



COUNTRY REPORT ASSIGNMENT

within the research project

“Effects of the Fiscal Crisis on Vulnerable Groups in the E&E Region”

*implemented by the **Economic Policy Institute, Sofia***



*funded by the **JBS, INTERNATIONAL INC, AGUIRRE DIVISION***

The financial crisis and accompanying recession have had a severe impact on government budgets, raising the specter of huge government debt burdens down the road. The economic constraints and the prolonging transitional process caused serious pressures on the national finances in the E&E Region and the social programmes towards the vulnerable groups are usually the first to be contracted. However, the national authorities are also looking for the support of international organization to address the existing gaps in the needed funding.

The goal of this study is to present a detailed analysis of the impact of the global fiscal crisis on vulnerable groups in the E&E region, and to document the extent to which individuals in the region have been made newly vulnerable. The analysis will rely on both quantitative data and qualitative data to examine the impact of the crisis on the following vulnerable groups (at a minimum): **refugees, at-risk children (including orphans and street children), child and adult victims of human trafficking, people with disabilities, those living below the poverty line, the unemployed, and the elderly.** As much as is feasible, the analysis will: document increases or decreases in the number of vulnerable people in these groups, articulate mechanisms via which the fiscal crisis has impacted these individuals and increased the number who can be considered vulnerable, and make recommendations as to how national programs and the initiatives of the international donor organizations may be designed or modified so as to best address and combat increases in any of these categories of vulnerability.

This activity is expected to stimulate timely and critical dialogue and to provide concrete resources and technical information that are necessary to develop strong programs that address the needs of these vulnerable individuals and measurably improve their lives.

The research project is generally applicable to the E&E region. However, there will be assigned 13 country reports for the following states: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Montenegro and Ukraine. There is no field work authorized in conjunction with producing the country reports. Country partners are expected to obtain information via access to data set, publications and other printed materials, emails and the internet. The country reports should be in English. Generally the country reports should be separated in seven sections (four fundamental and three supplementary). The textual part (without table, graphics and figures) of the report should be 8-10 pages.

Detailed Scope of Work

- 1) An overview of the impacts of the crisis (economic and fiscal) in the country, with a special focus on the impacts of the people. This section should include a brief discussion of perceived versus real impacts and a review of the available financial packages with government policies. Discussion over the current government policies and a brief evaluation.
- 2) A detailed discussion of each of the following vulnerable groups: refugees, at-risk children (including orphans and street children), child and adult victims of human trafficking, people with disabilities, those living below the poverty line, the unemployed, and the elderly. This discussion should highlight what is known about the impact of the fiscal crisis on the size and the status of each group, based on qualitative and quantitative data and should describe the major pathways or mechanisms by which the group has been or is being impacted. As much as possible, the conclusions that are drawn in these discussions should be based on data, but news reports, journal articles, etc. may also be utilized.
- 3) A discussion of any possible long-term impacts on human and social capital in the region.
- 4) Consideration of whether women or men in the country should be classified as a vulnerable group in the context of the fiscal crisis. If any analysis of the available data suggests that the gender is linked with the vulnerability, a section presenting the results of the gender analysis of the crisis should be included in the Country Reports. Alternatively, gender issues could be addressed in a sub-section of the portion of the paper that addresses each of the vulnerable groups listed above.

5) Appendices with statistical data sets – tables, graphs and figures.

Tip: *It will be better if the statistical data sets are separated from the textual part and the conclusions in the text refer to them with (See Table....). Please keep in mind that the sources of the information are needed to mentioned as references. We kindly ask you to work with the most up-to-date information and data sets (2007-2009) as well as we will need also a short review of the trends for the last 5-6 years. We count on you to deliver the most up-to-date statistical data sets from the local officials from the responsible statistical offices or government agencies (website, bulletins, annual reports, etc.).*

6) List of References

Tip: *Please make as comprehensive list of references as possible. This is an essential part of the report. Highly welcome are references in English*

7) Short questionnaire

Tip: *You will find enclosed a short inquiry blank to be filled in*

Please confirm your intention to provide the report by **January 21, 2010**. A member of our team will send you a contract that needs to be signed.

Date for the submission of the filled-in questionnaire: **February 26, 2010**

Date for the submission of the report: **March 26, 2010**. In two weeks a member of our team will contact you if any questions appear over the report.

Payment: **\$550** on **April 16, 2010**

Please, do not hesitate to contact us for additional information and questions at email: epi@epi-bg.org or tel. + 359 2/ 952 29 47

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