

<p style="text-align: center;">Terms of Reference (ToR): Social Safeguard Expert (Full Time) for Nepal: Private Sector Led Mini Grid Energy Access Project (MGEAP)</p>
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1. Introduction:

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) is the apex government body under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI), established to promote the use of alternative/renewable energy technology to meet the energy needs in Nepal. The Private Sector Led Nepal Mini Grid Energy Access Project (MGEAP), supported by the World Bank, will be implemented by AEPC from February 2019 (tentative). The objective of the project is to increase electricity access and delivery from renewable energy mini-grids (solar, hydro, wind, and hybrid) by mobilizing private Energy Service Companies (ESCOs). The project is designed to support RE mini-grids market by introducing conditions to gradually shift from subsidized to commercial model. The project will support mobilization of credit from participating Banks (PBs) to ESCOs for the development of mini-grid subprojects.

Nepal is one of six countries identified for assistance under the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP). As one of three programs under the Strategic Climate Fund, SREP aims to demonstrate the social, economic and environmental viability of low carbon development pathways in the energy sector. In particular, the objectives of SREP in Nepal are to: (i) leverage complementary credit and grant co-financing, (ii) bring about transformational impacts through scaling up energy access using renewable energy technologies (RETs), poverty reduction, gender and social inclusiveness and climate change mitigation, and (iii) ensure sustainable operations through technical assistance and capacity building.

2. Background:

The project will involve construction activities that bear potential risk on physical, biological, social and cultural environment of any area.

Generally, the environmental and social risks triggered by construction include erosion, loss of forest, biodiversity and agricultural land; effect to water sources due to sedimentation and water logging, displacement/damage of permanent assets and loss of land. Additionally, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups could be exposed to different types of risks and levels of impacts due to project activity, including loss of identify and culture, and customary livelihood. These problems are apparent not only during construction but also during operation phase. Hence, proper consideration of all environmental and social factors during the MGEAP's design and implementation is of utmost concern. Due diligence to assess the environmental and social implications of developing subprojects is required. The due diligence shall be conducted based on the National Regulations and the World Bank's safeguard requirement. For this relevant environmental and social documents must be prepared.

Hence, AEPC/MGEAP is looking for a Social Safeguard Expert to aid the AEPC/MGEAP in the social safeguard related activities.

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3. Objectives:

To support the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for MGEAP. The Social Safeguard Expert will be responsible for overall management, oversight and monitoring of implementation of GESI activities and social safeguard measures in the MGEAP during implementation phase.

4. Scope of Services (Activities):

The Social Safeguard Expert be a part of PIU team and will be responsible for day-to-day activities related to the project. S/he should be responsible and take full ownership for the following scope of work;

- Assist in implementing Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) considering various types of subprojects (Micro/Mini-hydro, Solar and Solar/Wind hybrid, grid interconnection);
- Implement VDCF, RPF and GDF for Private Sector Led Mini Grid Energy Access Project.
- Support the PIU team in assessment, development and implementation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) as required by ESMF/RPF.
- Prepare annual plan for social safeguard training/orientation, get AEPC approval, and train/ orient the ESCOs/PBs on the application of social and GESI guidelines and checklists for MGEAP.
- Coordinate with the PIU, GESI section in AEP, ESCOs to implement gender actions plan and ensure gender targets and indicators of project achieved on timely manner.
- Ensure access of diverse individuals and groups (i.e. women, DAG, disaster victims, endangered ethnic groups, vulnerable communities and indigenous people) to renewable energy based mini-grid developed by ESCOs under MGEAP.
- Coordinate with Monitoring Unit for database management and support to all ESCOs to prepare database on mini-grid beneficiaries, grievance redress mechanism and other project components
- Support the social screening and categorization process for the subprojects developed by AEPC and proposed by the ESCOs.
- Review ESIA, ESMPs and VCDPs Reports submitted by the ESCOs, ensure adequacy and quality as per approved ToR, and support AEPC in submitting the reports to the Ministry and the World Bank for approval.
- As required, review the DFS/ DPR as well as bid documents of subprojects and ensure that necessary social mitigation measures including that for labor influx management are incorporated in the respective DFS/ DPR and civil works contract documents.
- Provide support to ESCOs in preparing the ESIA (as per WB requirement) for each particular subproject.
- Conduct consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders to discuss site specific social issues of sub-project and get feedbacks from the participants to address it in a systematic manner.
- Support to prepare the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and its handling procedures, channels based up on ESMF and prepare GRM database in order to ensure that all

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registered complains are addressed properly.

- Support the PIUs/ESCOs/PBs to ensure meaningful consultations with various project stakeholders, including project affected people, on project activities, mitigation measures, GRM and other project components.
- Periodically carryout field visits and conduct monitoring of social development activities and provide timely advise where required.
- Work in close collaboration with Environment and Social Experts in PIU for implementation of requirements outlined in the ESMF.
- Any other tasks assigned by Senior Experts and Project Manager to support the project with respect to the GESI and social safeguard issues.

5. Performance and Reporting Requirement (Deliverables):

The Social Safeguard Expert shall prepare monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual report that should incorporate the Specific Social Assessment monitoring and capacity building activities.

6. Duration of Service:

The Expert will be assigned for full project period with a provision of renew of contract each year and possibilities of further extension, in case of satisfactory performance. The expert is expected to work full time during office hours within Kathmandu valley with required travels outside Kathmandu valley within Nepal on project related matters. The contract will be effective only after the effective date of the project.

7. Social Safeguard Expert's required Qualification and Experience:

Candidates should have a master degree in Social Science (Sociology, Rural development and any other related discipline). At least 7 (Seven) years' experience in the field of RE sector and professional experience in gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and Social Safeguard.

The candidate should also have:

- Proven experience in implementing international social safeguards policies/standards (e.g. World Bank, ADB, etc)
- Excellent knowledge of the English language (both spoken and written) and excellent communication skills;
- Ability to build capacity and train various stakeholders
- Knowledge and/or familiarity with the social dynamics in Nepal and/or of rural communities such as those where the subprojects may be located;
- Ability to work well with Government officials and community personnel;
- Strong and demonstrated capacity for organization, management with excellent reporting and coordination skills;
- Knowledge of specific gender issues in renewable energy and sensitivity to local culture and traditions in Nepal;
- Strong leadership, technical competence and professional skills for timely implementation, coordination and management of activities;

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- Ability to work in a team, develop synergies and establish effective working relations with various stakeholders;
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills, resourcefulness, initiative, tact and ability to cope with any situation;
- Openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback;
- The candidate should be able to legally work in Nepal.

8. Facilities and logistics to the expert by the Client:

The Expert shall be provided with the office space, computer with internet facilities, and office furniture. Necessary stationery, printing and copying facilities shall also be provided by the Client.