

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

Social Services Improvement Project (SSIP), Social Insurance Administration Project (SIAP) and North Macedonia Emergency Covid-19 Response Project (ERCP)

Social Protection Specialist in the Unit for Analysis, Evaluation and Monitoring within the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia

I. BACKGROUND

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia has received Loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for implementing the Social Services Improvement Project (SSIP), the Social Insurance Administration Project (SIAP) and North Macedonia Emergency Covid-19 Response Project (ERCP).

The SSIP development objective is to expand access to and improve the quality of social services, including preschool services, for vulnerable groups. The Social Services Improvement Project will help address the challenges that are particularly associated with social exclusion of vulnerable groups and the low quality and fragmentation of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and social services. By supporting strengthening the overall social protection delivery system for improved service provision and access to services by existing social assistance recipients and by vulnerable groups and by support of quality early learning for preschool children and their families and strengthen the transition into primary education with focus on inclusive education and learning, the project will contribute to the GoM's ultimate objectives of alleviating poverty and enhancing human capital by supporting the strengthening of the effectiveness and efficiency of the GoM's social safety net and thereby reducing the inter-generational transmission of poverty over the long run.

The SIAP project activities will address specific functional and technical areas within the administration of social insurance. The project will support the Government's efforts to continue the process of improving the quality of services delivered by the social insurance administration. The SIAP project will make investments in:

- (a) developing a central single unified registry of socially insured individuals (SURS)
- (b) improving the Pension and Invalidity Fund's (PIOM) capacity and business processes
- (c) establishing a Central Disability Certification Coordination Unit (CDCCU)
- (d) revising the list of hazardous occupations eligible for early retirement with extended service period (ESP), and,
- (e) supporting implementation of the legal and institutional framework for employment and professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The ERCP development objective is to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness. This project has three components. Component one will provide immediate support to help the Republic of North Macedonia limit the local transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) through containment strategies. There are four subcomponents: (i) Enhancing

case detection, confirmation, contact tracing, reporting, and monitoring; (ii) Strengthening the health system, (iii) Financing of bonuses for health workers and (iv) Vaccine purchasing. Component two will finance temporary income support to eligible individuals and households to enable them to comply with the social distancing measures the Government has introduced to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. There are two subcomponents: (i) Temporary social assistance support, and (ii) Temporary unemployment insurance support. Component three will support the administrative and human resources needed to implement the project and monitor and evaluate progress.

II. SPECIFIC BACKGROUND

Within the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) and under the Department for strategic planning, a Unit for analysis, evaluation and monitoring of the MLSP's policies and programs has been established. This unit has specific purpose of supporting the Ministry in taking important decisions by preparing analyses and statistics regarding the Ministry operations.

III. MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this assignment is to strengthen the capacity of the Unit for analysis, evaluation and monitoring within the MLSP as a tool for creation of policies that will improve the inclusiveness of the social protection system in Macedonia.

IV. SPECIFIC TASKS

The Social Protection Specialist in the Unit for analysis, evaluation and monitoring shall perform the following activities:

- Identify, review and analyze available data and identify data required (available and missing) for running different policy simulation models;
- Perform policy simulation in the area of social protection, to ensure that the national system is well-designed, well-targeted and cost-effective;
- Strengthen evidence-based policy making and ensure the country benefits from innovative models of designing cost-effective policies;
- Analysis of the current legal framework regarding the definition and classification of the institutional/non-institutional social services and proposals for changes if needed;
- Proposing evidence based legislative changes that will improve the development of social services at local level;
- Review of the process of licensing of professionals working in the social protection institutions and proposals for improvements;
- Analysis of the existing situation in the Social Work Centers (SWCs) and local self-government in respect to their social services delivery and proposals for improvements;
- Prepare Redistributive social policy scenarios based on simulations developed;
- Support the development of the Single unified registry of socially insured individuals;
- Other social related activities.

IV. EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT

The Consultant should have the following minimum experience and qualifications:

- University Degree in social sciences (social policy, political science, or similar);

- At least 7 years of relevant experience in the area of provision of consultancy and/or technical support in developing social protection policies and programs;
- Excellent analytical and research skills and experience in analytical and research work in the field of social protection;
- Demonstrated ability for facilitation of and participation in complex multi-stakeholder processes of designing or assessing the delivery of public policies, preferably in the social protection field;
- Up to date knowledge of the state of the social protection system and the ongoing and proposed reforms will be considered as an advantage;
- Experience in project or contract work with international organizations would be considered an advantage;
- Excellent verbal and writing communication skills in Macedonian and English.

V. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The Consultant shall regularly debrief the Minister for Labour and Social Policy, to the Head of Sector for Strategic planning, SSIP/SIAP Project Director and SSIP/SIAP Project Manager, on the progress in respect to the contract obligations performed.

VI. DATA, LOCAL SERVICES, PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The Consultant will be provided with suitable office space, appropriate equipment such as PC and printer.

Selection method and contract: The selection method is Individual Consultant Selection and the contract shall be Time based according to the World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing (IPF) Borrowers – Procurement in IPF of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, (Regulations) issued in July 2016, revised November 2017., www.worldbank.org.

VII. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The Consultant will work under a time-based contract. The assignment will be full time, working 8 hours a day on the regular business days in Macedonia. The contract for this assignment will be until June 30, 2024. A downstream work might be needed, subject to Client's business needs under the project and subject to consultant's satisfactory performance.