

CONSULTANT SERVICES PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 20 November 2015

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: NATIONAL CONSULTANT FOR SUPPORT IN THE INCORPORATION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN MOLDOVAN PUBLIC FINANCE/BUDGET SYSTEMS (UN WOMEN / MDA GRB PHASE II)

Project name: GRB Phase II MDA

Period of assignment/services: 30 November 2015-30 July 2016

Technical proposal and **financial proposal** should be submitted **on-line** no later than 27 November 2015.

Requests for clarification only must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail elena.spinu@unwomen.org.

Please notice that this address is for information requests only, please do not send or copy your application package to this address.

UN Women staff will respond in writing or 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 consultants.

1. BACKGROUND

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women is operational in Moldova since 2010 on the basis of former UNIFEM projects, which were laid and active in the country from 2007. It extended continuous support to the Government of Moldova, to key stakeholders from national and local levels, through various programmes and activities aimed at creating an enabling environment for gender equality, recognized as a prerequisite for sustainable development with a strong and active policy on gender equality. Since 2014 UN Women has established its fully operational country office in Moldova.

UN Women's country programs are guided by its Strategic Note 2014-2017 and which is fully aligned with UN-Moldova Partnership Framework for 2013-2017, National Program on Gender Equality, and other national strategies and plans.

In 2014, UN Women launched the 3-year regional project on Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe and Republic of Moldova financed by Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Swiss Agency Development and Cooperation. It is a direct follow up of the UN Women CSEE regional project "Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe" (2011 -2013) that covered Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia.

The second Phase of the regional project (2013-2016) has as ultimate aim to contribute to the implementation of commitments towards achieving gender equality. To achieve this aim, three distinct outcomes are anticipated: Outcome 1: Sectoral programs and budgets at the central and local levels reflect better gender equality concerns; Outcome 2: Strengthened oversight of central and local government programs, policies and budgets towards gender equality commitments; Outcome 3: Exchange of knowledge and learning on GRB facilitates replication of good practices and lessons learned.

One of the challenges that Moldova addressed as part of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and platform for actions in 2009, as well as its future actions towards gender equality agenda relates to mainstreaming gender perspectives into national budgets, with the introduction of the Program/Performance-based Budgeting. Since introduction of the program-based budget in Moldova is at its initial phase, effort towards raising awareness about

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) has been undertaken by UN Women during the previous years, to help the Government to track public expenditure for gender equality commitments.

Such support included developing GRB case studies, technical assistance in the process of budget analysis at the local level in three districts, elaboration of GRB courses at the post-graduate level, addressing the knowledge gap on GRB, creating an academic platform for GRB research, and developing a series of knowledge products on GRB. However, additional efforts are required to introduce gender dimensions in the Mid-Term Budget Framework (MTBF) and incorporate them in the budgetary processes.

Introduction of the gender-responsive budgeting is part of the Moldovan gender equality agenda, as set out by the Gender Equality Law and National Programme on “Ensuring Gender Equality for 2010-2015” (NPGE). At the same time Moldova undergoes a number of intersecting reforms – transition to performance-based budgeting, and decentralization reform, including financial decentralization component of the reform – both supported by UN in Moldova.

One of the priorities and specific objectives under the NPGE is Gender Responsive Budgeting promotion within the existing budgetary processes at the national and local levels. Also, since the current NPGE is coming to its end this year, Government has planned to develop the second NPGE for the period 2016-2020. Therefore, UN Women and UNFPA has already hired a team of consultants to support the development of the NPGE in the areas of political participation and leadership, social protection, employment and migration, education and health, mass-media, institutional mechanism on gender equality. To ensure effective realization of this task, UN Women plans to hire a local consultant to be a member of the team to assist with the development of the Gender Responsive Budgeting part of the NPGE

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

The Consultant is expected to work closely with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor Social Protection and Family, GRB team of the Academy of Economic Studies (ASEM), and the international consultant to be tasked with providing trainings to Ministry of Finance program planning staff on how to apply GRB.

The purpose of the consultancy is to ensure high quality methodological expertise and guidance, as well as advice on GRB introduction in the Republic of Moldova.

Under the current assignment UN Women is seeking a short-term national consultant in coaching Ministry of Finance on how to institutionalize GRB and support in development of legislative framework for the implementation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Moldova at central and local levels and support the development of the new NPGE from GRB perspective.

The **overall objective** of this task is to provide an expert support to the Ministry of Finance (across all its departments) and other government institutions, in the incorporation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Moldovan public finance/budget systems

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1- Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Academic Qualifications:

- At least a University degree in Economics, Finance, Development Studies, Public Administration, Public Policy, Law, or other relevant field;
- Education in human rights, gender studies and/or other social or economic science related to the area relevant for the assignment is an advantage;

Experience:

- At least 3 years of professional experience of work on Moldovan public budget(s), on work/collaboration with the Government sectors in assisting/supporting drafting policy recommendations/ policy reports, coordinating activities, with knowledge of Moldovan development context, specifically with regard to transition to performance-based budget and local finance / decentralization reforms;
- Previous professional experience of work on gender equality and/or gender-responsive budget(s);
- Experience of carrying out consultative research and in producing out analytical reports;

- Previous experience in development assistance or related work for an international and/or donor organization, preferably a UN entity.

Language requirement:

- Fluency in both, written and oral, Romanian and English. Knowledge of Russian is an advantage, working knowledge of one or more additional languages relevant for Moldova, including Bulgarian, Gagauzian, Romani, Ukrainian or sign language is an asset.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Applications should be submitted on line and include fully completed **UN Women Personal History Form P11**, along with the Letter of Application (justifying compliance with the qualification requirements) and the all-inclusive / aggregated Financial Proposal (Offer) for the entire assignment, **with the mark “support in the incorporation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Moldovan public finance/budget systems (UN Women / MDA GRB Phase II)” by 27 November 2015, COB.**

Failure to disclose prior employment or making false representations on this form will be grounds for withdrawal of further consideration of his/her application or termination, where the appointment or contract has been issued.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The all-inclusive / aggregated financial offer shall include a consolidated amount of **all** financial claims related to performance of the assignment, including fees, travel and other additional costs, etc. It is each **applicant’s responsibility** to make a calculation of all relevant fees, costs and claims, and to submit the final aggregated financial offer along with the application package.

7. EVALUATION

For detailed evaluation procedures please refer to Annex 1- Terms of Reference

ANNEX

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – CONDITIONS OF SERVICE - CONSULTANT