

Ministry of Housing & Public works
National Housing Authority

Terms of Reference (TOR): Urban Environmental Specialist
Credit No. 5780-BD

1. Background

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is going to undertake a major project aimed at improving housing and security of tenure for poor urban communities across Bangladesh. The Low Income Community Housing Support Project (LCHSP), with the assistance of the World Bank, will utilize funds of US\$50 million. National Housing Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works provides affordable housing to the lower and middle income people of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh wants to develop a mode of facilitating secure housing opportunities for residents of slums and informal settlements. The project would expand the role of the National Housing Authority (NHA) from that of being predominantly a housing supplier, to an enabler and facilitator of community-driven solutions to improved and secure housing. This would test an approach to flexible and locally driven solutions to land tenure and financing for interventions that are best suited to local community needs and conditions. To implement the Project NHA will set up a Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will consist of a multi-disciplinary team of national experts under the Project Director to carry out the pilot housing projects.

The NHA, who is implementing the project, is seeking to recruit an Urban Environmental Specialist to join the PMU to lead the environmental safeguard and management in line with Government of Bangladesh and World Bank policy and procedures. The consultant would be selected following the World Bank Guidelines for the Selection and Employment of the Individual Consultants by the World Bank Borrowers, January 2011.

2. Objective

The main objective of this consultancy is to provide advisory and specialized technical support to the PMU, NHA and timely implementation of the development component of the project. The Urban Environmental Specialist will be to assist the NHA to manage environmental matter for the project implementation.

3. Responsibilities

The role of the Urban Environmental Specialist will include but not limited to:

- a. Lead the environmental safeguards and management related activities in the project; study the Environmental Management Framework (EMF), PPSIP Operational Manual and the GoB Environmental Conservation Act and Rules and other relevant policy documents to ensure compliance with the EMF;
- b. Regularly participate in the selection of communities/ slums, carry out field visits to the slum sites and the surrounding area, review the infrastructure layout plan to ensure that negative environmental impacts are minimized; and environmental risks and concerns are properly addressed;
- c. Review EA categorization for each sub-project and recommend for further steps based on environmental screening;
- d. Review detailed design of the sub-project/schemes and project's EA documents/reports - Environmental Screening reports, Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)/Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and Environmental Management Plans (EMP) prepared by the supervision consultant team and assess the quality and adequacy of screening, IEE, and EMP;
- e. Carry out environmental compliance/progress monitoring;
- f. Coordinate with the M&E and MIS team of NHA and provide guidance for establishment of an environment monitoring cell at NHA to address all environmental aspects related to the project;
- g. Prepare necessary documents and coordinate for the locational/environmental clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE) and ensure the disclosure requirement of the World Bank.

- h. Assist in the preparation of bid documents for the contract packages of the project for incorporation of costs related to EMP and necessary environment clauses;
- i. Develop, organize and deliver environmental training and orientation programs and workshops for relevant NHA staffs; orient contractors on environmental safeguard and management;
- j. Prepare monthly/quarterly/semi-annual environment reports and any other environment report as required by the PMU/World Bank.
- k. Maintain GIS based community mapping for all the selected towns and communities providing information on Slum and low income settlement, locational/ spatial data etc.
- l. Any other task assigned by the Project Director in relevance to effective project implementation.

4. Counterpart Support

The Urban Environmental Specialist will receive necessary training on environmental and planning issues for effective implementation of the project.

5. Reporting Arrangement

The Environment Specialist will be responsible to the Project Director for ensuring environmental safeguard and management functions. S/he will assist the PD to ensure that all environmental management related activities are completed on time and in accordance with the EMF. S/he will also liaise with concerned specialist at the World Bank, Dhaka Office, send report to and communicate with them regularly.

6. Qualification and Experience

- a. The Urban Environmental Specialist will have Master's in Environmental Management/Environmental Science/ Urban Planning/Urban Environmental Management, Geography or other relevant subjects;
- b. At least 5 years of urban management related experience on development projects, particularly on urban slum upgrading program/urban planning/urban infrastructure/ urban governance and sanitation for low-income communities /environmental assessment and monitoring;
- c. Familiarity and experience with World Bank environmental safeguard policies and procedures will get preference;
- d. Experience in community-driven development approach; in depth knowledge on development projects financed by Government and the World Bank is preferred;
- e. Experience in GIS software to run an integrated planning tool is preferred;

7. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of the assignment will be approximately 42 Months. However the duration of the assignment may be increased or reduced depending on the performance of the consultant, project needs and budget.

8. Responsibilities of NHA

The specialist will be based in the office of the Project Director, LCHSP, NHA, Dhaka. NHA will provide necessary logistics support. The specialist will have to arrange own transportation for attending office on all regular workdays. NHA will bear VAT, Remuneration/Daily allowances and Travel cost as per financial negotiation.