



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Reference number	TOR-VNM-2021-050 (Please refer to this number in the application letter)
Title	National financial expert
Purpose	To provide technical advice to advocate for gender responsiveness of financial policies in Viet Nam. This is an activity under the joint programme on Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.
Duty Station	Hanoi, Viet Nam
Contract duration	From 15 Oct 2021 to 5 Dec 2021 (max 30 working days)
Contract Supervision	Programme Specialist
Application deadline	28 September 2021

I. BACKGROUND

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the center of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

In Viet Nam, UN Women contributes to the development objectives of Viet Nam's Socio-Economic Development Plan and the National Strategy for Gender Equality. Its Country Strategy Note for 2016-2021 is aligned to the upcoming One Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and is focused on supporting Viet Nam's fulfilment of Gender Equality commitments under CEDAW, and the promise of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to "leave no one behind".

The key priorities of UN Women in the 2017-2021 period are, (i) to support transformation of government's growth policies and related key sectoral policies such as rural development, labour and employment, climate change (CC), and disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M) to progressively promote women's economic security and resilience; (ii) deepen the implementation of CEDAW recommendations and the gender targets of SDGs that will ensure the gains in the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls are sustained and deepened.

Viet Nam has made notable progress in gender equality during the past few decades, including improvements to policies, legal frameworks and the national institutional mechanism on gender equality and the advancement of women. This progress has been reflected in diverse areas, including education and training, the economy, employment, health care, labour and political participation.

Although the Government has made great efforts to follow and act in the spirit of the Gender Equality Law 2006 (GEL) and the National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) 2011–2020, efforts towards gender equality and the advancement of women continue to face challenges, including the lack of financial investment to implement gender equality commitments in existing legal framework. In term of financing for gender equality, in June 2015, the National Assembly approved revisions to the State Budget Law and Law on Promulgation of Legal Documents. A notable change in the former is that gender equality has been included as one of the principles for state management of budgets. Integrating considerations for gender equality in all stages of the State Budget process is a significant improvement in term of legal framework for gender equality. However, gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is still an unfamiliar concept in Viet Nam with little capacity in government to drive and ensure that this commitment in the State Budget Law (2015) will be translated into any change in resource allocation. Time is therefore right to systematically introduce GRB. The implementation of GRB must be an integral part of the ongoing public finance management (PFM) reform process including reform of legal and policy frameworks on the budget process, institutional changes to promote transparency and accountability, and the participation of citizens in budget formulation and allocation.

Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs: In 2020, together with UN Agencies, UN Women developed a joint programme named ***Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs***. The overall objective of the JP is to support Viet Nam’s transformation to a more inclusive, green and climate resilient economy and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Towards the full implementation of the SDGs by 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda called for countries to establish INFFs that can support cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies. To date, diagnostics of development finance in Viet Nam have identified several actions that, if taken, would not only enable the achievement of the SDGs by 2030, but also propel Viet Nam into the fastest growing emerging market in the world within the same period.¹

The JP will assist the development and rolling-out of Viet Nam’s 2030 integrated financing and investment strategy, of which the SDGs are at the heart, while considering the impact of the recent pandemic, COVID-19. The JP will focus on improving public spending on health and education; and increasing finance for climate issues and green growth. The JP will engage the national stakeholders working for gender equality in Viet Nam, as well as women-led enterprises in the policy consultations and dialogues to ensure women’s views on gender equality are fully incorporated. Boosting the growth and competitiveness of private SMEs, especially women-led enterprises, will work towards providing decent jobs as well as improving women’s empowerment. From gender equality, implementing commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment requires a range of tools and efforts, all underpinned by financial investments if countries want to achieve gender-related targets on the SDGs. This joint programme will contribute and provide more evidence on how financing for gender equality and women’s empowerment can be strengthened through domestic resource as, a way forward in order to ensure more and better financing for gender equality.

¹ See The joint UNDP-Government of Viet Nam Development Finance Assessment (2018) Found at: <https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/poverty/DFA.html>

There is a need for the Government of Viet Nam to improve the linkages between planning, budgeting and results. Such an improvement would lead to a better allocation of public resources to achieve priority targets, particularly on green and climate resilient growth and human resource development, and to proper tracking of government spending. It would also enable an evaluation of the impact of public expenditure on development goals for future planning and budgeting, as well as public accountability.

Taking advantage of the market in Viet Nam, which is on the cusp of capitalizing on various sources of finance, the JP will seek to help Viet Nam accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through the following means. Through these means, Vietnam's development finance landscape would correspond strongly to the national development ambitions and the reduction of inequalities to ensure 'No one is Left Behind':

- i) By strengthening resource allocation through better alignment of development finance with SDG priorities such as inclusive, green economic growth strategies. This will increase Vietnam's competitiveness, regionally and globally;
- ii) By strengthening both horizontal and vertical integration of public investment mechanisms, and reducing fragmentation in the planning to results cycle and the coordination problems related to decentralization; and
- iii) By increasing the crowding-in of private finance; and assisting in the implementation of the recent Party Resolution to harness and steer FDI towards sectors and activities that have forward and backward linkages with the local private enterprises, promote knowledge and technology transfer and keep returns circulating in the domestic economy.

Given the sophistication of the public administration and its partners in Viet Nam, the JP approach will be to increase the government's access to innovative instruments for financial analysis developed globally and to the experiences of other relevant countries in taking forward institutional innovations towards INFFs. As analysis is implemented and experience shared, the JP will ensure targeted technical assistance is made available to implement priority actions.

In this context, UN Women is looking for a national financial expert who will conduct the review of some financial policies in Viet Nam for the period 2021-2030 to identify gaps that will limit financing for gender equality in the context of the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

II. OBJECTIVES

In the context of the Joint SDG Fund to support Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated finance strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, this consultancy will contribute to better understanding of the key national stakeholders on the importance of having gender mainstreaming to financial policies and to promote the achievement of the SDGs through strengthening the use of domestic resources to finance for gender equality in Viet Nam.

III. SCOPE AND SPECIFIC TASKS

Scope: Under this consultancy, the national expert will conduct the review of the following policies:

- National Financial Plan for the period 2021-2025
- Medium-term public investment plan 2021-2025
- Social Economic Development Plan for the period 2021-2025
- National Strategy on Gender Equality for the period 2021-2030

The analysis will respond to:

- Analyse if any assessments have been conducted to identify possible financing policies and instruments to mobilize and align finance with gender equality objectives in national gender equality strategy.
- Identify and analyse challenges for financing gender equality as committed in the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2030?
- Identify and analyse the key risks and challenges to integrating gender equality into the implementation of the financial policies: including capacity constraints, political economy considerations and how these challenges can potentially impact to the implementation of gender equality agenda in the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Identify and recommend the entry points for gender equality and women's empowerment be considered in the implementation of those policies to promote financial investment and strengthen the use of domestic resources to finance for gender equality in Viet Nam.

Specific tasks:

- Collect relevant information to conduct the review
- Based on the guiding questions, suggest the report outline and provide written analysis
- Develop the report with maximum 30 pages (not include reference list and other annexes)
- Attend regular technical meetings with UN Women and other expert to present the findings and verify the recommendations
- Based on the analysis, provide written comments for an UN Women report on the mainstreaming gender equality in the Integrated National Financing Framework in Viet Nam (the guidance on mainstreaming gender equality in the Integrated National Financing Framework can be found from <https://inff.org/resource/technical-guidance-note-mainstreaming-gender-equality-in-integrated-national-financing-frameworks>)

IV. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGMENT

The national expert will work under the direct supervision of UN Women Programme Specialist and will be ultimately responsible to UN Women Country Representative in Viet Nam. If the national consultant is not based in Hanoi, UN Women will cover the travelling cost for the consultant to conduct and attend meetings in Hanoi following the UN-EU cost norms.

V. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT AND DUTY STATION

Duration of Assignment: The tentative contractual period is from 20 Oct 2021 to 10 Dec 2021 (max 30 working days).

Duty Station: Home-based and meetings in Hanoi if needed.

VI. DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

No.	Deliverables	Proposed deadline	Schedule of payment
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft the report that outline the gender gaps in the key financial policies in Viet Nam. - Draft inputs into the UN Women report on the mainstreaming gender equality in the integrated National Financing Framework <p>Deliverables in Vietnamese</p>	15 Nov 2021	50% of payment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report on gender responsiveness of some key financial policies in Viet Nam (Vietnamese and English) - Final inputs into the UN Women report on the mainstreaming gender equality in the integrated National Financing Framework in Viet Nam (Vietnamese) 	10 December 2021	50% of payment

VII. QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

The applicant will be evaluated based on technical capacities (70%) and financial proposal (30%). Technical evaluation will be based on the following criteria stated as below.

1	Master's degree on Gender and Development, Sociology, Economic, or other related field	10 points
2	10 years of working experience on supporting the national stakeholders for the development and implementation of the financial policies in Viet Nam	20 points

3	A minimum of 7 years working experience on planning policy or budgeting policy or gender budgeting/mainstreaming issues at the national and subnational level	20 points
4	A minimum of 2 years working experience on gender budgeting/mainstreaming issues	20 points
5	Having experience in conducting research and policy papers on financial and gender issues	20 points
6	Good writing skills	10 points
	Total	100 points

Core Values and Competencies

In addition to aforementioned requirements and qualifications, it is important that the intern shares the core values and core competencies of the organization.

Core Values

- Respect for Diversity
- Integrity
- Professionalism

Core Competencies

- Awareness and Sensitivity Regarding Gender Issues
- Accountability
- Creative Problem Solving
- Effective Communication
- Inclusive Collaboration
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Leading by Example

Please visit this link for more information on UN Women's Core Values and Competencies:

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/about%20us/employment/un-women-employment-values-and-competencies-definitions-en.pdf>

The weight of technical points is 70% and financial points is 30%.

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on Cumulative analysis, the award of the contract will be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) Responsive/compliant/acceptable; and
- b) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

VIII. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

Candidates are requested to send the following documents in separated attachment in one application email to procurement.vietnam@unwomen.org

1. Application letter explaining your interest in the consultancy and why you are the most suited candidate for this position
2. Updated CV, including professional reference.
3. One example of the written products that the candidate is one of the main writers to prove the knowledge on mainstreaming gender into financial policies and programmes.
4. Personal History Form (P11). The P11 Form can be downloaded from the following website: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/about-us/jobs>
5. Financial proposal specifying the total lump sum amount (breakdown of the daily professional fee in local currency and proposed number of working days). The candidate does not to include the travelling cost as UN Women will follow the EU-UN cost norms.

Deadline for Application: 28 September 2021

NOTE: Documents required before contract signing:

- UN Personal History Form
 - Full medical examination and Statement of Fitness to work and travel for consultants with travel involved. (This is not a requirement for RLA contracts).
 - Completed UNDSS BSAFE online training course.
EN: <https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=17891>
 - Individual subscribers over 65 years of age are required to undergo a full medical examination including x-rays at their own cost and obtaining medical clearance from the UN Medical Doctor prior to taking up their assignment.
 - Release letter in case the selected consultant is government official.
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