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## **Request for Proposals by a Team/Consultancy Firm to conduct an Initial economic assessment of Covid-19 effects and scope of policy options in Belize.**

### **Background:**

During the month of March 2020, the spread of Covid-19 has generated an international public health crisis that will have a strong impact for the economies of countries worldwide. A rise in the number of daily confirmed cases of the new coronavirus internationally has led the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare its spread a global pandemic.

With an increasing number of affected countries, the COVID-19 outbreak is a new potential source of volatility, a threat to the macroeconomic stability and disrupting factor in terms of jobs and livelihoods of the people in the LAC region. Countries with fragile economies, lack of social protection mechanisms or weak health installed capacities to protect their most vulnerable citizens face the hardest challenges. Furthermore, most countries in the region are implementing serious containment measures to, amongst other things, reduce mobility and keep people in temporary isolation. These measures are already having an impact on economic activity and will affect more people who are already in a vulnerable situation.

For this reason, the UNDP country offices are producing initial assessment notes on the impact of the crisis with focus on the vulnerable population. In the cases required, a consultant with the necessary expertise is to be hired to analyze the situation in the current economic scenario and prepare evidence-based proposals that respond to the global emergency in a localized manner and according to the national context.

### **Objective and Expected Output/Deliverables:**

The purpose of the consultancy is to conduct a complementary study focusing on vulnerable population groups including rural residents; those operating within the informal economies; the long term unemployed; youth; female headed households; indigenous communities, etc. This work goes beyond the scope of the macro analysis currently being undertaken by the Government of Belize and provides greater insight to population vulnerabilities and informs greater targeted actions for response. It also assists Government in identifying longer term recovery policy options available to the country mitigating to the extent possible extended economic disruptions.

The scope will include

- Identification of population groups whose livelihoods are potentially affected by lockdowns and other social distancing measures, ranking them from the most to the least vulnerable.

- Identification of population groups potentially affected by lockdowns and other social distancing measures, through channels different than income loss, who should be the object of specific policy measures.
- Identification of installed state capacity to provide a safety net to vulnerable groups while lockdowns and other social distancing measures are in place.
- Identification of policy response put in place.
- Identification of the sources available to produce information about the potentially affected groups.
- Microeconomic data processing to characterize labor markets and households, assess potential impacts of alternative policy measures, and quantify them.
- Microeconomic data processing to characterize vulnerability of formal businesses, assess potential impacts on employment and firm survival of alternative policy measures, and quantify them.
- Analysis of implementation challenges of the measures adopted.
- Assessment about potential social unrest.
- Assessment of health systems' risk of collapse under the pressure of COVID-19, after accounting for efforts to scale up capacity.
- An assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the environment.
- Analysis of fiscal restrictions.
- Production of a concrete set of actionable policy recommendations, including their approximate costing based on findings from activities 1 to 11.

The expected outputs are a Consolidated data and draft note followed by Final Note. (in hard copy and electronic form in WORD format).

### **Eligibility & Qualification Criteria:**

#### **Team Member 1: Team Lead**

- Advanced degree in Economics, Government or Public Policy
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in social and economic research, social and economic consulting, or government, in positions requiring knowledge of social and economic policies and strong analytical skills.
- Experience in microeconomic data collection and processing required.
- Experience working in Belize required
- Experience working with Belize's household survey desirable.
- Experience working with UN Agencies, similar multilateral agencies, government entities, academia, private sector desirable and/or civil society organizations desirable

#### **Team Member 2: Project Manager**

- Master's degree or higher in Social Sciences
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in social research, in positions requiring knowledge of social policies and strong analytical skills.

- Experience in collecting, processing and analysing social data, especially at the household level required
- Experience working with UN Agencies, similar multilateral agencies, government entities, private sector and/or civil society organizations desirable

**Request for Proposal Package located:**

Please download the RFP package at <http://procurement-notices.undp.org/> Reference number is **66005** or,

<http://www.bz.undp.org/content/belize/en/home/jobs---procurement.html/>

**Submission of Application Package:**

Proposals are required to submit by email clearly labeled; **Proposal to conduct an Initial economic assessment of Covid-19 effects and scope of policy options in Belize**

**United Nations Development Programme**

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**Deadline for Application:** Friday, May 29, 2020 at 4:00p.m.

*The United Nations Development Programme is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. ALL qualified individuals are equally encouraged to apply.*