

Terms of Reference for the National Expert Social Mobilization 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 **Social Mobilization 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:

Community organization and management in five selected large villages, raising awareness about project's scope and strategy, organization of regular meetings/workshops, securing stakeholders support to implement socially acceptable solutions, implementation of well-targeted public awareness campaigns, analysis of stakeholders relative social influence and prestige, and analysis of value systems and incentives for their participation in project activities.

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. Design and conduct training on community development and empowerment to the VDC staff working with the project as warranted under the sustainable livelihood approach related to access to water and renewable energy;
3. Support local communities in building partnerships with the VDCs and other organizations, local private entrepreneurs and other informal organizations in pursuit of project's objectives;
4. Organize workshops to raise awareness about the specific roles and functions of community based groups in project implementation, and support their roles and involvement towards sustaining project impacts;
5. Strengthen and revitalize existing water committees through IEC techniques related to productive activities, access to water and sanitation, and energy;
6. Outreach to support the diffusion of household electrification through local NGOs, VDCs and women's organizations;
7. Work with the VDCs to establish appropriate fee structure and collection mechanism to ensure sustainability of basic services;
8. Assist community groups in the identification of productive/income-generating activities, creation and strengthening of co-operatives, and community education program;
9. Develop a systematic database to store and process information on socio-economic features of the villages and local communities;
10. Contribute towards the preparation and implementation of project's work plan, including the preparation of TORs of local contracts and national consultants; and
11. 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 community organization, development, and empowerment, such as sociology and socio-economics. Significant experience on SL approach is required, including experience in methodology, implementation, assessment, and reporting. Proven predisposition to teamwork is required. Experience in working at grass-roots/community level is an essential requirement of the post. Should be a team player and be able to organize team's work in line with community's development priorities. Familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage. The incumbent should be fluent in English as well as in local language with excellent report writing capabilities. 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 the institutionalization of the functions performed under the project at government/community levels. This post is open only for the Gambian nationals.