

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

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

Chief WSS Engineer
within the
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 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

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

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

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, 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 recategorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

II. OBJECTIVES

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'.

The objective of the assignment is to support the National Office for Regional and Local Development (the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) in the implementation and oversight of technical Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) aspects related to Project implementation. The Chief WSS Engineer, hired as a consultant, will play an integral role in the core PIU team, and is expected to lead, manage and coordinate timely technical implementation and ensure compliance with World Bank and national requirements of the Republic of Moldova, in line with the Project Approval documents. The Chief WSS Engineer will be responsible for the coordination of all technical project WSS related issues, including preparing and in review of the technical requirements of Bidding Documents and technical bids, participation in the evaluation process, providing support in negotiations, supervision of the WSS related contracts and co-signing the WSS contract related documentation (ex. bill of quantities, etc.), providing input to the progress reports or other reports prepared under the project.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

The Chief WSS engineer (hereafter the Consultant) shall undertake the following obligations and tasks:

Preparation of technical documentation

1. Review all available project documents developed related to the selected projects sides i.e. Cahul, Riscani, Comrat and Soroca, among others, to identify gaps, remedial measures, next steps, and to use these reviews to inform design and preparation of all technical documents required for implementation of works.
2. Provide support to MIRD and PIU in drafting ToRs for feasibility studies and other technical design studies or technical assessments to be carried out within the Project.
3. Provide support to the Evaluation Committee as lead technical specialist.
4. Support development of technical studies and design works as required for feasibility, and review drawings, cost estimates, and support market rate estimation for investments, being the lead technical counterpart and liaison between contractor and PIU, as well as on behalf of MIRD.
5. Provide support to MIRD and PIU in reviewing the feasibility studies and other technical studies carried out under the Project.
6. Support contractors in the optimization of designs for regional water supply schemes, providing leadership and strategic input into their finalization.
7. Support other technical assessments carried out as part of technical preparation and implementation through technical review, input, support in data collection and analysis and leadership on design decisions required, including, for example, support for technical WSS aspects for Component 1.2 (WASH in schools and health-care facilities).
8. Ensure all documents and decisions are technically sound, and that they are adequately consulted and discussed with relevant parties.
9. Supervise and obtain all necessary approvals during the implementation of the sub-project and including, at any stage of implementation or completion. Ensure that licenses and authorizations, as necessary and appropriate are in place, and proactively stop any works in case of withdrawal, suspension or expiration of such, immediately presenting a report in this respect to the Beneficiary and the Project Manager. Responsible for the adequate filing of technical documentation.
10. Coordinate the development and submission of project reports and other outputs as required throughout Project duration. Assist where necessary in Bank missions and in other meetings relating to the project.

11. Lead technical discussions with the Bank on Project progress. Lead and manage timely updates to any Project Progress documentation regarding physical and financial progress on contracts, in collaboration with the PIU Project Manager and Procurement Specialist.
12. Lead the input of technical information required for Project monitoring and evaluation and progress.
13. Provide technical inputs to updating of the Project Operational Manual where required. Provide guidance to PIU and MIRD and other relevant stakeholders on technical implementation roles (supervision roles of RDAs, LPAs etc.).
14. Lead technical discussions on service delegation contracts and other aspects, where required and provide guidance to other parties.
15. Promote Bank procedures, including Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), and ensure the transparency in the implementation of the technical aspects of the Project.

Technical supervision

16. Supervise on a daily basis works carried out by contractors.
17. Verify and approve: technical procedures for the execution of works; execution schedules of works; quality of construction;
18. Recommend whether construction works should be suspended in case of quality defects or deviations; and suggest measures to correct technical issues and inform relevant parties of recommendations;
19. Keep an up-to-date the Register of evidence of the verified construction works;
20. Support in elaboration of request for payments.
21. Present regular reports to the PIU of progress.
22. Work in close collaboration with internal counterparts and external partners in the implementation of technical aspects of the Project.

When executing the construction works, the Chief WSS Engineer is part of 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.

IV. DELIVERABLES

The outputs of the Chief WSS Engineer will include inter alia:

1. Draft TORs for feasibility studies and other technical design studies or technical assessments revised;
2. Support to the Evaluation Committee;
3. Support to MIRD and PIU in reviewing technical studies carried out;
4. Technical inputs to the Project Operational Manual;
5. Confirmations of the approval of the reports, payment documentation and preliminary and/or final acceptance documentation for works under the Project;

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. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief WSS Engineer will report to and work under the direct supervision of the PIU Project Manager and will be required to work in close collaboration with other PIU members.

VII. 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.

VIII. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Degree in civil engineering or related field;
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience in in preparing and implementing WSS projects. Previous experience with similar assignments will be an asset;
- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages;
- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project).