

Call for expression of interest

Final independent evaluation of the “ILO-IRISHAID PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME 2016-22 INCLUSIVE GROWTH, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND JOBS”

Total project budget (allocation)	USD 10,571,900
Development Partners	IrishAid
Project Locations	Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam
ILO Administrative Office	CO-Lusaka (for Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia) CO Dar-es-Salaam (for the United Republic of Tanzania) CO-Hanoi (for Viet Nam) SOCPRO (for the global component) DEVINVEST
ILO Technical Office	Social Protection Department (SOCPRO) and the Development and Investment Branch (DEVINVEST) of the Employment Policy Department
Type of evaluation	Independent
Timing of the evaluation	Final
Application deadlines	30 March 2022
Type of contract	External Collaboration Contract
Post level	One international evaluation specialist (Team leader) and national consultants based in any of the above-mentioned five beneficiary countries (one for each country). Applications are welcome for the international/team leader post only, or for a team of international and national consultants, or for national consultant posts based in any of the five countries.
Languages required	Proficiency in English is required for all the posts. For national consultants, proficiency in the main national language(s) is a prerequisite.
Expected duration of the evaluation	For the international evaluator (team leader), approx. 41 days from April to mid-July 2022. For each national consultant based in the beneficiary countries, approx. 3-5 days between mid-May and end of June 2022.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is seeking expressions of interest from qualified individuals to conduct the final independent evaluation of a project titled “ILO-IRISHAID partnership programme 2016-22 inclusive growth, social protection and jobs”, which has been funded by the Government of Ireland. The evaluation will be conducted by one individual consultant or a team of consultants (international evaluation specialist/s), who would be responsible for the final deliverables. The evaluation will include the development of an inception report, a desk review, key informant

interviews, up to five country case studies¹, a survey and a stakeholder virtual workshop to present preliminary findings and recommendations, and the development of a draft and final evaluation report. The possibility of travel of the independent evaluator will be assessed given the pandemic situation. In the case that the independent evaluator is unable to travel to the programme countries, interviews at country level could be conducted with eventually national consultants. This will be assessed by the ILO Evaluation Manager and the independent evaluator. Qualitative information will be obtained through field visits (particularly in Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia), interviews and focus groups as appropriate. For the overall component, interviews may take place online, or possibly in Geneva.

Further details about the evaluation will be made available in the Terms of Reference, which will be shared with the contracted evaluator.

The programme “Inclusive Growth, Social Protection and Jobs” started implementation in December 2016 and will end in December 2022, covering five IrishAid partner countries, namely Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia, and including a global component. The objective of the programme is for national governments, to combine Employment-Intensive Investment Programs (EIIP) with social protection (SP) measures to effectively improve access to basic services and employment opportunities for the most vulnerable populations. In developing national social protection systems, the link between income security and employment policies is fundamental to “enable people to find productive and decent jobs, avoid long-term dependency and encourage labour market participation.”

The overall goal of the programme over the five countries is that national government develop and implement: (1) Comprehensive, well-designed and well-coordinated social protection systems to provide income protection, promote sustainable livelihoods and enhance productivity of the poor and vulnerable across the life cycle; and (2) Employment-promoting approaches to support the delivery of public investments to promote resilience, access to services and employment opportunities for poor and vulnerable people.

The social protection component focuses on four priorities:

- Facilitation of political and public debate on social protection with tripartite participation and awareness-raising
- Building capacities and enhancing coordination for the delivery of social protection
- Supporting the development of social protection policy and programmatic framework
- Defining appropriate financing mechanisms which are based on the economic and fiscal capacities of each country

The Employment-Intensive-Investment Programs’ (EIIP) component focuses on three priorities:

- Supporting governments to integrate employment generation as an explicit objective within public expenditure programmes across relevant sectors
- Supporting the development of appropriate procurement and other procedures to facilitate this
- Supporting the development of strategies to promote local small-scale business capacities

Gender equality and disability inclusion and other non-discrimination concerns are mainstreamed:

- To ensure women’s representation in the design and governance of social protection and EIIP policies.
- Maternity protection and childcare responsibilities in social protection floors.
- Women’s equitable access to direct wage employment under EIIP schemes by creating:

- a. Appropriate channels of communication for women

¹ The country coverage and depth/breadth of each case study will be determined at the inception stage of the evaluation process, taking into account of the availability of the national consultants, security situation, any mobility/connectivity issues, among other relevant parameters.

- b. Space for women (and men) to balance paid work with unpaid care work.

Geographically, the programme focuses on EIP in the United Republic of Tanzania, and on social protection in the other countries.

The main beneficiaries of the social protection component of the programme are all residents with a preliminary focus on vulnerable persons in Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia currently uncovered by any form of social protection. The primary beneficiaries of the employment-intensive investment component are young women and men and unemployed, budding entrepreneurs in the formal and informal sector and out of school youth. The secondary beneficiaries also include the potential project implementation partners. The direct recipients of the Irish Aid-ILO programme are national institutions with which the Project works to enhance the capacity for extending and implementing social protection and EIP. These would include policymakers, managers, technical staff, and social partners involved in the design and implementation of social protection floors and pro-poor public investment.

The logical framework of the programme is aligned with that of the ILO's Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All. The programme is also aligned with the ILO's Programme and Budget policy Outcomes on social protection and employment over the various biennium of its implementation and contributes to the SDGs 1, 3, 8, and 10.

The programme benefitted from a mid-term independent evaluation, conducted between September 2019 and February 2020, to support accountability and to inform programme improvement and organizational learning as well as provide recommendations for the second half of its implementation.

Expected qualifications of prospective candidates

For this assignment, it is essential that the evaluator has strong knowledge of the [United Nations Evaluation Group's \(UNEG\) Norms and Standards for evaluation](#), the [ILO Policy guidelines for evaluation](#), in addition to a solid understanding of the [ILO's mandate](#), tripartite structure, gender and inclusion policies. Effective stakeholder engagement is a vital aspect of this evaluation.

The independent international evaluation Lead consultant/evaluator will demonstrate the following set of competencies and experience:

1. Master's degree from a reputable university in a relevant field (social sciences, development studies, economics, management).
2. A minimum of eight years of relevant experience conducting evaluations.
3. Knowledge of the ILO's role and mandate, tripartite structure, gender and inclusion policies.
4. Demonstrated experience, especially within the UN system, in project cycle management and logical framework approaches as well as on results-based management.
5. Experience in the evaluation function of national and international organizations and a full understanding of the UN evaluation norms and standards.
6. Technical background in social protection and labour related matters.
7. Knowledge and experience of at least one of the countries and regions involved (Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia).
8. Capacity to produce user-friendly, pragmatic and prospective recommendations in both operational and managerial terms.
9. Full proficiency in English. All reports, including drafts will be written in English.
10. No relevant involvement in the ILO/IRISHAID Programme design and implementation.
11. No relevant bias related to ILO, or conflict of interest that would interfere with the independence of the final evaluation.

Required qualifications for national consultants

- First-level or higher degree from a reputable university in a relevant field (social sciences, development studies, economics, management), with a minimum of three years of relevant experience conducting evaluations
- Knowledge of the ILO's role and mandate, tripartite structure, social protection, gender and inclusion policies would be an advantage
- Prior experience of working on evaluation assignments
- Ability to speak local/national language and proficiency in English

Candidates intending to submit an expression of interest must supply the following information:

1. A statement specifying whether the application is: a) for the international/team leader post only; b) for a team of international and national consultants; or c) for national consultant posts based in any of the seven countries.
2. A description of how each candidate's skills, qualifications and experience are relevant to the required qualifications of this assignment.
3. A list of previous evaluations that are relevant to the context and subject matter of this assignment, indicating the role played by the consultant(s) applying.
4. A statement confirming the availability to conduct this assignment and the daily professional fee expressed in US dollars.
5. A copy of each candidate's curriculum vitae (which must include information about the qualifications held by the candidate).
6. A statement confirming that the candidates have no previous involvement in the implementation and delivery of the project being evaluated, in addition to having no personal relationship with any ILO Officials who are engaged in the project. and
7. The names of two referees (including phone and email) who can be contacted.

The deadline to submit an expression of interest for undertaking the evaluation is **30 March 2022, at 18h00 of Central European Time (CET)**. Please send an e-mail with the subject header "Final evaluation of ILO-IRISHAID Partnership Programme 2016-22 Inclusive Growth, Social Protection and Jobs" to the Evaluation Manager, **Francesca Fantoni** (fantoni@ilo.org).