

**Public Foundation Kyrgyzstan Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP)**

**Sustainable Local Economic Development project**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**for an individual consultant for Market Analysis in Ala Buka and Chatkal rayons of Jalal-Abad oblast**

1. **Background**

The **Public Foundation Kyrgyzstan Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP KG)** is an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation that implements a range of integrated interventions in agriculture and food security, economic inclusion, education, early childhood development and health and nutrition. MSDSP is active in all five oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic, covering a total population of more than 520,000 people. For more information, please refer to [www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org).

The MSDSP KG is **an implementing partner of GIZ Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) that is co-funded by the European Union and German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In the framework of IRDP, MSDSP KG is implementing Sustainable Local Economic Development (SLED) project. Within this partnership the MSDSP KG is liable for creating an ongoing dialogue between private and public sectors as well as civil society to identify and implement jointly measures and investments that improve the frame-work conditions for inclusive economic development in seven aiyl aimaks (AA) of Ala-Buka and Chatkal rayons, in Jalal-Abad oblast.**

**SLED project is responsible to achieve three objectives, such as (i)** **develop inclusive Local Economic Development (LED) plans that respond to local livelihood needs and aspirations, (ii)** f**acilitate the mobilization of resources for the coordinated implementation of LED plans and (iii)** b**uild the capacity of public, private and civic actors to sustain the development and implementation of LED plans. All interventions contributing to these three objectives will be executed in the targeted AAs located in Chatkal and Ala-Buka rayons of Jalal-Abad oblast, such as, Ak-Korgon, Aktam, Ala-Buka, Oruktu, Baltagulov, Terek-Sai and Sumsar Those seven AAs are composed of 27 villages where more than 94,900 of people live under the poverty line.**

**In order to inform the planned field activities MSDSP KG will initially analyze the target groups and current economic situation through three rapid assessments, balancing both supply and demand aspects: (1) With the objective to** **inform economic sectors to be targeted through the LED development process, a rapid market assessment (RMA) within the target area to understand external factors and capture key opportunities and constraints within selected value chains and other economic activities (to be mandated to the hired consultant); (2) Assessment of marginalized groups in the targeted geographic zones, comprising women, youth, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, with regard to better understand roles and positions of the vulnerable segments and to take into account any constraints that might hinder their active participation within the project and economic life; (3) Pilot a network mapping tool will be applied to understand the relationships between relevant public, civil and private actors who will be potentially involved in the elaboration of the LED program. For the conduction of the RMA, MSDSP KG is looking to sub-contract a local consultant, while the two remaining assessment will be conducted by Research, Evaluation and Learning Unit of MSDSP KG.**

1. **Objectives of the Assignment**

MSDSP KG is looking for a qualified consultant to conduct a RMA in the targeted AAs listed above. The market assessment will be carried out within the first two months of the project, with the purpose of identifying external factors and capture key opportunities and constraints within selected value chains and other economic activities and therefore **informing the selection of the economic sectors to be further supported through the LED development process**. This assessment will be coordinate closely with other ongoing programs within the region including, but not limited to, GIZ Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Output 1 activities in the corn/maize value chain as well as MSDSP KG’s own initiatives within the plum value chain in Ala-Buka.

With that in mind, the specific objectives of this assignment are:

1. *Identification of existing and emerging economic sectors in the targeted AAs* in terms of past, current and future contributions to (i) local employment opportunities, including youth, women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, (ii) household incomes, (iii) contribution to the AO annual budget, (iv) environment and social sustainability, among others. In regard to environmental and social sustainability analysis, it is anticipated that the consultant will analyze factors such as the (self)-employment conditions (salary, etc.) of mainstream adult population, youth, women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, impacts on the environment, etc. For each sector, growth trend analysis will also be done in terms of employment, incomes, local and export sales, among others. As a result of Step 1, it is expected that the consultant, together with MSDSP KG, will narrow down the number of economic sectors be further studied under Step 2.
2. *Identification of key constraints in the selected economic sectors using a supply-demand analytical framework.* It is expected that the consultant will use a supply-demand analytical framework in order to assess the current gaps and opportunities for further development in the economic sectors identified under Step 1. More specifically, this framework will be used to analyze the actual demand for versus the supply of business development services (BDS), labor skills, final services and products proposed, etc.
3. **Scope of the Assignment**

The assessment will cover, but will not be limited to: a) review of existing economic sector analysis, with a special focus on Jalal-Abad oblast; b) interviews with actors in those economic sectors (employer, government institutions, BDS providers, employees, education institutions, etc.).

The assessment should be designed and conducted in a gender-sensitive and participatory manner, keeping in view the needs of the marginalized groups living in the targeted zones. The analysis should involve a wide range of stakeholders, with a mandatory focus on women, youth, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities at all stages of the study. The role of the consultant is to propose a concrete and comprehensive strategy that ensures a participatory approach.

The market assessment will be conducted in close coordination with the SLED Project Coordinator and Research, Evaluation and Learning Unit of MSDSP KG.

1. **Deliverables**

The hired consultant is fully responsible for the development of the following documents:

1. Research Design including methodology, sampling, and research schedule
2. Research tools (questionnaires and guides for in-depth interviews or focus group discussions)
3. Conduct data collection according to the approved research design and tools
4. Preparation of the assessment report in English. The report should be reader-friendly, therefore the use of infographic, summary tables, etc. is welcome
5. Power Point presentation on key research findings as well as presentation of the findings to the project teams and local working groups that will lead on the revision of the LED in target AAs.

All deliverables should be provided in Russian and English languages (Assessment report can be provided only in English). Deliverables should be approved by the RELU Manager and SLED Project Coordinator.

1. **Reporting line**

The selected consultant will report to the SLED Project Coordinator and RELU Manager.

1. **Work location(s)**

Jalal-Abad oblast, the Aiyl Okmots of Ala-Buka and Chatkal rayons: Ak-Korgon, Aktam, Ala-Buka, Oruktu, Baltagulov, Terek-Sai and Sumsar.

1. **Period of assignment**

This consultation service contract is for a duration of 30 days. Total number of days and staff should be proposed by the applicant. Please note that consultant will be able to rely on the support of two project facilitators paid by the project to support with the collection of field data.

1. **Qualification Criteria**

* Master’s degree (or equivalent) in Economics, Business Administration, Public Policy Experience in market assessment, value-chain studies, LSG assessment or experience in the relevant research in the last five years
* Proven experience of implementing the similar type of assignment
* Demonstrated ability to write high quality, clear and concise reports in English and Russian
* Well versed in value chain and market analysis
* Knowledge of formal and informal economic in Kyrgyzstan is asset

***Application Process: Applicants should submit a detailed CV, list of the research projects, Letter of interest, link to the reports and publications (not obligatory but is asset) to e-mail:* msdspkg.procurement@akdn.org *by 31 July, 2020.***

***Only suitable candidates will be shortlisted and invited to the interview.***