**Request for Expression of Interest**

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**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (SVTP) -2**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)**

**Country: MALAWI**

**Name of Project: SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME-2**

**Credit No:** **71350-MW**

**Assignment Title: SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST**

**Reference No**. **MW-MOAIWD- 366729-CS-INDV**

# **Introduction**

The Government of Malawi with support from the World Bank and the African Development Bank is implementing the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP). The program development objective (PDO) for the Shire Valley Transformation Program is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization for targeted households in the Shire Valley; and to improve the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. The SVTP is a 14-year program (2018-2031) which targets the development of about 40,000 ha abstracting water from the Shire River at Kapichira and conveying it by gravity to the irrigable area (in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts) mainly through canals. It is structured around three coordinated pillars:

i. Providing reliable, professionally managed and sustainably financed irrigation service to irrigators in a phased construction of the scheme and providing multiple services including water supply;

ii. Support farmer organization within a comprehensive land use plan; supporting land tenure strengthening and consolidation; as well as natural resources management; and

iii. Establishment of smallholder owned commercial farm enterprises transitioning into commercial agriculture from subsistence farming and integrating them into commercial value chains.

SVTP will be implemented in three sequential but partially overlapping phases. The SVTP-I (2018-2023) Project Development Objective is to provide access to reliable gravity fed irrigation and drainage services, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers, and strengthen management of wetlands and protected areas in the Shire Valley. The main areas of action for SVTP -1 are namely: 1) irrigation service provision; 2) Land tenure and natural resources management support; 3 Agriculture development and commercialization and 4) project management and coordination.

The Ministry of Agriculture now invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the position of Social Safeguards Specialist (SSS). The main responsibility of the SSS is to support the organization, coordination and implementation of social safeguard aspects under the Programme

1. **The Position**

The Social Safeguards Specialist is part of a larger Project Management Team, which comprises the Coordinator and other specialists. He/she will provide support to the Senior Social Safeguards Specialist in ensuring that the Project is effectively complying with the Project Environmental and Social Safeguards frameworks, policy guidelines and requirements.

1. **Tasks and Responsibilities.**

The SSS will be a competitively recruited individual consultant. In particular, the Social Safeguards Specialist will support the development, monitoring and implementation of the social safeguards instruments, ensuring that the Project is effectively complying with the Social Safeguards frameworks, policy guidelines and requirements. He/she shall work in liaison with other Safeguard Specialists and stakeholders in the implementation of all safeguards measures as described in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and its related instruments (ESIA and ESMPs); Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), Process Framework (PF), Labour Management Procedures (LMP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); and Community Health and Safety Plan and Cultural Management Plan where applicable.

**3.1. Scope of Services**

1. Support development and implementation of social safeguards management tools during project implementation in accordance with the requirements of the frameworks of the Government of Malawi and donor partner Environmental and Social Framework.
2. Provide professional input regarding social sustainability and safeguards issues into the planning, design and implementation of activities.
3. Review project related documentation to better understand the implications of proposed project activities and prepare a Resettlement Action Plan (RAPs) and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRP) where required in line with RPF.
4. Provide guidance on eligibility, valuation, compensation and other resettlement assistance, as needed, or when a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) may need to be prepared;
5. Support in facilitating and providing oversight in RAP formulation and its implementation, including ensuring that resettlement compensation for replacement of lost assets and land access, as well as livelihood restoration activities, are successfully carried out.
6. Support in the preparation of social safeguards information materials in line with the SEP and disseminating the information to the relevant stakeholders especially affected communities and other key stakeholders.
7. Undertake site visits during project execution with the aim of monitoring the effectiveness of social safeguards measures as stipulated in the LMP and ESMPs and provide proposed actions to improve on mitigation measures.
8. Work with the Occupational Health and Safety Specialist, in engaging with impacted communities on Community Health and Safety (CHS) issues and undertake site supervision of project sites to ensure CHS measures are adhered to
9. Support capacity building of Social Safeguards focal personnel in the district councils, Contractors and relevant collaborating institutions.
10. Provide support and guidance in the implementation of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) including training of Grievance Redress Committees, and management of GRM database
11. Support stakeholder engagement activities between the Project Affected People (PAPs), affected Communities and the councils to ensure enhanced project awareness, transparency and social accountability.
12. Provide support in monitoring and assessment of the implementation of safeguards to identify good practices as well as gaps and issues.
13. Prepare ad hoc and periodic reports

**4.0 Qualifications and Experience:**

1. Bachelor’s degree in Social Science or related disciplines
2. Five (5) years of relevant and progressive work experience.
3. Experience in processing, implementing, monitoring and assessment social safeguards activities, preparation of studies relating social impact assessments (including ESMPs, RAPs), etc. preferably of community-driven development projects.
4. Experience in successfully applying World Bank safeguards instruments in the Bank’s supported projects is required.
5. Intermediate computer literacy/proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office applications (i.e. MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access).
6. Proficient in written and verbal communication
7. Excellent ability to prepare reports and documents.
8. Excellent supervision/monitoring, organizational/interpersonal skills
9. Ability to work with minimum supervision oral.
10. Self-motivated, high level of integrity/confidentiality, result oriented, driver for excellence and creativity.
11. Attention to detail and creative problem-solving abilities
12. Experience working with decentralized implementation systems and understanding the bigger picture context of operations

**5.0 Performance Assessment Criteria**

1. Timely implementation of planned activities
2. Coordination with stakeholders, including contractors and consultants, ensuring timely sharing of information and other related program implementation issues.
3. Enforcement of inclusion of social aspects in SVTP implementation
4. A structured communication update, in liaison with other specialists, to inform external stakeholders on progress is developed;
5. Timely periodic provision of a synthesis of progress against planned actions, key challenges and proposed management decisions
6. **Location of Employment**

The Social Safeguards Specialist will be based in Blantyre, but will be required to travel regularly and extensively to the project area (Chikwawa & Nsanje) to ensure that progress follows project plans and that appropriate support is provided for project activities.

**7.0 Duration of Employment**

The Contract is for an initial period of one-year renewable upon satisfactory completion of the assignment and satisfactory appraisal results.

**8.0 Reporting Requirements**

As part a member of the Project Management Team (PMT), the Social Safeguards Specialist shall report to the Senior Social Safeguards Specialist.

**9.0 Services and facilities to be provided by the Client**

The client will provide the following services and facilities to the consultant

1. Office space
2. Office equipment
3. Communication facilities
4. Logistics for field work

**10.0** 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” dated November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

**11.0** Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 7:30hrs to 12:00hrs and from 13:00hrs to 17:00hrs except on Weekends and Public Holidays.

**12.0** Expressions of interest including detailed updated curriculum vitae and copies of professional and academic qualifications must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **23rd October, 2023.**

 The Project Coordinator,

 Shire Valley Transformation Programme,

 Makata Industrial Area,

 Private 379,

 Blantyre

 Malawi.

 (Attention: The Senior Procurement Specialist)

 Alternatively, applications may be emailed to: procurement.doi@svtp.gov.mw

 cc: mmaoni.doi@svtp.gov.mw; mtewete.doi@svtp.gov.mw; mwalabu2005@yahoo.co.uk;