REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Moldova
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Credit No.: 7027-MD
Reference No.: MD-PIU-NORLD-339411-CS-INDV
Assignment Title: Technical Consultant for the development of a technical market study regarding on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks)
Date: August 7, 2024

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project *(MWSSP)* is a World Bank-financed Project implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD).
Objectives: The objective of the mission is to support P.I. the National Office for Regional and Local Development (Project Implementation Unit (UPI)) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) in the elaboration of a market study to examine the availability of the on-site sanitation systems for individual households (septic tanks) and to select the best option to be implemented within the project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the NORLD web page: https://www.ondrl.gov.md

The NORLD now invites eligible Individual Consultants ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the „Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants" method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09 00 to 16 00 hours.
The applications should include letter of Expression of Interest, CV, and related recommendation letters, if any, together with a copy of CV **in WORD format.**

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **August 21, 2024, 16:00 o'clock, Moldova time, indicating the assignment title in subject line.**

P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development,
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Stefan cel Mare 124, 3th floor, MWSSP Office 335,
mun. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova MD-2001
Tel/fax: 022 27-91-21, 069265292
E-mail: **tender@ondrl.gov.md**

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Annex 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)
Implementation of the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
(P173076)

Technical Consultant for the development of a technical market study regarding on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks)

within the
P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development

I. BACKGROUND

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP) is a World Bank - financed Project implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD). The Project was signed on April 21, 2022. The Project itself will have duration of five years and aims to increase access to improved water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery.

The design of the project takes into account the Government of Moldova's vision for the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector. Moldova's recently revised National WSS Strategy 2014–2030[1] endorses SDG target 6.1 and 6.2, sets national interim targets for 2024, and articulates strategic reform directions. The strategy's targets are to achieve coverage with WSS[2] infrastructure of 80 percent in urban areas and 75 percent in rural areas by 2024. The strategy stipulates improvement of the management and professionalization of services through regional WSS companies, leaving space for public-private models in geographies where regionalization is not delivering immediate advantages. It articulates the need to improve the regulatory environment, with a focus on inclusion, quality, and sustainability of services. At the same time, the WSS sector is a key priority area in the regional development policy, as reflected in the draft National Strategy for Regional Development 2022-2028.[3]

The Project consists of four components:

Component 1: Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns This component will develop new and rehabilitate existing WSS infrastructure and WASH facilities in rural areas and towns, thus expanding access and quality of services for households, businesses, and public institutions and supporting resilience.[4] It consists of two subcomponents:

[1] Updated and approved by Government Decision 440 of July 1, 2020.
[2] Sanitation refers to both access to wastewater networks and treatment systems and on-site facilities such as septic tanks.
[3] The National Regional Development Strategy is approved by the Government Decision no. 40/2022.
[4] See the WASH Climate Resilience Strategic Framework (UNICEF, Global Water Partnership, 2014) for links between WASH and climate resilience.

Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services. This subcomponent will finance climate-resilient investments in towns and rural areas.

Water supply investments: Expansion and rehabilitation of the regional water systems for water supply production and distribution, and service connections for LPAs in selected districts, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to water supply infrastructure in two identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia[5] and a regional water supply system with a surface water treatment plant in Riscani District. Many LPAs, particularly in the south (Cahul) as well as in the northern part along the Prut (Riscani), face shortages of water in the summer, with shallow wells/springs posing a challenge such as in villages in Riscani District, in the Vulcanesti town, and other villages in Cahul District.

Wastewater investments: Expansion and rehabilitation of wastewater systems in selected towns, including the construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and service connections, and the construction of new wastewater treatment plants, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to two identified subprojects in Soroca and Comrat towns.

Pilot for on-site household sanitation: Selected rural or peri-urban villages, will benefit from the improvement of on-site household sanitation following a demand-led approach through the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of information campaigns, and the carrying out of civil works.

Subcomponent 1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions. This subcomponent will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services and training/workshops to realize climate-resilient WASH facilities in HCFs and education institutions and implement hygiene education and behavior change communication program. The subcomponent will finance capacity development for school and health center management and LPAs to ensure adequate operation and maintenance (O&M) of the facilities.

Component 2: Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery. This component focusses on institutional capacities of national and subnational entities and WSS operators for management, planning, regulation and reform implementation, and performance improvement of service providers for green, resilience, and inclusive service delivery.

Component 3: Project management and coordination. This component will finance operational costs, consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, and training to finance the overall project management cost, including the project team at the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), implementation support consultants at the regional level within MIRD's RDAs for

[5] Its autonomy is ethnically motivated by the predominance of the Gagauz people. On December 23, 1994, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova accepted the 'Law on the Special Legal Status of Gagauzia'.

environmental and social standards implementation, and, at the national level, MIRD as the project implementing entity (PIE). It will finance training costs, including for capacity building in procurement, environmental, and social standards, specialized short-term implementation support consultants, financial audits, project communication and citizen consultations, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Component 4: Contingent emergency response component (CERC). A provisional zero-amount component is included, which will allow for rapid reallocation of credit/loan proceeds from other components during an emergency under streamlined procurement and disbursement procedures. This component allows the Government to request the World Bank to re-categorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the mission is to support P.I. the National Office for Regional and Local Development (Project Implementation Unit (UPI)) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) in the elaboration of a market study to examine the availability of the on-site sanitation systems for individual households (septic tanks) and to select the best option to be implemented within the project.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

According to the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova, the discharge of untreated wastewater from households in surface water basins and on soil (leading to the infiltration into underground water) is prohibited (see art. 45 of Law no. 1515/1993 on the environment protection and art. 113, para. (5) of the Contravention code). However, in the Republic of Moldova, the sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure that is necessary to this end is underdeveloped. According to national statistics, over 90% of localities lack public sewage systems, and over 96% - lack wastewater treatment systems. At the same time, the high costs for construction and maintenance of the centralized sanitation infrastructure and also the technological challenges related to the functioning of such systems (low density of users, insufficient quantity of wastewater, remoteness, relief, etc.) makes the construction and operation of such centralized systems unaffordable for most of the inhabitants of the small (under 2000) localities. However, according to Article 3, para. (4) of Law no. 303/2013 on water supply and sanitation, in rural localities, where appropriate, only the public water supply service may be organized, provided that wastewater is collected by individual systems. Given the situation, where centralized sewerage and wastewater treatment systems are not feasible, it is important to apply alternative mechanisms and technologies for the treatment of wastewater and the evacuation of sludge for individual households or for groups of households, as required by the legislation. Thus, in order to identify cost-effective wastewater treatment solutions in individual

households, a pilot project will be implemented within the project, through which 1500 citizens will be provided access to alternative sources of sanitation for individual households. Therefore, in order to identify the most optimal solutions and availability of the needed technologies, it is important to carry out a market study.

In the process of developing the market study, the Consultant will assume the following obligations and tasks:

1. Identification of the types of septic tanks (prefabricated or construction of septic tanks on site, using locally available materials and skills) available on the market (including from outside the country);
2. Examination of the cost-efficiency and reliability of septic tanks (comparative analysis of costs between prefabricated septic tanks, including copmparison with septic tanks constructed on site, using locally available materials and skills), available on the market (including from outside the country), taking into account:
   a. Costs of prefabricated equipment and costs for construction on site, using available materials and skills;
   b. Construction/installation costs for prefabricated and constructed on site;
   c. Annual operating and maintenance costs for both, prefabricated and constructed on site;
   d. Wastewater storage capacity (including sludge);
   e. Frequency of sludge collection and transportation to treatment plants for both options: prefabricated and constructed on site;
   f. Social acceptance of the technical solution, defined as - the ease of use in terms of convenience, effort and degree of complexity of system operation and maintenance, from the user's perspective (this aspect is to be evaluated and described by the consultant based on his own views and arguments);
   g. Examining the quality of wastewater discharged into the receptor water body and their compliance with the provisions of the regulations established in GD no. 950/2013 on the requirements for the collection, treatment and discharge of waste water in the sewage system and/or in the emission for urban and rural localities as well as other legislative acts of the Republic of Moldova for both options, prefabricated and constructed on site.
3. Evaluation and argumentation of the use of most cost-effective types of septic tanks available on the market (including from outside the country);
4. The consultant will carry out the market evaluation based on a methodology that will be proposed by the consultant, and taking into consideration the aspect highlighted bellow in the point no. 2, and the following:
   a. The estimated costs of the septic tanks will be requested either from the producers or from the importers from the Republic of Moldova;
   b. The estimated costs for the installation of the septic tank and the costs of connecting the households will be made according to the provisions of the price regulations in force;

c. The consultant will present his arguments based on cost-effectiveness principles of the options proposed for implementation within the project.

IV. DELIVERABLES

No.	Type of document	Deadline	Number of planned expert/days	Approved by	Document language
1.	Methodology Note[6]	10 working days from the date of signing the contract	3	MIRD P.I. NORLD	Ro
2.	Market study[7]	20 working days from the date of approval of the Methodology Note	15	MIRD P.I. NORLD	Ro / Eng
3.	PPT presentation on the realized analysis, the description of the applied methodology and the results of the analysis	20 working days from the date of approval of the Methodology Note	2	MIRD P.I. NORLD	Ro / Eng

V. TIMING

For the implementation of the proposed tasks are planned 20 expert/days in the period of August 30, 2023 – October 30, 2023.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Consultant will report to and work under the direct supervision of the PIU Project Manager and the Chief WSS engineer other PIU members.

VII. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

General qualifications – 30 points:

- University Degree in economics, civil engineering or other relevant fields;
- Previous experience with international organizations in the WSS sector;

Adequacy for the Project - 50 points:

Minimum 3 years of relevant work experience in preparing and implementing WSS projects.

- Proven experience in working with private or public sector, in similar assignments will be an asset;
- Knowledge of national construction and other related legislation related to the WSS sector;

Language and Relevant Experience - 20 points:

- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages,

[6] The Metodology Note should obligatory include the final report structure

[7] The Market study will include, obligatory the operating scheme for each technology/equipment examined, will describe the technology and the operating mechanism, and will also include the comparative evaluation of the aspects requested in point 3 of this document

- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project).