



Strengthening Social Protection Delivery System Sindh (SSPDSS)
SINDH SOCIAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY
SOCIAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Sr. Specialist Policy & Research

Background

Government of Sindh (GoS), through the Sindh Social Protection Authority (SPA), is implementing the “**Strengthening Social Protection Delivery (SSPD) System in Sindh**” project with the assistance of the World Bank to strengthen social protection service delivery system and enhance accessibility and utilization of mother and child health services in selected districts in Sindh.

The project will support three components, financed through an Investment Project Financing (IPF) instrument, with US\$200 million from the International Development Association (IDA) and US\$30 million from counterpart funding. The Project components are: (a) Strengthen Sindh Social Protection Service Delivery Systems to support the modernization of systems and processes to fully operationalize the newly established Sindh SP Authority and improve its institutional capacity by strengthening the administrative, operational, policy, and planning functions and capabilities, including the development of energy efficient/climate-smart information technology (IT) systems and capacity building through the provision of technical assistance; (b) Mother and Child Support Program (MCSP) focusing on birth and first 1,000 days where risks and needs are high but programmatic responses are weak; the main objective of this component is to create demand for Maternal and Newborn Child-Health (MNCH) services and promote behavioural change to increase uptake of the MNCH services focusing on the first 1,000 days of life through the provision of CCTs in selected districts; and (c) Contingent Emergency Response with zero allocation, providing the Borrower to gain quick access to Bank financing to respond to a crisis or emergency. As part of a comprehensive disaster risk management strategy, the Contingent Emergence Response Component typically provides support for immediate rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.

Objectives of the Assignment

In order to achieve the objectives of the project, SPA, being the lead implementing agency for SSPD, is in the process of putting in place the required technical staff under the Project Directorate based in SPA’s Headquarters at Karachi. To that end, SPA requires services of a “**Sr. Specialist Policy & Research**” to perform the below mentioned roles and responsibilities. The position will report to CEO of the Sindh SPA.

Scope of Functions

- a. Get well acquainted with all the strategic documents for the project, including Project Appraisal Document (PAD), Project PC-I, Project Operations Manual (POM), Project

Procurement Strategy Document (PPSD) and the Environmental and Social documents, as well as with documents related to any other initiatives undertaken by the Sindh SPA, for better understanding of various project designs, respective implementation mechanisms and associated policy and research requirements.

- b. Lead multidisciplinary policy and research team to provide research and evidence based underpinning for policy, strategy, programmes for social protection interventions in Sindh Province. Towards that end, assist SPA in defining the policy agenda, annual research plan, methodology and budgets.
- c. Lead the development of evidence-based, research driven, operational programme for the SPA, in consultation with the senior management.
- d. Oversee development of research framework including design, tools, questions, manuals, sampling methods and evaluations, targeting and inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- e. Review and analyze lessons and experiences from field implementation of various initiatives of SPA.
- f. Provide technical input to the project operations, interventions and their evaluations.
- g. Support the procurement team in finalizing the Procurement Plan for the project related to research, policy and planning.
- h. Develop Terms of References and undertake management of local and foreign consultants; monitor progress on deliverables under those contracts; provide feedback as necessary; and coordinate the work of consultants, consistent with the overall project implementation plan.
- i. Represent SPA on different forums, coordination meetings, conferences & policy dialogues.
- j. Supervise and initiate research activities/policy dialogues/field surveys to generate evidence, including impact evaluation(s) and lead the development of new programmes and feasibility studies under the SPA.
- k. Lead and/or contribute to the development of research and policy briefs on Social Protection and related areas.
- l. Keep up to date with social, political and economic developments, and provide advice to senior management, stakeholders and decision makers.
- m. Perform any other task required for the successful implementation of the SSPD.

Qualifications

- At least 16 years of education in relevant social sciences (economics, public policy, public administration), or any other field related to policy and research.
- A PhD degree will be given due weight.

Experience

- At least ten (10) years of relevant experience in public sector and/or private sector (national/international organizations) in policy and research, including practical experience in field monitoring, proposal writing, management, organizational leadership and producing high quality reports.

- Strong analytical and conceptual skill with excellent knowledge of econometrics software for forecasting, modeling and simulation etc.
- Strong ability to design and conduct research, impact evaluations, and produce research publications (evidenced by actual publications).
- Experience in consultations with donors and government agencies for design and implementation of policies and programmes.
- Good knowledge of political, economic, social and cultural aspects in the province of Sindh.
- Good understanding of public sector's policy development and legislative process.
- Experience in project management/implementation, planning and design of large-scale social protection/development programs.
- Hands on experience in evaluation of technical bids, developing annual plans and design documents such as working papers/concept notes, proposals/PC-I/PC-II, ToRs and progress reports.
- Familiarity with government structures, operations, and procedure.

Skills

- Excellent communication skills in English and Urdu and ability to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team.

Duration

The consultant shall be engaged for a period of 03 years contract initially and will be renewable on need and satisfactory performances basis.

Selection Process

The selection will be made in accordance with the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services” November 2020.