

KËRKESË
Nr. 4146, datë 2.8.2019
PËR SHPREHJE INTERESI PËR SHËRBIMIN E KONSULENCËS LOKALE
“FORCIMI I KAPACITETIT TË MONITORIMIT DHE VLERËSIMIT TË MSHMS-SË
(OSE SHSSH-SË) PËR ANALIZA TË TË DHËNAVE, PËR TË MENAXHUAR DHE
PËRDITËSUAR FORMULËN E PIKËZIMIT (NUK ËSHTË PUBLIKUAR)(EKSPERT
STATISTIKE)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONSULTING SERVICES
FOR

“Strengthening the MHSP (Or SSS) M&E Capacity for Data Analysis, to Manage and
Update the Scoring Formula (Not Publicly Disclosed)”
(Statistic Expert)

Ref. no. SAMP/CS/CQ/09-2019

Albania

Tirana, August 19, 2019

Social Assistance Modernization Project - (SAMP)

Loan No.: 8841- AL

Project ID No. P162079

The Republic of Albania, has received financing (additional) from the World Bank toward the cost of the additional financing of the Social Assistance Modernization Project (SAMP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the services of a local individual consultant who will work closely with the staff of Health and Social Protection Development Program Department in MHSP for strengthening M&E capacity for data analysis generated from NE MIS with focus the performance and dynamic of implementation of overall NE scheme in all the regions. The assignment includes 40 man days over a 12 month implementation period. The expected start date of the assignment is 1 October, 2019.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, through the Project Management Team (PMT) now invites eligible local individual consultants (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they possess the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The evaluation criteria and the score system are:

	Evaluation Criteria	Points
1	General Qualification	40
1.1	University degree (MSc or PhD) in economics, statistics, mathematics, or other relevant discipline	20
1.2	10 years progressive track record in statistics related duties work in a key Public or Private Sector Institution;	20
2	Relevant Experience	40

2.1	Experience/familiarity with database management and information systems. Proven analytical, problem-solving and quantitative skills, including statistical packages	20
2.2	Proven experience and knowledge of social protection and inclusion economics and policy	20
3	Capacity to Carry out the Assignment	20
3.1	Strong analytical, communication, writing and reporting skills;	5
3.2	Fluency in both written and spoken English	10
3.3	Work experience with World Bank and /or other international organizations would be considered as an advantage.	5
	Total	100

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", date July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Individual Consultant Based Selection (IC)** method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 16:30 (Monday to Thursday) and 08:00 to 14:00 on Friday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **September 10, 2019**.

Project Management Team (PMT)
Social Assistance Modernization Project (SAMP)
Ministry of Health and Social Protection – 1-st floor
Rr: "Kavajës", Nr. 53, AL-1001, Tirana, ALBANIA
Att: Suzana Papadhopulli
e-mail: samp.papadhopulli@gmail.com

Terms of reference

"Strengthening the MHSP (or SSS) M&E Capacity for Data Analyses, to Manage and Update the Scoring Formula (not publicly disclosed)" (Statistic expert)

Ref. no. SAMP/CS/IC/09-2019

1. Background

The Government of Albania has signed an additional loan agreement with the World Bank, on the Social Assistance Modernization Project (SAMP) which supports Albania's implementation reforms to improve the equity and efficiency of its social assistance programs.

The additional financing is expected to further contribute to improve the equity and efficiency of the social assistance system. The equity goal is expected to be strengthened by (i) scaling up of the new criteria to determine eligibility to the disability assistance based on the Social Model to at least half of the country's population; (ii) improving the accessibility of people with disability to State Social Services (SSS) regional centers where final eligibility decisions are determined; (iii) harmonizing the assessment and eligibility criteria across both non-contributory and contributory disability benefits; (iv) promoting the social inclusion of Ndihma Ekonomike Program NEP in the

transition period of exiting the NE cash assistance program. The efficiency goal is expected to be strengthened by (i) the production and use of automated MIS reports for DA performance management and (ii) the improved oversight and control of disability assistance benefits

The AF project components will remain unchanged from the parent project. The AF project consists of two inter-related components: (i) Gradually scale up of the disability reform to all 24 administrative units in Tirana, Elbasan and Durres regions. (ii) Improve the accessibility of SSS ROs to people with disability via rehabilitation works of existing regional offices; (iii) Develop an exit strategy and an action plan to support NE beneficiaries exit the NE program after 5 years (including tailoring solutions to beneficiaries' needs and profile); (iv) Improve oversight and controls for disability benefits. Four Disbursement Linked Indicators have been agreed, to track progress in implementing the reforms in the social assistance sector.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) is the ministry responsible for the project implementation. The Department of Health and Social Protection Development Programs (HSPDPD) within MHSP is responsible for all the activities related to the implementation of reforms for both programs, Ndihma Ekonomike and Disability Assistance.

The objectives of NE reform focus on improving the equity and efficiency of the NE program assistance benefits, in support of reducing extreme poverty. It intends to introduce improved eligibility criteria (i.e. Unified Scoring Formula,) for NE with objective weights and variables, replacing exclusionary binary filters.

A pilot phase of NE reform was designed and implemented in three selected areas of Tirana, Durres and Elbasan. The pilot project on NE reform implementation started officially in June 2014, when a new system based on a Unified Scoring Formula and an automated process of applicant data registration and management was applied for the first time for three pilot regions of the country, Tirana, Durres and Elbasan. From January 2018 the NE reform is implemented overall the country.

The NE reforms supported by the original project already had positive results in terms of (a) impacts on increased incomes (from transfers) and consumption in beneficiary households and (b) impacts on national estimates of poverty and inequality due to the redistributable nature of these transfers coupled with the improved targeting to the poor and vulnerable (moving to the USF based on a PMT regression model).

To support the nationwide roll-out of the reform implementation there's a need to strengthen the M&E capacity in the Ministry and in SSS to manage and update the NE Management Information System (MIS) and the scoring formula. For this purpose the Ministry needs also to train the dedicated appointed staff for maintaining the NE MIS on managing and updating the scoring formula (not publicly disclosed).

In this frame the MHSP is seeking to recruit an individual statistic local consultant that will support the Ministry to strengthen the M&E capacity for data analysis, to manage and update the scoring formula with focus the performance and dynamic of implementation of overall NE scheme in all the regions.

2. Scope of work

In this context MHSP will directly recruit a local statistic individual consultant who will work closely with the staff of Health and Social Protection Development Program Department in MHSP for strengthening M&E capacity for data analysis generated from NE MIS with focus the performance and dynamic of implementation of overall NE scheme in all the regions.

The consultant will be responsible for:

- The consultant will analyze the MIS data to deepen and complement the analysis done under the other consultancy (IT expert) in terms of further disaggregating the applicants, beneficiaries and

non-eligible households to better understand their characteristics and potential exclusions to be corrected.

- Analyze the HBS and SILC recently collected household survey data to better understand how household's characteristics correlate with poverty measures (both in terms of consumption and income), potential inclusion and exclusion errors.

- Provide data analysis and descriptive statistics on demand, based on Ministry's need.

3. Consultant's responsibilities

The tasks of the consultant include as follows:

- Analyze the data that are available in the database and provide the basis for further policy analysis, and adjustment if needed, of the strengths and weaknesses of the NE program and the impact that it is having on poverty reduction.

- Analyze the performance of the NE scheme based in scoring formula and the trend of applicants, beneficiaries and executed budget. Track the changes in the characteristics of multiple applicants over time.

- Strengthen the MHSP (or SSS) M&E capacity for data analysis, managing and monitoring of the implementation progress of new NE scheme by providing one day training per month to the dedicated appointed staff.

- Analyze the performance of the USF and NE scheme during the national rollout at national and municipality level.

- Analyze the characteristics of the household receiving NE benefits in all the country and per each LGU.

- Analyze the characteristics of the household receiving NE benefits because of the 6% budget at the discretion of municipalities during the of national rollout;

- Make recommendations for improving data analyses on the implementation of the scoring formula and the MIS. It should be done in cooperation with findings from Ministry, Regional Directorates and SSS.

- Assist MHSP to strengthen capacities in house and provide on job-training to the dedicated and appointed staff of MHSP, identifying first the training needs for this staff.

- Provide data analysis and descriptive statistics on demand based on the Ministry's need.

4. Deliverables/Specific Outputs expected from Consultant

The Consultant will work under the direction of the Director of Health and Social Protection Development Programs Department in MHSP and SAMP Project Manager and in close collaboration with World Bank experts. The Consultant will report directly to Minister, Director of Health and Social Protection Development Programs Department in MHSP and SAMP Project Manager.

Expected outputs: Expanding periodic reports on monthly basis that will include:

- Statistical analysis of the MIS data to deepen and complement the analysis done under the other consultancy (IT expert) in terms of further disaggregating the applicants, beneficiaries and non-eligible households to better understand their characteristics and potential exclusions to be corrected. It will also include as follows:

- Statistical analysis on the performance of the USF and NE scheme during the national rollout at national and municipality level.

- Statistical analysis on the characteristics of the household receiving NE benefits in all the country and per each LGU.

- Statistical analysis on the characteristics of the household receiving NE benefits because of the 6% budget at the discretion of municipalities during the of national rollout;

- Analyze the HBS and SILC recently collected household survey data to better understand how household's characteristics correlate with poverty measures (both in terms of consumption and income), potential inclusion and exclusion errors.

The Consultant shall deliver:

- Work Plan including the training program no later than 5 working days after signing of the contract;

- Monthly Periodic Reports including all the information mention above;

- Final Report that includes all duties and deliverables.

All reports shall be written in English and in Albanian (each in three original copies) and should be submitted officially in the Protocol Office of MHSP, addressed to:

- Minister of Health and Social Protection, MHSP;

- Director of Health and Social Protection Development Programs, MHSP;

- Project Management Team

The reports should be prepared and submitted according the format required and agreed by the beneficiary. All the reports should be shared with World Bank for information and comments.

5. Consultant's Qualification Criteria

This service requires a statistic expert with experience in analysis of data generated from management information systems.

Specific qualification requirements for Local Statistic Expert are as below:

- An advanced University degree (Masters or a PhD) in economics/statistics or Mathematics, or other relevant discipline with experience in data analyses;

- At least 10 years progressive track record in statistical work in a key Public or Private Sector Institution;

- Experience/familiarity with database management and information systems;

- Proven analytical, problem-solving and quantitative skills, including statistical packages.

- Proven experience and knowledge of social protection and inclusion economics and policy.

- Work experience with World Bank and /or other international organizations would be considered as an advantage.

- Strong analytical, communication, writing and reporting skills;

- Strong computer skills (Windows, MS Office, Internet Explorer);

- Fluency in both written and spoken English

6. Contract Duration

Local expert will be hired under an Individual Consultant Selection (IC), in accordance with the procedures set out the World Bank Procurement Regulation for IPF Borrowers dated July 2016.

This is a lump-sum contract and will not exceed 40 working days, during a 12 month period. The assignment is planned to start in September 2019 and continuing through September 2020.