

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**CENTER FOR ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL RIGHTS**

SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

**Research consultancy on the role of public spending in addressing human rights
disparities in the Americas in the context of COVID-19
(December 2020 – Mar 2021)**

Call for applications and Terms of reference

Objectives:

The Americas Program of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International and the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) seek a consultant with a strong base in economics and technical analysis of applied policy in public spending on economic and social rights.

The Americas is the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also the most unequal region of the world according to ECLAC. Amnesty International and CESR are constructing a joint publication which will analyze the impact of public spending in addressing economic and social rights disparities in the context of COVID-19 in selected countries of the Americas. The consultancy will involve gathering and analyzing key indicators of inequality previous to the pandemic (especially around health expenditure and infrastructure) and key measures taken by states during the pandemic (especially economic and fiscal measures).

The aim is to distill some human rights conclusions in terms of the measures taken by states, whether they were helpful to entrench or diminish pre-existing inequalities based on ethno-racial, gender and socio-economic status. The consultancy will serve as the basis for a joint publication from Amnesty International – CESR.

The key questions we want to answer are: How far have the fiscal measures that States have taken to respond to COVID-19 (in particular revenue raising and expenditure on healthcare and health infrastructure) been adequate to address the unequal impact of the pandemic? How can states strengthen their capacities (including the capacity to raise enough resources) to be able to invest in equitable, efficient, transparent, sustainable and accountable measures to reduce unequal impact of the COVID-19?

The specific aims of the consultancy would be product-based, in three areas:

- 1) Literature review, technical compilation of information and data and initial analysis in 14 countries of the Americas, based on publicly available measurements from national and international bodies, disaggregated if available, on:
 - a) COVID-19 impact (key indicators to be agreed)
 - b) Pre-existing inequalities (key indicators to be agreed, focus on health expenditure and health system capacity to cope, but other broader indicators of economic and social inequality should be included)

- c) Emergency expenditure on health during COVID
- 2) Compile the most relevant indicators to assess economic and fiscal policies from a human rights standpoint. (For example, with information already published by international bodies such as ECLAC and IMF, among others).
- 3) Indication of key case studies to deepen the research should be included in the analysis.

In order to agree on the indicators and the methodology of the study the consultant will have a working session at the beginning of the consultancy period with CESR and Amnesty International teams.

Reports to: Regional Researcher, Americas (Amnesty International) and Program Officer (CESR)

Language: Spanish (fluent). English (proficient). Portuguese (sufficient to read technical documents).

Profile of candidates:

- Undergraduate degree in economics, public administration, development or related fields (Masters’ degree desirable but not essential). At least 7 years of experience working in an applied field on public policy in relation to health or fiscal policy on social protection, either within international organizations, civil society, or the public sector.
- Previous experience on human rights, with knowledge of human rights standards in relation to economic and social rights.
- Proven research experience and strong writing skills. Ability to synthesize and analyze quantitative information.

Deliverables and activities:

The consultant will develop the following activities:

Deliverables	Due date
Literature review, technical compilation of information and data on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) COVID-19 impact (key indicators to be agreed) b) Pre-existing inequalities (key indicators to be agreed, focus on health expenditure and health system capacity to cope, but other broader indicators of economic and social inequality should be included) c) Emergency public expenditure on health during COVID-19 pandemic 	8 January 2021

Compilation of base line indicators (to be agreed) to assess States' responses to COVID (formats to be agreed, including visualizations understandable for the general public). Economic and fiscal measures taken by selected states during COVID	30 January 2021
First draft with analysis of Economic and fiscal measures taken by selected states during COVID	15 February 2021
Final draft	15 March 2021

Remuneration:

Total remuneration: 6,000 GBP. To be paid in two or four parts, agreeable with consultant. (First payment from January 2021 onwards).

To apply, please send your CV and a brief cover letter to: marita.calderon@amnesty.org by 30 November.