

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Moldova

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project

Credit No. 7027-MD

Reference No.: MD-PIU-NORLD-358043-CS-INDV

Assignment Title: Procurement Assistant within Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project

Date: May 19, 2023

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (*MWSSP*) is a World Bank-financed Project implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD).

The objective of the assignment is to assist the Procurement Specialist in carrying out procurement processes, according to the World Bank Procurement Regulations. Also, the MWSSP Procurement Assistant will provide support to the Evaluation Committees (EC) in the procurement / evaluation / selection process within the MWSSP and other specialists within the PIU.

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 **June 2, 2023, 16:00 o’clock, Moldova local time, indicating the assignment title in subject line**.

P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development,
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Alexandru cel Bun 51A, 2th floor, MWSSP Office,
mun. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Tel/fax: 022 27-91-21, 069265292
E-mail: tender@ondrl.gov.md

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

**Implementation of the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
(P173076)**

**MWSSP Procurement Assistant
within
National Office for Regional and Local Development**

I. BACKGROUND

Project context

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP) is a World Bank-financed Project to be implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD). The Project was signed on April 22, 2022, with expected effectiveness 120 days after signature date. The Project itself will have a 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 2014–2030¹ 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 WSS² 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 (EUR 41.0/US\$46.5 million). This component will develop new and rehabilitate existing WSS infrastructure and WASH facilities in rural areas and towns, thus expanding access

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 scheduled to be approved by end of 2021

and quality of services for households, businesses, and public institutions and supporting resilience.⁴ It consists of two subcomponents:

Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services (EUR 37.5 million/US\$42.5 million). 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 preliminarily identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia⁵ 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.

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.

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 (EUR 3.5 million/US\$4.0 million). 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 (EUR 3.5 million/US\$3.9 million). This component focusses on institutional capacities of national and subnational entities and WSS operators for management, planning,

⁴ See the WASH Climate Resilience Strategic Framework (UNICEF, Global Water Partnership, 2014) for links between WASH and climate resilience.

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'.

regulation and reform implementation, and performance improvement of service providers for green, resilience, and inclusive service delivery.

Component 3: Project management and coordination (EUR 2.1 million/US\$2.4 million equivalent). 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) (EUR 0 million/US\$0 million). 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 reclassify and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

II. Objective(s) of the assignment

The MWSSP Procurement Assistant (PA) will assist the Procurement Specialist in carrying out procurement processes, according to the World Bank Procurement Regulations. Also, the MWSSP Procurement Assistant will provide support to the Evaluation Committees (EC) in the procurement / evaluation / selection process within the MWSSP and other specialists within the PIU.

III. Scope of Work

The Consultant to be hired based on these Terms of Reference shall:

a) Fulfill following tasks as described, but not limited to:

- Participation in establishing and maintaining a records and filing system of documents and of all official correspondence related to the procurement processes;
- Assist in updating of the Procurement Plan, including creating and amending the electronic version of the procurement plan and conducting the procurement activities for goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services in STEP (Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement);
- Assist PS in carry out assigned procurement processes and alert the Procurement Specialist if significant delays are identified;
- Provide continuous support to the PS in drafting tender documentation in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations and standard templates;
- Prepare and issue the advertisement documentation mandated by the procurement procedures;
- Provide support in responding to the requests for clarifications, issuing and amending bidding documents when necessary;
- Assist in arranging and properly record the proceedings of the pre-bid meetings;

- Participating in arranging and properly record the proceedings of tender openings, preparing and submitting minutes of openings to the World Bank;
- Assist in electronic tender openings, developing the Bid Confirmation Report and/or Proposal Confirmation Report (exclusive documentation for electronic tender openings), prepare and submit minutes of openings to the World Bank;
- Together with PS provide procurement related support to the Evaluation Committees members and serve as Secretary of the Evaluation Committees for some of the assigned procurement packages;
- Assist PS in compilation of evaluation reports in the format required by the World Bank;
- Provide support in arranging and participating in biddings' negotiations and recording the agreements reached;
- Prepare the publishing documentation of contract awards and information for the winners of the bids;
- Assist PS in drafting contracts in coordination with the firms/individuals recommended for contract award;
- Provide support in issuing final versions of the agreed contracts to be signed by the parties in accordance with the tender documentation and Regulations.
- Monitoring the receipt of signed contracts and contract guarantees;
- Provide procurement related support regarding national procurement or accounting law and alignment with World Bank requirements;
- Archive and maintain the project's procurement documentation files, including the electronic archive;
- Provide inputs in preparation of procurement reports to be submitted to the World Bank, NORLD, MIRD;
- Provide inputs for Project progress reports regarding procurement aspects;
- Provide inputs for the revision of the Project Operations Manual where required;
- Participate in the yearly Project Audit also external audits performed by local control authorities;
- Participate in yearly Procurement Review performed by the World Bank.

IV. Qualification requirements and basis for evaluation (evaluation criteria)

The MWSSP Procurement Assistant should have:

- University degree in economics, finance, law, international relations, or related field;
- A minimum of 2 (two) years of relevant work experience in the projects financed by the World Bank;
- Proven experience in procurement of goods, works, and consultant services;
- Knowledge of World Bank and/or other International Financial Institutions procurement rules;
- Knowledge of STEP platform (Systematic Tracking of Exchanges In Procurement) would be an advantage;
- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages;
- Knowledge of Russian language is an asset;
- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project).

Preferred qualifications

- Expertise of the national public procurement legislation would be an advantage;
- Experience of working with large infrastructure projects would be an advantage;
- Experience in working with national public sector authorities, preferably service providers would be an advantage;

V. Duration of the assignment

This assignment is a full-time assignment (subject to 8 hours per day) expected to begin in May 2023. The contract will be signed for a period of 12 months with a trial period of three months. Subject to Consultant's satisfactory performance, the contract may be renewed yearly, until August 2027, but no more than the Project closing day. The MWSSP Procurement Assistant will submit a report related to the activities performed, on a monthly basis.

VI. Institutional Arrangements

The consultant to be hired in accordance with the proposed position should prepare monthly reports on all activities performed. This monthly report should be subject to approval by the NORLD director. The consultant reports to PIU Project Manager and NORLD director. All reports shall be submitted in Romanian or/and English, upon necessity.

The NORLD and Project team will provide the Consultant with necessary support to fulfill his/her duties under this position: Project documents necessary for accomplishment of tasks related to the proposed position, necessary work conditions, including office space, telephone, fax and other office equipment and supplies.

VII. Confidentiality statement

All data and information received from MIRD, NORLD and other stakeholders for the purpose of this assignment is to be treated confidentially and are only to be used in connection with the execution of these Terms of Reference. All intellectual property rights arising from the execution of these Terms of Reference are assigned to NORLD. The contents of written materials obtained and used in this assignment may not be disclosed to any third parties without the expressed advance written authorization of the NORLD.