CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE SCENARIO ANALYSIS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOMES
OF DELAYED VACCINATION DISTRIBUTION IN LESOTHO

TERMS OF REFERENCE

| Duration and location assignment: | 15 days |
| Responsible Unit: | UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) |
| Time of assignment: | 8th – 26th March 2021 |
| Type of service: | Individual Consultant |

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho in collaboration with the United National Country team (UNCT) formulated the Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF (2019–2023), which outlines the planned support of the United Nations in achieving Lesotho’s national priorities under the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDPII). This strategic planning instrument serves as a collective response of the UN System to support the national development initiatives of the Government of Lesotho (GoL) as per the NSDP II as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063 and other strategies and international instruments. The UNDAF identified three key strategic priorities: i) Accountable Governance, Effective Institutions, Social Cohesion and Inclusion; ii) Sustainable Human Capital Development; and iii) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth for Poverty Reduction. As part of the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the UN Lesotho is also working with the GoL, development partners and other national stakeholders to support the national response and path to recovery.

There is a growing risk that the Kingdom of Lesotho’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be long and slow, and may have a long-term impact on people’s livelihoods.

The prolonged recovery is largely due to delays in vaccination distribution, which risks future waves of infections and associated lockdowns. Whereas much of the developed world are likely to achieve widespread vaccination coverage by the end of 2021, the Kingdom of Lesotho is unlikely to achieve widespread vaccination coverage until 2023. Widespread vaccination coverage will be delayed by a lack of financing for vaccination procurement and logistical distribution. Limited fiscal space will not only prevent vaccination distribution, but it will also reduce available stimulus packages to support the economic recovery. Large fiscal stimulus packages have been associated with smaller employment losses during the pandemic and thus a smaller financial budget, as in Lesotho, is likely to be associated with increased unemployment.

As the economy reopens, there is an increased risk of future waves of transmission, and there are likely to be future waves and lockdowns until widespread vaccination is achieved. Future waves and lockdowns will in turn affect potential economic growth.

A long and slow recovery will exacerbate inequalities and vulnerabilities within the Kingdom of Lesotho. The young, low-skilled, migrants, women and informal workers are likely to be disproportionately
affected by unemployment and increasing household responsibilities. Young people have experienced further disruptions to education, and inequalities in access to digital technologies have exacerbated inequalities in access to education. At the same time, an influx of migrants returnees due to employment losses have introduced a new vulnerable group and exacerbated the vulnerability of people who were dependent on remittances.

The UN Lesotho intends to undertake a scenario analysis on the socioeconomic impact of delayed vaccination distribution that will help formulate and implement appropriate responses in policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

In this regard, the UN Lesotho is looking for an individual consultant to undertake a detailed scenario analysis. The consultant will analyse the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in Lesotho, with particular focus on vulnerable groups, and will forecast how the macroeconomy, different sectors and populations will be affected by widespread vaccination distribution under a range of probable scenarios. The consultant will conclude with programme/policy recommendations for consideration by the UN Lesotho, partners and the Government Lesotho.

**SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

a) Conduct a literature review of documents related to the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, economic stimulus and relief policies, public health regulations and vaccination distribution strategies.

b) Undertake a quick comparative analysis for best practices on vaccine distribution and assess Lesotho’s preparedness for acquisition, management and distribution.

c) Identify a number of probable scenarios for vaccination coverage in the context of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

d) Forecast the likely socioeconomic implications of different vaccination distribution scenarios.

e) Identify the capacity of the Government of Lesotho to achieve widespread vaccination coverage and offer policy recommendations and implementation strategies.

f) Develop a final comprehensive, clear and concise report on the socioeconomic impacts of delayed vaccination distribution, presenting key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

**EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES**

The consultant is expected to produce the following outputs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables/ Outputs</th>
<th>Estimated Duration</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Review and approvals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception Report</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>10th March 2021</td>
<td>RCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Report</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>19th March 2021</td>
<td>RCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>26th March 2021</td>
<td>RCO</td>
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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

a) The Consultant will be engaged by the RCO and becomes directly responsible to the RCO Team Leader. However, s/he will liaise with the RCO Economist for implementation of this assignment.

b) RCO Economist will provide day to day supervision on the assignment, working in collaboration with participating UN agencies to ensure delivery of quality results and objectives as set out in these terms of reference.

c) The Consultant will prepare reports as outlined in Section III above, for approval by the RCO Team Leader.

d) The consultant should have their own computer and facilitate own access to internet, transport and organize own logistical arrangements as necessary.

DURATION OF THE WORK AND DUTY STATION

- The assignment is expected to be carried out in 15 days, from 8th – 26th March 2021.
- The assignment will be carried from home. On-line resources will be used to make consultations and engage with relevant stakeholders.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR

Education:
- A Master’s Degree in Economics, Gender Studies, Development Studies, Public Health or any other relevant field

Skills and experience:
- A minimum of 10 years’ experience in research and economics development issues.
- Proven experience in undertaking policy research and analysis and stakeholder engagement, and in the selected thematic area.
- Sound knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and related principles for inclusion and poverty eradication, livelihood development.
- Knowledge of the Lesotho development landscape and the NSDP II.
- Good analytical skills, with ability to come up with solutions to complex in interconnected development challenges.

Attributes:
- Fluency in English
- Excellent communication, reporting, and presentation skills
- Demonstrate a high competency for integration of gender attributes into the assignment
SCOPE OF PRICE PROPOSAL AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The financial proposal should be presented as a **Lump Sum Amount**—representative of payments closely linked to deliverables.

- The lump sum amount must be “all-inclusive” and provide a breakdown consistent to the project deliverables.
- The contract price is fixed regardless of changes in the cost components.
- UN’s Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates prevailing at the time of sourcing, will be used for all travel related components.

Payments will be scheduled as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables/ Outputs</th>
<th>% of payment</th>
<th>Dates of Payment</th>
<th>Review and Approvals Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final report</td>
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<td>26th March 2020</td>
<td>RCO</td>
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RECOMMENDED PRESENTATION OF OFFER

Interested consultants are requested to submit the following:

- a) Duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability using the template provided by UNDP;
- b) Personal CV or P11, indicating all experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references;
- c) Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment and a methodology;
- d) Financial Proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE BEST OFFER

A successful Consultants will be selected based on the Combined Scoring method—where the qualifications and methodology will be weighted a max. of 70% and combined with the price offer which will be weighted a max of 30%. The criteria for scoring the qualifications and methodology will be guided by the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterial for technical evaluation ranking</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Qualification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Experience as outlined in Section VI above</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>English writing and oral skills</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Name: Vimbainashe Mukota  
Signatures: ____________________________
RCO Team Leader and Strategic Development Advisor  
Date: 26/02/2021