



Issued on: 11 July 2017

Deadline For Application: 21 July 2017

JOB TITLE: Electronic cash-based transfer specialist

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant

DUTY STATION: Rome, Italy (with frequent missions)

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: TCED3

DURATION: 6 months (with possibility of extension)

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Organizational Setting

Over the past fifteen years, FAO has implemented food security interventions by means of cash- and voucher-based programmes in forty countries. Specifically, FAO has engaged in voucher schemes for agricultural inputs, seed and input trade fairs, public works (cash-, food- and voucher-for-work) as well as, more recently, conditional and unconditional cash transfers and cash+. FAO specializes in cash transfer programs that promote agricultural production and food security and increase smallholder farmers' resilience to shocks and crises.

At the end of 2012, FAO established a policy for the Organization's use of specific CT modalities to address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity and as tools for social protection initiatives. This was followed in 2013 by two sets of guidelines – Guidelines on Public Works (cash-food- and voucher-for-work) and Guidelines for Input Trade Fairs and Voucher Schemes – that provide practical guidance to design and implement selected cash transfer modalities. After the release of the policy paper and the guidelines, FAO started to mainstream cash transfer programming (CTP) across offices in the field. In 2016, a cash transfer programming team was formally established in the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (TCE).

Transferring benefits in the form of cash and vouchers electronically can provide significant advantages over manual systems (cash in an envelope and paper vouchers). FAO is currently capitalizing on the growth of digital financial services to deliver cash transfers through mobile money and other electronic payment systems that can also support financial inclusion, i.e. the delivery of basic financial services (e.g., savings, credit insurance) to unbanked households to improve their resilience and sustain their livelihoods.

In light of the above, FAO is scaling up the use of electronic payments in its cash-based transfer programming both in humanitarian and development settings.

Reporting Lines

The Electronic cash-based transfer specialist work under the overall supervision of the Senior Programming Officer of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (TCE) and the direct supervision of the Cash Transfer Programming Coordinator.

Technical Focus

The electronic cash-based transfer specialist provides support, clearances and backstopping on all projects and programmes with cash-based components involving the use of electronic payment systems (with a focus on, but not limited to, electronic vouchers for provision of agricultural inputs and mobile money for cash transfers)

Tasks and responsibilities

The Electronic cash-based transfer specialist will:

- Technically backstop FAO Decentralized Offices undertaking cash-based transfer programs using electronic payment systems
- Analyze electronic payment systems proposals and provide advice and recommendations to enable effective decision making on project technical feasibility and cost-efficiency
- Technically review and advise on the instruments used by FAO DOs to engage financial service providers (e.g., banks, mobile network operators)
- Identify and assess risks associated with electronic payment systems and assist in the management of such risks
- Provide guidance and develop operational tools to support FAO staff in DOs in the design and implementation of cash-based transfer programs using electronic payment systems
- Conduct analysis of electronic/digital payment systems available in selected countries
- Undertake market feasibility studies to assess the state of the provision of digital financial services in selected countries and advise programming and operational decisions accordingly
- Liaise with colleagues from the Information Technology Division (CIO) and Finance Division (CSF) as required
- Draft concept notes, guidelines and training materials on electronic payment systems;
- Provide training to team members and facilitate knowledge sharing;
- Perform other relevant duties as required.

Expected outputs

- Remote technical backstopping and support to FAO Decentralized Offices delivered
- Programming and operational support missions undertaken
- Training session (approx. 4 hours) on electronic delivery of cash-based transfers developed and piloted
- Technical tools and guidance to develop the use of electronic payment systems developed
- Concept notes and proposals for cash-based interventions using electronic payment systems/delivery mechanisms formulated

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree (MA or higher)
- 7 years of relevant experience in different aspects of humanitarian and development assistance relevant to cash transfer programming with at least 2 years specifically on cash and voucher programming preferably for food security purpose;
- Previous experience working with UN agencies is desirable;
- Working knowledge of English and high-level competency in French and/or another UN official language.

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work
- Extent and relevance of experience in electronic payment systems including mobile-based money transfers, mobile vouchers, card-based payments, such as prepaid debit cards, and/or other digital technologies;
- Solid knowledge of policies and regulations governing digital financial services as well as global and regional best practices in the field;

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All applications will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.
- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
- For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org

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