

Thematic Expert Group: Frequently Asked Questions

Objective: To provide governments with on-demand sector and thematic expertise to help integrate climate into economic recovery plans and packages in response to COVID-19.

The process for receiving support for a request for expertise involves:

- Submitting a request to econadvisors@ndcpartnership.org, from either the NDC Partnership government member focal point(s) or economic advisor(s), if cleared by the focal points.
 - If needed, the NDC Partnership will clarify the details of the request before circulating it.
- Receiving a notification from the NDC Partnership when one or more responses have been received for the request. Members of the expert group have seven business days to respond to each request.
- Determining whether to proceed with one or more of the responses provided. The NDC Partnership will then invite the expert(s) to communicate directly with the government to provide the requested support.

1. What is the Thematic Expert Group?

The Thematic Expert Group provides governments with on-demand sector and thematic expertise related to climate adaptation and mitigation to help integrate climate into economic recovery plans and packages in response to COVID-19. The support aims to help align the integration of economic recovery with a country's NDC and other national climate change planning documents, including low-emission development strategies (LEDS) and/or long-term strategies (LTS).

2. What types of support can and cannot be requested?

A wide range of support is available, including technical advice, research, and/or guidance. Requests for support can range from a single one-hour phone call with a technical expert to several weeks of analytical work. Ultimately, the scope needs to be clear from countries requesting support so an appropriate response can be generated from the partners engaged in the Thematic Expert Group.

3. Who can request support?

All NDC Partnership member developing countries are eligible to request support.

4. Who are the responding partners?

There are sixteen members of the Partnership who are part of the Thematic Expert Group. They are: Germany (GIZ, PATPA, LEDS-GP), Climate Analytics, Euroclima+, FAO, IDB, ILO, IUCN, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Red Cross Climate Centre, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), UN-Habitat, UNCDF, UNEP, UNDP, WHO, and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

5. On what sectors and themes is support available?

Sectors and themes indicated by partners include agriculture, biodiversity, cities and urban development, climate modeling, climate planning and reporting, disaster risk and vulnerability, energy, fiscal policy, forestry, health and nutrition, industry, jobs and skills, labor and economic policy, land use, socioeconomics and social protection, subnational governance, transport, and water, sanitation and hygiene. However, it is anticipated that partners can provide support on additional areas, if requested (e.g. gender, ecotourism).

6. Is there a cost?

This advice is available, at no cost, to all developing country members of the NDC Partnership.

7. How do I submit a request?

Requests for support should be emailed to econadvisors@ndcpartnership.org by either the NDC Partnership government member focal point(s) or the economic advisor(s), if cleared with the government focal points.

8. What should be included in requests?

- A brief description, including the sectors or themes and types of support (e.g. discussions, research), as well as how the request is directly related to the country's economic recovery efforts; and
- The estimated time needed and via what medium (e.g. one 1-hour advisory call, 20 hours of analytical work).

An example email template is provided on page 3, followed by two different examples of country requests.

9. How is this different than the Economic Advisory Initiative support being provided?

The Economic Advisory Initiative is working with 13 NDC Partnership developed country and institutional members to embed approximately 55 economic advisors in ministries of finance/planning in 33 countries. This is being done through the recruitment of short-term consultants, with most positions being full-time for a 12-month period, although some are for just 6-9 months.

The support offered through the Thematic Expert Group, while complementing the efforts of the economic advisors (where relevant), is distinct. The Thematic Expert Group services are available to all developing country members of the Partnership and relies on existing staff and consultant time available within the 16 partners engaged in the group. Therefore, rather than embedding full-time advisors, the Group provides supplemental, on-demand expertise to respond to immediate needs for expert recommendations and/or research on specific sectors or themes. In countries with economic advisors, requests for sector and thematic expertise can help to strengthen the technical recommendations for green recovery in response to COVID-19.

10. Is this support being provided by global, regional, or in-country experts?

For partners with country offices, the support provided could involve in-country experts, or support may be provided from regional or global experts. This depends on the specific partner response(s) received for each country request.

11. In what languages is support available?

In addition to English, some partners are available to provide support in other languages, such as Spanish, French, Portuguese, or Arabic. If you are requesting support in a language other than English, please specify the language(s) in your request and we will do our best to identify a partner available to respond.

12. How long will it take to receive a response?

Once a request is received, it will be reviewed by the NDC Partnership Support Unit for completeness and clarity before being circulated to the Thematic Expert Group for response. Once a submitted request is complete, it will be circulated to the members of Thematic Expert Group for their response within 7 business days. Once a match has been identified, the country and the thematic expert will be invited to communicate directly with each other, keeping the Support Unit copied to support coordination and lesson learning.

13. For how long will this support be available?

The Group was established in September 2020, and services are scheduled to conclude when the final deliverables by the economic advisors are completed, around December 2021. The possibility of extending the operation of the group could be considered, based on continued supply of and demand for technical advice for ongoing NDC Partnership initiatives.

EXAMPLE EMAIL TEMPLATE FOR COUNTRIES TO REQUEST SUPPORT

To: econadvisors@ndcpartnership.org

Subject: Request for Thematic Expertise - [COUNTRY NAME]

Dear NDC Partnership colleagues,

The government of [COUNTRY NAME] would like to request on-demand, virtual support from the NDC Partnership to ensure that specific sectors or themes related to climate adaptation and mitigation issues are incorporated in our recovery responses. [If request is not coming from the Focal Point, include the following: This request has been approved by the NDC Partnership Focal Point(s) in country, namely [NAME].]

The advice being requested includes support to [describe the objective of the support] and is directly related to our country's COVID economic recovery. The support focuses primarily of these specific sectors or themes: [List sectors/themes]. We anticipate the support to include [describe types, e.g. desk research, expert guideline, economic analysis, support with modelling work]. The expected time and medium of support is as follows [describe estimated time needed and via what medium, e.g. 1-hour call, 20 hours of desk research].

The support directly corresponds to the following TOR deliverables from the economic advisory support we are receiving from the Partnership: [List relevant TOR deliverables]

Best regards,

[Country Focal Point]

EXAMPLE REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY COUNTRIES

Example 1

Objective: To integrate climate-resilient agriculture, food security, and nutrition priorities, which benefit vulnerable populations, into national recovery plans.

Primary sector/theme: Agriculture

Secondary sector(s)/theme(s): Health and Nutrition, Climate Planning and Reporting, Disaster Risk and Vulnerability, Jobs and Skills

Description: COVID-19 has had widespread impacts on the country's agriculture sector, including reduced agricultural yields, increased market prices, declines in consumer demand, and challenges with transport due to new barriers to prevent the movement of populations. This has led to declines in the standard of living for farmers as well as direct and indirect loss of employment across the entire agro-food value chain. As the government looks to address these challenges and rebuild the agricultural sector as part of its national recovery efforts, it also aims to strengthen the climate resilience of the sector. Therefore, the Government requests expert advice and recommendations on how to support farmers vulnerable to climate change to adapt their agricultural techniques and improve their resilience, strengthen the adaptive capacities of the ecosystems on which they depend, and build community resilience through improved food systems.

Type: Call (to start; anticipated follow-on request for technical analysis based on the call)

Time: 1.5 hours

Language: French

Additional information: Related projects noted in the request include a planned pilot project with the World Food Programme to support vulnerable farmers. Moreover, based on the outcome of this initial 1.5-hour call, there may be a follow-on request for further technical analysis and/or advice. This would be treated as a separate request to the expert group, with no assumption that the partner responding to this call would provide any follow-on support, unless offered.

Example 2

Dear NDC Partnership Colleagues,

The Government is preparing to submit its 2020 Enhanced NDC by December 2020 despite the COVID-19 global pandemic, which resulted in a set-back with the country's economy. The Enhanced NDC focuses on promoting sustainable development and environmental integrity. This means to encourage long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

With the climate agenda now on 2020 NDC Submission for parties to the UNFCCC, emphasis to address the impacts of climate change is compounded by the COVID-19 global pandemic. As a result, there is opportunity to adapt our recovery plans to address both our economic and climate change objectives.

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 done by the Government and with support by UNDP proposed recommendations on how to build back better by providing options for supporting a sustainable and green recovery that is more inclusive and that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

To strengthen the recommendations and policy options for the government on green recovery, the Government would like to request on-demand, virtual support from the NDC Partnership to ensure that proposed contributing sectors of the Enhanced NDC 2020 related to mitigation and climate adaptation incorporated in our recovery responses. The advice being requested includes supporting responsible implementing sectors of the NDC by considering the economic drawbacks and other relevant repercussions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into consideration policy options provided by the government COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessment.

The support focuses primarily on these specific sectors or themes:

- Energy
- Forestry
- Agriculture and Land Use
- Transport
- Disaster Risk and Vulnerability
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- Subnational Governance

We anticipate the support to include desk research and expert guidelines by conducting sets of virtual consultations with sector leads of the above sectors to be supported. The expected time and medium of support are as follows:

- Conduct not more than an hour of consultation meetings with relevant sector leads
- Provide guidelines for a total of 15 hours in a span of 3 weeks before 3 December 2020

Thank you for the support and we look forward to hearing from you all soon.