Call for Prospective Project Consultant on the Generation of the 2009 Small Area Estimates of Poverty

The NSCB is inviting prospective Project Consultants whose expertise in statistical modelling and poverty measurement would be needed for the updating of the small area poverty estimates for the country.

1. Background

Decentralization in the Philippines has shifted the decision-making for poverty alleviation programs from the national government to local governmental or non-governmental agents. The design of decentralization processes and local-decision-making need to be based on reliable, locally relevant information on living standards. Thus, an understanding of poverty at detailed spatial scale has become imperative for geographic targeting of interventions aimed at improving welfare levels.

Per Executive Order No. 352, the development of the poverty methodology was assigned to the Technical Committee on Poverty Statistics (then Technical Working Group on Income and Poverty Statistics). On the other hand, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) is designated to compile the country's official poverty statistics.

Official poverty statistics are computed based on the final results of the Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES), which is the official source of income and expenditure data of families in the country. This is conducted every three years by the NSO, the latest of which was conducted in 2009.

It is worth-noting that the FIES is costly to implement, with regions as domains. 2009 official provincial poverty incidences showed that:

- 23 percent of the provinces have coefficients of variation (CVs) of less than 10%;
- 57 percent of the provinces have CVs ranging from 10 to 20%; and
- 20 percent of the provinces have CVs of more than 20%.

Also, the design of the FIES does not permit reliable analysis of smaller subgroups, such as cities and municipalities. This has become a severe constraint for policymakers, who need to know not only which provinces are the poorest, but also which cities/municipalities within a province are the poorest.

In response to this growing need for poverty statistics at lower levels of disaggregation, the NSCB implemented two projects on small area estimation (SAE) to generate poverty incidences at the city/municipal levels using the ELL technique developed by a WB research team.

In 2005, the NSCB produced for the first time, SAE of poverty for the year 2000 through the Project, "Poverty Mapping in the Philippines" with funding assistance from the WB-ASEM Grant. The data sets of the merged results of the 2000 FIES and Labor Force Survey (LFS), and the 2000 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) sourced from the NSO were used to come up with the 2000 SAE of poverty.

In 2008, the NSCB generated for the first time, intercensal SAE of poverty for the year 2003 through the Project, "Intercensal Updating of Small Area Poverty Estimates" with funding assistance from the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (WB TFSCB). The data sets of the merged 2003 FIES and LFS, and the 2000 CPH were used.

In September 2011, data sets for the merged 2009 FIES and LFS and the 2007 Census of Population (PopCen) have become available from the NSO. In line with the overall objective of the NSCB to be ever-relevant to policy- and decision-makers and the urgent need for more updated and disaggregated estimates of poverty, updating of the 2003 intercensal SAE of poverty shall be undertaken.

2. Objectives of the Project

Building on the previous efforts undertaken through the NSCB-WB projects on SAE of poverty, this study will attempt to generate 2009 updates of SAE of poverty.

Specifically, the objectives of the Project are as follows:

- Generate updated 2009 city and municipal level poverty estimates based on the small area estimation technique;
- Generate poverty maps for 2009; and
- Generate report on the 2009 city and municipal level poverty estimates.

3. Project Outputs and Deliverables

With the project objectives stated above, the expected outputs of the Project are as follows:

- 2009 SAE models with the corresponding city/municipal poverty estimates;
- Provincial and municipal poverty maps for 2009; and
- Project Report on the 2009 SAE of poverty.

4. Scope of Work of the Consultant

A team consisting of a Consultant and the NSCB Project Staff will work on this Project. The Consultant will be responsible for all computations and project reports with the assistance of the NSCB Poverty Team. The Team, together with the Consultant, will liaise very closely with the NSCB Directorate/Poverty Team Advisers during the entire duration of the updating activity.

More specifically, the Consultant shall undertake the following tasks/functions with the assistance of the NSCB Poverty Team:

- Review all available data that could be used for the updating activity and conduct data cleaning/preparation and merging of data files;
- Prepare the data assessment report and document the problems, issues and remedial solutions in connection with the data;
- Develop and document the programs/system (using Stata) for the generation of model/s and corresponding estimates (poverty incidence, poverty gap, income gap and severity of poverty) and their standard errors and coefficients of variation;
- Develop the model/s and generate the corresponding poverty estimates;
- Produce provincial and municipal poverty maps;
- Document the steps/procedures as well as the issues and problems encountered in the generation of estimates;
- Prepare the report comparing the estimates to be generated from the Project with the 2009 official poverty estimates;

- Prepare the corresponding reports;
- Present the project outputs, findings, and recommendations to the Technical Committee on Poverty Statistics and the NSCB Project Management Committee;
- Prepare the draft project report; and
- Finalize the overall project report based on the comments and suggestions incorporating the inputs from the NSCB Project Management Committee.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of the candidates and the selection of the Consultant

Criterion	Weight (%)
A. Education	10
B. Relevant Training	5
C. Familiarity and experience in working on the data sets of major statistical activities: Census of Population and Housing (CPH), Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and Labor Force Survey (LFS)	20
D. Knowledge and expertise on small area estimation of poverty (including statistical modelling/analysis)	25
E. Experience in the use of statistical softwares, especially STATA and SPSS	15
F. Comprehensive knowledge of the official poverty estimation methodology and the issues on poverty measurement	15
G. Overall work commitments and availability; current/ pending projects and responsibilities	10
TOTAL	**100**

6. Required Documents

All interested applicants are requested to submit the following documents on or before 29 November 2011:

1. Expression of interest
2. Curriculum vitae detailing the applicant's qualifications, relevant experience and competence, and references

For inquiries and clarifications, please contact Ms. Mildred Addawe at telephone number 896-7981 and e-mail address mb.addawe@nscb.gov.ph.