



LIBERIA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (LWEP)
CAPITOL BYE-PASS, MONROVIA-LIBERIA
(P173677)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: P173677

Assignment Title: Mixed-method Agriculture Research Survey

Reference No: LR-MOGCSP-427294-CS-CQS

1. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) has received a grant of 44.6 million dollars from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank to implement the Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP). intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

Climate change is evident in influencing many areas of life and the economy of nations. The most vulnerable human activity remains agriculture as it drives economic growth and provides nutrition for the nation. The climate in West Africa, and specifically in Liberia, is expected to change towards a higher number of hot nights, where the temperature does not fall from 28C, increase in average annual rainfall, and rise in sea level of up to 0.56m (USAID, 2017¹).

On the other hand, according to the 2022 **Gender Index**, the Sustainable Development Goal number thirteen, **SDG-13²: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change**, is one of the three worst-performing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of gender equality, showing no significant progress since 2015. This evidence calls for urgent and stronger efforts to better integrate gender issues into climate actions.

¹ USAID, 2017, Facts Sheets - Climate Change Risk Profile: Liberia. June 2018. Available at: https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017_USAID%20ATLAS_Climate%20Risk%20Profile_Liberia.pdf accessed 30 June 2024.

² See detailed progress on SDG-13 here: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/> accessed 12 Aug 2024.

Within its mandate to mainstream gender and ensure gender transformative results for women and men in Liberia, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP), collaborates with other ministries, in this case, with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), to establish sex-disaggregated statistics and evidence for gender transformative policymaking.

With funding from the World Bank, MOGCSP is implementing the Liberia Women Empowerment Project LWEP (2022-2027). This project aims to improve gender equality norms and livelihood opportunities for women, while also enhancing the institutional capacity of the Government of Liberia (GOL) to promote gender equality.

The LWEP is structured around five key components for which details are available [here](#)³ and Component Four details are available [here](#).

The primary aim of this **Mix-methods Agricultural Research/ Survey (MARS)** is to support the Gender and Social Development Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the Forestry Development Agency (FDA) to strengthen its function in addressing gender gaps in agricultural production, processing, and marketing and to enable it to take a leading role in guiding MOA, the Cooperative Development Agency, and other Ministries, Agencies, Commissions (MACs), and various departments active in the agricultural sector on gender inclusion and the needs of women in agriculture.

This research should enable the MOA to access sex-disaggregated data and access evidence for the design and implementation of sustainable gender-transformative policies, strategies, legislation, and investments that will empower women and men of Liberia to implement mitigation measures and to adapt to climate change within the agriculture sector and agrifood systems.

By applying **gender-transformative approaches** that actively challenge gender norms and power inequities MARS research should bring knowledge about effective and efficient methodologies and approaches which will be tested to make a sustainable impact of women's empowerment interventions. Gender transformative approaches target an entire community or household to build structural support and buy-in on interventions. Behavior change communication that targets men and women, for example, may allow women to better communicate with their male counterparts to improve familial support and adopt positive nutrition behaviors, such as improved feeding practices.

This **Mix-methods Agricultural Research/ Survey (MARS)** will start with a Desk

³ See details on the LWEP Project Components 1-5 available here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zy7otR9YiLobP83c0q2BnABPCOyyWg_e/view?usp=sharing

review in **Part One** 1) Identify stakeholders and actors and identify and analyze policy framework, existing studies, and their recommendations for example: key guidelines, and gender assessments, of MOA, MOGCSP, and the World Bank and other development partners, such as Liberia Climate Risk Country Profile, World Bank Country Climate and Development Report for Liberia-2024 and Gender Assessment: Enhancing Climate Information Systems (CIS) for Resilient Development in Liberia among others.

In **Part Two** of the Desk Review the selected entity is expected to analyze, in collaboration with LISGIS and MOA 2) the existing statistics and data with a gender lens, from **Liberia Agriculture Census, 2022/2023**, and **National Population and Housing Census 2022**, and ongoing **digital Agricultural Survey (2024)** and **planned Food Security and Nutrition Survey (2024)** and to identify gender-based gaps and establish needs for further data analyses and sex-disaggregated data collection.

Findings from the Desk Review should be summarized and presented in the form of an Annex to the Inception Report titled Possibly updated **Liberia Agricultural Profile, containing existing agricultural sex-disaggregated data, infographics, and other presentation of selected indicators**, policy environment with a summary of current recommendations, and identified data and policy gaps.

In the next Phase, **after Desk review and analyses** of the available sex-disaggregated data, the **Mix-methods Agricultural Research/ Survey** will establish a Framework and identify the most appropriate gender-transformative methodology to be applied and to fill in data gaps and collect additional data from and about women and men practices in agriculture to identify and **establish gender-sensitive climate resilient solutions**.

As a result of MARS research, the Government should receive **strategic recommendations** on how to create a supporting environment for women's meaningful participation in the agriculture and agrifood systems and sectors, ensuring gender equality, and promoting women's empowerment in Liberia's economy, with clear parameters and indicators to measure gender-responsive climate investment.

The **MARS** must work in close collaboration to avoid duplication with existing initiatives conducted by the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Spatial Information (**LISGIS**) and generate **sex-disaggregated data** that will assist the Ministry of Agriculture and related agencies deciding on policies in the agricultural sector especially in production, processing, and marketing to address **gender gaps and needs in climate-smart agriculture**

The Detailed Terms of Reference can be accessed through the link below:

<https://mogcsp.gov.lr/reoi-and-tor-mars/>

2. The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
3. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - a) A minimum of ten (10) years of experience in conducting organizational capacity needs assessments; Proven experience in supporting public organizations with gender mainstreaming and gender equality and applying these concretely to specific program sectors, plans, policies, and processes.
 - b) Demonstrated work experience on gender issues including gender-responsive policies, and public administration.
 - c) At least 10 years of experience working in organizational development, and capacity building in the specified area; .
4. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.17 of the World Bank's *Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing, for Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services*, July 1, 2016, November 2020, revised in September 2023 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
6. A Consultant will be selected by the Consultants Qualification Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
7. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours *from 0900 to 1700 hours*.
8. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, by fax, or by e-mail) by **17:00 GMT** on or before October 14, 2024. **Envelopes or subject of emails must be marked "Ref: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF MIXED-METHOD AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SURVEY (MARS) UNDER THE LIBERIA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT"**.

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