

TERMS OF REFERENCE – [C3-304]

Economist

For the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) Central Management Unit (CMU)

I. Introduction:

The Government of Lebanon (GOL) has received a US\$6 million Grant from the World Bank (the Bank), to finance the Second Emergency Social Protection Implementation Support Project (ESPISP II). The overall objective of the project is to improve the administration, delivery, financial sustainability, and targeting of social services through implementation of new systems and the adoption of new policies in the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Ministry of Labor (MOL), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). ESPISP II will consist of four components.

The third component will support the establishment of a new targeting mechanism for social transfers by implementing the roll-out of the National Poverty Targeting Program for Social Safety Nets.

Fiduciary operations coordination (procurement processing and financial management) will be undertaken by a Fiduciary Operations Team (FOT) hosted at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM). The FOT will be responsible for managing the procurement process to include: (i) developing and updating the project procurement plan; (ii) advertising; (iii) contract preparation; and (iv) contract payment. Each beneficiary agency will itself be responsible for: (i) identifying needs; (ii) developing activity terms of reference; (iii) short-listing and technical evaluation; (iv) contract signature; (v) contract execution; and (vi) authorization for contract payment.

Overall implementation, monitoring, and evaluation for each component will be undertaken by a designated project implementation team within each beneficiary agency. In the case of Component 3, both MOSA and PCM will be responsible for implementation. To facilitate implementation of the project activities, each agency will designate an experienced Implementation Coordinator (IC) to plan, manage, and monitor implementation for that agency.

II. Objectives of the Assignment

The objective of the assignment is to support the design and the implementation of the National Poverty Targeting Program and to reinforce the NPTP Technical Group who is in charge for the development of the scoring Index and analysis of generated data.

III. Scope of Work

The economist of the NPTP CMU will report to the NPTP CMU Director. He/She will set the necessary actions for the statistician to enhance the targeting mechanism and the scoring index to prepare recommendations coming out of the results of the database . He/ She will study the economic impact of the targeting mechanism, in coordination with the NPTP statistician.

The main duties and responsibilities of the Economist of the NPTP CMU are:

- Organize, lead and coordinate with the NPTP statistician all the activities related to setting the scoring index.
- Use the comparative costing methods in order to evolve and enhance the scoring index by examining the values of the different indicators in a way that is found compatible with local conditions and that could be undertaken in consultation with national experts.
- Analyze the statistical information provided by the NPTP statistician to propose revisions/fine tuning of the scoring index.
- Review periodically the scoring index and provide the necessary recommendations accordingly.
- Follow up on the data collection undertaken by the Field Work Coordinator and provide technical input to translate the outcomes of the data into policy directives (look at the response rate and the trend of collection and how that reflects on the economic readings and further planning.
- Study the collected data and produce adequate reports on the impact of the readings on the public policy.

Design and submit comparative studies for the impact of each of the subsidies programs to be provided for the poor and vulnerable population, in order to forecast each program financial impact on the short, mid and long term.

IV. Qualifications

Education:

Advanced University Degree (Masters or equivalent) in Economics or other related fields. A first level university degree with a relevant combination of academic qualifications and experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Knowledge & Experience:

- At least 6 years of work experience in the public or private sector with preference to candidates with experience in working in the social field.
- Strong research capabilities with emphasis on social scoring criteria
- Ability to engage in substantive technical discussion with all parties
- Strong analytical & problem solving skills
- Strong qualitative & quantitative measurement skills

- Capacity to be a team player, work under pressure and deliver timely quality results
- Excellent knowledge and practical experience using computer software (MS office, MS project, STATA, SPSS or any reliable data analysis software>
- Excellent written & verbal communication skills
- Fluent in Arabic & English; Fluency in French a big plus.

V. Reporting and Conditions

The Economist will report to the NPTP CMU director. He/she will submit quarterly progress report on main accomplishments and results. Performance appraisals will take place annually.

This is a full-time assignment, beginning on or about July 1, 2010, for a period of one year, renewable annually.
