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Date: 12/05/2024

Request for Expression of Interest (Consulting Services – Firm Selection)

Country : Bangladesh
Name of the Project : Rural Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for Human Capital Development Project.
Assignment Title : Reforming the Sector Policy and Regulatory Framework through Preparing the Sector Investment Plan (SIP) and Developing Implementation Guidelines for SDG-6 in the WASH Sector of Bangladesh.
Reference No. : RWSHP-SD-16

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the World Bank (with co-financing from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank -AIIB) to finance Rural Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for Human Capital Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh intends to apply a portion of mentioned credit to hire a firm to assist DPHE for reforming the Sector Policy and Regulatory Framework through Preparing the Sector Investment Plan (SIP) and Developing Implementation Guidelines for SDG-6 in the WASH Sector of Bangladesh.

The primary objectives of this assignment are:

- To prepare a comprehensive Sector Investment Plan (SIP) through detailed financial analysis, and
- To develop clear, actionable implementation guidelines for local government institutions and all stakeholders in the WASH sector.

These objectives are integral to advancing the WASH sector's alignment with and achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG-6), which focuses on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The SIP will provide a strategic financial framework to identify and mobilize the necessary resources, addressing critical gaps and optimizing investments in the sector. Simultaneously, the implementation guidelines will serve as a detailing the practical steps and methodologies required to effectively implement SDG-6 initiatives. Together, these tools are designed to foster an efficient, and inclusive approach to WASH services, ultimately contributing to the improved health, well-being, and economic development of communities across Bangladesh.

Under the Development of Sector Investment Plan (SIP) and Develop Implementation Guideline for Achieving SDG-6 the following scope of works have to cover:

- a. Document Review and Secondary Research
- b. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultations
- c. Data Collection and Analysis
- d. Prepare Comprehensive Draft Report on SIP & Implementation Guidelines
- e. Stakeholder Review and Validation Workshop
- a. Report Finalization and Documentation
- f. National level Dissemination Event and Advocacy

The duration of the consultancy services shall be 15 months. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at DPHE website: www.dphe.gov.bd.

DPHE now invites interested Consulting firms/NGO/INGOs to indicate their interest in providing the policy support services. Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short-listing criteria are:

- The Firm must have minimum 07 years of working experience on developing sector as a registered entity in Bangladesh.
- The firm should have a proven track record in preparing investment plan, conducting financial analyses, preferably in the WASH sector or similar public health and infrastructure sectors.
- The firm should have demonstrable experience and knowledge in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector, including understanding of local and international standards and practices.
- The firm should have expertise in Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG-6, and experience in developing strategies and guidelines for achieving these goals.
- Demonstrable ability to engage with a range of stakeholders including government agencies, international donors, private sector, and community groups.
- Firms having Ability to perform in-depth research, including data collection, analysis, and reporting will get preferences.

In addition of above criteria firms are requested to submit following documents in support of eligibility to carry out the assignment:

(i) Firm's Legal/Business documents; (ii) Firm's Brochure/Profile; and (iii) List of Key Experts/Sectoral Experts with detail CVs of Key Professionals with required minimum qualification as mentioned in the ToR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, Para 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016 and updated in November 2020," setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

The interested firms are allowed to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) alone if it considers itself to be fully qualified on its own for undertaking the assignment, as it is not mandatory for consultants to associate with any other firm(s), whether foreign or local. Alternatively, if consultants themselves choose to associate to enhance their qualifications and capability for the assignment, then such associations may either be as a Joint Venture (i.e. all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally responsible) and/or Sub-consultants (i.e. the Consultant will be responsible, including for the services of the sub-consultant). In case of an association, the Consultants must explain in the EOI submission (a) the rationale for forming the association and (b) the anticipated role and relevant qualifications of each member of the Joint Venture and/or of each sub-consultant for carrying out the assignment, to justify the proposed inclusion of the JV members and/or sub-consultants in the association.

The Firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultants Qualifications based Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers". Further information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned given below during office hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm of Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted one (01) hard copy along with one (01) soft copy @PDF format in a Pen drive/USB drive to the address of the undersigned by 3:00 pm (BST), May 27, 2024.

The Procuring Entity will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or delivery of the EOI.


(Md. Tabibur Rahman Tarukder)
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