REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

TAJIKISTAN

DUSHANBE SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: IDA V4910-TJ

**Assignment Title:** Environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for solid waste collection system, and for landfill in Dushanbe

**Reference No**. (as per Procurement Plan): TJ-SUE SMART CITY -410935-CS-CQS

The Executive State Authority of Dushanbe City SUE “Smart City” has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Dushanbe sustainable urban development project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) of this assignment is divided into 2 parts. For the overall project, specifically for the investments under Component I (related to improving the efficiency of solid waste collection services, also called ‘subprojects’ below) that will have a city-wide footprint and whose location, scale and type of impacts are unknown at this stage, a framework-based approach will need to be adopted to guide the preparation of risk specific instruments and mitigation measures at a later stage. For investments that are known in terms of their location, scale and scope, mainly those under Component 2 (related to the city landfill and adjoining areas) an ESIA will need to be prepared

Part A of the assignment will thus be to develop the E&S Management Framework, while Part B will involve assessing the impacts that are presently known and developing mitigation measures and instruments to manage them based on World Bank’s risk management hierarchy.

## Part A: Development of an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

To provide technical guidance for environmental and social assessment and management a key instrument will be an ESMF. This instrument is chosen because by the time of appraisal the specific features, locations, size, and footprints beyond the landfill area of the project will not be known.

Overall, in the case of the proposed Project operations, potential negative environmental and social impacts due to subproject activities are likely to include, potential land acquisition, impacts on assets, temporary/ permanent lack of access to land, temporary/permanent loss of livelihoods and economic displacement, loss of vegetation, soil erosion, water pollution, air pollution, public health impacts, dust, working conditions and occupational safety and health (OSH) related risks for the workers, risk of child labor, and gender-based violence (GBV). These impacts must be fully identified, and appropriate mitigating measures clearly defined, costed and to be incorporated into the project's overall budget.

The World Bank financed projects are guided by environmental and social safeguards standards and other relevant procedures e.g., IFC Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) guidelines to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment in the development process. The relevant WBG Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) standards are ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS5, and ESS10.

An ESMF is required for this project because the precise details of the investments are yet to be defined in terms of their exact location, scope of proposed activities, etc. Therefore, it is not possible to ascertain the precise physical footprint and nature of impacts at this stage.

The objectives of this ESMF will be:

1. To serve as a practical tool to guide identification and mitigation of potential environmental and social impacts of future investments.
2. To provide screening tools and guidelines for assessing potential environmental and social impacts of subprojects, policies and plans to be supported by the Project.
3. To make provision for mitigation measures which will effectively address identified negative impacts.
4. To specify appropriate roles and responsibilities and outline the necessary reporting procedures for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to the Project.
5. To determine the training and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF; and
6. To establish the program funding required to implement the ESMF requirements.

## Part B: Undertaking an Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):

The aim of the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) study will be to assess the likely environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the known project investments, including design and infrastructure improvements, to ensure efficient use of resources, identify key long-term and short-term social and environmental impacts and measures for their mitigation and management to protect human health and safety, and enhanced social aspects. The ESIA will propose practical and effective mitigation measures by consolidating the legal and institutional framework and improving institutional efficiency and capacity while covering the project locations, preparation, design, alternatives, and operations to prevent or reduce any potential negative environmental and social implications and risks of the operational activities on the local community and environment.

The main objectives of the ESIA process will be to:

1. Identify and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the proposed Project activities, including existing solid waste infrastructure, and any expansion and upgradation of those facilities and solid waste treatment and disposal methods supported by the project, in accordance with relevant World Bank ESF Standards (ESSs) and Tajik laws and regulations;
2. To adopt a mitigation hierarchy to anticipate and avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize, and, where residual impacts remain, compensate/offset for risks, and impacts on workers, affected communities, and the environment;
3. Develop site/subproject-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) containing recommended mitigation measures, including specific actions to be taken by contractors and subcontractors of the Project covering each main phase of the Project and key subprojects;
4. Support the State Unitary Enterprise "Smart City" in carrying out meaningful consultations and documents such as stakeholder engagement activities in accordance with ESS10 requirements, in the form of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

The implementation period of the assignment is 24 weeks and is expected to commence in June 2024.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be obtained at the address given below.*

The Executive State Authority of Dushanbe City SUE “Smart City” 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 preparation of the intended ESMF and conducting impact assessment and preparation of ESIA report will be executed by an Environmental and Social consultant with a proven track record in environmental and social assessment and management projects, as well as sector-specific experience in the urban solid waste management or other relevant sectors such as water, industry, medical wastes, agribusiness, and extractives. The Consultant firm shall mobilize to field national teams, covering at a minimum area such as terrestrial and ground and surface water pollution, hydrology, and hydrogeology; pollution management; cumulative impact assessment; environmental and social assessment and infrastructure projects; social impacts assessment, resettlement, compensation; physical cultural resources; occupational health and safety management and compliances.

The consultant’s Key Staff will include:

1. Environmental specialist,
2. Solid waste management specialist, with expertise in waste collection, treatment, and landfill design, construction, and operation,
3. Social development specialist with background and experience in social auditing, labor related issues specifically on child labor, GBV and some experience in solid waste management
4. Resettlement & Rehabilitation Specialist with background and experience in preparing and implementing resettlement and livelihoods restoration plans for large or high-risk projects.
5. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) expert with background and experience in environmental and social auditing, and experience in solid waste management.

Experience in Tajikistan or Central Asia for the consultant as a whole is preferred. For the core team, the consultant shall ensure that a sufficient number of team members speak Tajik languages. The consultant´s proposals should include the CVs of the core team members. Qualifications of staff should include relevant technical capabilities, specific previous similar project experience (such as work experience in solid waste management, and with the World Bank, ADB, or other similar institutes) with specific language skills.

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’ July 2016 revised December 2020 [Procurement in investment Project Financing; Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services], 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 Qualification Selection (CQS)** method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09:00 – 17:00.

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 31 May, 2024.

**Project Implementation Group**

**Attention: Boboev Sangin – Project Manager**

***Dushanbe, Mirzo Tursunzoda st. 27A***

**Email:** [**dsudp@dsc.tj**](mailto:dsudp@dsc.tj)