

Consulting Services – Individual Consultant’s Selection

Republic of Moldova
Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family

Credit No. 5001-MD

Project Name: Strengthening the Effectiveness of the Social Safety Net

Project ID No. P120913

Reference No. CS-S/38/IDA

Assignment Title: Local Consultant in evaluation and reform of benefits from social support funds

Period of assignment/services: May 2016-December 2016, up to 40 working days.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Strengthening the Effectiveness of the Social Safety Net Project (SESSN). Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) as an implementing agency for the project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

Background

The development objective of the SESSN project is to improve the efficiency and equity of Moldova's safety net through a fiscally sustainable expansion and strengthening of the Ajutor Social Program. Currently, the Ajutor Social Program coverage is increasing due to the continuous policy adjustments and inclusion efforts focused to include the poor households into the program. On the other hand, the social welfare system in Moldova has been in crisis in recent years, for the most part unable to ensure an effective and fiscally sustainable protection of the poor and vulnerable. In particular, social protection spending is high in Moldova, but its social assistance efforts are undermined by fragmentation into several low-performance programs.

In this framework the social assistance benefits system of the country should be renewed, continuing development of an effective and targeted system of social benefits within the reduced fiscal envelope.

The categorical benefits consolidation that is meant to support fiscally sustainable expansion of targeted social assistance transfers is contingent on political commitment the Government accepted in 2015 to consolidate the benefits of the Fund for Social Support of the Population that provides category-based benefits in a fairly inefficient and nontransparent manner.

Objective of the assignment:

This assignment is aimed at rationalization of the current social safety net through unification of eligibility criteria, and possible consolidation of programs. The assignment shall focus on benefits of the Fund for Social Support of the Population that provides category-based benefits in a fairly inefficient and non-transparent manner.

The consultant should look at the possibilities to consolidate benefits categories and eliminate beneficiaries categories in order to enhance their effectiveness in the context of social assistance reform in Moldova.

Scope of work:

The consultancy shall encompass the areas, as follows:

1. evaluation (data collection, assessment and analysis) of the existing benefits, their overall impact, etc, including an inventory of benefits types;
2. Provision of recommendations for reforms, including reform options and modelling of their impact (fiscal, etc). At these stage additional data collection and analysis may be required (qualitative and quantitative);
3. Activities to support/promote reform options that the Ministry selected as priority one.

These activities should include workshops, conferences, support to mass media events and legislative changes.

For detailed information, please refer to [Terms of Reference](#)

Requirements for experience and qualifications

- Advanced degree in public policy, public administration, economics, social policy or other relevant degree;
- In depth understanding of social protection systems, especially of social assistance cash benefits issues and good understanding of Moldova social assistance systems;
- Expertise and experience in providing technical assistance and consulting services in the area of social service delivery and safety nets;
- relevant experiences of providing policy advice in social protection domain with a track records of advice/engagement in designing and implementing cash benefits reforms;
- Expertise in conducting assessments/evaluations, drafting analysis and recommendations for evidence based system reforms;
- First-hand experience in designing and implementation of cash benefits reforms;
- Experience in preparation of draft regulatory and legislative act;
- At least 5 years of experience in social assistance cash benefits policy advice;
- Excellent writing and quantitative and qualitative analysis aptitude.
- Proven experience in conducting high quality analysis and producing high quality reports in the areas of this Terms of Reference;
- Effective communication skills;
- Fluency in Romanian and Russian languages. Knowledge of English will be an asset.

Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The applications (in Romanian and English) shall include: CV (EUROPASS format is recommended), cover letter (explaining why they are the most suitable candidates for the position and including references to relevant assignments).

	Shrotlisting criteria	Points
1.	Academic background and professional qualification	20
2.	Adequacy for the assignment	70
3.	Language knowledge, communications skills	10

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers* edition January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Of Individual Consultants method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Requests for clarifications must be sent to the following email: hssap@mmpsf.gov.md

Applications (in Romanian and English) including CV and cover letter (on paper or electronically by e-mail) shall be submitted to the address below.

Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family, 5th floor, room no.501
Attn: Serghei Merjan, Procurement Consultant
Vasile Alecsandri Street, #1, MD-2009, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Tel: (+373) 22 269 331; Fax: (+373) 22 269 332
E-mail: hssap@mmpsf.gov.md

Deadline for applications is May 11, 2016, 10:00 A.M. (Chisinau time)

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.