

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

TERMS OF REFERENCE/ INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

I. Job Information

Job title:	International Consultant to conduct analysis of Expenditure, Costing, Fiscal Space, and Financing for Poverty Reduction Strategy of Uzbekistan
Project Title/Department:	JP "Establishing Integrated National Financing Framework in Uzbekistan", Inclusive Growth Cluster, UNDP Uzbekistan
Duration of the service:	July - October 2021
Work Status:	25 w/d
Duty station:	Homebased
Reports to:	Programme Manager

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Uzbekistan has been undergoing significant transformation with the country's long-term objective set to become a high middle-income country by 2030, therein doubling per capita income, as well as reducing poverty. With the poverty rate rising to 12-15% in 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic¹, poverty reduction and enhanced well-being have been identified by the President as one of the key priorities for the country for the first time. As a way to identify the main issues and bottlenecks and elaborate comprehensive measures to fight poverty, the Government is in the process of elaborating the National Poverty Reduction Strategy 2021-2030.

The strategy envisages a broad range of measures aimed at promoting employment and entrepreneurial activities; improving human capital through addressing the quality of education and health service; improving access to public infrastructure and stemming environmental degradation. The aim is, through the combined impact of these measures, to provide sustainable long-term solutions which will allow the country to achieve SDG1 – end extreme poverty - by 2030.

At the same time, the strategy needs to be supported by a comprehensive financing plan to back and support implementation of the strategy. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for countries to establish Integrated National Financing Frameworks to support cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies. At the heart of these frameworks lie financing strategies which guide the way that governments raise and invest their own resources, and use policy and partnerships to influence the way that other actors invest their resources. Understanding the scale and types of investment needed to achieve the SDGs are a key foundation on which governments can build effective SDG financing strategies.

In the light of the above there is a need to conduct a comprehensive costing exercise to understanding the scale of investments needed across the Poverty Reduction Strategy as a whole and understanding how this breaks down across public and private finance. Furthermore, given that understanding the cost of achieving the SDGs is viewed not as a one-off exercise, but as a fundamental part of the planning and financing policy cycle, there is a need for approaches that can be tailored and built into national planning and financing processes. Designing approaches which are appropriate to Uzbekistan's contexts, considering national capacity, policy processes and the availability of data, is therefore a priority.

III. SCOPE OF WORK / OUTPUTS / TIMELINE

The Consultant will work on costing for Road map on Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Uzbekistan in 2021-2030. The Consultant will drive the process under the guidance of the main government counterparts of the Joint Programme and UNDP Country Office including but not limited to the following activities:

a) Budget and expenditure analysis: the consultant will contribute to the analysis of budget expenditure. The consultant shall perform expenditure analysis covering selected line ministries, institutions, and agencies engaged in service delivery and financing of existing poverty reduction interventions.

This includes – not limited to – the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministries of Education, other Line Ministries and funds that implement poverty reduction programmes. Analysis includes historical trends, expenditure structure, major components, and delivery mechanisms (contracting, direct service delivery). Percentage of budget expenditure and GDP are key indicators of the level of spending.

b) Costing analysis programmes and activities: Once priority programmes are identified, the consultant will participate in developing the costing analysis, depending on the agreed costing approach. The consultant shall support in identifying the different variables to be included in the costing including unit costs, assumptions, and key parameters that may cost forecasts. The consultant shall develop costing templates using spreadsheets and validate the parameters with the various partners including Government bodies, UN agencies, and other consultants working on the strategy development.

c) Financial and economic analysis: One or two priority programmes will be selected to be assessed for value-for-money considerations and to establish a link between inputs, outputs, and outcomes in the results chain. This analysis will be used for advocacy purposes and to encourage decision-makers to look beyond the actual cost of the programmes and consider the resulting benefits. Any of the following approaches could be used depending on the relevance: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA), Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA), Cost of No-Action Analysis (CAN).

d) Financial gap: The consultant will support in identifying the fiscal implication of implementing the strategy programmes upon the Government Budget.

e) Fiscal space and financing analysis: The consultant shall contribute to the fiscal space analysis potentially generated to cover the strategy implementation. This will include analysis of the Government's economic recovery plan, development assistance, deficit financing plans (borrowing), tax policies, and reallocation of existing resources (among and within sectors).

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

- Function as a member of the technical working group, giving sound technical inputs for the development of the deliverables;
- Lead activities e.g. meetings, consultations, focus group discussions, at project and organizational levels with the participating UN Agencies and key stakeholders from government agencies, local financial institutions and private sectors;
- Compile and analyse data and policy literature to build an understanding of the development finance policy and institutional landscape, following SDG Budgeting and Costing guidelines of UN;
- Develop scenarios to analyse potential future trajectories of development, considering implications for short- and medium-term policy;
- Work closely with the country office and oversee the national expert in data collection, analysis and engagement with national stakeholders;
- Lead or facilitate meetings or focused group regular internal and external project meetings;
- Prepare the relevant draft document (guidelines, policy notes, analysis) for deliberations and acceptance by stakeholders
- Any other tasks as requested by supervisor

IV. Timeframe and fees

The following deliverables and indicative schedule are expected from the consultancy contract. Exact dates of beginning and completion stages as well as scope of works for each phase can be corrected by the Programme Manager based on reasonable justification by the consultant. The UNDP reserves the right, if necessary, to amend the terms of reference of a consultant on a written agreement. The final schedule will be agreed upon in the beginning of consultancy assignment.

#	Deliverables	Timeframe	Payment
1	1.1 Methodology for the assignment 1.2 Country-level analysis (draft report)	30 August 2021	1 st installment (50%)
2	2.1 Final report on the assignment 2.2 Capacity building activities conducted including the trainings on costing models, data collection and expenditure monitoring for line ministries and stakeholders.	30 October 2021	2 nd installment (50%)

Payment will be disbursed in two installments upon timely submission of respective deliverables, approval of deliverables and certification by the Programme Manager and Inclusive Growth Cluster Lead that the services have been satisfactory performed.

V. Qualification Requirements

Education:	At least a Master's degree in the field of Finance, Economics, Development Economics, Public Policies, Social Policies, Development Studies or other relevant fields
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 years of experience in finance and in high-quality policy advisory roles, including in areas such as capital market, fiscal policy, private and financial sector development, financial

	<p>analysis and advisory roles, including on issues of political economy, human development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical and advisory capacity, including the ability to analyze and advise innovative financial solutions, including Islamic finance; • Excellent writing skills required, as demonstrated by previous research/analytical reports on relevant topics. • Excellent communication (spoken and written) skills, including the ability to draft/edit a variety of written reports and communications and to articulate ideas in a clear, concise style • Ability to lead consultations with senior government officials required. • Previous experience with a development partner or government will be an asset; •
Language Requirements:	English. Fluency in Russian is an advantage.
Competencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong data collection, communication, analytical, research, and writing skills; • Client-orientation and excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills; • Ability to use information and communication technology as a tool and resource; • Informed and transparent decision making.
VI. Signatures- Post Description Certification	
<p>Incumbent</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date</p>	