REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)
Re-advertisement

Republic of Moldova
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Credit No.: 7027-MD
Assignment Title: Development the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan for the Cahul – Vulcanesti water supply Sub-projects
Reference No.: MD-PIU-NORLD-320076-CS-INDV
Date: April 21, 2023

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The objective of the assignment is to support the P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) in Development the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan for the Cahul – Vulcanesti water supply Sub-projects. The estimated implementation period May – November, 2023.
The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: https://www.ondrl.gov.md or can be obtained at the address given below.

The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project now invites eligible consulting firms ("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 shortlisting criteria are: core business and years in business, relevant experience, technical and managerial capability of the firm. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

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.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Consultant's Qualification-based Selection** method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09.00 to 17.00 hours (Moldova Time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **May 5, 2023, 16:00 o'clock, Moldova time, indicating the assignment title in subject line (when sent by e-mail).**

P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development,
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Address: Str. Alexandru cel Bun 51 A, Floor 2, MWSSP Office,
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See bellow Annex 1: Terms of Reference

MWSSP

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project

Terms of Reference
For
Consultancy Services

to develop the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan for the Cahul – Vulcanesti water supply Sub-projects

Republic of Moldova

Contract No.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project Background

The Government of Moldova (GoM) is currently implementing a project supported by the World Bank (IDA) financing the **Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP).** The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project directly supports the Government's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal No.6: to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030 through its Action Program and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-2028.
The World Bank's Water Security Diagnostic and Future Outlook[1] showed that there are several pressing challenges to Moldova's water security, such as (i) inequalities in access, inadequate quality of water supply in small towns and weak performance of service providers; (ii) poor environmental health and environmental pollution due to lack of sanitation and wastewater collection and treatment; (iii) weak institutions, fragmented financing streams and unresolved reform areas which hinder programmatic delivery of services.
Access in water supply and sanitation (WSS) is constrained by large coverage gaps in rural areas, compounded by income status. Compared to other countries in the Danube region, the share of population with access to basic water and sanitation services in Moldova is low. The gap between urban and rural remains one of the largest in Europe and is one of the key water security issues the country is facing. Based on JMP-data[2], gains were made in rural water supply access to drinking water services from piped networks, from 33 percent in 2000 to an estimate 40 percent in 2017, while urban piped service remained almost stable at 85 percent.

Household Budget Survey (HBS) (2018) data provides the picture on national access to a public piped water supply being 70 percent, with urban access at 92.4 percent and rural access at 52.2 percent. However, the water quality of rural piped system is often compromised and below drinking water quality standard. Those not served by public centralized systems rely on so-called self-supply, through private shallow wells. Around one in three people rely on self-supply for their drinking water with 80 percent of wells not compliant with drinking water norms (e.g. nitrates, e-coli). The poorest quintile of the rural population faces the largest obstacles to get connected to a public system and is least able to invest in private piped supply by wells (9 percent), with 42.2 percent of the poorest households collecting water with buckets or carts. In 2018, out of a total of 1,220 centralized water systems, 1,168 were functional, although performance data is not systematically available.
In response to these challenges, the Project Development Objective (PDO) of the MWSSP is **to increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery.** Strengthening institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery refers to both national level planning and sector development capacities, as well as to improved operational efficiency and delivery at utility level.

The Project will have 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. Component 1 supports climate adaption through (a) providing reliable centralized water supply protecting vulnerable households from drought and poor water quality; (b) improving wastewater systems, sanitation, and WASH facilities, reducing environmental exposure to pathogens exacerbated by flooding, particularly in towns facing frequent flooding; and (c) ensuring climate-resilient design of all infrastructure for robust functioning under extreme weather events. It consists of two subcomponents:
Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services. This subcomponent will finance climate-resilient investments in towns and rural areas. This includes the following:

[1] https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34809
[2] Joint Monitoring Program data is derived based on linear extrapolations using national survey data and JMP population estimates; discrepancies between nationally reported data can be found due to differences in estimation methods and definitions. See also: https://washdata.org/data

(a) **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 preliminarily identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia 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 the Prut cluster villages, in the Vulcanesti town, and other villages in Cahul District.
(b) **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 preliminarily identified subprojects in Soroca and Comrat towns. There are areas in the Comrat town that face frequent flooding, and the Soroca town is also vulnerable directly on the right bank of the Dniester. The project will support the assessment of flood risk and impact at the household level and, in addition to ensuring resilient design of infrastructure, provide measures to reduce the impact of floods where possible.
(c) **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. The pilot will be co-financed through the ADA grant. This pilot will demonstrate the use of climate-resilient low-cost technologies for rural sanitation.
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.
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. At the national level, development of plans, policies, and regulatory documents will support climate adaptation through climate-resilient planning, and at the local level, performance improvements will deliver climate benefits through reduction of NRW and improvement of energy efficiency. It consists of two subcomponents:
Subcomponent 2.1: Building national institutional capacity for WSS. This subcomponent aims to strengthen critical functions of facilitating and implementing WSS sector reform, investment planning and monitoring, and sector modernization and build capacities to this end of the assigned lead unit/entity within MIRD's structure. It finances goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and training/workshops for activities that strengthen institutional capacities for planning, financing, economic regulation, performance monitoring, professional development, and the revision and development of new policies and normative documents.
Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers Subcomponent 2.2 will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, and training to support the implementation of a prioritized rolling multiyear PIP of selected WSS operators involved under Subcomponent 1.1. WSS operators will carry out annual assessments on PIP implementation and KPIs, including publication of results and feedback rounds with customers. The financing for selected WSS operators will be allocated based on results. Investments and TA activities identified in the PIPs are based on utility diagnostics and include, but are not limited to, the following: improving technical and commercial operations, improving financial management (FM), HR management, and organization and strategy aspects, including improving asset management systems and inventories, energy efficiency, NRW reduction programs, water metering practices and equipment to improve climate resilience, water safety, and business continuity, and enhancing responsiveness to customers.
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 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 recategorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

I.2 Cahul Water Supply Sub-project description

Two Feasibility Study, namely *Feasibility Study for Aggregating Water Supply Services for Rayon of Cahul with Options for Wastewater Services (Cahul sub-project)* was pre-selected to further proceed with the development of the Detailed Design (DD) documentation. The DD development activities were accomplished in 2019 and the sub-project has been included in MWSSP as part of Component 1.1 (a).

It is to be mentioned that this investment has been identified as part of the chapter of Water and Sanitation Services (WSS) of the Socio-Economic Developing Strategy of Cahul Rayon. The state of preparedness of the investment is a step towards implementation of the just mentioned strategy, with the overall objective to provide the population of Cahul Rayon with a safe drinking water through aggregated water supply.

As shortly mentioned above the Cahul Water Supply Project is already developed to the point of an available Detailed Design Documentation and BoQ's entitled ***"The Main Aqueduct Cahul-Lebedenco-Pelinei-Gavanoasa Vulcanesti (villages) - Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the inner networks of the villages: Lebedenco, Hutulu, Ursoaia, Pelinei, Satuc, Gavanoasa, Vladimirovca and Nicolaevca, Cahul district"(Stage I and Stage II)"*** including all relevant permits.

However, these studies are now out of date, having been completed in 2019 and require review and updating (subject to another consultancy service within the MWSSP framework), along with the preparation of ESIA and related documents. Table 1 shows draft results from the scoping assessment.

Table 1. Cahul Sub-Project: Implementation process – existing and missing steps

Project title	Preliminary studies and survey	Feasibility Study	ESIA	Additional Study and survey	Detailed Design	Permits (environmental)	BoQ (social / environmental)	Bidding Documents
Cahul water supply Project	available	available	not available	available	available	available	not available	not available

The design foresees the supply of drinking water to the localities of Cahul Rayon. Particularly the scheme foresees the following[3]:

On Platform "A"[4] - Inside the SP-2a station, located on the terrain with the cadastral number 17202080700, a group of pumps with a converter (three working pumps and one in reserve) with a capacity of Q-96,30 m^3/h will be installed, H=110.00 m each. Potable water will be pumped into existing two water tanks with V=1500 m^3 each from the territory of the SP-5 pumping station.

On Platform "B" - on the land with cadastral number 9414101201, (S=1,14070 ha, intra-village, the mode of use "agricultural", public property of the village of Alexanderfeld, Cahul district), the location is foreseen for construction of a station for the preparation of sodium hypochlorite near the existing water reservoir located nearby on the same terrain.

On Platform "C" - on the land with cadastral number 9417208670, (S= 0.09 ha, intra-village, mode of land use "for construction", public property of Gavanoasa commune, Cahul district), it is foreseen the construction of a sodium hypochlorite preparation station, an washout manhole (CG-24), a reservoir and the SPR-1 water re-pumping station. A group of pumps with converter with Q =:46.00 m^3/h, H=55.00 m (three working pumps and one reserve) will be installed. Through SPR-1, the water will be re-pumped to supply the towns of Iujnoe, Burlăceni, Greceni, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Etulia, Etulia Noua, Cișmichioi and the city of Vulcanesti.

[3] All technical details (Explanatory Memorandum, maps and drawings) are available upon request in electronic format.

[4] Platform – in DD documentations is defined as terrain where pumps stations, water towers, water reservoirs, water treatment (chlorination with sodium hypochlorite) are planned to be erected.

On Platform "D" - on the territory of the water reservoirs located on land with cadastral number 9603206.245, (S = 0.7261 ha, land use category "for constructions", public property of the city of Vulcanesti), a station for the preparation of sodium hypochlorite, a manhole (F-72) and a washout manhole (CG-25) will be constructed.
On Platform "E", - on the public property of the village of Ursoaia, district Cahul, the construction of a station for the preparation of sodium hypochlorite and an washout manhole (CG-22) will be constructed.
On Platform "F" - according to Decision no. 10/3 of 07.12.2018 of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza village council, on public property, it is provided the construction of an washout manhole (CG-26), a sump and the pumping station a water SPR-2. Inside the SPR-2 will be placed a group of pumps with a converter with Q=5.20 m^3/h, H=60.00 m (two working pumps, one in reserve) to pump the water into existent water reservoir in the village of Alexandru Ioan Cuza.
The Main Transmission Pipeline (MTP) from the water pumping station SP-2a to the pumping station SP-5 is designed in two lines under pressure, and from the manhole connection F-12 up to the manhole F-67 - in two lines, by gravitation.
Lengthwise the MTP there will be several manholes constructed to make the connections with the following villages:

- ***Pelinei*** – the connection point is the designed F-15 manhole, from which water will be conveyed under gravitational pressure through an adduction pipe and stored in two designed water reservoir with volume V=50m³ each. The village water distribution network will be constructed.
- ***Satuc*** – the connection point is the designed F-18 manhole, from which water will be transported under gravitational pressure through an adduction pipe and stored in a designed water tower with a tank volume of 25m^3 and a supporting tower height of 15 m.
- ***Alexanderfeld*** – the connection point is the designed F-21 manhole, from which water will be conveyed under gravitational pressure to the existing water reservoirs in the village through a water supply pipe.
- ***Vladimirovca*** – the connection is the designed manhole F-28, from which water will be conveyed under gravitational pressure through an addiction pipe and stored in two designed water tanks with volume V=25m³ each. The village water distribution network will be constructed.
- ***Nicolaevca*** – the connection point is the designed manhole F-35, from which water will be conveyed under gravitational pressure through an adduction pipe and stored in two designed water tanks with a volume of V=25m^3 and height of the supporting tower of 15 m. The village water distribution network will be constructed.
- ***Găvănoasa*** - the connection point is the designed manhole F-38, from which water will be transported by a gravity pressure pipe and stored in two designed water towers with a volume of 50m^3 and a height of the support tower of 15 m. The village water distribution network will be constructed.
- ***Iujnoe, Burlaceni, and Greceni villages*** - the connection point is the designed F-43 manhole.
- ***Vulcanesti city***– the connection point is the designed manhole F-47, from which water will be conveyed under gravitational pressure to the existing manhole Fex-2.
- ***Vulcanesti Rail Way and the Free Economic zone*** **–** the connection point is the designed manhole F-47. Water distribution network will be constructed to connect the mentioned infrastructure to water supply.
- ***Alexandru Ioan Cuza*** – the connection point is the designed manhole F-62.
- ***Etulia, Etulia Noua and Cismichioi villages*** - the connection point is designed manhole F-67.

The designed MTP will cross the lands of the municipality of Cahul, com. Lebedenco, Gavanoasa commune, Pelinei commune, Alexandru Ioan Cuza village, Crihana Veche village. The administration of just mentioned settlements have given their consent to accept the temporary assignment of the selected lands for design and construction by the Notice no. 313 of 31.07.2017 of the municipality of Pllinei, Notice no. 02/1-37/61 of 27.07.2017 of the municipality of Gavanoasa, Notice no. 02/l-14/7-2879 of 28.07.2017 of the Cahul Municipal Council, Notice no. 257 of 02.08.2017 of Crihana Veche local council, Notice no. 57 of 07.27.2017 of the mayor's office of Lebedenco and the Alexandru Ioan cuza willage's council.
At the same time, the MTP will cross the road R32.2 towards the Cahul city at the point - km 4+140 as well as the road R32 M3 - Vulcanesti - Cahul - Taraclia – km 23+950; km22+000, according to the Technical Order

no. (Prescriptii Tehnice - PT-120 of 29.09.2017 issued by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure regarding the location of the works in the area of the public road and/or its protection zones.

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I.2.3 Documentation available

The following documentation is available at the PIU Office and could be provided free of charge, in electronic format, upon request.
Documents:

- Feasibility Study (GIZ): Technical report on feasibility study for the project "Improving water supply and sanitation services in the rayon of Cahul (town of Cahul, villages of Cotihana, Crihana Veche, Manta and Pascani)", 2015
- Feasibility Study (GIZ): Feasibility study for aggregating water supply services for Rayon of Cahul with options for wastewater services, September 2014.
- Feasibility Study Water Supply and Sanitation in Rayon Cahul, Feasibility Study, Volume I – Feasibility Study Report, 2016.
- Factsheet (GIZ/EU): Improvement of water services in Pelinei and Gavanoasa communities from Cahul rayon and extension to Vulcanesti rayon “Factsheet”. 2019.
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- "The Main Aqueduct Cahul-Lebedenco-Pelinei-Gavanoasa Vulcanesti (villages) - Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the inner networks of the villages: Lebedenco, Hutulu, Ursoaia, Pelinei, Satuc, Gavanoasa, Vladimirovca and Nicolaevca, Cahul district"(Stage I and Stage II)"
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In conclusion – The Cahul sub-project has been environmentally checked by National Environmental Agency and received environmental permit (so called Ecological Expertise notice / approval) to further apply for construction permit. However, the permit obtained is not in line with the World Bank ESF (ESS) and does not substitute the need to conduct a WB standard full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and develop a Site-Specific Environmental and Social Management Plan within the area of concern.

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The aim of this assignment is to prepare the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for Cahul sub-project with associated site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) (including Bill of Quantities for social and environmental expenses as well as environmental chapter of the Technical Specifications) following the WB Environmental and Social Standards requirements. These technical outputs (The ESIA and ESMP) will form part of the Bidding documents for civil works to be launched within the MWSSP.
Further details of the Consultant activities are defined in the Scope of Services (Section III).

III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Phasing of Services and Key Tasks

The Consultant shall deploy the necessary methods and resources to fulfil the aims and objectives of this assignment, addressing the key points in the general approach outlined above and covering the key activities under each phase as outlined below. The following sections provide an outline of the key activities, to be carried out as a minimum, under each phase of the process.

Phase I: Collect, collate and summarize designs

The Consultant shall carry out all necessary activities to thoroughly assess the existing situation and identify key issues / challenges, etc. This should include amongst other activities, the following:

1. To thoroughly check the Detailed Design documentation to identify the key project parameters with anticipated environmental and social impact (projected water supply / withdrawal, fish protection structure, energy supply demand, the types of works, the volume of works, material to be used, land-use aspects, etc...).
2. Site visits, consultations and field investigations, to update the existing socio-economic data collected during the Detailed Design development as well as identify and collect missing ones.

3. Elaborate the Draft ESIA / ESMP Inception report and the Project Implementation Plan.
4. Conduct the Inception Public Consultation meetings for Cahul Sub-Project: informing the stakeholders and the general public about the Objectives of the ESIA and the way it is to be reached. Duly – well in advance - inform LPA and the general public about the Date, Place and agenda of the meetings.

Phase II: Develop the ESIA / ESMP report

This task comprises the following activities, but not limited to:

MOBILIZATION

1. Mobilization of Team Leader and other necessary team members.
2. Review contract documents and prepare a brief summary of any possible changes that may have occurred. Bring to the attention of the Client any potential issues that warrant early attention.
3. Review, update, and coordinate overall and detailed work programs featuring all pertinent activities and critical paths.
4. Establish means of communication and coordination procedures necessary to ensure orderly and unimpeded progress of the work.
5. Elaborate the Final Draft of the Inception Report (after Public Consultations).

BASELINE

6. Compilation and Initial Review of Documents and Data: The Consultant shall review all existing documents, studies, and information previously prepared for the Cahul sub-project. Establish working contact with the Consulting Engineer Company ("Fluxproiect") hired to up-date the Technical Documentation of Cahul "The Main Aqueduct Cahul-Lebedenco-Pelinei-Gavanoasa Vulcanesti (villages) - Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the inner networks of the villages: Lebedenco, Hutulu, Ursoaia, Pelinei, Satuc, Gavanoasa, Vladimirovca and Nicolaevca, Cahul district"(Stage I and Stage II)"in order to make sure that no changes of context in comparison with the description provided by this TORs occurred.
7. Policy, Legal, and Institutional Framework: The Consultant shall review and describe the policy, legal, and administrative framework within which the ESIA is to be carried out. This will include a description of the pertinent regulations, protocols and standards pertaining to the project and their implication on the project. This will cover both the environmental and social requirements in Moldova, regional or international obligations, as well as the Bank ESF (ESSs) requirements.
8. Project Description: The Consultant will elaborate a project description. This needs to cover the major activities to be undertaken during the works and its geographic, ecological, social, and temporal context, including any off-site investments that may be required (e.g. access roads, water supply, housing, storage facilities, etc.). If needed, indicate the necessity for any resettlement plan. Show maps with the project site(s) and the project's area of influence.
9. The Consultant will describe the selected design and technology with due justification of the selection made. Site-specific maps of the project area should be provided, showing all environmental and social characteristics of relevance to the project and its assessment.
10. Poverty and Social Risks: For each settlement potentially affected, analyze the level of poverty and vulnerability including social risks, such as prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), high-risk behaviors among youth, child and forced labor in the construction sector, community cohesiveness etc.
11. Cultural, archaeological, and historic resources: Identify all cultural, archaeological, ceremonial and historic resources in the impact zone/within the area of influence.
12. Vulnerable or disadvantaged groups (if any): To the extent possible demographic data should report on households with members with disabilities, legacy issues on land take for the project and associated facilities, legacy issues related to land use, property rights etc.

13. Baseline Conditions: The Consultant shall describe relevant physical, biological, chemical, socio-economic *(including access to existing public utilities with emphasis on water use / water supply)* and cultural conditions, including any changes anticipated before the project commences. The baseline conditions should also take into account current and proposed development activities within the project area but not directly connected to the project.

    a) Physical environment: geology, topography, soils, climate and meteorology, surface and groundwater hydrology, river flows, baseline water and air quality and sedimentation, and physical cultural resources.

    b) Biological environment: flora, fauna, rare, endangered or endemic species, IUCN Red List Species, Important Bird Areas, etc.; including amphibians and reptiles, birds, fish, large and small mammals, plants, economic plants and medicinal plants, sensitive habitats, significant natural sites, etc; species of commercial importance, and species with potential to become nuisances, vectors or dangerous.

    c) Social-cultural environment including gender disaggregated population data, migration pattern, land use, planned development activities, settlement and community structures, employment, distribution of income, poverty and any other identified social risks, vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, goods and services, recreation / tourism, public health, prevalence & distribution of waterborne diseases, and historical/archeological/cultural resources.

    d) Socio-economic baseline: Any earlier social assessments in the area and the initial findings and baseline should be used to update any needed social assessment and provide a clear scoping statement of the anticipated impacts arising from the Project. This social assessment will describe current social and economic impacts on directly- and indirectly affected communities.

    e) Data should be relevant to decisions about project design and mitigatory measures. This should also consider identification of potential borrow sites, quarries, access roads etc. It should also include a preliminary review of Emergency Preparedness Plan and associated national disaster response plans. The section will include a description of the methodology used to collect information and data and indicating the accuracy, reliability, and sources of data.

14. Public Consultation Workshop: The findings shall be discussed at workshop which the Consultant has to organize.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

15. Environmental and Social Impacts: The Consultant shall identify and assess the potential positive and negative environmental and social impacts associated with the sub-project. This will include direct and indirect impacts, short- and long-term duration; along with any cumulative impacts. Environmental impacts and social influences should also be categorized based on construction and operational phases, and summarized according to issues and themes in the main report text, with the detailed findings documented in appendixes.

16. The Consultant will identify and estimate the available data, key data gaps, and specify topics that require further attention.

17. Mitigation measures and any residual negative impacts that cannot be mitigated will be identified and taken forth through appropriate Environmental and Social Management Plans.

18. The environmental and social assessment shall indicatively include, but not be limited to, the following:

    a) Executive Summary: concisely discusses significant and recommended actions.

    b) Legal and Institutional framework.

    c) Project description.

    d) Baseline data.

e) Environmental and social risks and impacts.

f) Mitigation measures.

g) Analysis of alternatives

h) Design measures: specifies the applicable The WB Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) or Good International Industry Practice.

i) Key measures and actions for the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

j) Appendices

19. The Consultant shall include in the ESIA a description of cumulative effects of the project as they affect air, groundwater and surface water, soil, biodiversity, human settlements, and other impacts as appropriate. This should include projections of changes to environmental impacts and the potential livelihoods impacts.

20. Public Consultation: The Consultant is required to undertake a second public consultations as a part of two-stage public consultation (one at the inception stage for the purposes of scoping, and another one to present key findings and mitigation to stakeholders). This shall ensure that all interested and affected stakeholders, according to the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), are involved in the ESIA process and their views incorporated into the final ESIA report.

21. The Consultant will propose an effective, comprehensive public consultation strategy, which should include its objective, list of stakeholders to be consulted, methods for reaching those stakeholders, the scheduling of consultation activities, and how the consultation efforts will be analyzed.

22. The Consultant shall maintain a record of interagency and consultation meetings, including consultations for obtaining the informed views of the affected people and of local non-government organizations (NGOs). The Consultant should consider and incorporate (if necessary) the complains and suggestions from stakeholders received during first round of consultations to the final draft of ESIA.

23. Minutes shall be kept for all meetings and included in an Annex of the ESIA.

24. All relevant materials will be provided to affected groups in accepted local languages (Romanian or Russian) in a timely manner (at least 15 days before public consultations) prior to consultation.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

25. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP): Based on the specifics of the sub-project , the complexity of the Environmental and Social risks, a site specific ESMP will be developed. The ESMP will include project description, its location, risk assessment, management, mitigation and monitoring. It will identify potential risks and options and define recommended measures to be taken to prevent, eliminate, reduce, mitigate or manage associated risks and develop any opportunities for environmental and social enhancement.

26. Mitigation Plan: For each potential impact identified as significant in the section above, a mitigating measure will be identified and the collection of all such mitigation measures will constitute the Mitigation Plan. The Consultant shall provide a matrix of all impacts organized into construction and operational phase for all key project components, and will be further reflected in the ESMP section.

27. The site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will include a set of mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures to be taken during the works in order to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The plan will include the actions needed to implement these measures and any other potential measures to enhance positive impacts, including trainings and capacity building.

28. The ESMP will specify the identified risks and impacts, mitigation and monitoring measures / enhancement measures, institutional responsibilities, budget estimate and schedule of these measures.

29. The Consultant shall prepare an item line to be included in the future bill of quantities for respecting all mitigation and monitoring, as described in the site related ESMP. These will be used for inclusion in Bidding documents for any work contracts.
30. The Consultant shall include an Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan, by which all mitigation measures recommended in the ESMP during construction and operation will be monitored. This should include (i) Performance monitoring of how well project construction and operation, including mitigation measures, are carried out, and (ii) outcome monitoring of key selected environmental and social indicators. This plan will include a description and technical details of the monitoring program, including simple implementation progress criteria. The plan should also include recommended monitoring and reporting procedures, parameters to be monitored and periodicity, and should specify the responsibility for implementation of each measure.
31. The ESMP shall provide an overview of the implementation arrangements, roles, and responsibilities of all relevant agencies. This shall include a review of the authority and capability of institutions at different levels (e.g. local, district, provincial/regional, and national), and their capability to manage and monitor E&S aspects of implementation.
32. The ESMP will be cleared by the Bank, part of public consultation process, any comments included and finally cleared by the Bank in final version.
33. After the clearance of final version, the ESMP shall be part of the bidding documents and become a contractual obligation of the Contractor. The Contractor has the obligation to respect it and to further develop it, into a Contractor ESMPs (CESMP) Bidding Documents.
34. The ESMP shall similarly outline the responsibilities of the Supervising Engineer in the approval and implementation of CESMPs. This will include, but not necessarily limited to, monitoring and enforcement of the CEMSP through suitably qualified personnel. These provisions will be included as part of the Bidding Documents.
35. For institutions responsible for implementation of the project, the ESMP will identify any training and capacity building programs that will need to be provided.
36. Costing: The Consultant shall prepare a cost estimate for implementation of the ESMP. The cost estimate shall be prepared on the basis of prevailing market prices. An estimate for administration, legal costs, land acquisition, resettlement, and compensation, social and environmental measures outlined in the ESMP shall be included, along with the basis for their estimate.
37. The Consultant shall determine the criteria for estimating physical contingencies and the price escalation during implementation.
38. Reporting: The Consultant shall present the "ESMP Report", which will serve as an Annex to the ESIA report.

Phase III: Approval of the ESIA / ESMP

It is the Consultant responsibility to obtain the "No Objection" approval of the ESIA Report and ESMP (annexed to the ESIA report) from the World Bank by addressing the comments received. The Client will integrate its own as well as the WB comments and will send them to the Consultant as a Comments Protocol Worksheet form.

Besides, as per Moldovan design normative NCM A.02.02.-2012, the project technical documentation is subject to State Ecological Expertise (SEE). The decision (approval / rejection) of SEE is issued by the Environmental Agency. It is the Consultant responsibility to integrate the developed ESIA / ESMP into DD documentation and assist the Consultant Engineer (Fluxroiect) to obtain the approval from the SEE.

IV. REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Consultant shall prepare and submit to the Client reports covering all aspects of the scope of services discussed above, as per the schedule in the Table 3 below. Reports shall be submitted in both electronic (Word, Excel, pdf, dwg files etc.) and printed formats. Reports shall be submitted in the numbers and language detailed in the Table below, and in accordance with the implementation schedule.

Draft reports shall be submitted approximately 1 month prior to the submission timeline for the final reports. The Client shall review the draft reports and submit their comments to the Consultant within a period of two weeks. The final reports are to incorporate inputs from the Client.
The services will be implemented under a Lump Sum contract and payments will be made against satisfactory delivery and acceptance of the key final reports, as outlined in the form of contract and as summarized in the Table below.
Table 3: Reporting / Delivery Schedule

No.	Deliverable	Submission timeline	Proposed Percentage Payment	No. of Copies to Client
1	Inception Report	End of Month 1	30%	3E*, 3R** + electronic
2	Draft ESIA Report, including draft ESMP	End of Month 4	40%	3E, 3R + electronic
3	Final ESIA report and final ESMP, with report on second Public Consultation attached.	End of Month 5	30%	3E, 3R + electronic

* - E = English ** - R = Romanian

The inception report shall be prepared according to the norms and include: (1) a summary of inception activities, (2) a review of documents and data collected, (3) establishment of implementation arrangements for the assignment, (4) presentation of updated work plan and more detailed methodologies for carrying out the activities under each phase, (5) team inputs / staffing schedule, (6) identification of any potential issues affecting the implementation of the assignment, (7) and a summary of any preliminary findings relevant to the assignment, (8) results of initial public consultations.
The assignment is to be completed within a total period of 5 months from the date of commencing services. The time periods which have been allocated to each phase of the assignment are presented in the reporting / delivery schedule in Table 3 above.

V. RESOURCING REQUIREMENTS

Key Professional Staff Inputs

In preparing this Terms of Reference, the Client has estimated that approximately 350 man-days of inputs on the Project by key professional staff will be required to carry out the activities defined in the scope of services. The Consultant shall review the requirements of the assignment and can propose their own level of inputs providing clear justification to support the proposed approach. The Consultant is responsible for delivery of outputs defined in this Terms of Reference in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the assignment. It is the Consultants responsibility to provide adequate staff with appropriate qualifications and experience to undertake the works described in the scope of services. Any substitution of the staff in the Consultant's proposal should be by staff of equivalent or greater qualifications and experience, and must be previously approved by the Client.
It is supposed that the key professional staff will be supported by other professionals (including for example designer / GIS specialists etc and other professional inputs as required to carry out the activities defined in the scope of services). The Consultant's proposed inputs for supporting professionals should be presented in the staffing schedule, and key activities assigned to each proposed position should be clearly outlined in the proposal.

Key Professional Staff Qualifications

A summary of minimum qualification requirements for the key professional staff is presented in Table 4.
Table 4: Key Staff Minimum Qualification Requirements

No.	**Position**	**Minimum Qualifications**
7	Project Team Leader ESIA	The Team Leader should have a MSc in Environmental Management or Social Sciences, or equivalent. He/she must have demonstrated experience of 5 or more years as a team leader in complex ESIAs (EIA for similar projects). He/she must be a self-starter who should be able to provide strategic leadership to the

		team and ensure high quality work within the agreed time frames. He/she should have been a Team Leader for at least two (2) comparable ESIA Studies. Working experience in international donor-funded projects is an added advantage.
	Water Resource Expert	He/she should have a MSc in Water Resources/Quality Management, or equivalent. He/she must have demonstrated experience of minimum 10 years in water management planning. He / she must have previous experience on at least two (2) ESIA Studies of similar nature, preferably for World Bank funded projects
	Sociologist	He/she should be a sociologist with at least Master Degree. He/she must be a professional with minimum 5 years' experience in social impact assessment and mitigation plan preparation. He / she should have worked on at least two (2) ESIA Studies of similar nature, preferably for World Bank funded projects.
	Environmental Specialist	He/she should be an ecologist with at least Master Degree. He/she must be a professional with minimum 5 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and mitigation plan preparation. He / she should have worked on at least two (2) ESIA Studies of similar nature, preferably for World Bank funded projects
	Non-Key Personnel for Environmental & Social Assessment	The below staff is only indicative. The Consultant may propose additional non-key staff to ensure successful completion of the task. Aquatic Ecologist, Terrestrial Ecologist, Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist, Civil Engineer, Occupation Health and Safety Specialist, Gender Specialist, Agricultural Economist, Ornithologist, Etc.

Home Office Support

The Consultant should provide the necessary technical, administrative and logistical support required for successful implementation of the assignment. The Consultant should maintain an active presence in the country and ensure regular communication and contact with PIU and other stakeholder during the process.

Client Inputs

The PIU will help to facilitate the collection of available data and reports and the coordination with other Government stakeholders for consultations (if required). Despite this support however, the primary responsibility for data collection and organization of all activities remains with the Consultant as defined in the scope of services. The Client will also provide timely review and comments on the draft reports and will assist to facilitate comments from other stakeholders. All existing design documentation for the sub-projects' areas will be handed over to the Consultant among commencement of services.

VI. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Please address any request for clarification and other communication to the following address: procurement@ondrl.gov.md

ANNEX 1: SCHEME OF CAHUL SUB-PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK