



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Terms of Reference

National Consultant for Project Formulation in the area of local development and migration

1. Background

1.1 Overall context

The Republic of Moldova is one of the few countries in the world with over 15% of its population living abroad as short or long term migrants. It is estimated that between 25-40% of the economically active population is involved in a migration experience. One of the reasons why this level of emigration has not resulted in a calamitous crisis is the fact that a significant part of the productive output of the migrants finds its way back to Moldova – most visibly in the form of remittances. It is estimated that, besides their remittance transfers, the long-term migrant households accumulate annually a total of about 1.6 billion Euros as savings which are kept abroad. 25% Moldovan migrants declare that they are ready to invest, preferably together with local public authorities, in their home communities in projects designed to improve the roads, irrigation, access to water, sanitation systems and gas, while very few would get involved in entrepreneurial activities.

Migrants contribute to development at micro level through the support of their individual families. This by itself is very important to national development. There might not be definitive independent studies that quantify the role of migrants in poverty reduction in Moldova. However, the anecdotal evidence indicates that, as in other countries, migrants are able to pull their families out of poverty in less than a decade. Furthermore, the migrant resources that directly support families generate economic multiplier effects in localised communities and across the country, thus contributing to positive macroeconomic outcomes. This impactful contribution derives almost entirely from the migrants' motivation and active participation in ending poverty and generating development at the family level.

Currently, there are no effective linkages between diaspora input and investment to priority regional and local development schemes or programmes. This gap in government reforms and priorities is especially important as migration is directly linked to local development. Underdevelopment itself is a cause of migration; and migration of working age population aggravates underdevelopment. Migrants are more likely to invest in the development of their localities because beyond the self-interest and self-identification with a locality, the migrants are affiliated and belong to those communities. In sum, reform and facilitation in this area provides significant development opportunities. Furthermore, some of the local development priorities will necessarily involve the increase of the welfare of those most affected by migration such as elderly and disabled persons, as well as children whose parents have migrated. In this regard, measures to ensure that the most in need groups are targeted should be guaranteed.

On the other hand, local governments in Moldova play a significant role in the provision of public services and bear primary responsibility for water supply, sanitation, local roads construction, and maintenance and heating. Currently, the local governments are left fragmented, and providing services that are inadequate and of poor quality. The improvement of the much-needed public service in rural areas will depend on the ability of the government to fast track local governance reform as well as on setting up a meaningful cooperation platform with community members, diaspora, businesses, etc.

1.3 Specific context of the assignment

Taking into account the scale of the migration phenomenon in Moldova and its potential impact on the country's transition capacity, following and complementing other Swiss initiatives in Moldova, and responding to the request of the Government of Moldova, Swiss Cooperation Office decided to deepen its engagement in this field by establishing a thematic Migration and Development non-core Program within the 2014-2017 Cooperation Strategy for Moldova.

In a rapidly changing global environment, the work of UNDP Moldova and the broader UN family aligns with the new national development vision, Moldova 2020, and sector strategies. UNDP Moldova's country programme for 2013–2017 has three major focus areas: Inclusive development, Democratic governance and Environment and energy. UNDP Moldova has an extensive activity at the local level, having covered so far more than 300 local communities with its interventions.

Thus, SDC will partner with UNDP Moldova to support migrants play active role in the development of their home communities and, through the financial and non-financial contributions, together with local public authorities and specialized NGOs, ensure that people in communities have improved access to essential services, especially those related to health, water and proper sanitation. The joint intervention will be embedded in the on-going Joint Integrated Local Development.

The following options are taken into account: a) strengthening the ties with the Moldovan Diaspora /migrants and promoting mechanisms for their human, social and financial engagement into the development of their home communities; and b) providing support to build the capacity of Moldovan national and local authorities to manage migration processes. Synergies with Health & Water domains of SDC Cooperation Strategy for Moldova will be fostered, especially at the local level. These are expected to contribute to the establishment of sustainable capacities and systematic collaboration among national and local authorities, civil society, and migrants' associations. SDC and UNDP joint intervention will, moreover, address in its design and implementation the transversal themes of gender equity, Human Rights based Approach and good governance as well as innovation.

2. Objective of the assignment

The overall objective of the assignment is to design a programmatic intervention related to migration and local development, thus tackling the issue of minimizing the negative consequences of migration and maximizing its development potential at the local level. The main areas of intervention would be: a) Community support schemes in rural areas and possible synergies with SDC interventions in Health and Water & Sanitation; b) Temporary, circular and virtual return of skilled professionals; c) Migrants' Home Town Associations or Others Alike or others as proposed by the Consultant.

A particular attention should be paid to embedding HRBA approaches, gender equality and innovative tools, and whether/where there is scope for UN joint interventions.

3. Specific Duties

To achieve the above objectives the following key duties should be performed by the Consultant (in close cooperation/consultation with UNDP and other UN Agencies, SDC, national counterparts, development partners and other relevant stakeholders):

Assessment:

- Desk review of background documentation related to the field of work
- Assess and map previous and ongoing UNDP and SDC activities with specific focus on local and regional development/migration/service provision/employment
- Discussions with the Senior Management and programme staff of UNDP and SDC, as well as JILD team
- Interviews with partners and stakeholders: central and local public authorities, specialized organizations and agencies, NGOs, think-tanks

Design and consultations

- Based on assessment and discussions with stakeholders, elaborate a draft Project document describing interventions in local development area and migration (following the UNDP Project document template)
- Consult the draft project document with main stakeholders and incorporate feedback in the final document.

4. Main deliverables:

The output of the assignment should be the draft Project document (in the provided template) covering the areas of migration and local and regional development.

5. Arrangements and duration

The consultant will work under the guidance of UNDP Portfolio Manager in strong cooperation with Sustainable Development Cluster staff. He / she will also work closely with the respective national partners, including state institutions, local public authorities, civil society and international organizations. Meetings with the relevant stakeholders will be organized by the consultant individually, but in strong cooperation with UNDP Portfolio Manager.

The assignment will be conducted during December 2014 - March 2015 over a period not to exceed 18 working days.

<u>Key tasks</u>	<u>Estimated number of days</u>
Assignment's work plan and desk review of existing documents	2,5 days
Interviews with partners, and key stakeholders, including debriefing on key findings and conclusions	4 days
Drafting of the Project document	8,5 days
Consult the draft project document with main stakeholders and incorporate feedback in the final document	3 days
Total	18 days

6. Qualification requirements

- Advanced university degree in public administration, economics, local and regional development, or related fields
- 5 years professional experience in local and regional development, economics, migration or related fields
- Experience in designing projects proposals, conducting evaluations and needs assessments
- Proven expertise in programme development
- Programme management and coordination skills
- Familiarity with the UN system is an asset

Skills:

- Excellent interpersonal skills, team oriented work style
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Self-motivated, ability to work with minimum supervision
- Excellent ability to quickly grasp and synthesize inputs
- Fluency in Romanian and English
- Proficiency in using computer applications (word processing, spreadsheet, presentations, project planning, e-mail, graphics, internet)

7. **Background Documents**

1. Information about SDC supported projects:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/representations/cooperation-office.html>
2. Towards Unity in Action. United Nations - Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework 2013-2017
http://www2.un.md/news_room/pr/2012/undaf/United_Nations_Republic_of_Moldova_Partnership_Framework.pdf
3. Country Analysis United Nations - Moldova
http://www.un.md/un_res_coord_sys/docs/Country%20Analysis%20-%20UN%20Moldova_ENG.pdf
4. Draft country programme document for the Republic of Moldova (2013-2017)
5. Moldova 2020 - National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2012-2020
<http://www.cancelaria.gov.md/libview.php?l=en&id=1051&idc=360>
6. National Decentralization Strategy
<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=344005>
7. Vulnerability Study
8. Joint Integrated Local Development Programme Documents/Progress Reports/Digests
<http://www.undp.md/projects/ILDP.shtml>;
http://www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Project%20Documents/ProDoc_JILDP.pdf; <http://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/library/poverty/joint-integrated-local-development-programme-news-digest/> (JILDP reports to be made available)
9. Other related materials can be found here: www.descentralizare.gov.md