

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Moldova

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project

**Credit No.:** 7027-MD

**Reference No.:** MD-PIU-NORLD-469760-CS-INDV

**Assignment Title:** WSS Engineer within the Regional Development Agency North

**Date:** January 13, 2025

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

**Objectives:** The objective of the assignment is to support, and Regional Development Agency North (RDA North) 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 in cooperation with Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development.

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 **27 January, 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

Stefan cel Mare 124, 3th floor, MWSSP Office 335,

mun. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova MD-2001

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***Annex 1: Terms of Reference***

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

**WSS Engineer within the Regional Development Agency North**

## **I. BACKGROUND**

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP) is a World Bank - financed Project implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD). The Project was signed on April 21, 2022. The Project itself will have 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 2014–2030<sup>1</sup> 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 WSS<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

*The Project consists of four components:*

**Component 1:** Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns. 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.<sup>4</sup> It consists of two subcomponents:

**Subcomponent 1.1:** Expanding access and quality of WSS services. 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

<sup>1</sup> Updated and approved by Government Decision 440 of July 1, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Sanitation refers to both access to wastewater networks and treatment systems and on-site facilities such as septic tanks.

<sup>3</sup> The National Regional Development Strategy is approved by the Government Decision no. 40/2022.

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

citizen engagement activities. This refers to water supply infrastructure in two identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia<sup>5</sup> 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 villages in Riscani District, 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 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. 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. 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. 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). 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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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'.

This component allows the Government to request the World Bank to re-categorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the assignment is to support, and Regional Development Agency North (RDA North) 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 in cooperation with Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development.

## **III. SCOPE OF WORK**

**The WSS engineer shall undertake the following obligations and tasks:**

1. Assist Regional Development Agency North and Project Implementation Unit/NORLD in review all available project documents developed related to the selected projects sides i.e. Riscani and Soroca (see project components above), 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 in drafting ToRs and other technical design studies or technical assessments to be carried out within the Project.
3. Provide support to the Evaluation Committee during the evaluation of the offers presented in the procurement procedures.
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 technical counterpart and liaison between contractors, RDA North and PIU.
5. 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.
6. Provide support to RDA North and PIU in ensuring all documents and decisions are technically sound, and that they are adequately consulted and discussed with relevant parties.
7. Provide assistance in issues related to the field of water supply and sanitation in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of WSS projects within the RDA North.
8. Participate in all aspects related to the WSS field in the activity of RDA North.
9. Ensure timely presentation, review and approval of project documents.

10. Support for RDA North in checking the technical procedures for the execution of the works, the execution schedules of the works related to the essential requirements, the minutes regarding the executed works.
11. Promptly inform the management of North RDA, PIU and the Beneficiary about the need to liquidate the identified deficiencies and the necessary measures to be taken for their exclusion and repetition;
12. Assist RDA North and PIU in obtaining all necessary approvals during the implementation of the sub-projects 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 RDA North Director and the PIU Manager.
13. Participation in the development and submission of project reports and other outputs as required throughout Project duration.
14. Lead and manage timely updates to any Project Progress documentation regarding physical and financial progress on contracts, in collaboration with the RDA North Director, PIU Project Manager and PIU Procurement Team.
15. In collaboration with RDA North and PIU engineering teams provide the input of technical information required for Project monitoring and evaluation and progress.
16. Conducting together with the RDA North and PIU engineering team periodic visits to construction sites to examine the volumes and quality of the works performed.
17. Support the monitoring of the execution schedules of works.
18. If necessary, 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. Present regular reports to the RDA North and PIU of progress, according to the Financing contract and other RDA North and PIU requirements.
20. Work in close collaboration with PIU, internal counterparts and external partners in the implementation of technical aspects of the Project.
21. Examine and give a conclusion for the approval of payments documentation and preliminary and/or final acceptance documentation for works under the Project.

When executing the construction works, the WSS Engineer will collaborate with 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, or according to the provisions of the Code of Urbanism and Construction, which enters into force on January 1, 2025.

The activities will be carried out in English and Romanian languages. The written communication will be submitted in one or both languages English and Romanian, depending on the situation and specific requirements.

#### **IV. TIMING**

This is a full-time assignment to be performed during the period **of 12 months** and could be extended subsequently subject to the WSS Engineer's satisfactory performance.

#### **V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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

The WSS Engineer will submit a monthly progress report on the activities performed.

This monthly report should be subject to approval by the RDA North Director and PIU Project Manager. The consultant reports to RDA North Director and PIU Project Manager. All reports shall be submitted in Romanian or/and English, upon necessity.

#### **RESOURCES**

The RDA North 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.

#### **VI. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- University Degree in water supply and sanitation, environmental or civil engineering;
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience in preparing and implementing WSS projects.
- Proven experience in working with private or public sector, in similar assignments will be an asset;
- Previous experience with international organizations in the WSS sector, and familiarity World Bank's procedures;
- Knowledge of Project Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Knowledge of national construction and other related legislation;
- Willingness to undertake regular field visits and interact with different stakeholders;
- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages;
- Russian language will be an advantage;
- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project and AutoCad).