

Second Enhanced Vocational Education and Technical Training Project (EVENT II)

Terms of Reference (TOR) for Consulting Services for Environmental and Social Assessment and updating of Environment and Social Management Framework

1.0 Introduction (Background)

For Developing country like Nepal skills are vital for poverty reduction, economic recovery and sustainable development. Technical and vocational Education and Training (TVET) comprises of formal, non-formal and informal learning which helps learners to acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to develop professional careers and enter the world of work, creating a vibrant labor market and contributing to economic growth.

Nepal faces the challenges of making access to TEVT more inclusive, and providing training that is of better quality and of relevance in the domestic and foreign labor markets. Considering all these aspects the second Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT II) project is being prepared and aims to support long term development of the TVET sector by supporting policies of the Government of Nepal (GoN) as expressed in several national TVET policy documents and Council for Technical for Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) Act. EVENT II follows the successful implementation of EVENT I, and includes in its scope scaling up successful EVENT I activities such as grant support to technical institutions (technical and annex schools) and short-term vocational training, and introduction of pilots in apprenticeships and job placement services.

The project is expected to improve access to TEVT programs for disadvantaged youth through targeting and other inclusive processes. The project will pay special attention to lagging regions, poor youth, women, and youth belonging to Dalit, disadvantaged Janajatis and other marginalized communities, such as persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will be responsible for leading the implementation of the project

2.0 Objective of the Project

The Project Development Objective is to expand the supply of employable labor through improved access to market relevant training programs and strengthened Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVT) sector service delivery in Nepal.

3.0 Environmental and Social Safeguard

In EVENT II, like in the first phase, major project component will be focused on strengthening Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVT) sector service delivery and widening access to TEVT programs with minor civil works.

The project is classified as Category B as per World Bank Operational Policy 4.01. Most of the activities funded by the project are in the nature of technical assistance with minimal adverse environmental impacts. The project will finance moderate civil works, refurbishment of existing structures, and construction of additional classrooms, workshops and laboratories for skills training on land that is already acquired. Project's infrastructure/ civil works trigger EA OP/BP 4.01, and if new education blocks are located in the land owned by the forest authority, the environmental screening and subsequent Environment Management Plan (EMP) will include appropriate mitigation measures. The project does not envision the acquisition of new land and thus OP 4.12 is not triggered. However, Indigenous People and vulnerable communities exist throughout Nepal. And since beneficiary selection under the program will be done nationwide the World Bank Operational policy OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples is triggered. A Vulnerable

Community Development Framework (VCDF), considered interchangeable with Indigenous People's Development Plan, will include measures to ensure that the various project components designed under the project objectives are made accessible to vulnerable communities including indigenous peoples and that these groups are able to make maximum use of project benefits.

Under EVENT I, An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed for the first phase of the project. The framework was prepared to ensure compliance with key safeguards issues that were triggered by the project. The project was implemented across the country. The VCDF prepared as a part of ESMF was to ensure that the project is implemented with sufficient attention to issues of access, equity, quality and sustainability of vocational education and training for the vulnerable groups, and that these groups are not affected adversely due to project interventions.

Like the first phase, the second phase of the project, EVENT II, is likely to involve mostly improvement and upgrading of the existing vocational education and training facilities, and the construction of small-size new buildings/training facilities. As a result, the expected adverse impacts are generally considered to be minimal both on the environmental and social fronts. However, in accordance with the GoN and World Bank policies, the project will comply with the guidelines in the Environmental and Social Management Framework developed for EVENT II to ensure that it is environmentally and socially sound and sustainable.

The infrastructure upgrading and construction under the EVENT II Project is envisaged to be small in scale, and the precise location of areas where civil works will be undertaken is not known except that it will be in different and relatively scattered locations. Therefore, in general, no formal environmental investigations, such as IEE and EIA are likely to be required for the upgrading and new small-scale construction of individual training facilities. However, the project, as a precautionary measure, will adopt the following environmental steps as outlined in ESMF in order to ensure that during implementation each physical infrastructure upgrading/ construction activity individually will not result in adverse environmental consequences, and fully comply with environmental requirements and good practices: (i) Environmental screening; (ii) Use of environmental guidelines and criteria for planning and design; (iii) Incorporation of environmental measures into plan, design and contract documents; and (iv) Monitoring of environmental compliance.

4.0 Objectives of the Assignment

The objective of the study is to:

- Prepare Social Assessment report to analyze social issues and solicit stakeholder views for the design of the project/VCDF.
- Update ESMF (including VCDF) based on the findings of the social and environmental assessment and stakeholder consultation
- Update the existing ESMF for EVENT I so that it is aligned with the requirements of EVENT II. Especially, the consultant will focus on the lessons learnt from the first EVENT project and integrate them in the ESMF for EVENT II.

5.0 Scope of Work (activities)

Updating of ESMF , Social Assessment and Updating VCDF:

- Review the proposed project components and approaches for the project in terms of their potential risks and impacts and social development outcomes.
- Review the existing ESMF/VCDF and other applicable documented prepared under EVENT I, implementation approaches and practices and identify gaps or lessons learnt.
- Describe existing social context and issues: review of available sources of information to analyze the sociocultural, institutional, historical and political context in which the project operates.
- Review pertinent regulatory frameworks and guidelines within which the project takes place with particular attention to laws that that determines the access of the vulnerable group and indigenous people.
- Draft Social Assessment Report and ESMF (including VCDF)
- Carry out consultation at National level, on with the key stakeholders including beneficiaries to solicit their views on design of the project and draft of updated ESMF.
- Update the existing ESMF (including VCDF) based on the findings of the Social and environmental Assessment and consultation with stakeholder propose strategies, World Bank safeguard specialists and actions in the VCDF to ensure that project is implemented with sufficient attention to issues of access, equity, quality and sustainability of TEVT for the vulnerable groups and that these groups are not affected adversely due to project intervention.
- Carry out sample visits if required to institutions (technical schools and annex schools; places of employment)to determine whether environmental safeguard issues in the selected institutions were identified and addressed appropriately in compliance with the ESMF prepared for EVENT II.
- Review the implementation of infrastructure plan, civil works under EVENT 1 and assess: (i) compliance with the ESMF to what extent steps, process, procedures, requirements, necessary environmental documents prepared, and monitoring done, (ii) considerations given to risks such as from landslide, and flood; (iii) health and safety provisions in the buildings as well as repair and maintenance provisions;(iv) consideration given to air quality, water quality, solid waste management, the sanitation and hygiene and noise pollution during construction and operation phases; (v) any risks to nearby forest and wild life species, and socio cultural environment; (vi) outstanding mitigation works and (vii) rectification necessary from environmental consideration.
- 5.6 The consultant will assist in translating the executive summary of the ESMF in Nepali and for disclosing the ESMF in GoN's web site .

6.0 Outputs

- Submit a brief methodology of study / review including field visit plan by 7 days of contact date
- Submit draft social assessment report and draft of updated ESMF (including ESMF) report by 20 days of contract
- Receive EVENT and WB comments: 24 days of contract
Submit final updated ESMF and social Assessment report by 30 days of contract

8.0 Consultant's Qualifications and experience

- Good understanding on environment and social management of the project in general and TVET sub-sector in particular
- Minimum Master's degree in Social Science or other relevant fields and PhD will be preferable or Minimum Master degree in Environment Science/Engineering.
- Experience in field visits and stakeholder consultations
- Ability to evaluate Governance (transparent and accountability) of the project
- Good understanding about Project (EVENT)
- At least 5 years of experiences in the field of environmental and social assessment (including IEE, EIA), environmental management, monitoring, implementation of environmental mitigation works. Experiences in donor funded project including World Bank funded project would be an asset.
- Capable of developing good interpersonal relationship with the community school / school managements including teachers, administrative staff and students.
- Knowledge and exposure of the education sector in Nepal Excellent knowledge of the English language (both spoken and written) and excellent communication skills;
- Knowledge of World Bank's Environmental and social safeguards policies/standards.

9.0 Payment Modality

Total number of contract days: 30

To be paid in multiple instalments First instalment 20% (when inception report is submitted) last instalment 80 % (after completion of work)

10.0 Others

Annex - A potential Checklist for Reviewing Environmental Compliance For EVENT supported projects compliance with ESMF and Nepal requirements; for EVENT non-supported institutions compliance with Nepal requirements

- List of civil works and facility upgrading implemented
- Status of Compliance ESMF as well as Nepal's environmental requirements
- Regular and Independent Annual Review of environmental status (including use of ESMF and compliance to the environmental requirements). What are the findings and recommendations?
- Environmental training and awareness/ orientations organized. What are the environmental training and awareness/ orientations organized (duration, subject matter, and trainee)? Has any community training (on construction management) organized and was National Environmental Guidelines included in the training.
- Has each civil work been subjected to environmental screening? Has environmental requirements been met, and EMP or necessary documents prepared? EPA/ EPR and PWD environmental provisions applied in each investment (what are the provisions applied for each investment)?
- Do the civil works/ buildings give adequate considerations to risks related to earthquakes, floods, landslide, and fire?
- Do the building design use climatic consideration such as orientations, ventilation, lights etc)
- Has the project encouraged the use of local building materials, and minimized the use of timber or other natural resource materials?
- Has each participating institution prepared Complete Infrastructure Plan (that includes water & sanitation facilities, rainwater harvesting, landscape plan, flood risks, landslide risks, and solid & liquid waste management plan)?
- Has there been regular monitoring of environmental compliance? Who monitors, how frequently, what happens after monitoring, monitoring feedbacks and implementation of monitoring recommendations?
- Has each participating institution allocated Separate Fund for maintenance of water supply and toilets, site drainage and solid & liquid waste management facilities? Water quality tested regularly?
- Any physical facility development and/ or upgrading required obtaining additional land (in the form of donation or acquiring).
- Any civil works in or near cultural religious sites such as temple.
- Any civil works required obtaining forest land or cutting tree.
- Any physical facility development and/ or upgrading required obtaining additional land (in the form of donation or acquiring).
- Any outstanding mitigation work?
- Any rectification required?