Ministry of Environment

Male', Republic of Maldives.

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މާލެ، ދިވެހިރާއްޖެ.

Date: 03rd December 2019

Support vulnerable communities in Maldives to manage climate change-induced water shortages

PROJECT COORDINATOR (PC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. PURPOSE

The outer islands of the Maldives experiences drinking water shortages during the dry season. These shortages have had significant adverse human, environmental and social impacts on the outer island. The key problems pertaining to freshwater security relate to the increasingly variable rainfall patterns induced by climate change and sea-level rise induced salinity of groundwater. The Government faces constraints in responding to the challenge at hand without assistance, especially in the context of anticipated impacts of climate change.

In response to this climate challenge, Government of Maldives received funding through the Green Climate Fund for the project to "Support vulnerable communities in Maldives to manage climate change-induced water shortages" and is implemented by joint partnership between Ministry of Environment and UNDP from 2016 through to 2020 The project has the objective to deliver safe and secure freshwater to 105,000 people in the islands of Maldives in the face of climate change risks. This will be achieved by delivering the following results:

a. Scaling up an integrated water supply system to provide safe water to vulnerable households;
b. Introduction of decentralized and cost-effective dry season water supply systems;
c. Groundwater quality improved to secure freshwater reserves for long term resilience.

The proposed adaptation solution is to scale up the use of an integrated water supply system that will bring three primary sources of water (rainwater, groundwater and desalinated water) into a least cost delivery system that is able to maintain service levels in the face of climate change related pressures. A paradigm shift will be achieved by addressing the main barriers to implementing integrated water supply systems (cost recovery; management capacity; and institutional mandates, coordination and policy direction).

The project is one of the first projects to be funded through the Green Climate Fund and is implemented by joint partnership between Ministry of Environment and UNDP from 2016 through to 2020.

The Government of Maldives through the Ministry of Environment is seeking a full time **Project Coordinator** for the implementation and management of the project.

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B. BACKGROUND

The unique geographic attributes of the Maldives make its water resource situation both complex and diverse. With widely ranging populations numbers on the islands, even basic water and sanitation service must be tailored to local resources and population needs. Management of the limited water resources is complicated due to the small catchment areas for rainfall, limited rainwater and groundwater storage capacity, long dry seasons, and the susceptibility of groundwater aquifers to pollution and salinity intrusion.

The outer islands of the Maldives already experience drinking water shortages during the dry season. These shortages have had significant adverse human, environmental and social impacts on the outer island communities. The key problems pertaining to freshwater security relate to the increasingly variable rainfall patterns induced by climate change and sea-level rise induced salinity of groundwater. A sea level rise and decreasing rainfall amounts will considerably compound current water stress in the country. The Government faces constraints in responding to the challenge at hand without assistance, especially in the context of anticipated impacts of climate change.

As water security is closely bound to rainfall and sea level rise in Maldives, the adaptation scenario will demand: (i) the rainfall collection capacity to increase at least threefold; (ii) groundwater controlled extraction and replenishment to keep water table levels high in order to buffer away saltwater intrusion; and (iii) increased water production capacity through desalinization (Reversed Osmosis – RO technology), as to secure sufficient back up resource during the extended dry periods for household supply and timely distribution.

In response to this challenge, the proposed **project objective** is to deliver safe and secure freshwater to 105,000 people in the 49 target islands of Maldives in the face of climate change risks. This will be achieved by delivering the following **results**:

a. Scaling up integrated water supply system to provide safe water to vulnerable households (at least 32,000 people, including 15,000 women);
b. Decentralized and cost-effective dry season water supply system introduced benefiting 73,000 people across 7 Northern Atolls;
c. Groundwater quality improved to secure freshwater reserves for long term resilience on 49 islands;

The project will provide sufficient water to supply the potable water needs of island residents year round for a 35 year design period to 2050. Project finance will be used to establish an integrated water resources management system that integrates the three main sources of water (rainwater, groundwater and desalinated water) into a least cost delivery system and which is able to maintain service levels against a context of rainfall variability and sea level rise and also includes measures for **groundwater quality recovery** to secure freshwater reserves in the long term.

Ultimately, the project will achieve an uninterrupted water supply on the islands that currently experience a 90 day chronic water shortage during dry season and depend on transported water from Malé, which is an extensive, overlong and costly operation. As a result of the project, **29 priority islands** will have **increased rainwater collection capacities**, out of which, **4 bigger islands** will additionally have water production systems of **water desalination** (Reverse Osmosis – RO water production plants), that will secure sufficient water production capacity enabling a decentralized and timely water distribution across all northern outer atolls during the extended dry periods, when shortages may occur.

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Water stress alert information based on **forecasted meteorological information** will feed into the **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for system management, thereby protecting lives and livelihoods from environmental risks associated with climate change. This will also feed into strengthening the Meteorological - MMS services on reaching out to the communities actionable early warning information, and preparing the water utilities, island councils and the communities to receive and act on such information. The system will achieve cost effectiveness in service provision through **effective management of water resources** and the use of renewable energy and locally appropriate technologies. Alongside the system design will be a capacity development work stream designed to obtain the support and ownership from communities, which is necessary for financial sustainability of the system, as well as the **capacity development** of the State Utilities to manage service delivery, and of the decentralized authorities and central government to provide an enabling environment for sustainability and scale up.

C. OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to undertake and oversee all management and implementation activities of the project to "**Support vulnerable communities in Maldives to manage climate change-induced water shortages"**.

The objective of this assignment is operational management of the projects in accordance with the project documents and as per the bank guidelines in collaboration with the project team and stakeholder agencies to ensure all implementation arrangements of projects are carried out smoothly and on time.

D. OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY

The overall responsibilities of the Project Coordinator include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Operational management of the project component in accordance with the Financing Agreements and Operations Manuals of the Project to produce the envisaged outputs;
2. In collaboration with the Project Team and Stakeholder agencies, ensure all implementation arrangements of activities of the project component are carried out smoothly;
3. Identification and resolution of implementation problems, with the guidance of the Project Team, Project Manager;

E. SCOPE OF WORKS

The work of the Project Coordinator will include the following tasks, among others:

1. Provide overall Coordination/Supervision to the Contractors and/or Consultants and ensure timely delivery of the project outputs in accordance to the contract agreements.
2. Coordinate the activities of the PMU staff handling the project component to ensure the timely delivery of services to the Projects;
3. Ensure that project team members carry out tasks outlined in their ToR, Action plans in a timely manner, conduct Project staff's appraisal and provide feedback;

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4. Visit project sites periodically and report back on the status of site activities to the management.

5. Ensure information, reports and other documentation requested by the Project Manager for review and/or for presentation to Steering and Technical committees are provided in a timely manner;

6. Ensure all relevant information, documents, financial and technical reports are made available for review during review missions, by independent reviewers and/or review by other relevant Authorities of Government of Maldives.

7. Prepare and revise project component activities and financial plans and ensure information/reports such as annual work plan, annual project review reports, project progress reports, bi-annual reports, quarterly reports etc. and other documentation requested by MEE or funding agency for review and/or for presentation are provided in a timely manner.

8. Any other work-related tasks assigned by the Project Manager.

F. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. A Master's Degree in a field related to the scope of work specified in the TOR with Minimum 07 years working experience in a field related to the scope of work specified in the TOR.

   (Or)

   A PhD in a field related to the scope of work specified in the TOR with Minimum 05 years working experience in a field related to the scope of work specified in the TOR.

2. Experience in donor assisted development projects will be an added advantage.

3. Work experience in delivery of water and sanitation sector projects will be an added advantage.

4. Knowledge and understanding of technical and legal aspects of procurement of donor would be an added advantage.

5. Should have strong leadership, management and communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues and have ability to work efficiently and effectively with a multidisciplinary team.

6. A high level of computer literacy is required. Familiarity with programs like Microsoft Office including Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Microsoft Project Office as required.

The successful Candidate must be willing to work for extended periods without direct supervision and travel routinely to islands within the catchment.

In addition, the individual's reputation of integrity and impartiality routed in independent from third parties shall be considered.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their ability.

The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the projects portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of actions.

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1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

1. Report directly to the Project Manager or his/her designate on all aspects of Project Management throughout the duration of the contract unless otherwise advised by the Client.

2. The Project Coordinator (PC) is expected to report to work on week days from 0800 – 1600 hours other than public holidays and provide services to the Client for an average of 40 hours a week. Remuneration for less than 8 hours work per day will be on a pro-rate basis and is required to work additional hours to complete the assigned tasks on a daily basis.

3. The Project Coordinator (PC) shall provide all the necessary reports and updates to the Project Manager or its designate and donor agencies whenever needed.

4. The Project Coordinator (PC) is required to report to work in official attire.

2. SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Duration of the assignment is **<u>12</u>** months from the commencement of the works with potential extension based on performance and need. The successful candidate is expected to commence the services in December 2019.

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