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Project Fiduciary Management Unit  
Ministry of Finance  
13 Howe Street  
Freetown  
Sierra Leone



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES SELECTION)  
DATE OF ISSUANCE 30<sup>th</sup> May,2022**

***Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project***

**Assignment Title:** A Geographic Information System consultant to facilitate the continuous update of Financial Access Points (FAPs) on the online geospatial platform at the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL).

**Reference No.** SL-MOFED-287150-CS-INDV

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a loan of USD\$12M from IDA/World Bank to implement the Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project. The Project has a development objective to increase the interoperability of digital payments and access to financial services. The Project is an Investment Project Financing (IPF) and comprised of three components. Component 1 – Ensuring interoperability of digital payments; finances the hardware, software, and consulting services required to implement a switch successfully. Component 2 – Ensuring the viability of the payments system through increasing usage thereof by financing access points for the switch, including Point of Sale (POS) terminals, mobile wallets, and government payments. The component has a particular emphasis on increasing access in areas of the country with particularly low levels of financial inclusion, and in particular, rural areas. The component also supports other barriers to the usage of the payments system, including legal and regulatory barriers and financial awareness. Component 3 – Project Implementation Support; finances a project coordinator and oversight mechanisms for the project to ensure private sector stakeholder involvement.

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the mapping exercise was to:

- To map out current and potential access points;
- To overlay access points with population, economic activity, financial behaviors, telephone networks, postal offices, and other parameters;
- To identify underserved areas and areas ready for financial service expansion and optimum/maximized opportunities;
- Provide information that will help assess the strategic placement of current and potential financial products and access channels and, potentially build a business case for reforms and the expansion of products and services in new areas.

At the end of the study, more than one thousand eight hundred (1800) financial access points were mapped. In addition to the final report, the following products of the mapping exercise were provided for wider dissemination through the BSL website:

- Data in Microsoft Excel format of the different categories of access points,
- Static maps depicting the spatial distribution of all access points,

- Interactive dashboard of access points visualized at both district and chiefdom levels, and
- An Interactive (GIS) WebGIS platform of financial access points.

The GIS platform is hosted on the cloud-based ArcGIS Online Platform and the Bank has been paying annual subscription. The geospatial mapping of financial access point is critical because it provide the bases for financial expansion. However, the data on the Geospatial Study are currently outdated and needed to be updated by the financial institutions on a continuous basis.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be obtained at 13a Howe Street*, the Project Fiduciary Management Unit now invites eligible individual Consultant (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The evaluation shall be based on the relevant qualifications and experience of the Individual Consultant.

The attention of interested consultant is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, revised November 2017, July 2018 and November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment:

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection (IC) Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 16:00pm daily.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June,2022 at 16:00pm.

**Mode of Application**

All expression of Interest should be addressed to:

**The Head of Procurement**

Project Fiduciary Management Unit

Ministry of Finance

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