

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Technical expertise to UNICEF Moldova for a detailed child- and family-focused analysis on the impact of financial and economic crisis, based on Q1 2009 Household Budget Survey results and the Social Exclusion add-hoc module

1. Rationale

The economic and financial crisis, which started to hit the developed and developing countries around the globe in 2008, started to affect directly the Moldovan Economy. According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in January-February 2009, industrial inputs decreased by 26.3% comparing with similar period of 2008.¹ As a result of the economic and financial crisis, the labour market in Moldova started to shrink, particularly in sectors like winery, construction, transportation, garment industries. In the Eastern region, where the impact of the crisis could already be felt in the last quarter of 2008, the situation is even worse than in other parts of Moldova. This led local authorities to introduce urgent counter crisis social measures, including public works, with payment of approximately 100 USD per month to the unemployed or temporarily unemployed people. Other measures included freezing prices for utilities, freezing and reducing family payments for kindergartens and requesting urgent humanitarian aid from the Russian Federation.

The previous opportunities that Moldovan citizen used to have to escape poverty and increase their income, such as working in constructions companies, decreased due to the overall crisis in the sector, both in Russia and in the EU. This directly affected the amount of remittances Moldovans sent home in January 2009. According to the data of the Moldovan National Bank, Moldovans sent USD 64.89 million in January 2009, comparing to USD 89.72² million in the previous year.

The impact of the reduction in remittances, which constituted approximately 30% in 2007 of the GDP, will not only negatively affect the fiscal space of the country, but also the income of the population, particularly those 57% of the households that are heavily dependent on remittances³. On the other hand the economic crisis will affect not only those mainly depending on remittances, but also those in small towns and in rural areas whose income are constituted of 56,2% and respectively 26,6% from salary and 2,0% and respectively 28,4% from self-employment in agriculture.⁴

The economic crisis is also expected to impact negatively the social indicators, such as: access to school, access to health services and products, access to basic social services, access to nutritious food and also influence the institutionalisation.

Measuring the impact of the crisis on food security, jobs, poverty, children's education and health will be crucial in order to respond effectively.

UNICEF is currently cooperating with UNDP, World Bank and IOM Moldova in undertaking a Joint Assessment of the Impact of the Economic and Financial Crisis on poverty and social exclusion in Moldova. To undertake the joint Assessment, a team will be set up, comprising of the following: a) a

¹ NBS, March 2009 data shows also that in some industrial sectors the decrease is higher: alcohol beverage – 58%, cement – 58%, agricultural machinery – 60%

² BNM, Data on remittances in January 2008 and 2009

³ BNS, HBS 2008

⁴ BNS, HNS 2008

team Leader; a Statistician and a Sociologist. This Terms of Reference is seeking for an additional member of the team who will be expected to work in close cooperation with the team and will have as specific objective to undertake an analysis of the impact of the crisis on child related issues, based on raw data that will be made available on social exclusion and household budget survey as well as following consultations with key stakeholders and desk review,

In addition, the Consultant will be expected to identify possible gaps in data collection and propose a set of indicators (both existing and additional ones) that will allow for monitoring the impact of the crisis on children and families in particular.

2. Purpose of the Specific Service Agreement

The purpose is to analyse the raw data from the current round of HBS (January-March 2009), including the module on social exclusion, providing additional findings from a child and family perspective.

3. Overall Objective of the Special Service Agreement:

The overall objective is to assist UNICEF Moldova in analysing the impact of the financial and economic crisis on children and families in Moldova.

4. Specific objective of the Agreement

Identify indicators and cross tabulations which can be analysed from the current HBS round to provide further data on the situation of children and families, undertake the analysis and prepare a report as a contribution to the joint Assessment. Identify possible gaps in data collection and propose a set of monitoring indicators (both existing and additional ones) that will help Moldovan authorities to monitor the situation and shape their policy intervention in the reduction of the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable groups of the population, particularly children and their families.

5. Deliverables and delivery dates based on the work plan (to be approved by the Project Officer):

Tasks	End product/deliverable	Time-frame	Deadline
I. Preparatory stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of detailed work plan, agreement on deliverables and timeframe • Meeting/discussion with the NBS and representatives of UNDP/IOM/WB involved in the Meta study on the impact of financial and economic crisis • Review of all available data sources, statistical tools, survey results etc. 	Minutes of the meetings Max 30 page report, including annexes; Power Point presentation	3 days	May 31st ,
II. Analysis of the results of Q1 2009 HBS and the Social Exclusion add-hoc		10 days	June 15 th

<p>Module</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw data analysis and cross-tabulation of variables from the Main household questionnaire and Social exclusion questionnaire • Development of Statistical Annexes and Tables using disaggregated data e.g. hh type, number of children occupational status of hh's head, migrated family members etc. • Analysis of available information and report writing; • Analyse the comparable data of the HBS for the similar quarter and last quarter of 2008 • Discussions of the draft with the UNICEF staff; adjustment based on suggestions and comments if any • Presentation of the Final draft to UNICEF/ UNDP/IOM/ WB staff • Finalisation of the report 	<p>Max 10 pages of Statistical annexes</p> <p>Max 15 pages of narrative report</p> <p>Minutes of the discussions</p> <p>Max 25 pages of report, including statistical annexes;</p> <p>Power Point presentation</p>		
<p>III. Identify possible gaps in data collection and propose a set of monitoring indicators (both existing and additional ones)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse existing indicators • Propose additional indicators for monitoring the impact of financial and economic crisis on children and families • Develop a list of indicators with clear definition, methodology of calculation and data sources where it is possible, otherwise proposed data collection methods • Discussions of the draft with the UNICEF staff and adjustment of the indicators based on suggestions and comments if any • Presentation of the Final draft to UNICEF/ UNDP staff 	<p>Draft List -Max 10 pages (format agreed with UNICEF);</p> <p>Minutes of the discussions</p> <p>Minutes of the discussions</p> <p>Final List -Max 10 pages (format agreed with UNICEF);</p>	<p>5 days</p>	<p>June 20th</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of the List of indicators <p>Presentation of the final List of indicators</p>	Power Point presentation		
<p>IV Final report submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of the report (data analysis, data gaps and suggested indicators for monitoring of impact of crisis • Validation of consolidated report with UNICEF and partners • Submission of the final report - and presentation to UNICEF and Partners 	<p>Max 35 page of consolidated report (draft)</p> <p>Minutes of the discussions</p> <p>Max 35 page of Final consolidated report</p>	3 days	June 25th

6. Details on how the work should be delivered:

To prepare deliverables, the consultant will need to:

- Review all major documents related to financial and economic crisis produced in Moldova and by UNICEF globally;
- Discuss with NBS staff responsible for HBS data collection and processing
- Perform statistical analysis (using appropriate software such as SPSS, SAS etc.) of available information based on Q1 2009 HBS results and add-hoc module on Social Exclusion
- Meet other Consultants working for UNICEF projects related to child wellbeing;
- Work in permanent cooperation with the team preparing the joint Assessment;
- Record ideas/suggestions, discuss them with representatives of UNICEF sections;
- Communicate and consult with UNICEF Social Policy Chief of Programme (on data analysis and report writing) and M&E Officer (on the List of indicators) on a regular basis;
- Rewrite and adjust drafts per UNICEF and joint Assessment team request;
- Draft and finalise reports in English.

7. Performance indicators for evaluation of results:

Consultant's performance will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Quality of produced materials;
- Proof of good cooperation with national authorities, donors and UNICEF;
- Demonstration of organisational capacities.

8. Support provided by UNICEF

UNICEF Moldova will facilitate the access of the Consultant to raw data, the organisation of meetings with the key stakeholders and other consultants working for UNICEF in the field of child well being. Also UNICEF will provide the Consultant with existing relevant documentations and reports developed with the support of other donors.

9. Qualifications/specialised knowledge/experience required to complete the task:

The above described assignment requires high skills in economics, statistics and knowledge of the specifics of the social areas, as well as in-depth knowledge of national policies, national development framework and imperative laws, strategies and other documents guiding the reform of the child protection system in Moldova.

Minimum qualifications:

- University Degree in Economy, Statistics, Social Sciences or related fields;
- Minimum 5 years of related professional experience;
- Familiarity with national statistical system, particularly with the Household Budget Survey, Labour Force survey and other household based surveys conducted in Moldova
- Awareness about financial, economic and social situation in the country;
- Proven technical skills in using of statistical software e.g. SPSS, SAS, Stata etc.
- Strong analytical capacities and ability to synthesize information;
- Exceptional communication, presentation and writing skills; ability to listen and express opinions with sensitivity;
- Fluency in Romanian, good English report writing skills are a strong asset.

10. Definition of supervision arrangements:

The selected candidate will work under the direct supervision of Chief of Programme Social Policy, who will also perform the evaluation report concerning the work of the contractor.

11. Description of official travel involved:

The consultancy will take place in the period of May 25 – June 25, 2009 and will only involve local travel (Chisinau Municipality).

Prior to starting the assignment, the selected candidate must undertake the Basic Security in the Field training.

12. Payment schedule

The payment will be made in one tranche, after the approval by UNICEF Moldova of the final report.