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## Terms of Reference

### International Statistician to conduct a Study on the Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 Outbreak in Seychelles

<b>BENEFICIARY COUNTRY</b>	Republic of Seychelles
<b>FOCAL AREA</b>	Crisis Prevention and Recovery
<b>GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</b>	Government of Seychelles- Ministry of Finance Trade Investment and Economic Planning
<b>DURATION</b>	10 Working Days
<b>DUTY STATION</b>	Home-Based/ Remote
<b>STARTING DATE</b>	7 August 2020 over a period 1 month
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Assessing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

#### A. Background

WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, having previously characterized it as a Public Health Emergency in late January 2020. The pandemic is an unprecedented crisis with far reaching implications on human physical and psychological health and the global economy. The IMF world outlook conservatively estimates that the global economy will contract sharply by -3% in 2020. The adverse recessionary effects are likely to be severe in Small island states that characterised by heavy dependence on external trade, tourism and limited economic diversification.

The Republic of Seychelles has consistently performed favorably on many development indices, often leading the ranks within the African region. In 2019, the country ranked 62<sup>nd</sup> globally in the Human Development Report being the first country in the African region, to have achieved Very High Human Development. The SDG Baseline (2019) survey also highlighted the progress in various sectors such as Health, Gender, Energy and Environment while other sectors remain on track. However, these gains could be eroded by the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 of March 2020, Seychelles recorded two cases of Covid-19. On 20 March H.E. President Danny Faure outlined sweeping measures that included closure of borders, schools and several public places; a ban on travel, among others. To cushion the economy, the government introduced an ambitious stimulus package to ensure job security and reassure small and medium businesses of financial security.

As a result of the crisis, the country is anticipating a fiscal deficit of -14% in 2020, following deterioration of major economic activity such as the tourism sector that could register more than 70% decline in revenue, excluding the intersectoral value chains that the sector supports. The impact of the pandemic can also be felt in other sectors including construction, trade, agriculture and transport. From a health perspective, the burden that Covid19 places on health systems is clear. Although Seychelles, has been

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Faure'.

spared the worst, the crisis has the potential to affect budgets of the health sector in effort to prepare for potential escalation of cases. Furthermore, the devaluation of the Seychelles Rupee will affect the availability of foreign exchange dampening the prospective of foreign investments in the medium term.

Given that there are more women heads of households, that are more likely to be income poor, the pandemic is likely to worsen their situation not just from an economic standpoint but from a social perspective as well- further deepening their vulnerabilities and dependence on welfare. The pandemic could also exacerbate existing inequalities, including those based on economic status, and ability.

## **B. Rationale of the Study**

The Covid-19 pandemic has a significant short-term impact negating all the economic progress Seychelles has made over the last decade. The extent of the socio-economic impact and recovery needs to be addressed in depth, as potential trade-offs may worsen conditions in society, lay the burden once more on a welfare state, increase public debt and delay recovery.

In supporting recovery efforts, the UN collaborates with governments on a multi-sectoral level from Health to social protection, from macro-economic policy to economic recovery, multilateral collaboration and building community resilience and social cohesion- through a wide-range of technical and operational support within the UN and its extended network. Within this framework, UNDP is the designated lead agency for socio-economic recovery globally being present in 170 countries.

As part of its COVID-19 Response Plan Offer, UNDP is seeking to provide technical assistance to undertake a Socio-economic impact assessment of the pandemic and propose a comprehensive recovery framework that provides a gender perspective of the effects of Covid-19 in Seychelles in collaboration with other UN agencies. The analysis is expected to expound on the challenges and presented by the pandemic and propose measures to inform recovery and resilience building.

To implement this study, UNDP is seeking the services of a statistician to join a team of experts in undertaking the study. The team includes an international consultant (lead), lead national economic and business expert, and the expert on gender and social aspects of the assignment.

## **C. Objective of the study**

The overall objective of the study is to comprehensively examine the economic and social effects, including the gendered dimensions of the Covid-19 pandemic in Seychelles as well as disruptions in the global business and supply chains affecting Seychelles.

The specific objectives include, but not limited to:

- a. Identify the magnitude and dimensions of the outbreak, through a multi-sectoral and dimensional approach;
- b. Assess the economic, gender, and social issues of the outbreak (also from a migrant worker perspective), highlighting vulnerabilities and weaknesses in the overall health systems; governance structure and capacity, as well as other policy and institutional factors that affect the responses and coping mechanisms;
- c. Undertake a succinct impact assessment of the fiscal measures and other schemes being implemented within the existing response plan of Government. The impact assessment will further be conducted through a gender-sensitive lens;

- d. Based on the results of the analysis and impact assessment, provide technical advisory support and recommendations to guide evidence-based policy making that is also gender sensitive towards recovery;
- e. Assess the immediate and medium-term effects on economic growth and strategic sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, transport, migrants, fishing, SMEs trade, the informal sector and especially cross border trade and the related activities;
- f. Examine the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 outbreak, including loss in productivity and jobs, or disruptions of livelihoods, and gendered dimensions;
- g. Discuss how the COVID-19 outbreak will impact on the UN agencies programmatic engagements. including how the UN could respond to the short- and medium-term impacts especially in the context of a high-income country with the vulnerabilities of a small island state.

#### **D. Specific task of the consultant**

1. Support the preparation of the inception report detailing the analytical approaches to be undertaken
2. Generate a catalogue of traditional and non-traditional data sources including national surveys, and other macro and micro data on Seychelles, drawn from local and international sources.
3. Undertake data analytics using the above sources as guided by the international consultant and study team.
4. Prepare a report on data analysis to inform the study.
5. Participate in progress meetings and make presentations on data issues as will be guided by the international consultant

#### **E. Institutional Arrangements**

##### **F.**

This assignment is contractually and technically overseen by UNDP and guided by: 1) the UN Country team; and a multi-institutional Project Steering Committee chaired by the Government of Seychelles, including but not limited to representatives from civil society, private sector and UNDP.

#### **G. Key Deliverables and payment schedule**

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Approval</b>
1. Inception Report capturing the conceptual framework, methodology, roadmap, outline of the report, and the breakdown of tasks by the International Consultant and the National Consultants	15th Aug 2020	20%	UNDP Senior Economist
2. Comprehensive draft report reviewed and accepted by UNDP and the project steering committee	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	40%	UNDP Senior Economist
3. Recovery Framework and Policy Options	25th Sep 2020	20%	UNDP Senior Economist

4. On approval of Final report (max of 30th Sep 2020 20% UNDP Senior Economist 45 pages)

#### **H. Duration**

The study will be conducted within [six weeks] starting from the date the contract is being awarded and signed and not end later than 30th September 2020

#### **J. Competencies: Corporate Competencies**

- Demonstrated commitment to UN's mission, vision and values including working in a culturally diverse environment.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability. The candidate selected will be required to take UN's mandatory training on Gender, and on the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Authority, within two months of their assuming their functions in this position.
- Demonstrates ability to function in a team environment and shares knowledge and experience.

#### **K. Functional Competencies**

- Relevant experience in public health, social and economic development issues with particular focus on Africa and developing economies.
- Excellent oral and writing skills with strong academic and policy experience.
- Capacity to interact with Senior Officials of Government, Donor partners, CSOs and other stakeholders
- Outstanding analytical and drafting skills. Ability to present coherent and convincing positions both in writing and orally. There must be evidence of similar works done in the past on issues of poverty and inequality
- Strong ability to take initiative to move complex processes forward to achieve articulated results, work at varying levels and on different initiatives simultaneously (personal organization and ability for multi-tasking). The consultant must also possess ability to work under pressure and to accommodate change.
- Demonstrable networking capability, interpersonal skills and strong ability to promote teamwork. Knowledge of gender mainstreaming in developmental interventions would be an advantage

#### **I. Qualifications and Education**

- Advanced University degree in statistics, economics, or equivalent qualifications.
- Minimum of ten years of work experience in data analysis and management using statistical software such as STATA, EVIEWS, and others such as Excel, Access, e.t.c.
- Demonstrable experience in the use and analysis of non-traditional data sources including big data
- At least 10 years of relevant experience in economic assessment, evaluation, or/and economic research and rigorous analysis.



- More than 5 years of experience in undertaking the above tasks at international level
- Excellent written and oral English. Knowledge of French would be an advantage.
- Fully IT Literate, including use of teleconferencing

#### **J. Recommended Presentation of Offer**

Individual Consultants/Resource Persons are invited to submit the following applications and requirements:

- Duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability using the template provided by UNDP.
- Personal CV, indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate.
- Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment.
- Financial Proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided. If an Offeror is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

#### **K. Criteria for Selection of Best Offer**

The award of the contract will be made to the Individual Consultant whose offer has been evaluated using the “Combined Scoring Method” and determined as:

- Responsive/compliant/acceptable;
- Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specified below - (Technical Criteria with a weight of 0.7 and Financial Criteria of a weight of 0.3).

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 70 marks out of 100 in the Technical Evaluation would be considered for the Financial Evaluation. The technical criteria and weightage are as follows:

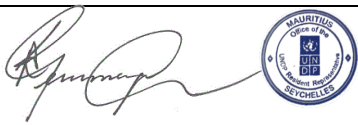


Educational Qualifications:	Experience	Language
Advanced University degree in statistics, economics, or equivalent qualifications. .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of ten years of work experience in data analysis and management using statistical software such as STATA, EVIEWS, and others such as Excel, Access, e.t.c.</li> <li>• Demonstrable experience in the use and analysis of non-traditional data sources including big data</li> <li>• At least 10 years of relevant experience in economic assessment, evaluation, or/and economic research and rigorous analysis.</li> <li>• More than 5 years of experience in undertaking the above tasks at international level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent written and oral English. Knowledge of French would be an advantage.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
30 MARKS	60 MARKS	10

**Important Note:**

- Qualified women are encouraged to apply
- Interested offerors above the age of 62: UNDP regulations require, at their own cost, to undergo a full medical examination including x-rays. Medical evaluation documentation does not need to be submitted with the other requested documents listed above but will be requested should the candidate be chosen.

**Approved by:**

Name:	Ms. Amanda Serumaga
Position:	UNDP Resident Representative
Signature:	
Date:	11-Aug-2020