

Terms of Reference for the National Expert Enterprise Development Officer

Background:

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) is implementing the Project "Managing Water and Energy Services for Poverty Eradication in Rural Gambia" which adopts a holistic approach to promoting human security and reducing poverty in five large villages of The Gambia. Towards this aim, the project combines infrastructure development and natural resources management with principles of local capital formation at the community level. The project has three main components. The first component aims at expanding the existing water supply and energy systems to generate surpluses after meeting the basic demand. Second component will supply the surplus resource (that is available after meeting the basic demand) on a demand basis to generate and promote economic activities. These two components will lead to the emergence of a number of service providers and small scale entrepreneurs. Their capacity building will be the focus of component 3 to reinforce the interventions made under the first two components. Already existing community-based structures in the form of VDCs will be further strengthened. All three components are inextricably linked and mutually supportive from the start of the project. Existing community-based mechanisms and organizations will be strengthened by ensuring community involvement in the implementation of all three components. To support the implementation of planned project activities, the UN DESA would like to fill the post of a National **Enterprise Development Officer**.

Duration:

One year with possibility of extension for another year.

Duty Station:

Banjul, with frequent travel to project sites in The Gambia.

Key Functions:

Identification of income generating activities, training of local entrepreneurs and service providers in the area of rural water and energy related productive activities, contract management, business planning, and developing partnerships with private sector and financial institutions.

Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Project Manager and UN DESA Task Manager for the project, and working in close collaboration with other experts/ consultants, the expert will undertake the following specific duties:

1. Contribute towards the analysis of general socio-economic conditions of the five selected villages, as well as in the formulation of methodology for replication of lessons learned;
2. Assist the VDCs in organizing, identifying, and mobilizing community-based and private organizations and individuals, especially service providers and entrepreneurs;
3. Identify the economic /income-generating activities that could be promoted within the target project areas using surplus water and energy resources;

4. Facilitate in forging business partnerships between the VDCs, local financial institutions and private entrepreneurs—key feature of these partnership should be that all involved partners are able to gain something out of the business ventures around which the partnership is developed;
5. Develop strategy for the growth and management of Community Revolving Fund, including specific guidelines how communities could tap these resources for local development activities;
6. Follow-up with the local entrepreneurs and private business groups, once they have become functional with the project support, to ensure sustainability of their businesses and income streams;
7. Develop a systematic database on the entrepreneurial activities as they relate to the overall scope of the project;
8. Participate in the development and implementation of overall project work plan, especially the elements dealing with the income-generating activities; and
9. Prepare semi-annual (six month) progress reports in the area under his/her responsibility.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

The candidate should hold an advanced degree in fields related to business development and management or rural credit or micro-financing. Significant experience in managing rural micro-credit schemes is recommended, including experience in methodology, assessment, implementation, and reporting. Experience in working at grassroots/ community level is an essential requirement of the post. Familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage. At the end of the assignment, the expert is required to prepare a final report with a detailed account of all activities undertaken and recommendations and suggestions he/she considers most appropriate for institutionalizations of the functions performed under the project at government/community levels. The incumbent should be fluent in English as well as in local language with excellent report writing capabilities. This post is open only for the Gambian nationals.