Advance Contracting Notice

Date: 8 May 2024

Country/Borrower: Tajikistan

Title of Proposed Project: 54111-TAJ: Resilient Livelihoods and Empowerment of Rural Women Project

Name and Address of Executing Agencies:

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Nigina Anvari, Deputy Minister
Address: 5/1 Shamsi Street, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
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Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CWFA)
Bunafsha Faiziddinzoda, Chairman
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Brief Description of the Project:

Climate change-induced disruptions in agriculture contribute to food insecurity and negatively impact rural livelihoods in Tajikistan. They exacerbate vulnerabilities and create conditions that can heighten the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) in affected communities. This is the first stand-alone gender equity theme project financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that focuses exclusively on tackling the challenges faced by rural women, such as insufficient livelihood opportunities and limited household income contribution. These factors diminish women’s status and decision-making power within households, while their lack of knowledge and skills renders them vulnerable to GBV and abuse. The project will address both social and economic vulnerabilities of rural women in the Khatlon province. This will be achieved by bolstering their employability, agricultural productivity, and response services to GBV and other forms of discrimination. The project will (i) improve women’s agricultural skills for climate-resilient
production, (ii) promote women’s role in the agriculture value chain through social entrepreneurship, (iii) improve food and nutrition security, and (iv) enhance employment readiness of GBV survivors. This will lead to the empowerment of women farmers, female seasonal workers, and other vulnerable rural women, by fostering resilient, climate adaptive, and sustainable livelihoods.

**Brief Description of Goods and Related Services, Works or Consulting Services to be Procured:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package No.</th>
<th>General Description</th>
<th>Procurement/Recruitment Method</th>
<th>Review (Prior/Post)</th>
<th>Advertisement Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS01</td>
<td>Recruitment of Project Implementation Group staff</td>
<td>ICS (National)</td>
<td>Prior</td>
<td>Q3 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS02</td>
<td>Project Implementation Support</td>
<td>QCBS (International, 80:20)</td>
<td>Prior</td>
<td>Q2 2024</td>
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</table>

All advance contracting and retroactive financing will be undertaken in conformity with *ADB Procurement Policy* (2017, as amended from time to time) and *Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers* (2017, as amended from time to time) using ADB Standard Bidding Documents, issued in December 2021 and Standard Request for Proposals issued in January 2023. While advance contracting is part of the normal procedure, approval of advance contracting and retroactive financing does not commit ADB to approve the project or to finance the project costs.