

International Consultant, International Policy Centre For Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), formerly known as the International Poverty Centre (IPC)

Location:	Home-based
Application Deadline:	02-September-2010 (11:59 pm, Brasilia time)
Type of Contract:	SSA, international
Languages Required:	English; Portuguese and Spanish are assets
Starting Date:	mid-September-2010
Duration of Initial Contract:	3 months

Background

The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), formerly known as the International Poverty Centre (IPC), is a joint project between the United Nations Development Programme and the Brazilian Government to facilitate South-South Cooperation on key development issues. It specializes in offering research-based policy recommendations for inclusive growth. By encouraging South-South cooperation, the centre specifically aims to expand the knowledge base and capacities of developing countries to design and implement nationally-owned poverty reduction strategies. Toward these ends, IPC will conduct research, organize thematic workshops, hold policy training seminars, deploy advisory missions, and host resident researchers from various countries.

IPC's ultimate goal is to generate knowledge resources to the global community, including researchers and government agencies in developing countries as well as NGOs and activists. For that the Centre regularly publishes Working Papers, issues of Poverty in Focus, Policy Research Briefs, Country Studies, One Pagers, Evaluation Notes, Conference Papers and Technical Papers to encourage policy debate and dissemination of knowledge. IPC publications are found at <http://www.ipc-undp.org>.

IPC is currently recruiting an international consultant under its expanded work on social protection and cash transfers. Reference is made to the research project *Growth, Inequality, Poverty and Cash Transfers: A comparative study of Poverty Impacts and Institutional Aspects in Selected Countries in Africa and Latin America*, which counts on contributions from different research institutions and international organizations.

Growth, Inequality, Cash Transfers and Poverty: a comparative study of poverty impacts and institutional aspects in selected countries in Africa and Latin America

At the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, leaders from rich and poor countries alike committed the world to a set of eight time-bound goals with quantified targets – the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions: income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. The first target concerns the income dimension of poverty: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

Income poverty reduction is a function of several interacting factors, including importantly: Economic growth, inequality of the initial distribution of incomes and assets, and of opportunities; as well as social protection and provision policies. There is increasing interest among policy analysts and researchers, and in public opinion and political debate, concerning the relative importance of these factors in different country contexts.

This project is intended to inform the policy debate by undertaking empirical research in several countries in both Africa and Latin America, in order to produce evidence-based policy options and recommendations for policy-makers in different kinds of countries. Special focus will be given to the design of programmes and to whether cash transfers should be conditional or not. Dissemination will include structured policy dialogues, primarily in the form of presentation in-country workshops and a series of international conferences, based on country reports, working papers, policy briefs and a comprehensive final report.

One important aspect of this debate is how policy measures, including programmes for social protection and provision, can achieve mutually reinforcing poverty reduction outcomes by enhancing both the livelihoods and productive capabilities of poor men and women, reducing inequalities and stimulating pro-poor growth? In that regard, cash transfer programs are of particular interest. Cash transfers can be particularly important for simultaneously addressing several MDGs, or dimensions of poverty. They can relieve both the direct and opportunity costs of sending children to clinics and schools, while also providing general livelihood support to the whole household.

However, questions have been raised regarding its appropriateness in country contexts that are quite different from those of large middle-income countries in Latin America. Small lower middle-income and low-income countries in Latin America such as Honduras and Nicaragua have adopted CCTs, but added a supply dimension to the programme to tackle the issue of quantity and quality of public services of health and education. Their experience can shed some light on the current discussion that is going on in Africa regarding the adequacy of CCT in low-income countries and less developed countries.

Moreover, are CCT programmes cost-effective in countries with very low overall human development, or are they suitable only for countries which have reached an intermediate HDI level, where targeted CCT programmes may be used as a tool to support lagging areas or groups? More generally, to what extent is there, or should there be, complementarity between CCTs and CTs within different kinds of countries? The relevance of the distinction between middle-income and low-income countries should be analysed in this context, as well as differences in the impact of (C)CTs across different socio-economic groups within countries.

The above outline the key issues being addressed by this research project. It will focus consistently on the policy implications of the results, including testing political feasibilities through integrated policy dialogues, in-project dissemination events and external events.

The project

This project has been designed to analyse evidence from countries in Africa and Latin America on the effectiveness, efficiency and design of different forms of cash transfers for different country contexts, including political feasibility concerns as well as institutional requirements and constraints.

It is divided into four inter-related parts:

1 – The role of growth and redistribution in Honduras, Nicaragua, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Brazil and South Africa.

The objective of this part is to disentangle the importance of growth and the fall in inequality for lower poverty levels. Existing evidence for Latin America shows that redistribution is more effective in lowering poverty than growth, but very little is known for African countries. This topic can offer some insights into how low-income Central American countries compare to low income African countries in terms of the role of growth and inequality in shaping poverty.

2 - Needs Assessment: Are there supply side constraints for effective CCTs?

With regard to policy implications, this component of the research project tries to evaluate the feasibility in terms of adequacy, affordability and sustainability of a demand-side based programme, given the supply of services available to the vulnerable population (defined as population without access to free education and basic health services). We also look at the impact of the supply side constraints on the targeting of a conditional programme. Would a conditional programme imply that the poorest will be left out, for example?

3 – Institutional analysis

This component involve an institutional analysis of cash transfer experiences in the different countries of the study, based on a review of available documents, reports and papers on each program, as well as semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups with key actors and strategic stakeholders (government officials, program coordinators, field workers, journalists, local researchers, community leaders, beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups).

This component analyses the institutional framework in which CCTs and CTs were established in each country, taking account of political economy issues and operational challenges. In particular, the focus will be on:

- Comparative overviews of the main features of each program
- How each CT relates to the overall social policy and institutional structure of the country in which it is being implemented
- Perceptions of the main stakeholders and opinion makers on CTs vis-à-vis supply-side programs or other related interventions
- Implementation strategies used (targeting, beneficiary registration, transfer mechanisms, community participation, gender approach, monitoring and evaluation)
- Administrative capability of the organizations involved
- Support for CTs among different groups of stakeholders
- Prospects for sustainability and scaling-up of the existing CT programs

Expected Outputs

- 1) 40-page report ;
 - 1.1) Structure of the report (end of September)
 - 1.2) Draft report (mid- November)
 - 1.3) Final report (early December)

2) 4-page executive summary (December) and;

3) One pager (December)

The report is expected to be analytical, concise, drawing parallels between countries and experiences and also highlighting common challenges. The consultant will define the structure of the report jointly with IPC-IG focal point for this research. Moreover the consultant is expected to carry out the following in the preparation of the substantive document, from the individual reports below:

- consolidate the research outputs listed in the box below and other complementary references to be defined in consultation with IPC-IG focal point,
- triangulate the major finding of the research, integrating the three parts of the research and
- highlight comparative lessons.

Countries	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Added Value
SOUTH AFRICA	The impact of Growth and Distribution on Poverty and Inequality in South Africa (Country Study N.7)	Expanding the Social Security Net in South Africa: Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints (Country Study N.8)		
BRAZIL	Evaluating the Impact of Brazil's <i>Bolsa Família</i> : Cash Transfer Programmes in Comparative Perspective (Evaluation Note N.1)		Targeted Cash Transfer Programmes in Brazil: BPC and the Bolsa Família (Working Paper N. 46).	What Is the Impact of Cash Transfers on Labour Supply? (One Pager N. 85)
NICARAGUA			Nicaragua's <i>Red de Protección Social</i> : An exemplary but short-lived Conditional Cash Transfer Programme. (Country Study N. 17)	Impact Is Not Enough: Image and CCT Sustainability in Nicaragua (One Pager N. 79).
HONDURAS	The recent impact of Government Transfers on Poverty in Honduras and alternatives to enhance their effects. (Working Paper N.47)	Unpublished draft material	Assessing Honduras's CCT programme PRAF, <i>Programa de Asignación Familiar</i> : Expected and Unexpected realities. (Country Study N. 15)	
UGANDA	Growth, Inequality, Cash Transfers and Poverty in Uganda (Country Study N. 19)	Conditional cash transfer scheme for human capital development in Uganda: Are there supply side constraints for effective	Institutional analysis of social and cash transfers experience in Uganda (Unpublished)	

Countries	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Added Value
		implementation of such a scheme? (Unpublished)		
ZAMBIA		Assessing Administrative Capacity and Costs of Cash Transfer Schemes in Zambia: Implications for Rollout (Country Study N. 20)		Social Cash Transfers in Zambia: What Is Their Impact? (One Pager N.91)
KENYA	The Role of Growth and Redistribution in Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Kenya (unpublished)	Cash Transfer in Kenya: Are Supply and Demand Side Constraints to the Effective Implementation of Programme? (unpublished)	Institutional Framework of Cash Transfers in Kenya (unpublished)	
EL SALVADOR			The Challenges of El Salvador's Conditional Cash transfer Programme, Red Solidaria. (Country Study N. 9)	
PARAGUAY	Debating Targeting Methods for Cash Transfers: A Multidimensional Index vs. an Income Proxy for Paraguay's Tekoporã Programme (Evaluation Note N.2)			Achievements and Shortfalls of Conditional Cash Transfers: Impact Evaluation of Paraguay's Tekoporã Programme (Evaluation Note N.3) and Cash Transfers and Child Labour: An Intriguing Relationship (One Pager N. 71)
PARAGUAY AND EL	Unpublished draft material		Confronting Capacity Constraints on	'Growing Pains': Key Challenges

Countries	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Added Value
SALVADOR			Conditional Cash Transfers in Latin America: The Cases of El Salvador and Paraguay. (Working Paper N. 38)	for New Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes in Latin America (One Pager N. 44)
LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA				Poverty In Focus N. 15: Cash Transfers in Africa and Latin America

Latin America and Africa:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPovertyInFocus15.pdf>

South Africa:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy7.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy8.pdf>

Brazil:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper46.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCEvaluationNote1.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager85.pdf>

El Salvador:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy9.pdf>

Paraguay

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCEvaluationNote2.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCEvaluationNote3.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager71.pdf>

Paraguay and El Salvador:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper38.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager44.pdf>

Nicaragua:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy17.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager79.pdf>

Honduras:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy15.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper47.pdf>

Uganda:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy19.pdf>

Zambia:

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager91.pdf>

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCCountryStudy20.pdf>

Required Qualifications, Skills and Experiences

Essential

- Msc in Economics, Social Sciences, Development Studies and other related disciplines (PhD desirable).
- Proven publications record, preferably peer reviewed papers and journals focused on Poverty, Social Protection, and Cash Transfers.
- Knowledge of Statistics and Econometrics with some familiarity with the programme evaluation literature.
- Writing experience in economic and social policy issues.
- Ability to write clearly and concisely.
- Proficiency in various MS Office applications (Excel and Word).
- Fluency in English is required (Spanish and Portuguese are assets).

Desirable

- Experience in conducting economic research and handling economic analyses for consulting projects.
- Experience in development policy research with academic, government, research institutions and/or international organizations.
- Professional service as referee of journals.
- Excellent written skills in English.
- Flexibility to travel.

Application procedures

Applicants must submit: CV, technical proposal, and financial proposal to ipc-procurement@ipc-undp.org no later than **11:59 pm (Brasilia time) on 02 September 2010**, quoting in the subject “**SSA international, CCT comparative study**”. Applications posted after this deadline will NOT be considered.

Reference checks will also be conducted and each proposal should include a minimum of two (2) references. References should be relevant to the work proposed and should be available and ready to respond within 2 days of receipt of a request.

The financial proposal must be output-oriented. The consultant is expected to propose a gross amount in USD (US dollars) per output, detailing any required expenses for the proper deliver, such as: human resource support, office supplies, field trip expenses, etc. Travel expenses to Brasilia or to any other destination to disseminate research results should not be considered in the financial proposal. These costs will be covered by IPC-IG directly, once missions are approved.

The consultant must detail a timeframe for delivering output(s) or part of the final output. Installments will depend upon their equivalency to delivered outputs, based on the cost indicated by the consultant in the financial proposal. Candidates must be available to start working immediately.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Evaluation Criteria

Only submissions following the above-mentioned guidelines will be considered. Submissions **MUST** include both technical and financial proposals. These should be presented as separate documents and labeled accordingly. Email submissions will be accepted and must be sent in a timely fashion to meet the prescribed deadline.

The evaluation will be based on a combined quality and cost-based selection system with the technical evaluation being given a weight of 80% and the financial proposal a weight of 20%.

A two-stage procedure will be used in evaluating submissions, with the evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any financial part of the tender being opened and compared. The financial proposals will be opened only for submissions that pass the minimum technical score of 70% of the obtainable score of 100 points in the evaluation of the technical proposals.

1. SELECTION OF TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

The maximum score at this stage is 100. The Technical Assessment of Proposals will follow the criteria (next page) to be divided into 2 levels of review:

- a) Level 1: Assessment of CVs. Candidates who does not meet with the minimum required consultancy qualifications will eliminated at this phase of the review.
- b) Level 2: This phase is classificatory. Only proposals selected in the first level of review will be assessed. This will include an in-depth review of the proposal (including competencies and experience outlined in the CV) for the assignment including those skills which are desirable as outlined above.

The evaluation criteria for the proposals will be as follows:

Technical Assessment of Proposals	
Criteria	Score
Specific experience in relation to the assignment: - Experience with similar outputs: reports, policy briefs, one pagers, academic papers, newspapers articles: 25 - Previous experience with summarizing findings of a major research project: 20	Maximum of 45
Sample of written report and/or policy brief in the area or related area	Maximum of 25
Qualifications, experience and competence of the consultant:	Maximum of 25

- Writing skills: 5	
- Knowledge of Social Protection issues: 10	
- Knowledge of the regions (Latin America and Africa): 5	
Reference check	10
Total Score - 2 nd Phase of the Technical Assessment of Proposals	100

2. SELECTION OF FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

In this stage, the financial part of the tenders of all bidders, who have attained the minimum score of 70% in the technical evaluation, will be evaluated. The lowest cost proposal will gain the maximum points.

The financial evaluation will be carried out using the financial ratio formula:

$$\text{Weight} = 20 [(Lb) / (Bp)]$$

Where:

(Lb) is the lowest financial proposal

(Bp) is the amount of financial proposal of the bid

The lowest financial proposal (Lb) is to be given a financial score of 20 points.

Financial Proposal	Marks (max 20)
Proposal cost	100
Financial Proposal	Weighted 20
Score	

3. FINAL REMARKS

This selection process will be conducted by IPC-IG, according to the applied rules and regulations (simplified selection and recruitment under Special Service Agreement - SSA).

Best evaluated tender: The best evaluated tender recommended for the award of the contract will be the one found to have the highest ranked bid with combined technical and financial score.

Confidentiality: Information relating to evaluation of proposals and recommendations concerning awards, shall not be disclosed to the bidders who submitted the proposals or to other persons not officially concerned with the process, until the winning firm has been notified that it has been awarded the contract.

Corruption and conflict of interest: Any bidder who makes a deliberate attempt to influence the tendering process and award of tender will be automatically disqualified.