery has become more responsive because planning and implementation decisions are made closer to communities. Coordination among Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries, Community Development, Health and Local Authority departments has improved through DDCC and Council meetings. CDF resources have complemented devolved functions by supporting local infrastructure and community projects.

3.2 Administrative Decentralization – AD-EFE1

Question:
To what extent do the current staffing levels match the requirements for delivering devolved functions at the local level?

Response:
The Council has received officers from several devolved sectors, improving service delivery. However, staffing gaps remain in specialized technical areas such as Health, Livestock, fisheries, agriculture etc. Continued recruitment and capacity building are required.

3.2 Administrative Decentralization – AD-SU1

Question:
To what extent have the devolved functions been integrated into the Local Authority's annual plans and budgets?

Response:
Devolved functions are incorporated into the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Annual Work Plans and Council Budgets. Sector departments prepare annual operational plans aligned to national priorities and district development objectives.

3.2 Reflective Question (i)

Question:
What has changed in the delivery of services as a result of devolution of functions to the Local Authorities?

Response:
Devolution has improved coordination among departments, reduced decision-making delays, strengthened accountability, increased community participation and improved

access to health services, agricultural extension, livestock, fisheries, community development and public health services.

3.2 Reflective Question (ii)

Question:
What improvements are required to strengthen the implementation of devolved functions and sustain administrative decentralization?

Response:
Priority actions include filling vacant positions, increasing operational funding, strengthening ICT systems, improving transport and logistics, enhancing staff training, ensuring timely release of sector grants and strengthening monitoring and evaluation.

3.4 Policy Coordination and Legal Arrangements – PC-EFF1

Question:
To what extent do the district coordination structures resolve issues raised and track actions?

Response:
Regular DDCC and committee meetings have strengthened coordination between devolved sectors, improved implementation tracking and enhanced accountability.

4.1 Future Reform Priorities (i)

Question:
Factors facilitating or constraining decentralization reforms

Response:
Key facilitators include political commitment, increased fiscal decentralization, strengthened coordination structures and stakeholder collaboration. Constraints include staffing shortages, delayed funding and limited operational resources.

4.1 Future Reform Priorities (ii)

Question:
Lessons learned and priority actions

Response:
Strengthen human resource capacity, improve financing, digitize management systems, enhance monitoring and evaluation and continue capacity building for devolved sectors.

5.2.1 Emerging Outcomes

Question:
Priority actions

Response:
Governance has become more participatory, service delivery has improved through

devolved functions, institutional coordination has strengthened and accountability has improved. Priority actions include adequate financing, recruitment and infrastructure investment.

5.2.2

Question:
Support Required

Response:
Government should increase sector grants, timely fiscal transfers, ICT systems, infrastructure investment, transport and staff capacity development.

5.2.3

Question:
Recommendations to National Government

Response:
Ensure every devolved function is accompanied by matching financial resources, approved staff establishments, transport, equipment, operational grants and reporting systems.

5.2.4

Question:
Readiness for Additional Functions

Response:
Mbala Municipal Council is highly prepared to receive additional devolved functions because governance, planning and coordination systems are operational. Further readiness depends on adequate financing, transport, equipment, staffing and infrastructure.

5.2.5

Question:
Decentralization Resilience

Response:
Emerging risks include climate change, fiscal uncertainty and staffing shortages. Opportunities include digital governance, public-private partnerships and stronger community participation.