



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Open to External Candidates

Reference No : **IOMTJK/2021/07(C)**
Position Title : **Research Consultant**
Duty Station : **Dushanbe, Tajikistan (with travel to Dusti and Kulob districts of Khatlon)**
Classification : **Consultancy contract**
Duration : **December 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022**

Closing Date : **November 22, 2021**

Nature of the consultancy: Undertaking research on families left behind and producing a report to inform policy making to prevent families' abandonment by Tajik migrant workers

Objective: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tajikistan jointly with United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and UN Women, through financial support of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) has been implementing the project "Empowering of Families Left Behind for Improved Migration Outcomes in Khatlon of Tajikistan". The project aims to reduce vulnerability of families adversely affected by migration in two districts through the following main components:

1. Improving the wellbeing of families left behind
2. Increasing the economic resilience of families left behind and addressing gender related barriers to their economic inclusion
3. Protecting and empowering families left behind to seek their rights, and
4. Supporting national, regional and local government to implement evidence-based responses to the challenges faced by families left behind.

IOM Tajikistan examined the problem with women left behind by Tajik migrant workers in 2009. This was the first ever research undertaken by IOM Tajikistan to draw attention of government, international community, civil society organizations to the negative impact of migration and vulnerabilities it creates of families left behind. Further research followed by UNICEF and OSCE in 2011 and 2012 respectively, which explored in-depth the impact of labour migration on women and children left behind, with a focus on social, economic and psychosocial well being of this group of population and generate policy responses to prevent family abandonment and address their social and economic vulnerability.

IOM Tajikistan jointly with UN Women and Save the Children, through financial support of Ministry of Norway, European Commission, Swiss Cooperation Agency, implemented three projects aimed at addressing negative social and economic consequences of migration on families and children left behind in 2014 and 2015. The project interventions were

undertaken at all levels, which included policy work, capacity building of government and non-government partners to provide services to migrant families, advocacy work and awareness raising campaigns to address the problem of families abandonment.

Despite the past interventions of IOM and other UN agencies, there are still gaps both at the policy level and with regards to service provision. The data on families left behind is not complete. There is no reliable and up-to-date information on families left behind in the context of COVID-19, how the global pandemic has impacted them, and their need for access to different information and services.

To take this into consideration, IOM Tajikistan intends to hire a research consultant to investigate the condition, motivations and patterns of behaviour that lead Tajik migrant workers to leave their families, as well as examine the vulnerability and needs of families left behind, as well as their access to different services in the context of COVID-19 in Kulob and Dusti districts of Khatlon region. The outcome of the research will ensure that evidence on 'Families left behind' is available to guide policy planning on implementing preventative as well as response measures to address the issue of abandonment by Tajik migrant workers. In coordination with UN Resident Coordinator's Office and Participating UN Organizations to ensure proper planning and implementation of the communications and visibility strategy for the programme and make sure that information about project activities and progress are reflected in different types of information materials and reached out a wider public to raise their awareness about efforts made to address vulnerabilities of families left behind

Project to which the Consultancy is contributing: "Empowering of families left behind for improved migration outcomes in Khatlon of Tajikistan" through Migration MPTF support. Project duration is October 2020 – May 2023.

Tasks to be performed under this contract:

1. Develop a detailed work plan and propose methodology for data collection, including desk review, field visits;
2. Develop consent forms in Tajik/Russian and English languages for interviewees, who are women left behind, civil society organizations, community members, and representatives of international agencies;
3. Review and finalize interview questionnaire in Tajik, Russian and English languages for two groups of respondents: families left behind and service providers;
4. Carry out sampling frame of women and children left behind to take part in the research;
5. Train the research team on the methodology of data collection, with consideration of ethical norms
6. Conduct quantitative and qualitative data collection based on developed methodology
7. Analyse the data and produce a report with findings
8. Submit final report, including executive summary, set of recommendations and annexes in English languages, including all methodological materials and raw data (excel, interview notes, etc.).
9. Develop a presentation on the report findings. Present the outcomes of the research among government and non-government agencies, and UN organizations.

Tangible and measurable output of the work assignment.

1. Conducted research among 248 women left behind out of 700 in Kulob and Dusti districts of Khatlon Oblast, as well as community members, civil society organizations and international community;

2. Produced a report about findings of the research;
3. Presented research findings to government and non-government partners as well as UN organizations;

Realistic delivery dates and details as to how the work must be delivered:

The research should be conducted during the period from 1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022. The researcher should use a reporting template proposed by IOM.

Deliverables	Timeframe/Due date
Inception report describing details of the methodology (including sampling procedures, guiding questions for qualitative assessment, ethical consideration, respondents consent form, final list of variables, reviewed questionnaire, limitations, etc.), timeframe and detailed work plan	15 December 2021
First draft report on data collection and data analysis (including preliminary findings from the field work) in English	10 February 2022
Final report in English	20 February 2022
PPT of the results of the research, detailing the results, summary results, recommendations, annexes and reference materials	28 February 2022

Methodology

The selected researcher shall develop a sampling framework, a detailed implementation plan and the methodology. It shall include a detailed sampling frame, data collection tools/guides/questionnaires, timeline and logistics (e.g. travel plans, interview schedules, etc.). It has to be submitted to IOM as part of the inception report. The researcher will work under the supervision of IOM and in close collaboration with Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, FAO, IOM and UN Women.

COVID-19 measures

Given the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and response measures and plan by the government, all activities should carefully be designed and planned taking into account the limitations and/or opportunities in the current situation and potential changes in the coming time. Proposed activities during the design and implementation process should reflect adaptive measures and integrate them throughout the process of baseline assessment. The financial proposal should also take into account adaptations necessary to the situation around COVID-19. Adaptations may include alternative data collection tools and innovative and technologically advanced approaches and practices. For the current moment, the situation with COVID-19 is normal in the country. Borders are open. Travels across the country is permitted. Government institutions work in a full capacity.

Consultant should have:

- A master’s degree or its equivalent in one or more of the following: sociology, social sciences, development, gender or migration studies, or related field

- Minimum five years of experience on designing and leading assessments, research studies, surveys, and/or evaluations
- Knowledge in the area of gender equality and women empowerment, migration, community-level development and/or peacebuilding
- Strong conceptual and analytical abilities and quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills to produce well-written reports
- Knowledge of gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches in assessments and / or evaluation exercises
- Knowledge of context of Tajikistan, including migration, social and economic development;
- Fluency in English. Knowledge of Russian or Tajik will be an advantage

How to apply:

Interested candidates are expected to submit a technical and financial proposal with itemized budget. The proposal must include an explanation of the relevant experience of the candidate, as well as methodology and approach to the assignment.

Proposals shall be submitted to applications.tj@iom.int by November 22, 2021 before 17:00PM.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Posting period:

From 11.11.2021 to 22.11.2021