

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: BHUTAN

Project Title: Strengthening Risk Information for Disaster Resilience in Bhutan

Grant No.: TF0B7443 and TF0B7349

Assignment Title: Procurement of a consultancy firm to conduct Social Vulnerability Assessment

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BT-DDM-347933-CS-QCBS

The Royal Government of Bhutan has received financing from the World Bank for the implementation of the “Strengthening Risk Information for Disaster Resilience in Bhutan” Project and intends to apply part of this fund for this consulting service.

Bhutan prioritises the enhancement of disaster risk management and climate resilience in its strategic economic planning and development agenda. With financial support from the World Bank, Bhutan is in the process of strengthening the information and tools available to support multi-hazard risk assessment and effective Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The Department of Local Governance & Disaster Management (DLGDM), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), is mandated to coordinate all disaster risk management activities in the country. DLGDM collaborates with other Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) agencies and relevant stakeholders to manage information and coordinate activities relating to preparedness, response, recovery, and risk mitigation. Further, DLGDM is collaborating with other RGoB agencies to build capacity for assessing and communicating multi-hazard risk and social vulnerability.

Under this assignment, DLGDM intends to engage an international Consultant (a firm) or consortium to provide technical assistance and capacity building to conduct a nationwide socio-economic vulnerability assessment through implementing modified sub-national INFORM Risk Index[1] and put in place a modality (SoP) for regular update. The expected start date of the assignment is March/April 2024.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: (<https://www.dlgdm.gov.bt/>).

The DLGDM now invites eligible international 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 shortlisting criteria are: (i)

General Experience of the consultant; and (ii) Experience in similar assignments of compatible size, complexity and technical specialty in the required area including demonstratable track record or relevant project success, regional work experience and understanding. 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" Nov 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as per paragraph 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations: *Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in a position of being unable to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Borrower.*

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. In the case of an association (joint venture and/ or sub-consultant), all members should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment, and the total number of firms including the associates will be limited to a maximum of 03 (Three).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-Based Selection Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the following email during office hours [sonamlhamo2121@gmail.com between 0900 to 1700 hours Bhutan Standard Time].

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 29 January 2024, 13:00 BST.

Attn: Ms. Sonam Lhamo, Project Coordinator, RIR-WB Project
Department of Local Governance & Disaster Management
Ministry of Home Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan
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[1] <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Subnational-risk>