

BANGLADESH REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT -1 (P154580)

Terms of Reference for Consulting Services

SOCIAL SPECIALIST (BLPA-S7)

1. Introduction and Background

The Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the *Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1* (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. Now the BLPA intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring the services of a Social Specialist for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

The Project Development Objective is to improve conditions for trade through improving connectivity, reducing logistics bottlenecks and supporting the adoption of modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation.

The Project consists of three (3) major components of which the below component will be implemented by BLPA:

Component 1: Invest in infrastructure, systems and procedures to modernize key selected land ports essential for trade with India, Bhutan and Nepal. The key activities under this component are:

- (i) Development and improvement works at four land ports along the Southwest to Northeast Corridor that are key to facilitating regional and transit trade. These include: Bhomra on the southwest border of Bangladesh, Sheola which would be a greenfield land port (it is currently a Land Customs Station with almost no infrastructure), and third land port at Ramgarh on the border with Tripura State, Northeast India,
- (ii) The Project will also finance measures to improve physical security and manage access risks at the Benapole land port, Bangladesh's largest and busiest land port, which experiences significant security and leakage problems. Activities to be financed include a high-capacity perimeter fence, a CCTV system, and a gate pass system.

BLPA, an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Shipping, is responsible for the component's overall implementation, management and monitoring. BLPA was set up for development, maintenance and operation of land-ports with the neighboring countries of Bangladesh.

BLPA will set up a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to oversee the development and execution of the project. The PIU will be led by a Project Director and will be located in Dhaka. The PIU will be assisted by a group of individual experts of diverse disciplines. The **Social Specialist** will be a member of the team of experts.

An Environmental and Social Cell (E&S Cell) will be setup in PIU to (i) oversee the preparation of SIA/RAP of each land ports under the project in accordance with the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and implementation of respective management plans given in SIA as applicable; and (ii) prepare terms of references for carrying out the detailed SIA studies for land ports; and (iii) overseeing of the preparation of SIA studies in compliance with the World Bank requirements. The **Social Specialist** will be stationed in the E&S Cell.

2. Objective

The main objective of appointing the **Social Specialist** is to make available technical expertise within PIU on social mobilization and social safeguards compliance under the national and the World Bank guidelines. The Social Specialist will assist PIU in land acquisition, preparation and implementation of Resettlement Action Plans for selected land ports following the Social Management and Resettlement Policy Framework of the Project, and the supervision of tasks related to social mobilization and participation in the project area.

3. Scope of Services

The overall responsibility of the **Social Specialist** will be to assist the PIU in land acquisition process for selected land ports, compensate affected persons, resettle rehabilitate them through preparation and

implementation of Resettlement Action Plan, carry out consultations with the stakeholders, provide support in setting up the project's grievance redress management system, and supervise and monitor the social mobilization and participation of the stakeholders in the project areas. The specific responsibilities of the specialist will be, but not limited to, the following:

A. Land Acquisition

- a) Review the detailed engineering design of project components, share with the local communities and likely affected persons, and seek their feedback on the options to avoid unnecessary land acquisition.
- b) Have dialogue back with the design engineers and planners to further review the engineering design of project components to avoid unnecessary acquisition of private lands.
- c) Assist the Project Director along with the help of the BLPA officials in preparing formal land acquisition plans (LAP) for selected land ports as per requirement of the acquisition authority (Land Acquisition Section of the Deputy Commissioners' offices) ensuring that land acquisition is acceptable to the communities and no vulnerable and tribal peoples are affected.
- d) Assist the Project Director and the field offices in following up submission of the LAPs and the approval process by the Ministry of Shipping, the District Land Acquisition Committees (DLAC) and Central Land Allocation Committee (CLAC)/Ministry of Land.
- e) Provide data to the Project Director with the PIU and the Field Offices to facilitate liaison with the land acquisition officials in concerned Deputy Commissioners (DC) offices and following through the acquisition process for payment of compensation under law to eligible persons timely.
- f) Jointly with the project officials, assist affected landowners in procuring any missing legal documents required to claim compensation under law (CUL).

B. Social Impact Assessment and Resettlement Planning

- a) Review the design of social impact assessment (SIA) study by Design Consultant to make sure that the surveys and consultations are done on schedule and adequate resources and appropriate expertise are applied.
- b) Monitor conduct of the SIA on site through the field office resources of the PIU to ensure that the surveys and consultations are full and inclusive.
- c) Review the SIA reports prepared by the Design Consultant and assist the Project Director for obtaining Bank clearance on the reports.
- d) Review the Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) prepared by the Design Consultant and assist the Project Director, PMU for obtaining Bank clearance.
- e) Make sure that proper consultations are carried out with the stakeholders as part of preparation & review of the RAP/SIA and that the Design Consultant has identified all PAPs by category and documented their availability to facilitate timely implementation of RAPs and payment of land compensation.
- f) Any other tasks as assigned by the PD on SIA and preparation and approval of RAPs.

C. Implementation of RAPs

- a) Review the work program and implementation schedule of the RAP Implementing NGO (INGO) for each RAP.
- b) Assist XENs, Resettlement Specialist, and the INGO in collecting CUL payment information from DC offices, which are required to determine top-up payment.
- c) Provide support to the PIU in setting up the project's grievance redress mechanism and communication plan and participate in grievance redress procedure as member-secretary and keep detailed records of grievances and the hearings, and assist to report the outcomes as per the format provided in the Resettlement Policy Framework.

- d) Prepare the Project Communication Strategy that incorporates the plan for citizen's engagement and initiate its implementation under the guidance of the PIU/PD.
- e) Prepare and adopt RAP Implementation Guideline in consultation with BLPA and MoS, with assistance from the Design Consultant's Resettlement Specialist.
- f) Initiate legal procedure, formation and establishments of participatory resettlement management committees including (i) Property Assessment and Valuation Committee, (ii) Grievance Redress Committees and (iii) Physical Relocation Assistance Committees.
- g) Monitor identification of eligible project affected persons (EP) for compensation and assistance as per the provision of the RAPs and determining their compensation assistance cash amount.
- h) In accordance with the Payment Modality of the RAP Implementation Guideline, monitor and assist delivery of entitlements to the EPs.
- i) Help the PIU to set up a grievance redressal mechanism and monitor that the grievances are timely and effectively attended to.
- j) Carry out monitoring and evaluation on social safeguards implementation on behalf of the PMU and
- k) Assist the independent monitoring consultant and the independent panel of experts with relevant data.
- l) Conduct a Training Needs Assessment of BLPA and contribute to the training calendar with the appropriate training opportunity and its timing.

4. Duration

Duration of the consultancy services would be for 33 (thirty three) months: to be renewed annually based on the Consultant's performance.

5. Institutional Arrangement:

The Consultant will work under direct control of the Project Director. The Consultant will report directly to the Project Director with close collaboration with other officials of the Project. The Consultant shall be accountable to the Project Director for his/her day to day activities. BLPA will provide working space and office consumables for the expert at PIU premises in Dhaka.

6. Reporting Requirement

The Consultant will prepare and submit monthly and quarterly progress reports to BLPA covering the activities and achievements in the reporting period as well as the plan for the next reporting period.

7. Education and Experience

- Master's in social science or related subject. Further trainings on relevant topics will be preferred.
- 10 years of minimum experience as social safeguard specialist for infrastructural (civil engineering) projects and a minimum experience of 5 years directly related to the relevant tasks of land acquisition and resettlement for works of similar nature and complexity.
- Experience of conducting Social Impact Assessment, preparing Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework and Indigenous People's Development Plan as per the requirements of Government of Bangladesh and development funding agencies is highly desired.
- Excellent communication and writing skills with higher-level computer skills in Windows operating system (Word, Excel, Access, etc.) are highly desired.

8. Selection Method

Selection of the Social Specialist will follow the procedures for selecting Individual Consultants described in the World Bank's Procurement Regulation for IPF Borrowers, July 2016.