REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Moldova
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Credit No.: 7027-MD
Reference No.: MD-PIU-NORLD-358033-CS-INDV
Assignment Title: WASH Engineer
Date: April 28, 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 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.

The objective of the assignment is to support the P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development (the Project Implementation Unit) for the implementation of the Subcomponent *1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions".*

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the NORLD web page: https://www.ondrl.gov.md
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 **May 15, 2023, 16:00 o'clock,** Moldova time, indicating the assignment title in the subject line.

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Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
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Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Annex 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

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

WASH Engineer within the 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:

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

[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.

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 river (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 Health care facilities (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 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.

[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'.

II. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES (WASH): THE CURRENT SITUATION

Carrying out a detailed analysis to ensure school institutions and health care facilities with better hygiene and sanitation conditions, it should be noted that no comprehensive data is available. However, preliminary data from the Ministry of Health (MOH) indicate that at least half of rural HCFs do not have safely managed wastewater and/or drinking water supply services and do not have adequate hygiene. A 2016 situation analysis by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) found that 45 percent of rural schools rely on open-air dry pit toilets, most of which have no hand-washing sinks, and 69 percent have no running water. A 2010 UNICEF water quality audit found that one in four students are at major risk and one in three are at moderate risk due to non-compliance with water quality for nitrates, microbiological contamination, fluoride and, to a lesser extent, boron. A 2016 water quality study in kindergartens showed a similar pattern of noncompliance. The Ministry of Education and Research (MOER) has improved the sanitation situation in kindergartens, with 96 percent now reported to have functional indoor toilets, although water quality and the presence of hand-washing facilities are unknown. In primary and secondary schools, only 69% of all 1,136 schools are reported to have functional indoor toilets and 351 have outdoor latrines. The government set targets for access to WASH services in educational institutions under the WHO-led "Protocol on Water and Health" and anticipated targets for WASH in HCFs in the 2023 governmental action plan.

Inadequate WSS infrastructure directly affects the accumulation of human capital, knowledge, educational outcomes and well-being. Access to improved WASH services positively affects handwashing practices that can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the incidence of infectious diseases. Improving access to WSS supports broad economic benefits, with disproportionate benefits for the poor. Women and children are among those who benefit most from access to improved services, particularly in schools and health centers.

In order to improve the situation described above, within the *"Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project"* the *„Subcomponent 1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions"* is to be implemented. Under this sub-component, works, goods, consultancy services, non-consultancy services and training/workshops for the realization of climate-resilient WASH facilities in HCFs and educational institutions and the implementation of the education communication program will be funded for hygiene and behavior change. The World Bank „*Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project"* (P173076), following the priorities of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Research, which will select the priority lists of 100 schools and 25 HCFs, from subproject locations and other prioritized districts within the project will ensure the implementation of activities aimed at connecting the selected institutions to the water sources, to existing centralized water supply networks, connections to sewerage systems or the construction of on-site sanitation facilities and the construction of indoor toilets with adequate handwashing and hygiene facilities, using where appropriate, technologies with low carbon emissions. The design of WASH facilities will address the needs of girls/women (privacy, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities) and be accessible to persons with disabilities.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the assignment is to support the P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development (the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) for the implementation of the Subcomponent *1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions".*

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

The WASH engineer (*hereafter* the Consultant) **shall undertake the following obligations and tasks:**

1. Performs the screening of the institutions according to the list approved by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Research and assess the degree of compliance of the institution with the criteria set by the World Bank, preparing evaluation sheets and a summary report in this regard;
2. Identifies, if necessary, the location for the construction of the WASH facilities in case it is missing;
3. Identifies the options for the delimitation of the sections for the construction of WASH facilities for women and men;
4. Carries out measurements for the construction of sanitary facilities and draws up technical drawings for the construction/reconstruction of WASH facilities, connection to the water supply network and identification of a sanitation solution;
5. Draws up the technical specifications and design schemes/layouts for the design company (for the construction/reconstruction of WASH facilities and connection to the water supply and sanitation source);
6. Coordinates the process of drafting technical documentation/specifications and cost estimates for the construction of sanitary groups, connection to the water supply network and sanitation system;
7. Coordinates the process of signing Cooperation Agreements with LPAs and the management of beneficiary institutions;
8. Supports the process of selecting the design company and the company for the execution of the construction/reconstruction works of the WASH facilities, connection to the water supply network and installation/connection to the sanitation system(s);
9. Monitors the implementation of construction works and submits regular reports on the progress, at the request of the Project Manager;
10. While one of the selection criteria for the targeted social institutions is a connection to the centralized water supply (WS) systems, where necessary major key design elements related to water to consider are:
    a. The total volume required for all needs should be calculated to conform the volume to be supplied per day, as well as reserve capacity for any anticipated future increase in demand;
    b. Treatment facilities, technology and suitability;
    c. Water storage design, technology and suitability;
    d. Water distribution including technology, capacities, design, components and fittings;

e. Points of distribution, taking into account the following:

- ✓ Suitability of technology (quantity and quality);
- ✓ Availability of water (seasonality, daily availability and quantity) within the educational site, at sanitation facilities; for hygiene and handwashing facilities; for MHM; and for waste management (for cleaning waste containers/tools);
- ✓ Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment, including cleaning.

11. Major key design elements related to sanitation to consider in the next stage are:

Key design elements:

a. Suitability of technology (quantity and quality);
b. Availability of water for flushing;
c. Inclusive access and design incorporating special needs;
d. Separated facilities for males and females, where appropriate, as well as separate facilities for the staff; and
e. Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment, including cleaning.
f. Separated facilities for patients and medical staff
g. Safety and privacy of use

Emptying and transport:

h. Suitability of technology;
i. Location and accessibility for emptying purposes;
j. Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment, including cleaning;
k. Design should consider any relevant regulations and procedures, relating to the health of treatment operators; and
l. Safety of the operations.

Wastewater treatment:

m. Suitability of technology;
n. Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment;
o. Safety of the operations;
p. Location and accessibility of treatment for emptying purposes. Onsite and offsite solutions can be considered; and
q. Design should consider any relevant regulations and procedures relating to the health of wastewater treatment operators.

Drainage:

r. Suitability of technology; and
s. Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment.

12. Major key design elements related to hand hygiene to consider in the next stage are:

Handwashing infrastructure:

a. Suitability of technology, including availability of water, soap and other materials;
b. Proximity to sanitation and MHM facilities, classrooms, and eating areas;

c. Proximity to wards and points of care (e.g. out-patients, inpatients, maternity, infectious diseases, dispensary and training and capacity development rooms);
d. Proximity to sanitation facilities;
e. Safety and privacy of use; and
f. Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment, including cleaning.

MHM facilities:

g. Suitability of technology;
h. Proximity to sanitation facilities; and
i. Safety and privacy of use.
j. Suitability for local MHM cultural practices; and

Ease of operation and maintenance of the equipment, including cleaning.

At the stage of the construction works, the WASH Engineer will collaborate with the quality assurance department and has the obligations provided in Law on quality in construction No. 721-XIII of February 2, 1996, and the Government decision no. 361 of 25.06.1996 regarding the quality assurance of the constructions and the norms in force.

The activities will be carried out in English and Romanian languages. The written communication will be submitted in one or both languages English and Romanian, depending on the situation and specific requirements.

V. TIMING

This is a full-time assignment to be performed during the period **of 12 months** and could be extended subsequently subject to the Consultant's satisfactory performance.

VI. DELIVERABLES

1. Report on the screening of selected institutions, according to WB criteria;
2. Preparation of the technical specifications for the design company, including technical drawings of sanitary groups and other related infrastructure;
3. Monthly monitoring reports of the works in the selected institutions;
4. Monthly progress reports on the implementation of WASH actions under Sub-component 1.2 of the project.
5. Final report which will include conclusions on the results achieved under Sub-component 1.2 of the project, with lessons learned and recommendations on the opportunity to replicate such projects in other localities.

VII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Consultant will report to and work under the direct supervision of the PIU Project Manager and will be required to work in close collaboration with Chief WSS Engineer and other PIU members. The Consultant will prepare timesheets in line with tasks assigned and report to PIU Project Manager, just after the timesheets are coordinated by the Chief WSS engineer.

VIII. RESOURCES

The PIU will provide working space, office equipment and communication facilities, as well as any other necessary means and support for consultant in carrying out this assignment.

IX. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

- University Degree in civil engineering;
- Minimum of 5 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;
- Previous experience with international organizations in the WSS sector, and familiarity World Bank's procedures;
- Knowledge of Project Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Knowledge of national construction and other related legislation;
- Willingness to undertake regular field visits and interact with different stakeholders;
- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages;
- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project and AutoCad).