



## Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project (ICUD) Request for Expressions of Interest Consulting Services – International Consulting Firms

**Country:** Palestine

**Assignment Title:** Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for five targeted urban areas in West Bank & Gaza

**Reference:** GZ-MDLF-105937-CS-QCBS

The Palestine Liberation Organization, for the benefit of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has sought grant financing from the World Bank for the Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project (ICUD), which aims to assist participating urban areas to enhance their capacity to plan for sustainable urban growth. The project is supporting the urban planning of five leading Palestinian urban areas including Ramallah-Al-Bireh, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, and Gaza City through their intra-urban area coordination mechanisms. The project intends to respond to the needs of growing population and private sector for more sustainably and efficiently planned urban spaces and infrastructure. ICUD is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), which is responsible for technical oversight of the project, and the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), which manages the fiduciary, safeguards, and reporting aspects of the project. The MDLF intends to engage the services of Consultants to **prepare a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the five urban areas of ICUD Project; Nablus, Ramallah Al Bireh, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Gaza.**

**The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be viewed at the website: [www.MDLF.org.ps/TOR](http://www.MDLF.org.ps/TOR).**

The MDLF, as the delegated procurement, financial management, safeguard, and reporting agency of ICUD, intends to use part of the ICUD Grant from the World Bank (WB) fund to hire a consulting firm to prepare a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment.

### **Objective of this assignment**

The objective of this study is to prepare a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the five urban areas of ICUD Project; Nablus, Ramallah Al Bireh, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Gaza.

### **Scope of Work:**

The scope of work will include:

1. Baseline study.
2. Assessment of policy, legal and institutional framework and the capacity to manage these issues.
3. Identification of environmental and social constraints and opportunities, considering alternatives, analyzing the potential impacts associated with the alternatives and identifies measures to mitigate them.
4. Management Plan.

### **Essential Required Qualification:**



The Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) invites eligible qualified consulting firms to submit their expression of interests providing information indicating their qualifications, experience and appropriate skills to perform the services.

Considering the assignments objective and scope of work outlined above, the consulting firm is required to provide evidence of experience in the preparation of SESA Report.

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" July 2016, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consulting firms shall be selected through comparison of qualifications of those who have expressed interest in this assignment. The shortlisting criteria are: (i) description of previous similar assignments; (ii) experience in similar contexts and conditions; (iii) availability of appropriate skills among staff, and (iv) association with local Palestinian partner(s) or experts.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on **Quality-Cost Based Selection (QCBS)**. Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Consulting firms may obtain further information at the email address: [azayed@mdlf.org.ps](mailto:azayed@mdlf.org.ps)

Expressions of interests must be submitted in electronic format (PDF) to the e-mail address:

[SESA-ICUD@mdlf.org.ps](mailto:SESA-ICUD@mdlf.org.ps), by **16:00 (Jerusalem time), 23 July 2019**.