



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE
(International or National Competition)

Date: July 29, 2021

REF NO.: BBRSO150136

Job Title: Human Rights and Debt Analysis Consultant (Economist)

Country: Homebased

UNDP Barbados and the OECS – **Homebased**

Description of the assignment: The project seeks to analyse how growing external debt levels and accompanying austerity measures impact access to ESCR in the Eastern Caribbean. It further intends to identify existing best practices and recommend mitigation measures the socio-economic effects of the looming economic crisis, including action by state authorities, recommendations for key regional actors (CARICOM, Caribbean Development Bank) as well as UN actors working in the region.

Project name: The Eastern Caribbean's External Debt Crisis and its impact on Economic, Social and Cultural rights

Period of assignment/services (if applicable): Mid-August 2021 – 15 December 2021

A. ADMINISTRATION

To apply, interested persons should upload the **combined*** *Technical Proposal/Methodology* (if applicable), *CV* and *Offeror's Letter* to "UNDP Jobs" by navigating to the link below and clicking "APPLY NOW", no later than the date indicated on the "UNDP Jobs" website. **Applications submitted via email will not be accepted****: -

UNDP Job Site – https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=100798 (cut and paste into browser address bar if the link does not work)

*** PLEASE NOTE: The system allows the upload of one (1) document ONLY – if you are required to submit a Technical Proposal/Methodology, this document along with your CV/P11 and Offeror's Letter, MUST be combined and uploaded as one.**

NOTE: The *Financial Proposal* should not be uploaded to "UNDP Jobs"**.

<IMPORTANT>

Please email the **password-protected *Financial Proposal* to procurement.bb@undp.org. The subject line of your email must contain the following: "**BBRSO150136 Financial Proposal – Your Name**"

If the password for your Financial Proposal is required, it will be requested by the Procurement Unit.

Any request for clarification must be sent in writing to procurement.bb@undp.org within three (3) days of the publication of this notice, ensuring that the reference number above is included in the subject line. The UNDP Barbados & the OECS Procurement Unit will post the responses*** two (2) days later, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to: -

http://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=81348 (cut and paste into browser address bar if the link does not work)

A detailed Procurement Notice, TOR, and all annexes can be found by clicking the above link.

*** UNDP shall endeavour to provide such responses to clarifications in an expeditious manner, but any delay in such response shall not cause an obligation on the part of UNDP to extend the submission date of the Proposals, unless UNDP deems that such an extension is justified and necessary

B. BACKGROUND

Even before COVID-19 pandemic the Eastern Caribbean States (EC) region was among the most heavily-indebted in the world . Governments' responses to the emergency, which focused on public health and social spending measures, in combination with the drastic fall in tax revenues, has increased fiscal deficits and exacerbated debt burdens, especially in smaller economies, including in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Challenges facing the region before COVID-19 were identified as slow productivity, stagnant economic growth, high debt, rising inequality, socioeconomic vulnerability, limited institutional capacity to effectively respond to strategic development challenges, the need for disaster prevention and preparedness and reconstruction relief and rehabilitation efforts due to climate change. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Caribbean region exposed the need for policy actions for effective support to protect the most vulnerable and ensure participatory growth.

Further, long-term growth has been depressed for over a decade and the current COVID-19 crisis has worsened this situation. High debt service payments limit fiscal space for investing in development projects with regional linkages and multiplier effect, and forecast for potential improvement in the rate of economic growth is restrained by the need for structural changes, including economic diversification, the pursue of further economic integration, debt restructure, innovative tax reform to generate greater levels of revenue, and the expansion of concessional financing based on the vulnerability condition of SIDS.

As the economic repercussions of the pandemic are worsening debt levels, announced austerity measures risk to severely inhibit states' capacity to respond to growing needs in protecting access to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) of its populations. Previous experience in the Caribbean has shown that private-public partnership mechanisms are critical in driving political will to mitigate the social and economic impacts of restructuring programs. Today, although debt servicing was suspended with the onset of the pandemic, the ongoing fiscal consolidation is expected to resume shortly in order enable debt servicing. Over the next three years, for example, Grenada is expected to slash expenditures by the equivalent to 3.1 times its public health care budget, which will limit the capacity of the government to meet its minimum core obligations with respect to ESCR .

Official Development Assistance (ODA) has been on the decline because of the high-income and upper middle-income status of the Caribbean countries. In addition, there is a need for structural improvements to boost economic growth and further economic integration through solutions to the various challenges in logistics, transportation and supply chains need to be incorporated into efforts at strengthening intra-regional (and extra-regional) trade and economic integration to address issues of economies of scale and competitiveness. The violence and high incidence of crime across the subregion has reduced foreign direct investments, increased the cost of doing business and diverted resources from the social sector (health and education, particularly) to crime control and the administration of justice.

OHCHR monitoring in the region indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing risks in accessing ESCR. These are linked to structural challenges faced by all of the seven countries,

including high inequalities , poverty and unemployment levels , weak health infrastructure as well as high vulnerability and low resilience to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. The economies of the EC countries are characterized by energy dependence, financial insecurity and strong economic dependence on the tourism industry.

Previous Caribbean stabilisation and adjustment programmes have resulted in reduction in spending in public sectors, such as health and education, negatively affecting vulnerable persons such as those living in poverty, women, children, persons living with disabilities, and the elderly, placing them at risk of being further left behind. Socio-economic vulnerabilities intersect with high levels of violent crimes, including by organized crime groups and one of the highest migration rates in the world. In recent years, the flow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela and Haiti to countries in the region has also been on the rise and shed light on a lack of institutional preparedness to respond to increased vulnerabilities of these populations. Sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination affecting in particular LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and indigenous peoples, as well as little progress in the administration of justice, underpin the growing concerns regarding access to economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in the context of future austerity measures.

C. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and at least 3 references
2. Letter of Offeror and Financial proposal

D. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

- **Lump sum contracts**

The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in installments or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including travel, per diems, and number of anticipated working days).

E. TRAVEL

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the *Individual Consultant* wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

F. EVALUATION

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the following methodologies:

- *Cumulative analysis*

When using this weighted scoring method, the award of the contract should be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria** specific to the solicitation

* *Technical Criteria weight; [70%]; * Financial Criteria weight; [30%]*

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of **49 points** would be considered for the Financial Evaluation –

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
<u>Technical</u>	70	70
• <i>10 or more years of professional experience in economics and public policies</i>	10	10
• <i>10 or more years of relevant working experience in the Eastern Caribbean Region</i>	20	20
• <i>Ability to analyse macroeconomic policies and practices and to apply heterodox economic theories and concepts, to an analysis of Caribbean countries' human rights obligations.</i>	30	30
• <i>Experience of working with national budgets and in social development and/or human rights field</i>	10	10
<u>Financial</u>	30	30

G. ANNEXES

ANNEX I – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR) – separate TOR only provided for complex procurement; otherwise, see above

ANNEX II – GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ANNEX III – OFFEROR'S LETTER

ANNEX IV – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

ANNEX V – SAMPLE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

H. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

The project seeks to analyse how growing external debt levels and accompanying projected budget cuts and austerity measures, particularly in the post-COVID-19 context, may impact access to ESCR in the Eastern Caribbean, with a particular focus on education and health spending.

It also intends to identify existing best practices and recommend mitigation measures for the socio-economic effects of the current economic and debt crisis, based on ESCR standards (identifying policy options for maximum available resources) to influence action by state authorities, and provide recommendations for key regional actors (CARICOM, Caribbean Development Bank) as well as UN actors working in the region. Following the recent strengthening of a regional structure for the English-speaking Caribbean under the leadership of the Regional Representative in Panama, the project will be a strategic tool for advocacy with governments but also donor countries and potentially creditors as well as other relevant international actors (ECLAC, IMF, World Bank).

Specifically, this project will cover an analysis of the impact and/or relationship of external debt on public expenditures in the region and 3-4 Eastern Caribbean countries and the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the debt issue, as well as health, including SDG 17.4, 3.8, 4.1 in these countries. This project is envisioned as a desk-based study of debt, budget and socio-economic data that will allow to produce an analysis of the impact of debt on ESCRs in the relevant countries.

I. DELIVERABLES

Expected deliverables and deadlines

Nr.	Deliverables expected	Indicative Timeframe	<u>% Payment</u>
1.	The consultant will submit an inception report at the start of the project. This report will briefly outline the objectives, approach, methodology, key activities, and timeline.	Late August 2021	10
2.	Draft 1: report that includes the analysis required under numbers 1 and 2 above.	Mid September 2021	20
3.	Draft 2: report that includes revisions to draft 1 and the analysis required by tasks 3-8 above.	Mid-October 2021	20
4.	Final report: conceived as a position paper which includes revisions to draft 1 and 2 and recommendations, and should be of maximum 35-40 pages.	Mid-November 2021	20

5.	Advocacy brief with the key findings and recommendations of the analysis, which should be of maximum 4 pages.	Early December 2021	15
6.	PPT to present the analysis, findings and recommendations to UNCT and other relevant actors	Early December 2021	15

Time and manner of Payment

Invoices shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of their acceptance by UNDP. UNDP shall make every effort to accept an original invoice or advise the Contractor of its non-acceptance within a reasonable time from receipt.

J. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES

I. Years of experience:

At least 10 years of professional experience in economics and public policies

II. Competencies:

- PhD in Economics, preferably with technical experience in both social and economic fields. A master’s degree and at least 10 years of experience would also be acceptable;
- A solid experience in the areas of economic development, poverty analysis, development and planning, strategic planning of the projects focused on economic development through providing evidence-based policy advice;
- Ability to link macroeconomic policies and practices with States’ human rights obligations with the aim to identify measures and interventions towards “transformative economies” at the national, local and community level;
- Ability to apply heterodox economic theories and concepts, related to the structure and performance of the economy, to build the case for human rights and identify advocacy and programmatic responses;
- Ability to do an intersectional analysis especially on “Leave No One Behind”;
- Experience of working with national budgets and in social development and/or human rights field;

K. QUALIFICATIONS

III. Academic Qualifications:

- Mandatory PhD or Master's degree in economics or law;
- A sound understanding of development, human rights, and gender would be considered an advantage.