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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job Title:	National consultant to develop Moldova country case study on existing inequalities in urban settlements and their impact on sustainable human development in the framework of the approved SDGs
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract (IC)
Duty Station:	Chisinau, Moldova and home based
Expected workload:	up to 36 working days
Duration:	November - December 2015, with possibility of extension

BACKGROUND

Human development in Moldova: snapshot

According to 2014 GHDR, Moldova's HDI value for 2013 was 0.663¹ - positioning the country in the medium human development category at 114 out of 187 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2013, Moldova's HDI value increased from 0.645 to 0.663, an increase of 2.8 percent or an average annual increase of about 0.12 percent. The country may have achieved higher HDI, but mainly due to the income component of the HDI, the progress made is insufficient, particularly compared to other CIS countries. When discounting Moldova HDI for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.582, a loss of 12.2 percent due to inequality in the distribution of the dimension indices. Poverty, decent jobs, rural vs. urban divide in terms of development, uneven access to some social services, social exclusion of certain groups of population and their structural vulnerability, all negatively affect some positive MDG-related achievements. Although poverty decreased steadily in the recent years, around 84% of all poor reside in rural areas and the situation has in fact been worsening. The recent economic growth was largely jobless, as shown by the rather stagnating number of new jobs available on the local labor market in Chisinau and almost inexistent new jobs in the regions.

Strategic setting and links to UNPF, Moldova 2020 and other strategies

People's resilience in face of multiple vulnerabilities can be improved through pro-active public policies as well as by investing in capabilities of the people and enlarging their choices. In Moldova, as the post-2015 national consultations showed, many people see high energy and food prices, climate-related threats, emigration and ageing of populations, as major challenges in the future². Taking into account all of the above, the current UNPF rightly points **three pillars for joint UN interventions** to support the democratic governance and justice, human development and social inclusion and environment, climate change and disaster risk management. Sustainable achievements under such pillars are impossible without proper tackling of the various existing and growing forms of inequalities.

¹ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MDA>

² http://www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Publications/UNDP_MD_Post2015Report_Eng.pdf

Contemporary approach to inequalities

Human well-being is multidimensional and its disparities are reflected in terms of income, but also non-income dimensions. The analysis of inequality has become a fundamental political economy issue in the contemporary world: Inequality was a key theme for the 2015 meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland, and recent statistics from Oxfam on the extent of the global wealth gap, as well as significant recent academic contributions to the discourse, have ignited debate on the issue. Diverging incomes, social statuses, sharp disparities in access to and distribution of resources, distribution of capital³, and distorted policy-making decisions are leaving humanity divided and undermine sustainable human development.

UNDP's Humanity Divided study contrasts "early" development approaches to economic growth and inequality—some of which posit that economic growth in developing economies initially requires (or may be supported by) growing income inequalities—with approaches that emphasize complementarities between policy frameworks that support economic growth while also seeking to reduce inequality. Within this second category, a distinction is drawn between:

- **pro-poor growth**, in which economic growth is accompanied by falling poverty rates; versus
- **inclusive growth**, in which economic growth is accompanied by falling levels of inequality.

The upcoming SDG framework, in particular SDGs 5, 10, and 11 will capture a myriad of aspects of the inequality, including in the urban settlements. Data collection on the indicators, proposed for tracking progress under SDG agenda and analysis of such data might reveal an in-depth picture of the growing inequalities, particularly between urban and rural settlements and within the urban settlements.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY ASSIGNMENT

The overall objective of the consultancy is to provide an analysis of the situation with various forms of income and wealth and non-income inequalities in urban Moldova, with particular focus on the capital city of Chisinau, using all available statistical data and research in the field. The consultant will develop a case study to be incorporated into the 2015 Regional Human Development Report on inequalities to be launched in early 2016. At same time, preliminary, such case study would be further developed into a full-fledged National Human Development Report.

SCOPE OF WORK AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

The scope of the assignment consists of: (a) collect and analyse all available official statistics on income and wealth inequalities and non-income inequality indicators at urban level (focus on Chisinau city), (b) collect available data on the national indicators vis-à-vis approved Sustainable Development Goals 5,10 and 11 and targets for 2016-2030 similar, (c) develop the case study on inequalities in urban Moldova, looking in particular on drivers, key dimensions, and coping strategies of the urban poor, to contain a situational analysis at national level and all available disaggregated data and analysis at urban level, with particular focus on the capital city of Chisinau. Selective set of indicators for the income and non-income indicators shall consist of functional, primary and secondary income distribution and other income distribution indicators, as well as sector indicators of inequality, i.e. social protection, health and nutrition, living standards, education and gender. The consultant shall also analyze the evolution in the multidimensional indicators describing human development, including IHDI, GII, MPI and similar. Analysis of the key indicators under SDG 5, 10 and 11 shall be also included.

The key hypotheses to be examined include:

- Urban settlements, in particular the fast growing city of Chisinau, will witness a steadily growing level of income and non-income inequalities in the upcoming decade or so, due to poor

³ "Measuring Sustainable Development", UNECE/OECD/Eurostat, 2009

infrastructure, lack or poor services, unequal access to such services, lack of proper urban planning and inefficient public spending in urban settlements, inward migration and urbanization, and similar

- Existing inequalities in Chisinau will negatively affect the reaching of the upcoming SDG targets, particularly under SDG 5, 10 and 11 and similar
- Growing inequalities will accentuate social exclusion, particularly of the groups of population identified as being currently excluded from the society, as revealed by recent national and regional studies
- Local and central public authorities shall analyze the existing policy framework, and in particular the urban development strategies and programs, against the anticipated growing inequalities and poverty in Chisinau and develop preemptive and corrective measures.

KEY EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Deliverable(s)	Deadline
Compile available statistical data on income and non-income inequalities at urban level (with particular focus on the capital city) and conduct at least 3 focus groups with vulnerable groups (8 w/d); compile available data for all inequality-related indicators as part of the new SDG framework, in particular SDG 5, 10 and 11 (1 w/d)	By mid-December, 2015
Draft Outline of Moldova study case to contain the situational analysis of inequalities in urban Moldova, with particular focus on Chisinau city (up to 2 w/d)	By mid-December , 2015
Develop the interim Case Study incorporating the analysis of all of the above (up to 10 w/d)	By December 10, 2015
Develop full-fledge Case Study for Moldova (up to 10 w/d)	By mid-December , 2015
Develop at least 2 blogs, based on standard available format (up to 5 w/d)	By end of December 2015

ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING

The consultant will work under direct supervision of the Project Manager. The Project will facilitate access of the consultant to the available statistical datasets and regional research.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

The requirements for the national consultant are:

- Advanced degree in Development Economics, Statistics or other relevant fields;
- At least 3 years of proven analytical and report writing skills in such areas as: income and non-income inequalities, social inclusion, human development, local economic development, and similar;
- At least 3 years of professional experience in the areas related to statistics and data analysis,
- Experience in the development of informative and analytical materials with the use of statistical data,
- Thorough knowledge of the human development concept, related indices, regional tendencies;
- Strong analytical and drafting skills.
- Ability to analyse, plan, present ideas clearly and effectively.
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills;
- Fluency in English, Russian and Romanian is mandatory

- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Contractor's performance will be evaluated against timeliness, responsibility, initiative, communication, accuracy, and overall quality of the delivered products.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Payments will be disbursed in several installments, upon submission and approval of deliverables mentioned in the Section "Key expected deliverables" and certification by UNDP Project Manager that the services have been satisfactorily performed.