

**Second Call for concept notes:**

**“Recovery from COVID-19 crisis:  
Building forward sustainable social protection systems”**

**As part of: EU Action on Improving Synergies between  
Social Protection and Public Finance Management**

1. The EU funded Global Programme on Improving Synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management (hereafter SP&PFM Programme) aims to strengthen social protection systems and demonstrate the importance of adequate and sustainable financing within improved Public Finance Management (PFM) frameworks to progressively achieve universal social protection, in line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the human rights agenda. Social protection is indispensable for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, for eliminating poverty and reducing inequality, and for alleviating the health, social and economic repercussions of covariate shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SP&PFM Programme has two approaches to its country interventions. This call is issued in the context of Approach 2 that provides on-request short-term technical advisory services to strengthen and expand social protection systems to a limited number of countries and EU Delegations. It complements Approach 1 for which 8 countries (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal and Uganda) have been pre-selected for longer-term support. Approach 1 is jointly managed by the ILO, UNICEF, and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, while Approach 2 is overseen by the ILO only.

The COVID-19 crisis dramatically demonstrated the consequences of significant social protection coverage gaps in many countries. Following the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020, the SP&PFM Programme immediately launched its first call for proposals under Approach 2, under which 10 countries (Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka and Togo) are receiving on-demand support to respond to the COVID-19 crisis through social protection measures. The SP&PFM Programme is now launching its second call for proposals.

2. Against this background, for this **second call of proposals**, countries shall develop requests for technical services addressing at least one of the four topics mentioned below, and to the extent possible, ensuring complementarity with existing EU Budget Support programmes. The 18 countries of Approach 1 and 2 are excluded from this second call. Each proposal shall underline the contribution to strengthening PFM, as well as the importance of international social protection principles and social dialogue for a strong recovery:
  - a) Concrete social protection and PFM actions to extend social protection coverage to **workers in the informal economy** and facilitate their formalization for example through innovative design, financing, administration and digitalization of social protection mechanisms.

- b) Concrete social protection and PFM actions to increase the **resilience** of social protection systems against future shocks and transformations and adapt social protection systems for a just **transition towards greener and digital economies**.
- c) Concrete social protection and PFM actions to ensure no one is left behind with special attention to **women and vulnerable groups** such as persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, through adequate design, financing and administration of social protection programmes.
- d) Concrete **social dialogue** actions to inform decisions for improving synergies between social protection and PFM. It is important that the population and social partners “own” the social protection systems in order to increase compliance, transparency, accountability, and to ensure that social protection programmes will not be rolled-back when governments change.

### 3. Services available through this call:

The present call invites interested governments in collaboration with EU Delegations and the ILO to submit their requests for technical advisory services, through the ILO Offices, using the template in Annex A and observing the following points:

- The services offered by the ILO are technical advisory services (see Annex C) to support analysis, planning, design and implementation of social protection systems and programmes. This is not a relief fund and requests to finance benefits in cash or in kind cannot be considered.
- Technical advisory services can be provided through ILO national and international expert staff that could be hired either in the country, regionally or internationally. The proposal and budget should indicate the appropriate number of work months required to either directly provide the expertise or backstop the technical support provided at country level by ILO headquarters and regional staff. The use of ILO’s global technical support facility (TSF) on social protection is encouraged<sup>1</sup>;
- The proposals will be implemented through the ILO Country offices.
- Proposals have to be aligned with the [EU Action document “Improving synergies between social protection and PFM”](#) and contribute to the implementation of its LogFrame.

### 4. Conditions to fulfil during the design and implementation of the proposal:

- The request for technical services follows a two-step process with first the submission of a preliminary proposal that will go through a selection process (see section 5), and then the development of a full proposal only for those selected (see section 6).
- The development of the preliminary and full proposals, as well as their implementation should pursue a participatory approach that involves governments, the EU Delegations, social partners, the ILO Office and other relevant stakeholders, in particular justification of consultations with social partners will be asked;
- Only one proposal per country can be submitted;
- Proposals should have a financial volume between 80,000-200,000 EUR (for a total volume of about 1 million EUR, a minimum of 5 countries will be selected) and have a maximum duration of 12 months;

<sup>1</sup> The TSF provides support services in social protection financing and PFM, actuarial studies, MIS, statistical capacities, administration/delivery, legal review/drafting, communication/culture, social health protection, unemployment, extension to the informal economy, climate change/just transition.

- Selection will be carried out based on the assessment criteria presented in Annex D. Selected countries will be notified approximately four to six weeks after submitting their requests.
- Accepted proposals are expected to contribute to knowledge of the global programme, including through a systematic use of the ILO Results monitoring tool: <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/MonitoringTool.action>.

#### 5. Submission the **preliminary proposals**:

- Preliminary proposals are submitted following a **three page-concept note** template (see Annex A), that presents the scope and nature of the request for technical services, as well as tentative budget (template attached in a separate document) and timeframe for implementation;
- The 3 page preliminary proposals should be elaborated jointly between the government, the respective ILO Social Protection Specialist or Country Office, and the EU Delegation. It should then be submitted by a government institution, endorsed by the EU Delegation (attaching the endorsement email), or the EU Delegation directly to the respective ILO Social Protection Specialist or Country Director, for transmission to Celine Peyron Bista ([bista@ilo.org](mailto:bista@ilo.org)) and Veronika Wodsak ([wodsak@ilo.org](mailto:wodsak@ilo.org)) **no later than 30 September 2021**.
- Preliminary proposals can be submitted in English, French or Spanish.
- The preliminary proposals will be reviewed by an Operational committee composed of European Commission and ILO headquarters representatives.

#### 6. Submission of the **full proposals**:

- Upon confirmation of selection of the preliminary proposal, a full proposal will be jointly elaborated by the ILO, the EU Delegation, and the government, in consultations with social partners and other relevant stakeholders, that will further specify the objectives, planned activities, methodology, work plan, profile of experts, the partner institutions as well as the budget allocation for the action;
- The full proposal will be a project document of maximum 20 pages, following the ILO rules and regulations, to be submitted no later than one month after receiving the confirmation of the selection of the preliminary proposal.
- For approval of the full proposal by ILO headquarters, the government institution or the respective ILO Social Protection Specialist or Country Director have to confirm that the EU country Delegation has been consulted and endorses the full proposal, attaching the endorsement email from the EU Delegation.
- Full proposals can be developed in English, French or Spanish.

#### 7. Tentative timeframe (this calendar is subject to adjustments)

30 July 2021	Launch of the second call
1 August- 30 September 2021	Preparation of the preliminary proposals by government or EU Delegations, with support of the ILO Country Offices or Social Protection Specialists
1 October – 30 October 2021	Review of the proposals by ILO SP&PFM Programme management
1 November – 12 November 2021	Meetings of the Operational Committee for the selection of the proposals
15- 19 November 2021	Replies sent to countries
22 November -15 December 2021	Preparation of the full proposals, with support of the ILO with support of the ILO Country Offices or Social Protection Specialists
30 January 2021	Activation of the Budget, start of the operations.

31 January 2023	All actions have to be fully completed and final technical and financial reports submitted to the ILO headquarters
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Please direct any questions you have in relation to the administrative process of this call or contacts of ILO officials responsible for the country to Celine Peyron Bista ([bista@ilo.org](mailto:bista@ilo.org)) and Veronika Wodsak ([wodsak@ilo.org](mailto:wodsak@ilo.org)).

8. As a reminder on the thematic programme **‘Improving synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management**

The request for short-term technical advisory services to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis through strengthened social protection systems and PFM shall contribute to the achievement of the overall Programme’s objectives (more detailed objectives and results, and examples of possible interventions, are in Annex B):

The **general objective** is to increase the population's universal social protection coverage in partner countries preferably but not limited to those benefiting from EU funded budget support operations.

The **specific objective 1** is to improve partner countries’ design and financing of social protection systems in support of their efforts towards SDGs 1 and 10.

The **specific objective 2** is to support governments in implementing and monitoring effective gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive social protection systems and programmes for all

The **specific objective 3** envisages assisting partner countries in developing and applying shock-sensitive social protection programmes and systems adapted to the needs of those living in protracted fragility and crises, including forcibly displaced persons.

The full Action document with the LogFrame for the overall Programme can be accessed [here](#).

## **Annex A: Template for submitting country technical advisory services requests (3 pages, including indicative budget)**

**Select the area of intervention:**

- 1. SP&PFM and extension of coverage and transition to formal economy**
- 2. SP&PFM and shock-responsiveness and just transition**
- 3. SP&PFM and inclusiveness of people with special needs**
- 4. SP&PFM and social dialogue**

### **1. Background and Justification**

#### **1.1. Country context and problem statement**

Please provide a quick summary of the national context and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and envisaged recovery measures, as well as lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis and social protection measures of the COVID-19 response to build more resilient, universal and sustainable social protection systems. Raise one particular issue/target population that the proposal intends to address. Include a brief overview of the existing social protection systems and programmes, with disaggregated coverage and expenditures data if available. Include some information on the national coordination mechanisms (including mechanisms for consultation between Ministries in charge of social protection and Ministries of Finance/Economy and social partners) and on-going PFM reforms.

#### **1.2. Synergies with other on-going projects by the EU Delegation, the ILO, other UN agencies; link with EU Budget Support if exists in the country**

Please highlight any other relevant interventions by the EU Delegation, in particular the link of the proposal with the EU Budget Support, the ILO, or other UN agencies that will allow for a quick start of the project and long-term impact.

### **2. Stakeholders' involvement in the design and future implementation of the project**

Elaborate on the roles and responsibilities of the Government and social partners in the future implementation of the project, including a rapid capacity assessment. Indicate whether the project will build its own consultation structure or will link to existing structure to ensure a participatory approach during its design and implementation. Provide clear details on the consultations with government, social partners and EU Delegation in this proposal (through meetings, emails).

### **3. Expected results**

Based on the logical framework of the global programme, please elaborate on the overall objective of the intervention, intended outcomes, results and activities and how they are interrelated.

### **4. Implementation arrangements**

#### **4.1. Summary of the technical services requested**

Please summarize the nature of the technical expertise needed for the implementation of the activities described under Annex D

#### **4.2. Management arrangements**

Present the planned management arrangement, in terms of human resources, including for technical backstopping, office arrangements, etc...

#### **4.3. Budget and timeframe**

Please use the budget template provided in Excel form and indicate the duration of the project.

## Annex B: Detailed objectives and results of the SP&PFM Programme, adapted to COVID-19

### General Objective

The **general objective** is to increase the population's universal social protection coverage in partner countries preferably but not limited to those benefiting from EU funded budget support operations.

### Specific Objectives

The **specific objective 1** is to improve partner countries' design and financing of social protection systems in support of their efforts towards SDGs 1 and 10.

Result 1.1: Adequate, sustainable and gender-sensitive social protection financing through improved cross-sector coordination to achieve progressively universal social protection.

- Support a national dialogue for the design of coherent social protection-related COVID-19 recovery plans, including also medium- and longer-term vision, the link with employment, support to enterprises and emphasize on formalization;
- Strengthen dialogue and participatory approaches in the design and implementation of social protection policies, including social protection COVID-19 response and recovery efforts;
- Undertake costings of recommended approaches to develop new social protection responses or adapt or scale-up existing social protection systems;
- Support fiscal space analysis and evaluation of financing options based on international social protection principles, with an emphasis on domestic resources mobilization for building forward more extended and sustainable mid- and long-term social protection systems.;
- Support the development of strategies for acceleration of social protection extension among workers of the informal economy, linking with policy for the transition to formal economy;
- Facilitate and build capacity of national stakeholders for the application of the international standards on social protection and its financing, in the recovery plans and in throughout the social protection policies.

Result 1.2: Enhanced evidence and availability of tools that support national evidence-based decision-making and encourage supra-national coordination and benchmarking of good practices.

- Support carrying out performance analysis of the existing social protection systems, programmes and delivery mechanisms regarding their ability to contribute to crisis-response and recovery efforts, with a view to strengthen these programmes and the role of social protection in building forward better;
- Support the implementation of cost-of-inaction analysis to demonstrate the likely consequences of failing to respond to the social protection needs of the population;
- Conduct a study on the multiplier effects of social protection as an advocacy tool for increased investment in social protection;
- Strengthen systems and mechanisms to monitor the timeliness and accuracy of the flow of funds, and enhancing their integration into national monitoring frameworks;
- Conduct actuarial valuation to assess the parameters of the extension of social protection coverage, and bring data and evidence to feed the dialogue on domestic resources mobilization for social protection;
- Support supra-national coordination efforts and exchange of information on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis and way forward across countries and regions for an accelerated recovery, including within regional economic communities;
- Collect information (administrative data) to develop evidence on the impact of the social protection COVID-19 response and recovery measures on poverty and vulnerability, reduction of inequality, formalization, employability of workers and other indicators;
- Support the application of analytical tools to generate evidence regarding the social protection needs and existing provisions taking into account effects of COVID-19.

The **specific objective 2** is to support governments in implementing and monitoring effective gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive social protection systems and programmes for all

Result 2.1: Strengthened capacities of partner countries to achieve the best impact of diversified sources of funding for social protection, prioritizing women, children, persons with disabilities, informal economy workers, migrant workers, and forcibly displaced people.

- Strengthen capacity of Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Labour and other technical ministries, social partners and civil society to engage actively in the national dialogue for strengthened social protection and its financing, including as part of the discussion on financing for development in the era of covid-19 and beyond at country level;
- Support the assessment of the institutional capacities to strengthen the implementation of the social protection programmes, including benefit-delivery mechanisms;
- Enhance institutional capacities to ensure better compliance of social insurance laws for increased coverage;
- Support the government to explore options for the continuity of the expanded or new social protection measures, including tools and mechanisms put in place to extend coverage and improve efficiency;
- Support countries to train staff on gender-responsive and disability-inclusive social protection

Result 2.2: Strengthened knowledge and technical capacities of partner countries at national and sub-national levels to plan, deliver, monitor and report on social protection programmes, with participation of training institutions, civil society and social partners.

- Support creation, adjustments or review of existing programmes including benefit design (frequency, duration, size/type of transfer, target groups, introducing complementary activities/services), changes in administration and delivery mechanisms (simplification of registration, identification, strengthening payment system, registries and broader management information systems, monitoring and evaluation, communication, complaints and appeals), including with special attention to inclusion of people with disabilities, learning from the COVID-19 responses;
- Support central institutions in designing staff training, especially at the local government level, for effective delivery of the new/adjusted/scaled-up social protection programmes;
- Support the strengthening of complaints and appeals and accountability mechanisms, as well as assessments of satisfaction, including through participation of CSOs and social partners in decision-making and/or monitoring arrangements, citizen report cards, spot checks etc. for COVID-19 recovery;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing with other countries and capacity building through the identification and dissemination of good practices in recovering from the COVID-19 crisis and South-South cooperation exchanges;

The **specific objective 3** envisages assisting partner countries in developing and applying shock-sensitive social protection programmes and systems adapted to the needs of those living in protracted fragility and crises, including forcibly displaced persons.

Result 3.0: Increased capacities of partner countries in the context of emergencies, natural disasters, forced displacements, protracted fragility and crises to establish contingency plans and multi-year funding strategies to run adaptive social protection mechanisms.

- Support the government in integrating successful social protection COVID-19 emergency response measures and delivery mechanisms into the social protection system in the medium- to long-run;
- Set up or strengthen coordination mechanisms for social protection recovery measures (notably between humanitarian and development actors, line ministries, finance ministries, social protection institutions and civil society organisations as well as social partners);
- Support the design and implementation of social protection measures and adaptation of existing programmes so that they respond to future shocks in a timely and effective manner. This may entail

supporting the national authorities to develop new and/or improve existing programmes without embarking on parallel delivery structures;

- Build on lessons learnt and good practices of the rapid expansion of the social protection systems, including during previous health and economic crises;
- Facilitate a dialogue to explore financing options for responding to future crisis through quickly deployable measures.

## Annex C: Assessment criteria of the preliminary proposals

Fulfilment of core requirements					
	Governments consulted	Y/N			
	EU Delegation consulted	Y/N			
	Criteria	Weight in the category	Weight of the total	Score	Justification
<b>1. Relevance of the proposal</b>	1.1 Coherence and relevance of the proposal (fit with the SP&PFM programme, national context and on-going projects, EU Budget support if exists)	15%	<b>70%</b>	0-15	
	1.2 Rationale for the intervention ( problem statement, elaboration of the proposed activities to tackle the problem)	10%		0-10	
	1.3 Expected results (logical and realistic results chain: Objectives, outcomes, outputs and activities; Measureable indicators of achievements formulated)	20%		0-20	
	1.4 International Standards (rights-based, universal, solidarity, sustainability, social protection systems-approach, stakeholders participation, etc.)	10%		0-15	
	1.5 Cross-cutting issues addressed (Gender, disability, older persons, informal economy)	10%		0-10	
	1.6. Contribution to build more resilient and shock-responsive social protection systems	5%		0-5	
<b>2. Delivery and Operations</b>	2.1 Implementation arrangements, roles and responsibilities (clarity of the implementation arrangements, stakeholder involvement)	14%	<b>30%</b>	0-14	
	2.2 Feasibility/ simplicity of the implementation process	8%		0-8	
	2.3 Cost efficiency	8%		0-8	

## Annex D: Summary of technical services requested and justification

For the description of the technical services required please refer to the following table:

PFM including financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability of Social Protection Systems</li> <li>• Improved PFM for universal, comprehensive and adequate social protection</li> <li>• Financing of response measures including through reprioritization of budget support, savings and reserves, including of social security funds</li> <li>• Fiscal space analysis and discussions with Ministries of Finance</li> <li>• Application of Social Security Inquiry and strengthened monitoring of social protection</li> <li>• Actuarial studies</li> <li>• Costing of policy options</li> <li>• Quantitative Impact assessments of social protection policy options (on poverty, GDP growth, formalization, inequality)</li> </ul>
Policy/ Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop national social protection strategies based on national dialogue</li> <li>• Extension of coverage to uncovered workers, in particular those in the informal economy</li> <li>• Legal assessments</li> <li>• Ratification of ILO standards</li> <li>• Drafting of social security laws and regulations</li> <li>• Development of a culture of social protection and awareness campaigns</li> <li>• Empowering workers' and employers' organizations</li> <li>• Working with the private sector and supply chains</li> <li>• Just Transition/Social protection and climate change</li> <li>• Gender-sensitive social protection</li> </ul>
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and implementation of the administration</li> <li>• Administrative reforms to improve the efficiency of the system</li> <li>• Development of Management Information Systems and digitalization of the administration</li> <li>• Development of monitoring and evaluation systems</li> <li>• Identification of beneficiaries</li> <li>• Design/adaptation and implementation of benefit delivery mechanisms</li> </ul>
Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Migrant workers</li> <li>• Refugees and host communities</li> <li>• Older people</li> <li>• People with disability</li> <li>• Women</li> </ul>
Branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pension/survivors design and reform</li> <li>• Health social protection</li> <li>• Sickness benefits</li> <li>• Disability benefits</li> <li>• Unemployment protection (and linkages with employment policies)</li> <li>• Maternity benefits schemes</li> <li>• Social assistance cash transfers</li> <li>• Family benefits</li> </ul>