



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **11 October 2018**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National Education Expert to Support Designing the SIB Intervention

Project name: Private Sector Engagement for SDG Unit

Period of assignment/services: up to 20 working days in the period 22 October 2018 - 15 December 2018

Proposals should be submitted by pressing the "**Apply online**" button no later than [October 18, 2018](#).

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: a.moraru@undp.org. UNDP will respond by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all applicants.

1. BACKGROUND

A social impact bond (SIB) is a fairly new result-based financial instrument of impact investing, where outcome payers agree to pay and reward investors only if upon agreed outcomes are achieved. The idea is to engage private capital in funding viable social/environmental/development projects with a potential of a financial return. Public institutions agree that if the bond succeeds in achieving the agreed outcomes, the investors will get their capital back plus a financial return. The financial return is dependent on the degree to which outcomes improve the initial situation. Typically, SIBs have been designed to help reform public service delivery.

Impact investing opens up an innovative way to engage private sector to bolster global sustainability further, together with public sector and service providers. It creates incentives for service providers to improve their performance through results-based contracting where the impact of the services has to be measurable. Also, it transfers the financial risks from public sector to the investor, as the outcome payers (usually the government or municipality) agree to pay and reward investors only if outcomes are achieved. Thus, taxpayer's monies will only pay for proven successful social interventions.

The first SIB was launched in 2010 in the UK and, as of now, over 100 SIBs have been commissioned across Europe, Australia, Canada and the United States. SIBs have raised over \$750m of capital and touched over 90,000 lives. Almost half of the SIBs focus on employment, while others are covering areas such as health, homelessness, child welfare, education and criminal justice. There is a strong focus on preventive and early intervention measures.

According to the most recent data from PISA report, Moldova finds itself at the bottom of world rankings in terms of innovation and education. Investing in education is particularly important in today's global realities when humanity is undergoing fundamental transformations. In fact, the mankind has already entered the so called Fourth Industrial Revolution, also known as the Digital Revolution where almost all processes, systems

and mechanisms are operating based on digital programs, and the possibilities are multiplied in an unprecedented rhythm by Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and nanotechnologies. Moreover, today's economic realities demand more and more creativity, abstract thinking, empathy and many other aspects of emotional intelligence.

UNDP Moldova intends to pilot a SIB mechanism to finance social outcomes concerning primary and secondary education in Moldova. The primary outcomes will focus on building ICT skills in schools, on one hand, and capacity building for teaching these skills to school teachers, on the other. The intervention will contribute to achieving SDG4 - ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The project will utilize outcome-based contracting and SIBs as a financial instrument to deliver the set outcomes. As part of this activity, UNDP intends to:

- Identify main potential stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- Design the SIB and integrated financial model and enter into negotiations with the outcome payer;
- Define expected outcomes and outcome metrics;
- Conduct legal due diligence to get recommendations for the SIB design, outcome payments mechanisms, investments and other issues;
- Formulate preliminary intervention strategy with timeline.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

a. Objective

The National Education Expert will support provide professional advice to UNDP Moldova in the area of expertise for designing of the SIB, targeting education outcomes in public schools from Moldova.

b. Scope of work

The National Educational Expert will support UNDP Moldova in helping define the current challenges in primary and secondary education and zoom in on the area of intervention through SIB, contributing to formulating the outcome metrics. More specifically, the consultant will work in the following **directions**:

- 1. Target group and area of intervention**
- 2. Preliminary intervention strategy**
- 3. Intervention outcomes and M&E framework**

The consultant will liaise with the Ministry of Education and will work in close cooperation with UNDP Programme and Project Team, as well as national and international consultants involved in SIB development, implementation and monitoring.

For detailed information, please refer to the Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications and Experience

- Master's degree or equivalent in the field of Social Sciences, Economics or another related field;
- At least 5 years of professional experience in education policy design and evaluation at the national level;
- At least 2 years of experience in data analysis and research is a strong asset;
- In-depth understanding and knowledge of education policies and institutional frameworks in Moldova, education and labor market trends, as well as vision on the future of skills;
- Knowledge of the principles of successful education systems across the world (Scandinavian, others);

- Specialized expertise and experience in issues related to public education programs and challenges in Moldova;
- Advanced knowledge of the National Statistics System in the field of education;
- Familiarity and knowledge of SIB mechanism is an advantage.

Skills and Competencies

- Proven capacity to produce reports and analyses in English;
- Well organized and able to work effectively in teams and to liaise with national stakeholders;
- Ability to deliver when working under pressure and within changing circumstances;
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Demonstrates integrity by modeling ethical standards;

Language:

- Proficiency in English and Romanian. Knowledge of written and conversational Russian language is mandatory.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Proposal: explaining why they are the most suitable for this position;
2. Financial proposal (LUMP SUM) in USD, specifying in a total requested amount per day, including all related costs, travel, phone calls etc.;
3. Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability
4. Personal CV, including past experience in similar projects and the contact details of at least 3 reference persons.

The United Nations Development Programme in Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in installments or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals the financial proposal shall include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including fee, taxes, travel to join duty station, per diems, and number of anticipated working days).

Travel

No travel costs are envisaged by this assignment.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed. UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class she/he should do so using their own resources.

6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be long-listed based on the following **minimum qualification criteria**:

- Master's degree or equivalent in the field of Social Sciences, Economics or another related field;
- At least 5 years of professional experience in education policy design and evaluation at the national level;

The long-listed individual consultants will be further evaluated by a Selection Committee based on the following short-listing criteria:

Short-listing Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Master's degree or equivalent in the field of Social Sciences, Economics or another related field;	Master's degree – 30 pts; less than master's degree – 0 pts; each additional training and certification - 5 pts; up to 40 pts.	40
At least 5 years of professional experience in education policy design and evaluation at the national level;	5 years – 55 pts; each additional year of experience – 5 pts; up to a maximum of 65 pts.	65
TOTAL		105

The **top 5 candidates** who passed short-listing evaluation criteria with the best score shall be considered for the cumulative analysis.

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight – 60% (300 pts);

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (200 pts).

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Technical Evaluation Criteria	Scoring	Max. Points Obtainable
Master's degree or equivalent in the field of Social Sciences, Economics or another related field;	Master's degree – 30 pts; less than master's degree – 0 pts; each additional training and certification - 5 pts; up to 40 pts.	40
At least 5 years of professional experience in education policy design and evaluation at the national level;	5 years – 55 pts; each additional year of experience – 5 pts; up to a maximum of 65 pts	65
Interview:		
At least 2 years of experience in data analysis and research is a strong asset;	No – 0 pts; 2 years- 30; each additional year of experience – 5 pts; up to a maximum of 40 pts.	40

In-depth understanding and knowledge of education policies and institutional frameworks in Moldova, education and labor market trends, as well as vision on the future of skills;	Yes – 40 pts; no – 0 pts	40
Knowledge of the principles of successful education systems across the world (Scandinavian, others);	Yes – 30 pts; no – 0 pts	30
Specialized expertise and experience in issues related to public education programs and challenges in Moldova;	Yes – 40 pts; no – 0 pts	40
Advanced knowledge of the National Statistics System in the field of education;	Yes – 30 pts; no – 0 pts	30
Proficiency in English and Romanian. Knowledge of written and conversational Russian language is mandatory.	(Romanian – up to 5 pts; Russian – up to 5 pts; English – 5 pts.)	15
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
Financial		
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 200$ S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.		200

Winning candidate

The winning candidate will be the candidate, who has accumulated the highest aggregated score (technical scoring + financial scoring).

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS