

Request for Proposals

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is requesting for proposals for an impact assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers and their families in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China (Hong Kong SAR, China).

1 BACKGROUND

Migrant workers often serve in frontline roles in health care, agriculture and food production, domestic work, construction and ensure the continuity of supply chains across the Asia region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been contributing greatly to their host societies and economies.

However, the pandemic has affected many migrant workers adversely, especially those who are employed in the informal economy and low-income jobs. Some are suffering disproportionately negative social and economic impacts, due to factors such as longer working hours, job loss and wage reductions, limited access to health care and other essential services.

To address identified challenges and promote the protection of migrant workers across Asia in response to COVID 19, the IOM aims to strengthen the evidence base on the impact of COVID-19 on migrant worker populations to inform current, future and post crisis responses. This would benefit policy makers and businesses as key duty bearers for the protection of migrant workers. Ensuring that migrants are not left behind in the pandemic response is also essential to achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

This impact assessment is being conducted as a project activity under the Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) programme in Asia, with support from the Development and Cooperation Section of the Swedish Embassy in Thailand and in collaboration with partners from the private sector and civil society.

2 OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this consultancy is to conduct a migrant-centred, gender-sensitive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on migrant worker populations in Hong Kong SAR, China. The assessment will be delivered in the form of an assessment report which could cover the following sections: 1) an overview on the impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers of various sectors (for example, domestic work, entertainment, sex work, hospitality, the care sector and construction) in the Hong Kong SAR, China; 2) the impact of COVID-19 on the recruitment processes, including loan-taking and debt; 3) the impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers' working conditions; 4) the impact of COVID-19 on access to justice and remedy for migrant workers; 5) migrant workers' access to healthcare and their experiences with COVID-19 vaccination.

3 SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY AND TIMELINE

IOM is seeking a qualified research consultant or a team of consultants to conduct an exploratory qualitative assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers, their families and communities in the Hong Kong SAR, China and produce a gender-sensitive impact assessment report.

The development and implementation of the assessment will be conducted for a total period of six months, tentatively from November 2021 to April 2022. IOM therefore anticipates that the research plan will be confirmed in the first month. This will be done collaboratively between IOM and the consultant. Literature review and data collection will be conducted in the second and third months. A validation workshop will be organized in the fourth month. Preliminary data should be presented in the fourth month to feed into a regional summary. A draft assessment report is anticipated to be submitted at the beginning of the fifth month and a finalized assessment report incorporating IOM feedback will be ready by the end of the sixth month.

The assessment report may be published and disseminated to stakeholders in the networks of IOM. The applicant can choose to be responsible for the copy-editing and design of the final assessment report, which will take place in the seventh month, ie May 2022 tentatively. If the selected researcher or research team does not opt for the copy-editing and design of the final assessment report, IOM will issue another call for proposals for this specific part of this project.

4 TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

The consultant will need to deliver the following items:

- 1) A research and work plan which covers the methodology, draft questionnaires (if used), timeline and the structure and format of the final report (upon initial discussion with IOM);
- 2) Literature review;
- 3) Data collection from stakeholders, such as migrant workers, CSOs, the authorities of the Hong Kong SAR, China and consulates of origin countries, through surveys, interviews, or focus group discussions, etc (online and/or offline), with gender considerations included in the data collection and analysis;
- 4) Provide a draft report with an analysis of preliminary findings and recommendations;
- 5) A validation workshop with IOM to share the study findings and collect feedback from key stakeholders;
- 6) A draft assessment report;
- 7) A final assessment report of 50 pages maximum, including an executive summary, methodology, literature review, findings and recommendations, considering all the comments/input provided by IOM and other stakeholders at different stages.
- 8) Copy-editing and design of the final report in line with the IOM House Manual, if the applicant chooses to be responsible for this part as well.

Close consultation with IOM at every step is required.

5 METHOD OF APPLICATION

The proposal shall include the following:

- A cover letter (one page maximum), specifying clearly the qualifications and suitability. For applicants who are teams researchers, this should be clearly stated in the letter;
- Detailed curriculum vitae with information on previous assessment and/or research work;
- Samples of previous assessment and/or research reports;

- A description of the approach, methodology, work plan and budget for performing the assignment (eight pages maximum). The work plan should be consistent with the timeline stated above.
- The budget should not exceed HKD220,000. The budget will cover all costs needed to conduct this assessment, including interpretation, venue rental, and transportation allowance for interviewees (if applicable); design of the assessment report; and other relevant costs. IOM will bear the cost of the validation workshop separately. If the applicant does not opt for the copy-editing and design of the assessment report (in strict accordance with IOM's publication guidelines), the budget should be lower than HKD220,000 as IOM will have to set aside a sum for this specific aspect of the project.

The completed proposal should be clearly marked CFCV-2106 in the subject line of the email to iomhongkongoffice@iom.int by 18 October 2021. Kindly keep the file size under 10MB.

Contact person for enquiries: Ms. Vini Damayanti; email: vdamayanti@iom.int

6 EDUCATION AND COMPETENCIES

Education

- Master's degree in Political or Social Sciences, Economics, Law, International Relations, or an equivalent combination of training and experience; or
- University degree in the above fields with 3 years of relevant professional experience.

The proposed researcher/ team should have following competencies:

- Proven relevant experience in research and study on migration, business and human rights topics;
- Preferably prior experience working with non-profit organizations as well as participatory research;
- Thorough understanding of issues pertaining to human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and labour migration. In particular, the candidate should demonstrate good knowledge of the international ethical recruitment standards;
- Familiarity with the subject matter regarding migrant workers in various sectors in the Hong Kong SAR, China and issues they face especially during COVID-19;
- A good command of data collection and interviewing techniques;
- Excellent time management skills and ability to produce outputs as per agreed deadlines;
- Experience in engaging with migrant domestic workers and recruitment agencies;
- Experience in organizing workshops;
- Strong analytical, oral and written communication skills, and report writing skills in English.

The proposal should be written in English.

Any attempt for persuasion will be considered as a disqualification

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CONSULTANTS/ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

FIRMS/Consultants WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TAX OR VAT ISSUES IF APPLICABLE