



BANK OF SIERRA LEONE
Sierra Leone Second Financial Inclusion Project

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Name of Project: *Sierra Leone Second Financial Inclusion Project*

Practice Area: *Financial Inclusion in S/L*

PROJECT ID No: *P177947*

1st December, 2023

The Government of Sierra Leone has received funding from International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank financing in the amount of **US\$ 40,000,000 (Forty Million United States Dollars)** from the International Development Association (IDA) grant toward the cost of the Project-, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services to be procured under this project. The project seeks to facilitate the financial inclusion of individuals and micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs).

The project comprises of the following Components:

Component 1. Adoption and Usage of Transaction Accounts

Component 2: Increasing access to credit for MSMEs

Component 3: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 1: Adoption and Usage of Transaction Accounts (Estimated US\$13 million)

The objective of this component is to support adoption and usage of transaction accounts at a formal financial institution or mobile money provider. It comprises three interrelated subcomponents addressing key barriers related to limited financial access points (subcomponent 1.1) and other payment systems infrastructure development needs (subcomponent 1.2), and legal and regulatory barriers and low financial literacy/capability levels (subcomponent 1.3). These measures aim to contribute to broader adoption and usage of transaction accounts and digital finance in Sierra Leone, including as a store of value and as a steppingstone for the poor to more advanced financial services.

Component 2: Increasing Access to Credit for MSMEs (US\$23 million)

The objective of this component is to facilitate access to affordable credit for MSMEs, strengthen supervision of the MFI and NBF sector, and improve the national credit infrastructure. This set of financial sector activities is intended to protect access to financial services for MSMEs affected by the current economic emergency conditions and ongoing localized climate change events and set the stage for expanded financial inclusion in the future. It comprises three interrelated subcomponents addressing three key impediments to sustainable lending and greater outreach by financial institutions to MSMEs, namely the lack of affordable long-term local currency liquidity for financial institutions (subcomponent 2.1), the lack of supervisory capacity (subcomponent 2.2), and the lack of a modern credit information system covering non-banks (subcomponent 2.3).

Component 3: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (Estimated US\$4 million)

This component will support (1) BSL's, the Ministry of Finance's (MoF's), and other actors' capacity strengthening for coordination, design, and implementation; (2) the administrative, technical, financial management, environment, and social safeguards of the project by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the oversight of the Project Steering Committee; (3) the coordination among all institutional partners to ensure the efficient flow of information among all actors and coordination with the private sector; (4) the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the project's results and impact; (5) the development of communication activities to publicize and disseminate project results, best practices, and success stories; (6) a project grievance mechanism; and (7) environmental and social implementation and monitoring.

The components will include but not limited to procurement of:

❖ GOODS

Procurement of equipment and furniture

Supply, delivery and installation of ICT Equipment

Supply and delivery of vehicles

❖ CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- Consultancy for Cybersecurity assessment and upgrading
- Consulting services to manage Partnership Loans to eligible PFIs for the provision of sub-loans to eligible MSMEs
- Consultancy of DFS & Agent Bankng Technical Adviser

- Consulting Services to Assess existing systems and infrastructure to inform required upgrades or replacement of the Real Time Gross Settlement, ACH, Automated Cheque Processing systems& development of RFB.

❖ NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- Acquisition and Integration of RTGS/ACH systems and supporting ICT infrastructure
- Development of Project Website
- Procure Sun Systems Licence

Procurement of contracts financed by the World Bank will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (July 2016 Revised November 2017, August 2018, November 2020 and September 2023) (Procurement Regulations), and is open to all eligible firms, and individuals as defined in the Procurement Regulations. After project negotiations, the World Bank shall arrange the publication on its external website of the agreed initial procurement plan and all subsequent updates once it has provided a no objection.

Specific procurement notices for contracts subject to open competitive procurement will be announced, as they become available, in *UN Development Business online*, on the World Bank's external website, www.bsl.gov.sl, and www.mof.gov.sl and the country widely read newspapers

Interested eligible firms and Individuals who would wish to be considered for the provision of goods, non-consulting Services and Consulting Services for the above-mentioned project, or those requiring additional information, should contact the Borrower at the address below:

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