

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Moldova
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Credit No.: 7027-MD
Reference No.: MD-PIU-NORLD-498718-CS-INDV
Assignment Title: MWSSP Project Manager
Date: June 18, 2025

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

Objective: The National Office for Regional and Local Development (the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) seeks to engage a Project Manager, hired as a consultant, responsible for management, coordination and implementation of the MWSSP within the framework of the assigned project, in accordance with the agreed project documentation, guidelines and procedures of the World Bank (hereinafter WB) and other donors. The Project Manager will provide leadership and coordination of the PIU team. They will be responsible for managing and coordinating all Project activities being implemented by the PIU for the purposes of the project.

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

The NORLD now invites eligible Individual Consultants (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the „Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants” method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

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

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **July 3, 2025, 16:00 o’clock, Moldova time, indicating the assignment title in subject line**.

P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development,
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project
Capriana 50 Str., 3th floor, MWSSP Office 327,
mun. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova MD-2001
Tel/fax: 022 27-91-21, 069265292
E-mail: tender@ondrl.gov.md

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

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

**Project Manager
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

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.

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, 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 National Office for Regional and Local Development (the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) seeks to engage a Project Manager, hired as a consultant, responsible for management, coordination and implementation of the MWSSP within the framework of the assigned project, in accordance with the agreed project documentation, guidelines and procedures of the World Bank (hereinafter WB) and other donors. The Project Manager will provide leadership and coordination of the PIU team. They will be responsible for managing and coordinating all Project activities being implemented by the PIU for the purposes of the project.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

The specific activities of Project Manager will include the following, among others:

1. Serve as Project Manager of Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP) and coordination focal point between PIU, MIRD and the WB on matters related to implementation.
2. Provide leadership, guidance and supervision of all implementation activities of various stakeholders in line with the project documents.
3. Coordinate and supervise consultants, team members, and various work streams, including delivery of their inputs
4. Oversee the development of training and capacity building for PIU.
5. Represent PIU in relation with Government institutions, development partners and others.
6. Identify areas of work requiring additional support, proactively engage on defining the assignment, lead the support to MIRD and PIU in drafting ToRs to be carried out within the Project, and supervise the hiring process where required.
7. Ensure frequent communication and coordination of all activities with MIRD and WB. Ensure timely provision and exchange of project information.
8. With support from PIU team, monitor and evaluate activities against set targets
9. Lead the planning and execution of consultation events, including preparation of materials for presentation, agenda and preparation of summary reports (chairing meetings where required, and presenting the work, among other duties), and supervise dissemination of information to the public.
10. Coordinate the development and submission of project reports and other outputs as required throughout the project duration.
11. Oversee the development of progress, monitoring and evaluation reports in line with WB and MIRD requirements; ensure quality and timeliness of reports and present progress reports to management.
12. Participate in WB missions and in other meetings relating to the project.
13. Manage activities relating to finance management, annual budget planning, disbursements and project funds in compliance with procedures of control and audit acceptable to the WB and the Government for the project, in close coordination with project financial management specialists.
14. Coordinate all procurement-related matters for project preparation including procurement of goods, works and services in compliance with all applicable guidelines and other project documents of the WB, in close coordination with project procurement specialists.
15. Conduct periodic individual and team performance reviews and undertake other performance management activities to build a high-performing team.
16. Coordinate the implementation of Trust Funds and associated grant activities and ensure close coordination and information exchange with the donor, Bank and Government of Moldova, including reporting on progress.
17. Other responsibilities assigned by the Executive Director

IV. DELIVERABLES

The outputs of the Project Manager will include the following documentation and reports:

1. PIU strategic documents, action plans, papers, concepts, reports;
2. Institutionalized internal business processes and procedures;
3. Project Operational Manual;
4. Team performance reviews;

5. Presentations and input to communication materials;
6. Terms of reference;
7. Progress and other relevant reports on MWSSP.

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 Consultant will report to and work under the direct supervision of the Director of the PIU. The deliverables shall be approved by the Director of PIU and/or MIRD, PIU Management Board, Steering Committee, etc. as appropriate.

VII. RESOURCES

The PIU will provide working space, office equipment and communication facilities (including access to the Internet), as well as any other necessary means and support for consultant to carry out this assignment.

VIII. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Qualification requirements and evaluation criteria

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in business administration, law, international relations, environmental science or related field.
- At least three years of experience in the design, management and implementation of international projects, preferably related to infrastructure, environment, or water supply and sanitation. Experience working with development organizations and the World Bank an advantage.
- At least three years of experience in working with Government institutions. Experience working with technical assistance projects within Government an advantage.
- Experience in managing multidisciplinary teams and strong people management skills.
- Experience in coordination between different teams.
- Experience in project budgeting.
- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages.
- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project).