

Building the Capacity of PWA in the World Bank's Environmental and Social safeguards requirements

Consultant title: Senior Environmental and Social Safeguards Expert

Reports to: General Director of the Projects Management Unit, Palestinian Water Authority

Status: Consultant

Location: PWA-Ramallah and Hebron offices and the site of HWWTP-West Bank

Level of Effort: 180 days (: 90 days a year for a period of 2 years – on a declining basis)

Duration: Two Years

Initiation date: Jan. 2020

I. Background

The City of Hebron in the south eastern section of the West Bank/Palestine is served by a combined sewer system which provides sewer services to approximately 80% of the city. There is currently no wastewater treatment plant at the end of the sewer system and therefore, most of the sewage intercepted by the sewers runs untreated along Wadi As-Sameen until it reaches the green line to Shokeit where it is eventually treated by the Israelis.

In order to address the outstanding issue within the Hebron Governorate, the Palestinian Authority requested support from the donor community for the wastewater management in the Hebron Governorate including the construction of Hebron Wastewater Treatment Plant (HWWTP). The project is to be financed by a consortium of multilateral and bilateral partners including the 'Agence Française de Développement (afd), the European Union and the World Bank.

The HWWTP is currently under construction with Design, Supply, and Install contract (DSI) and supervision contract. PWA used to have a qualified Environmental and Social Officer (ESO) on board. The ESO has departed PWA a few months ago and recently a new Environmental and Social Compliance and Monitoring Specialist (ESCMS) was recruited to be responsible for overall management, oversight, monitoring and approval of implementation of social and environmental measures for the donor funded projects including HWWTP. The need of the ESCMS for enforcement in terms of monitoring and environmental inspection and auditing has been identified.

II. Objectives of the assignment

The PWA is to contract a Senior Environmental and Social expert who can provide support on strategic and critical matters while working to build the capacity of the Environmental and Social Compliance and Monitoring Specialist (ESCMS) on carrying out his responsibilities in compliance with the Bank's safeguards requirements. In particular, the objective of the assignment is:

- To ensure that PWA activities on safeguards are in compliance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social requirements.
- To develop common knowledge and expertise that promote understanding and capacity building required.
- To contribute in strengthening the overall capacity of PWA and the ESCMS in managing, overseeing, monitoring, supervising, reporting and approving the implementation of the environmental and social safeguards measures for the World Bank's and other donors' financed projects.

III. Major responsibilities and tasks

Make necessary assessment of PWA capacity in the World Bank safeguards requirements – the consultant will assess the capacity of PWA in general and the ESCMS in particular and put the necessary plans to ensure that environmental and social activities are undertaken on a regular basis and according to the Bank's environmental and social requirements. Based on the results of this assessment, helps to develop and implement action plans to address any identified issues.

Advice of PWA's safeguards strategy – the consultant will set overall goals and strategy for PWA'S activities in this area and ensures building the capacity of PMU staff and system towards achieving these goals.

Provide training – design, organizes and provide training materials and activities to the ESCMS on relevant aspects of environmental and social safeguards standards and issues including environmental risks and impacts, labor and working conditions, resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management, community health and safety, cultural heritage, land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.

Responsibilities and scope of work of the Environmental and Social expert will include assisting and building the capacity of PWA and the ESCMS in the following activities, but not limited to:

- a. Providing guidance to assist PWA in developing appropriate measures to address environmental and social risks and impacts in accordance with the Bank's safeguard polices and requirements.
- b. Assisting PWA on the Environmental and Social Procedure of the Bank to ensure compliance with these procedure during preparation and implementation.
- c. Providing guidance on the Environmental and social screening process.
- d. Assisting with the classification of risks and identification of the required environmental and social instruments for the projects.
- e. Obtaining of requisite Environmental Clearances for the project.
- f. Building PWA capacity on the stakeholder engagement and consultation
- g. Reviewing the contractor's ESHS, OHS and ESMP.

- h. Carrying out site inspections, checking and undertaking periodic environmental monitoring and initiate necessary follow-up actions.
- i. Documenting the good practices in the project on incorporation and integration of environmental and social issues into engineering design.
- j. Preparing of the periodic environment and social monitoring reports pertaining to the project for documentation at PWA and dissemination to the World Bank.
- k. Supporting PWA in monitoring the project's implementation and ensure compliance with the World Bank safeguards requirements and policies.
- l. Providing training to the ESCMS to produce specific packages of work such as stakeholder engagement, needs analysis, community development plans, environmental and social monitoring.
- m. Supporting the ESCMS to maintain good community relations and address community concerns as they arise.
- n. Supporting the ESCMS to develop measures to respond to grievances in liaison with the project management and ensure that all grievances are well documented in the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) system.
- o. Supporting the ESCMS in providing GRM periodic and on time reports.
- p. Assisting PWA in establishing an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) to address the environmental and social Safeguard issues in Bank-supported projects.

IV. Working Arrangements

- The consultant will work under the supervision of the PWA Manager at PWA and will report to him.
- S/he will submit monthly report summarizing her/his inputs/activities, recommendations, and time sheets.
- All communications between the consultant and the PWA, training materials and activities, and reports produced in relation to this consultancy will be documented properly at PWA and shared with the World Bank in order to get feedback on the compliance with the Bank's environmental and social safeguards standards and guidelines.

V. Deliverables

The expected deliverables of this assignment are:

- An inception report inclusive of a detailed work plan, 10 days after the signing of the contract.
- Assessment of PWA capacity in safeguards due diligence and identification of gaps, and advice of safeguards strategy, one month after signing the contract.
- Quarterly progress reports.

- Provision a completion report to the deliverables.
- Preparing training plan, materials and providing training and capacity building to PWA and ESCMS, continuous over the consultancy period.

VI. Qualifications and Expertise

- At least 7 year experience and skills in environmental and social safeguards issues including managing, implementing, monitoring, producing reporting, and supervision.
- Minimum educational requirement at least Master Degree in the relevant field.
- The expert should have local nationality as a priority or regional.
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of World Banks' Environmental and social safeguards standards and guidelines.
- Experienced on organizing and providing trainings and capacity building programs.
- Strong oral and interpersonal communication skills.
- Have an excellent reading, speaking and writing skills in English and Arabic languages.

VII. Expected Time frame and level of Effort

- The task will be undertaken over a period of 2 years.
- The level of effort is expected to be equivalent to an estimated 90 man days a year depending on the work performed starting on Jan.2020. The level of effort will start intensively and then reduce as PWA capacities are more solid.
- The consultant is expected to work at PWA offices both in Ramallah and Hebron as well as on the site of HWWTP.
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VIII. Payment Schedule, Modality

- Quarterly payments upon submission of quarterly progress report

IX. Financial Payment Requirements

Every quarterly financial payment should include the below documents:

- VAT Invoice
- Deduction from Source