



TERMS OF REFERENCE

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| Job title: | National Expert to facilitate the extension of the Migration and Development activities in the localities from the left bank of the Nistru river |
| Duty Station: | Republic of Moldova, Chisinau |
| Reference to the project: | Migration and Local Development project (MiDL phase II) |
| Contract type: | Individual Contract |
| Assignment type: | National Consultant |
| Contract duration: | September 2021 – November 2022 |
| Expected workload: | 100 working days |
| Indicative starting date: | 10 September 2021 |

1. BACKGROUND

Migration is one of the defining features of human existence. It significantly influences aspects of economic and social development, everywhere. Despite its negative connotations and stereotypes, migration has always been an important dimension of human development. It helps build connections, transform communities and empower people all over the world, also playing a key role in economic growth and sustainable development, both at the national and local levels.

Globally, UNDP is working to maximize the developmental benefits of human mobility and to mitigate any negative consequences. UNDP works with partner countries to balance short-term responses to addressing the impacts of emigration with long-term sustainable development solutions. UNDP addresses migration through development lenses.

The Republic of Moldova registers high levels of emigration, with significant impact observed at local and national levels. Although larger-scale emigration from Moldova started taking place only in the early 2000s, the intentions of the Moldovan diaspora to support and invest in their home country has been consistently high.

The Moldovan Government (GoM) has increasingly recognized the potential of the diaspora as a catalyst for its development efforts and acknowledges that, if addressed and managed properly, human mobility can also bring many opportunities, changes and improvements in the country. Due to the Swiss development support, the GoM migration policy focus shifted from a management and control perspective to capitalizing on the opportunities provided by migration. In 2017, the Moldovan Government approved normative amendments to expand the network of diaspora, migration and development (DMD) focal points to the local level. This network, facilitated by the well-coordinated institutional set-up, seeks to support implementation of a “whole-of-government approach” across national and local levels.

The UNDP intervention has helped translate this approach into more comprehensive and systematic engagement by developing a comprehensive approach to make emigration work for local development. The initiative, launched in 2015, was implemented within the framework of the Swiss-funded Migration and Local Development Project (MiDL / phase I) implemented by UNDP. It aimed to connect Moldovan emigrants with their native localities in Moldova and to meaningfully engage them at all stages of community development, transforming emigration into an opportunity. During the pilot phase, 38 communities (representing over 10% of the country population and located in all regions of Moldova) have been supported to pioneer a new Diaspora, Migration and Development (DMD) model, which resulted in improved local infrastructure and local services with tangible benefit for over 310,000 citizens.

Building on the sustainable results achieved during its first phase of implementation, the objectives of the current project phase (2019 – 2021) are:

- Potential, current and returned migrants in the Republic of Moldova benefit from complex employment support services. In this sense national and local authorities will be fully equipped to respond to the needs of all categories of migrants at every phase of migration.
- Community members including the migrants are significantly involved in local development processes. Hereby, activities are focused on the close cooperation between public authorities, local stakeholders and migrants, aiming at an efficient implementation of local development initiatives.

The project's overall objective is to maximize the impact of migration on socio-economic development through an enhanced institutional framework and involved diaspora.

To that end, the project envisages a comprehensive, tailor-made and multi-layered capacity building support for its beneficiaries to enable them to achieve the objectives and goals of the project. Engaging the Moldovan diaspora in local development requires sustained and complemented efforts by a broad range of stakeholders. More specifically, the second phase of the MiDL project partners with:

- the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, the Diaspora Relations Bureau and the Bureau for Reintegration Policies.
- the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, and the National Employment Agency (including its territorial structures).
- Hometown Associations, civil society and local community representatives; and
- Local Public Authorities (specifically the designated migration focal points).

While confronted with similar consequences and challenges induced by outward migration, local communities from the left bank of the Nistru river have not yet initiated any systemic interventions on minimizing the related risks and maximizing the associated opportunities.

In this sense, the project shall implement a series of actions and preparatory work in the localities from the left bank, aimed at adjusting the national migrants' engagement model - to the specific context of the Transnistrian region. While the overall goals and approaches will remain similar, the exact implementation modalities and intervention content will need to be adjusted to ensure efficient implementation and achievement of planned results.

2. OBJECTIVE, TASKS AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

UNDP intends to contract an experienced National Expert (hereinafter "the Expert") to facilitate the extension of the Migration and Development (M&D) activities in the localities from the left bank of the Nistru river, based on the project's model of engaging migrants in local development, successfully established and scaled up in over 200 localities from the right bank.

To achieve the stated objectives, the Expert is expected to:

- Provide strategic advice to the UNDP/MiDL team in conceptualizing the interventions on the left riverbank for engaging migrants in community development.
- Facilitate dialogue and consult national and local stakeholders in carrying out an adaptability assessment of the Migrants' Engagement for Development model with respect to the localities from the left bank of the Nistru river.
- Support the UNDP/MiDL project team and experts to conceptualize a comprehensive study on migrants' intention to contribute to local development, namely - inputs to ToR development, review of study methodology and peer review of the draft study.
- Adapt the Migrants' Engagement for Development methodology for further replication in the localities from the left side of the Nistru river, and coordinate it with project stakeholders to fit the contextual specificities of the Transnistrian region.
- Offer thematic expertise and recommendations for **the sustainable scale up of the project's interventions on both riverbanks (for the period 2021 – 2022 and beyond)**.
- Provide support in the selection of up to two pilot localities from the left riverbank to pilot engaging migrants in the development of local communities.
- Contribute with advice to the Communication and Visibility Plan of the UNDP project with respect to the results of the current assignment (in terms of formulating public communications strategy, messages and identify the most relevant communications channels and tools).

- Prepare and submit the final activity report (including information on the stages passed, obtained results, risks mitigation, conclusions and recommendations).

Note: the assignment's non-political nature shall be emphasized throughout the implementation period.

3. KEY DELIVERABLES AND TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

| Key deliverables | Tentative timetable |
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| Deliverable #1: Detailed Work Plan - developed and approved by the UNDP project. | September 2021 2 WD |
| Deliverable #2: Report on the set of consultation meetings, assessments, and interviews with the representatives of UNDP, relevant public institutions, and project stakeholders – conducted and documented in brief notes. | by November 2021 18 WDs |
| Deliverable #3: Adaptability assessment and adapted version of the Migrants' Engagement for Development methodology (to be used for further replication in the localities from the left side of the Nistru river) – elaborated and endorsed by UNDP and the Bureau for Reintegration Policies | by December 2022 30 WDs |
| Deliverable #4: Report on the thematic expertise and recommendations for the sustainable scale up of the project's interventions on both riverbanks and communications aspects (for the period 2021 – 2022 and beyond) provided | by June 2022 25 WDs |
| Deliverable #5: Report on the thematic expertise and recommendations for the sustainable scale up of the project's interventions on both riverbanks and communications aspects provided (for the period 2021 – 2022 and beyond) | by October 2022 24 WDs |
| Deliverable #6: Final Activity Report (<i>including information on the stages passed, obtained results, risks mitigation, conclusions and recommendations</i>) submitted and approved by the UNDP Project. | by November 2022 1 WD |

Note: Deliverables and the activity timeline can be amended or further specified for the purpose of the assignment.

4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The timeframe for the work of the Expert is planned for the period September 2021 – November 2022. During this time, the Expert is expected to work up to 100 working days.

The Expert will work under the supervision of the UNDP Project Manager and in close cooperation with UNDP Inclusive Growth Programme Officer.

The UNDP project will provide support for the required logistical arrangements associated with the assignment.

All activities under this assignment shall be conducted in accordance with the COVID-19 health safety measures and priority shall be given to remote collaboration and online meetings / interaction.

5. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Payments will be disbursed in tranches upon submission and approval of deliverables by the Project Manager, certifying that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

6. QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS REQUIRED

Academic Qualifications:

- Master's degree or equivalent (University degree with at least 7 years of experience) in Political Sciences, International Relations, Diplomacy, Law or another field relevant for the current assignment.

Experience and knowledge:

- At least 5 (five) years of experience in the field of policymaking and/or policy advisory.
- At least 2 (two) years of experience in providing strategic expertise on cross-river cooperation and dialogue, as well as confidence-building.
- Demonstrated expertise in providing support for the implementation of local engagement initiatives on both banks of the Nistru river.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Moldovan and regional political and governance systems.
- Experience in the collaboration with UNDP or other international organizations will be an advantage.
- Previous experience of collaboration with the Bureau for Reintegration Policies of the GoM will be an advantage.
- Sound knowledge/understanding of the migration and development context of the Republic of Moldova.

Competencies:

- Demonstrated interpersonal and diplomatic skills, as well as the ability to communicate effectively with all stakeholders and ensure their engagement.
- Strong sense of initiative and ability to work independently.
- Proven ability to meet tight deadlines, handle multiple priorities simultaneously and to adapt to changing circumstances
- Excellent research, analytical and writing skills.
- Fluency in English, Romanian and/or Russian languages is a must.

Personal qualities:

- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.
- Responsibility, creativity, flexibility and punctuality, ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks.

The UNDP 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.

7. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

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

- Offeror's Letter confirming interest and availability for the Individual Contractor assignment, with Financial Proposal (*in USD, specifying the requested amount per working day, including all related costs - quoted in separate line items*). Financial Proposal template prepared in compliance with the template in Annex 2;
- Duly updated CV with at least 3 references;
- Proposal, explaining why he/she is most suitable for the assignment, including past experience in similar assignments, providing a brief information on above qualifications, and methodology on how he/she will approach and conduct the work.

Note: Please, refer to the Individual Procurement Notice of this recruitment for a more detailed information on the application and selection process.