



**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TERMS OF REFERENCE / INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT**

I. Job Information

Job Title:	International Evaluation Expert
Project Title/Department:	Area Based Development programme (including the TB project)
Type of contract:	International Contractor
Duration of the assignment:	20 working days till 20 December 2011
Duty station:	Home based (maximum 5 days) with 1 mission to Uzbekistan (no less than 15 days, including international travel days)
Expected places of travel:	Karakalpakstan and Kashkadaria regions
Reports to:	Head of Economic Governance Unit , ABD-ELS Project Coordinator, UNV Programme Officer

II. Background and context

II.1 Objectives of the projects being evaluated

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Uzbekistan plans to carry out an evaluation of the Area Based Development (ABD) programme (ID: 00056795), including the Tuberculosis (TB) project (00069502).

The purpose of the ABD programme, which has been implemented in Karakalpakstan and Kashkadarya since 2005, is to improve the living standards of the rural population in these two target regions.

The specific objectives of the ABD programme are the followings:

- Strengthening the capacity of regional authorities to support poverty reduction initiatives;
- Increasing the capacity of rural communities to participate in local development processes and undertake self-help initiatives;
- Increasing communities' equitable access to rural development services and business opportunities.

The current phase of the programme commenced in August 2008 and is scheduled to end on 31 December 2011. The activities target the population and community institutions of the most economically vulnerable rural *Mahallas* in the province of Kashkadarya and in the semi-autonomous region of Karakalpakstan, as well as the local authorities in the two regions.

The expected outcomes of the programme are:

- Middle-level government officials are better capable to support local development planning.
- Local communities are better capable to take part in and contribute to their socio-economic development.
- Communities have increased access to rural development services and business opportunities.

The TB project is a specific component of the ABD programme, and is implemented jointly with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV). The project has operated in five districts of the Karakalpakstan region since January 2009, and is due to end on 31 December 2011.

Within the overall strategy of the ABD programme, the TB project is expected to achieve the following specific outcomes:

- Increased understanding and reduced fear of TB as an illness.
- Increased use by community members of health facilities, for TB and other medical complaints.
- Reduction in TB prevalence.
- Enhanced sense of community ownership for local development.
- Improved communications between officials at government offices and health centres, and local people.
- Enhanced recognition of the role volunteerism can play in community development.

II.2 Main project activities

The ABD programme implements three main activities:

1. Capacity building of local government bodies in regional development planning and public services provision.
2. Building rural communities' capacity to participate in local development processes and undertaking self-help initiatives for improved access to essential public services.
3. Building the capacity of community level business and agricultural advisory services and improving communities' economic productivity.

Within the first activity, the programme has contributed to the design of a regional development strategy in Kashkadarya, developed guidelines in local development planning, conducted a capacity assessment of local authorities, and provided training to middle-level civil servants. As part of the second activity, a selection of most economically vulnerable rural communities were targeted for participatory decentralized planning and rehabilitation of essential public services. This activity has been integrated with the TB project community mobilization and volunteer interventions. Through the third activity, the programme has supported the start-up of agricultural co-operatives and small rural businesses through equipment grants and trainings, funded innovative micro-loans schemes, established pilot 'farm field schools' and Business Development Centres.

II.3 Geographic, demographic and social-economic context

Karakalpakstan is a semi-autonomous region of the Republic of Uzbekistan, located in the north-west of the country, with a low density population, and one of the lowest income *per capita*. Due to the natural disaster of the Aral Sea, the region is confronted by important challenges in the environment, notably land degradation in the form of salinization, desertification, and increased vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters. TB, an infectious disease associated with poverty and low incomes, has been spreading exponentially and has reached peaks of 70% higher than the average for Uzbekistan.

The Kashkadarya region is one of the southern regions of Uzbekistan, the region is endowed with the largest gas production in the country. There are large deposits of gold, silver, aluminum, tungsten, iron, molybdenum, granite, coal, marble. At the same time, the region faces widespread unemployment and poverty, as well as environmental degradation. According to the World Bank Living Standards Assessment, poverty incidence in Kashkadarya is over 40% and unemployment is as high as 35%. Low incomes in agriculture means that employment does not shield from poverty. The overall level of basic services to the population, particular in rural areas, remains poor. Land degradation on irrigated territories is a major problem, this results in loss of income, in particular for the socially vulnerable groups.

II.4 Project's resources

The total financial resources allocated to the ABD programme (including the TB project) is US\$ 4,581,000.

II.5 Key project's partners

The National Implementing Partners are the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, the Regional Khokimiyat of Kashkadarya.

II.6 Observed changes since the beginning of implementation and contributing factors

The government of Uzbekistan is a signatory of the Millennium Declaration and the ABD programme is an integral part of the UNDP's strategy of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In particular, the programme design aims to directly contribute towards the achievement of the nationalized MDG target 1: reduce poverty by half by 2015; and to the related UNDAF¹ Outcome 1: economic well-being of vulnerable groups is improved, including notably for residents of economically underdeveloped rural communities. Within this outcome area, UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP)² has focused on supporting the government strategy through interventions in the spheres of economic governance and initiatives that lead to welfare improvement (CPAP outcomes 1.1. and 1.2)³. The programme also addresses MDG 6, combating HIV/AIDS, TB and other diseases, notably in Karakalpakstan. The national targets to be achieved by 2015 are to: a) reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and b) have them halted by 2015. UNDP CPAP supports these targets, through outcome 3.2.⁴

III. Evaluation purpose

The current evaluation aims at generating lessons learnt and recommendations to guide decision-making for future actions in the areas of human security and sustainable development, while taking stock of the efficiency and effectiveness of the ABD programme and TB project in the achievement of the planned outcomes.

IV. Evaluation scope and objectives

The evaluation will concentrate on the last two years of programme implementation. The geographical scope of the evaluation extends to the two regions of Karakalpakstan and Kashkadarya. Within each region, at least two districts are to be covered. Within the target communities, the evaluation should focus on women single heads of households, children, TB patients, as particularly vulnerable target groups of the programme activity. In terms of outputs, the evaluation will focus on the quality of public service delivery to communities and on the quality of community participation in local governance, as a result of the programme activity.

The objectives of the evaluation aim to address the issues of efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the programme intervention. The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the ABD programme intervention in the target communities in terms of improved public services delivery for the resident populations, with a focus on the above mentioned target groups; the analysis will include a tentative qualitative assessment of the potential effect of this project outcome on the UNDAF outcome 1-i.e.economic well-being of vulnerable groups is improved.

¹ UNDAF 2009.

² UNDP Country Programme Action Plan 2010-2015:

³ CPAP Outcome 1.1: "Capacity of the central and local authorities enhanced to develop and implement economic and social security policies aimed at welfare improvement of vulnerable groups". Outcome 1.2: "Increased employment opportunities and economic security for vulnerable groups".

⁴ CPAP Outcome 3.2: "Strengthened public administration at all levels that exercises efficient, accountable, and inclusive governance".

- To assess the effectiveness of the TB project in the target communities, including a qualitative assessment of the potential effect of the TB project outcomes on the national target: reverse the spread of tuberculosis.
- To assess the quality of the processes of participation in local governance in target communities and the effectiveness of the ABD programme and TB project interventions on the development of communities institutions.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the ABD programme and TB project supported community mobilization, volunteerism, and development planning on the economic productivity of the target communities and the economic well-being of community residents, including notably the aforementioned target groups.
- To evaluate the nature of the conceptual and practical linkages between ABD pilot capacity building activities at community level and ABD pilot capacity building of government institutions at district and provincial levels.
- To appraise the synergies between the ABD and TB interventions and other interventions and partners in the target areas, including notably the UN system and GIZ, by looking specifically at how resources have been leveraged towards the attainment of the relevant MDG 1 and MDG 6 targets.
- To explore evidence of replication of the ABD pilot activities and investigate the possible instruments for 'scaling-up' the pilot interventions into national sector policies.
- To evaluate efficiency in the use of ABD/TB programme resources and how far these have contributed to or hindered the achievement of programme's results and CPAP's outcomes.

V. Evaluation questions

The following evaluation questions define the information that the evaluation is expected to generate:

- Where the ABD and TB planned outcomes achieved?
- When not achieved, what progress towards the outcomes has been made?
- What are the likely factors that have contributed to achieving or not achieving the planned outcomes?
- To what extent the ABD and TB outputs have contributed to achieving or not achieving the planned outcomes?
- Have the ABD/TB partnership and management arrangements with third parties been effective?
- What factors contributed to the effectiveness and ineffectiveness?
- Where the risks properly identified and well managed?
- Where programme's resources efficiently applied?
- What has been the likely contribution, if any, of the ABD programme's outcomes to poverty reduction (improved living standards) in the target areas?
- What are the prospects for the sustainability of the ABD and TB outputs or outcomes after the end of the implementation phase?

VI. Evaluation deliverables

Payment will be made in lump sum in three installments upon completion and submission of Performance Evaluation From (PEF) on the works performed below:

- **Evaluation inception report** – the report should demonstrate with logical and structured arguments the evaluator's understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each evaluation question will be answered by outlining the proposed **methodology** for data collection and analysis.

The report should include a detailed time **schedule** of activities and an **evaluation framework** in the form of a table outlining for each evaluation question, the correspondent sub-questions, indicators, sources of information and information collection methods. Questions and sub-questions should be classified in accordance with the three focal DAC criteria of this evaluation: efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability. (within - 3 working days, 40% of lump-sum).

- **Draft evaluation report-** to be reviewed by UNDP to ensure that the required quality criteria are met. (within - 10 working days, 20% of lump-sum).
- **Final evaluation report-** the report should include clear **lessons learnt** and **recommendations**. The latter should identify areas and instruments which have better prospects to 'scale-up' the pilot benefits of the project. (within - 2 working days, 40% of lump-sum).

VII. Required qualifications , skills and professional experience

Qualifications:	Postgraduate degree in development economics or public policy and management (or equivalent)
Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in the English language. Knowledge of Russian and/or Uzbek languages would be a strong advantage. • Computer literacy (minimum: word and spreadsheet). • Excellent communications and reporting skills • Behavioural competencies appropriate to a multi-cultural environment, including sensitivity and respect for cultural and gender diversity
Professional experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 years professional experience in the field of development policy and poverty reduction • Prior experience in the evaluation of co-operation programmes in the sphere of poverty reduction and MDGs • Substantial experience in project/programme design and management. • Experience in rural development would be a very strong advantage • Familiarity with the UNDP regulations and procedures in the sphere of development co-operation
Others:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant should be ready to provide documental evidence for the claimed qualifications and professional experience • The evaluator should be independent from any organizations that have been involved in designing, executing or advising in any aspects of the project that is subject to this evaluation. Similarly, the evaluator should not have been directly involved in designing , executing or advising in any aspects of the project

VIII. Signatures- Post Description Certification

Incumbent *(if applicable)*

Name	Signature	Date
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Supervisor

Emilio Valli
Poverty Reduction Specialist/
Project Coordinator

Name / Title	Signature	Date
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Sherzod Akbarov,

Programme Analyst/ Head of EGU		
Name / Title	Signature	Date
Chief Division/Section		
Jaco Cilliers		
UNDP Deputy Resident Representative		
Uzbekistan		
Name / Title	Signature	Date