**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**(SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS)**

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| Country: | Republic of Tajikistan |
| Project Name: | Joint IsDB/ISFD-GPE-OFID Project for Support to Implementation of the National Education Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Phase-II) |
| Sector: | Education |
| INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SERVICES: | Environmental Safeguards Specialist – 1 position |
| Mode of Financing: | IsDB Loan and Instalment Sale |
| Financing No: | TJK1043 |

The Republic of Tajikistan has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank to finance the “Joint IsDB/ISFD-GPE-OFID Project for Support to Implementation of the National Education Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Phase-II)”, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under the contract of consultant services of an Individual Consultant for which this Expression of Interest is issued.

The Project objectives are to improve the learning environment and facilitate system strengthening for sustainable implementation of an inclusive, competency-based education system to improve student learning outcomes in Tajikistan. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan is the Executing Agency of the project. The project implementation period is 5 (five) years.

The services include, but not limited to the following: ensure that the final detailed design and other technical documentation of construction works to be prepared by project supervision consultant comply with IsDB/GPE/Government requirements/standards on construction, including with updated standards on accessibility (disability accessible and gender sensitive) and WASH standards, monitoring and control of the quality of construction and installation works and compliance with the contractors’ work schedule, timely verification of all documentation related to the progress of construction works, including IPCs etc. The estimated level of efforts is 48 (forty-eight) months for this consultant. The expected start date of assignment is March 2025.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment is attached to this document*.*

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan now invites eligible consultants (“Individual Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide specific information which demonstrates that they are fully qualified to perform the services.

The shortlist will be drawn up following to the evaluation of CVs and information submitted in response to this notice of expression of interest. Potential candidates will be required to provide further information and proofs on their general qualifications as an individual consultant,their mission-relevant experience, their experience in the sector as well as their language ability.

Selection will be in accordance with the selection method applicable to Individual Consultants as defined in the IsDB *Guidelines for the Procurement of Consultant Services under IsDB Project Financing* (April 2019 edition, revised February 2023).

**Minimum Qualification Requirements**

* Higher education in environmental Sciences, environmental management, climate change, occupational health and safety, urban development, engineering and construction, or other relevant fields;
* At least 5 (five) years of experience in environmental management, knowledge and operationalization of the principles of environmental assessment, monitoring, and reporting;
* At least 2 (two) years of experience on preparing, monitoring and/or reporting of the site- specific EMPs (Environmental Management Plan), and/or updating of the IEE (Initial Environmental Examination) in the implementation of a project which was financed by international financial institution(s) such as IsDB, ADB, WB, or EBRD, or other international donor(s), is required;
* A good knowledge and understanding of the IsDB Safeguard Policy or similar regulations from other international financial institution(s); and the environmental national legislation of the GoT, is required;
* Familiarity with the education sector project would be an advantage.
* Being good in English (written and spoken) as a working language is required; and fluency in Tajik or Russian language (oral and written) is required;
* Skills in preparing high-quality reports will be an asset.
* A confident user of (MS Office, MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint, Internet E-mail etc.).

The attention of interested Individual Consultants is invited to read Part 1 Chapter 1 Para 1.12.1 and 1.12.2 of the IsDB *Guidelines for the Procurement of Consultant Services under IsDB Project Financing, April 2019 edition, revised February 2023* (the "Procurement Guidelines") setting forth the IsDB's policy on conflicts of interest.

Interested individual consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours*, i.e. 08:00 to 17:00* (local time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form accompanied by the CV and any other document (in person or by e-mail) to the address below no later than 5 March 2025, 17:00 local time.

Address:

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan

Attention: Project Implementation Group for Joint IsDB/ISFD-GPE-OFID Project for Support to Implementation of the National Education Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Phase-II)

6 Lohuti street

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Website: www.maorif.tj

**Terms of Reference and Scope of Services**

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| **Title of Position:** | Environmental Safeguards Specialist |
| **Project Title:** | The Joint IsDB/ISFD-GPE-OFID Project for Support to Implementation of the National Education Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Phase -2) |
| **Project №:** | TJK1043 |

1. **Background**

The Republic of Tajikistan has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank toward the cost of the Joint IsDB/ISFD-GPE-OFID Project for Support to Implementation of the National Education Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Phase-II). The total cost of the project is US$86 million. IsDB financing amounts to US$ 45 million. The project is co-financed by Global Partnership for Education, OPEC Fund for International Development and Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Project objectives is to improve the learning environment and facilitate system strengthening for sustainable implementation of an inclusive, competency-based education system to improve student learning outcomes in Tajikistan.

A dedicated full-time Project Implementation Group is established within the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoES / Executing Agency) to ensure efficient management and implementation of the Project. The Executing Agency is recruiting Environmental Safeguards Specialist, who will function under the supervision of MoES and PIG Manager.

1. **Key Tasks and Responsibilities**

The details of the specific assignments/tasks of the Environmental Safeguards Specialist will be as follows:

* Coordinate the preparation of Environment Impact Assessment Study and Management Plan for each project site before commencement of civil works and ensure their timely submission to IsDB for review and clearance;
* Ensure that for each selected sub- project a site specific EMP and social impact assessment (in English and Tajik and/or Russian) is developed in-line with IsDB policy and Tajikistan’s environmental legislation and other relevant environmental standards and codes, before civil works start as well as prevention/mitigation measures and monitoring activities identified in the EMP;
* Consider implementation of environmentally sound options for energy use, effective use of materials and reuse and recycle options for waste generated (such as installation of solar panels toward introducing clean energy alternatives across the school facilities;
* In cooperation with Safeguard Team ensure all environmental requirements are incorporated in the bidding documents prior to bidding, by providing the necessary inputs and review of such documents; Ensure classrooms, WASH, and school-related facilities as well as the female dormitories for the project-targeted schools met the international and local standards; inclusion of all the adaptation measures stated at the Project Appraisal Document into the design of the buildings (
* Coordination of environmental activities at all levels of the project (baseline data, impact assessment and analysis, etc.) in accordance with the environmental management plan;
* Providing technical guidance and information to project staff and Project Supervision Consultant on environmental issues and regarding sub-project requirements (local, national or international environmental standards; permits, licenses and inspections that are required at the sub-project level);
* Independently monitor EMP implementation, undertake site visits as required, identify environment-related implementation issues and concern, and propose necessary corrective actions;
* Conduct trainings for regional and district departments of environmental protection and/or Project Supervision Consultant regarding IsDB environmental standards if needed.
* Review environmental implications of construction works on by conducting regular site visits;
* Perform environmental forecasting of the impact of the Project;
* Direct participation in the composition of the State Commission for the acceptance of completed design for compliance with environmental requirements;
* Regularly submit a report in accordance with the requirements of the IsDB and national authorities;
* Maintain confidentiality and not disclose information related to the Project, as well as documentary and verbal information available in the office of the PIU.

**III. Essential Skills, Experience and Qualifications**

* Higher education in Environmental Sciences, Environmental Management, Climate change, occupational health and safety, urban development, engineering and construction, or other relevant fields, is required;
* At least 5 (five) years’ experience in environmental management, knowledge and operationalization of the principles of environmental assessment, monitoring, and reporting;
* At least 2 (two) years of experience on preparing, monitoring and/or reporting of the site- specific EMPs, and/or updating of the IEE in the implementation of a project which was financed by international financial institution(s) such as IsDB, ADB, WB, or EBRD, or other international donor(s), is required;
* A good knowledge and understanding of the IsDB Safeguard Policy or similar regulations from other international financial institution(s); and the environmental national legislation of the GoT, is required;
* Familiarity with the education sector project would be an advantage.
* English (written and spoken) as a working language is required; and fluency in Tajik or Russian language (oral and written) is required;
* Skills in preparing high-quality reports will be an asset.
* A confident user of (MS Office, MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint, Internet E-mail etc.) and other computer programs.

**IV. Competencies**

* Communication skills: the ability to communicate appropriate, concise and accurate information in written and verbal formats; Experience in compilation and writing reports is an asset.
* Accuracy and attention to details: the ability to ensure and maintain a high degree of accuracy and quality in work, including work under pressure and multiple assignments.
* Problem solving: ability to make reasonable judgment and take initiative in all operational processes and propose practical and realistic solutions to address them;
* Planning and organizing: ability to operate independently with minimum control, prioritize and schedule workload. Effectively manage high volume of multiple tasks.
* Team work: building effective communication and relationships both within and outside the team. Sharing knowledge, information and best practices with others.
* Results orientated: ability to ensure the goals and operational targets are achieved and exceeded.

**V. Contractual conditions**

* The duration of the contract will be 12 (twelve) months with 3 (three) months’ probation period starting from the contract signing date and renewable annually based on annual performance evaluation and project needs.
* Remuneration will be paid monthly in accordance with the salary scale agreed between the IsDB, Executing Agency, and Ministry of Finance (in line with Decree of GOT #582 dated November 29, 2022
* The position may require travel to project sites within Tajikistan. Travel expenses such as daily allowance, accommodation, etc. will be reimbursed in accordance with the relevant procedures.
* The Environment Safeguard Specialist will be accountable to PIG Manager on day-to-day project activities.
* The place of work - Dushanbe city.

**VI. Required documents:**

* CV and cover letter in Tajik/Russian and English
* University diplomas and other relevant certifications along with translation into English
* Two reference letters from the most recent employers