

# Bangladesh Land Port Authority

## ACCELERATING TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN EASTERN SOUTH ASIA- BANGLADESH PHASE 1 PROJECT: (BLPA COMPONENT)

### Terms of Reference for Consulting Services

#### Social Safeguard Specialist (SSS) (BLPA-S9A)

##### (Individual National Consultant)

#### 1. Introduction and Background

The Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an USD 270 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the **Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS)- Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component)** being implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA). Now the BLPA intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring the services of a **Social Safeguard Specialist (SSS) (National)** for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The Project Development Objective is to increase the efficiency and resilience of trade and transport along selected corridors in Bangladesh. The major investments in infrastructures to improve existing conditions and expansion to facilitate trades with neighboring countries through Benapole, Bhomra and Burimari land ports (Corridors). Project beneficiaries include passengers, producers, traders and transport services providers in Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Nepal, as well as communities living around the Project Corridors in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Land Port Authority is one of the implementing agencies for Phase 1 of the program seeks the services of a **Social Safeguard Specialist (SSS) (National)** to help it with social, land acquisition and resettlement issues for the project and management of the contract packages.

#### 2. Objective

The main objective of appointing the **Social Safeguard Specialist (SSS)** is to make available technical expertise within PIU on social mobilization and social safeguards compliance under the national and the World Bank guidelines. S/he 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 Safeguard Specialist (SSS)** will be to assist the PIU in land acquisition process for selected land ports, compensate affected persons, resettle and 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 and coordinate with the design engineers and planners to further review the engineering design of project components to avoid/minimize E&S risk footprints including 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

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acquisition and any consequent involuntary resettlement is consistent with the principles laid down in the project RPF and World Bank ESS 5 along with relevant government laws.

- 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) Support the implementation of the site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) by assisting the Project Director.
- e) Make sure that proper consultations are carried out with the stakeholders as part of implementation of the RAP/SIA and that the resettlement NGO 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 RAPs.

#### **C. Implementation of RAPs**

- a) Review the work program and implementation schedule of the RAP Implementing NGO (INGO) for the site-specific RAP(s).
- 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 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) Support and guide the I-NGO in implementing the livelihood and business restoration of the PAPs;
- g) 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.
- h) 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.

- i) In accordance with the Payment Modality of the RAP Implementation Guideline, monitor and assist delivery of entitlements to the EPs.
- j) Help the PIU to set up a grievance redressal mechanism and monitor that the grievances are timely and effectively attended to.
- k) Carry out monitoring and evaluation on social risk management on behalf of the PMU and
- l) Assist the independent monitoring consultant with relevant data.
- m) Conduct a Training Needs Assessment of BLPA on resettlement and social risk management, prepare select training materials/modules and prepare to the training calendar with the appropriate training opportunity and its timing.

#### 4. Duration

Duration of the consultancy services would be for 24 (twenty-four) months: to be renewed annually based on the Consultant's performance, business need and availability of finance.

#### 5. Institutional Arrangement:

The Consultant will work under direct supervision of the Project Director. S/he will report directly to the Project Director with close collaboration with other officials of the Project and 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.
- Fluency in English and Bengali: reading, writing and speaking.

#### 8. Selection Method

Selection of the **Social Safeguard Specialist (SSS)** will follow the procedures for selecting Individual Consultants described in the World Bank's Procurement Regulation for IPF Borrowers, (July 2016, Revised November 2017, August 2018, November 2020, and September 2023) ("Procurement Regulation").

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