

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Long Term Agreement: Macroeconomic Advisor

1. Assignment Information

Assignment Title:	International macroeconomic advisor
Cluster/Project:	Policy and Innovation Unit (PIH)
Post Level:	Senior Specialist
Contract Type:	Long Term Agreement (LTA), 24 months (plus a further 12 months if required)
Duty Station:	Home-Based and Phnom Penh, Cambodia (if required)
Expected Place of Travel:	Phnom Penh, Cambodia (if required)
Contract Duration:	Initial contract is from 2 nd November 2020 to 31 st October 2022, for up to 180 working days (90 working days per year).

2. Context

Cambodia is a country undergoing many transitions – an emergent Middle-Income Country (MIC) with a rapidly growing economy, and deeper level changes given by societal modernization and the twin processes of industrialization and urbanization. Its transformation from a near history of conflict is also dramatic. This is a time of dynamism and opportunity, but also one of turbulence, dislocation and vulnerability - and these changes bring risks as well as opportunities.

Specific questions can be raised about the quality of the growth process. There are two dimensions to these concerns. The first relates to inclusiveness of the economic model. While there have been large reductions in poverty, a persistent proportion of Cambodians still live in extreme poverty, and a larger proportion of the population are vulnerable to shocks. The second set of issues concern slow structural change, including sluggish efficiency gains. Overall, productivity improvement has been weak, expansion is driven by extensive as opposed to intensive growth, and there has been significant environmental impacts.

Still more pressing in the near term are the ongoing impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. While Cambodia has avoided a major outbreak of disease, and hence severe supply-side restrictions, the demand shocks operating via global goods and capital markets have driven severe economic and social dislocations. IFI and UNDP sponsored modelling exercises, and the these predictions of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has suggested growth will turn markedly negative in 2020, and that unemployment and poverty will grow as a result.

UNDP is working to support the RGC on its economic policy agenda via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). This commits the agency to work on a number of economic policy issues and capacities, with MEF and other ministries. These Terms of Reference (TOR) refers to a set of assignments to address the above and the priorities given within the MOU.

3. Scope of Work and deliverables

The LTA holder will work as part of UNDP's programme to strengthen analytical capacity and data/evidence gathering systems within MEF and other strategic ministries. Activities will build on past capacity building on economic analyses and the development of General Equilibrium (GE) models for the Cambodia. Assignments will be designed under four headings:

- (a) **Provide a second round of GE modelling training and capacity building to MEF** – this would include further developing MEF staff capacities apply to GE models via formal training, but also mentoring and tutoring; and developing a core expert group. In addition to designing and delivering sessions, the supply of written teaching materials will be required. [Estimated at 50 working days].
- (b) **Develop GE modelling training manuals** – in line with the with the above to enable transfer and embedding of know-how within MEF. This is to facilitate in-house training delivery, and potentially also includes developing Training of Trainers learning materials. [Estimated at 50 working days].
- (c) **Deliver a TA facility for on COVID-19 economic policy responses** – to serve MEF and RGC generally, in combating the economic/ socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Specifically in designing, calibrating and implementing stimulus and other measures, linking to analysis to support the *National Recovery Plan* being developed by MEF. [Estimated at 10 working days].
- (d) **Assisting the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), in the Ministry of Planning (MOP)** - with capacity building and TA in two areas. This is firstly in respect of improving Cambodia's System of National Accounts (SNA) to enable GDP revaluation; and second in relation to economic statistics to build environmental accounts following the proscribed SEEA¹ rules. [Estimated at 70 working days, both activities].

Separate summary TORs will be developed for specific assignments (within the scope of the overall LTA and the categories above). Specific deliverables of each assignment will be based on an agreed sub-ToR and PO issuance. All property – tangible and intellectual – produced during assignments/ LTA would remain the property of UNDP. The consultant should also ensure confidentiality of all the information received during assignments.

4. Institutional Arrangement

The international consultant will work under direct supervision of the Country Economist but overseen by the Assistant Resident Representative for the Policy and Innovation Hub (PIH) , and its Project Board. Efforts will also be made to consult and report with the RGC ministry clients noted above – the MEF and NIS/ MOP.

5. Duration of the Work

The equivalent number of person work-days for the LTA is 180 days, over an 24-month period from 2nd November 2020 to 31st October 2022. As noted below, the agreed proposed professional fee should remain valid for the whole period.

¹ System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is a UN framework that integrates economic and environmental data, to provide a fuller account of the costs impact of economic activity on the environment.

6. Duty Station

The duty stations for this assignment are home country and Phnom Penh, given COVID-19 travel restrictions, virtual delivery would be the norm, however. In the event that travel is required, subsistence and accommodation expenses, travel, and all other related costs will be covered by the project, prior to each separate assignment taking place. The reimbursement of the associated costs will be made through an F-10 reimbursement form.

Selected individual contractor(s) expected to travel to the Country Office (CO) in country (Cambodia) is (are) required to undertake the *UNDSS BSafe* training package (available at this link: <https://training.dss.un.org/course/category/6>) prior to travelling.

7. Minimum Qualifications and Criteria for Evaluation of the Individual Contractor

	Technical Evaluation Criteria
Education:	Doctorate in economics, with specialism in development, macroeconomics and/ or econometrics.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 10 years of relevant work experience with conducting research in macroeconomics and economic development• Extensive knowledge of Cambodia's social and economic development.• Experience of similar assignments in similar international development contexts.• Application of techniques (e.g. econometric approaches, statistical analysis, general equilibrium modeling).• Advanced teaching/ training capacity building in economic analysis and modelling (specifically including GE).• Experience of SNA, and related tools – Supply/ Use and Input/ Output tables, and construction of Social Accounting Matrixes (SAM) in developing country contexts.
Competencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity to engage with senior decision/ policy makers, and to synthesize and present complex arguments in easily understood terms.• Ability to work collaboratively with team members by sharing information openly and displaying cultural awareness and sensitivity.• Superior written/ oral communication skills, with the ability to convey complex development concepts and recommendations.• Positive and results-oriented attitude, able to meet targets/deadline.• Capacity building skills, at higher education level (teaching, tutoring and mentoring).
Languages:	Fluency in written and spoken English

8. Criteria for Evaluation of Level of Technical Compliance of Individual Contractor

Technical Evaluation Criteria	Obtainable Score
Doctorate in economics, with specialism in development, macroeconomics and/ or econometrics (including advanced training on modelling and SNA estimation) .	20
At least 10 years of relevant work experience with conducting research in macroeconomics and economic development. Experience of especially in Cambodia or similar development contexts. Specific experience of GE modelling and SNA.	40
Experience in engaging with senior decision/ policymakers, and ability to synthesize and present complex arguments in easily understood terms. With special emphasis on working with Cambodian institutions and policymakers.	20
Superior written communication skills, with the ability to convey complex development concepts and recommendations (<i>assessed by a sample of work provided</i>)	20
Total Obtainable Score:	100

9. Payment Milestones

The payment will be made based on the actual number of days for each assignment agreed prior to each taking place multiplied by the pre-agreed IC daily rate (excluding DSA, air-ticket, and terminal costs). The amounts and deliverables will also be specified within individual assignment TORs.

While selection will be initiated by acceptance of the LTA, the contractor can begin working only after a **purchase order (PO)** is issued to him/her each time a service is required and following discussion and agreement between the contractor and the Country Office. The contractor will take his/her own responsibility for performing any service which is out of the scope of this ToR.

Full payment amount will be paid within 30 days after satisfactorily completion of work and receipt of original invoice/CoP. Each payment is subject to acceptance of work, receipt of Certification for Payment, and performance evaluation duly completed (for last payment) and signed by the head of the respective unit requesting the service. If additional work is needed due to the assignment not meeting the requirements, this will be at no cost to UNDP.

Offerors should quote a single daily professional fee with insurance cost, and this rate shall be inclusive (excepting DSA terminal and travel costs). This will be fixed during the contract period. Offerors should also provide details of their skills and experience (on a CV or by completing a standard UNDP P11 application form) and confirm their approximate availability for the specified period.