REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

***NAME OF PROJECT:*** IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM PROJECT **(Grant # TF0A4543).**

***ASSIGNMENT TITLE:*** INDIVIDUAL HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SURVEY, AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURAL SURVEY /Reference No. as per Procurement Plan: **NSPS-CS-2-1-2/**The Republic of Armenia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Implementation of the National Strategy Program for Strengthening of the National Statistical System Project (Grant # TF0A4543) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Statistical Committee of the RA seeks to hire a consulting company (hereinafter, the Consultant) which will ensure the implementation processes of the following surveys in 2 statistical fields: 1) Agriculture Structural Survey, and 2) Individual Housing Construction Survey.

The main objective of the assignment is to conduct two surveys, data processing and analysis.

1. To conduct Agriculture Structured Survey among 2,000 (individual) farming households in 5 regions of Armenia.
2. To conduct **Individual Housing Construction Survey at the 800 construction sites in Yerevan.**

The data collected through the survey will serve as a basis for updating the existing statistical registers, improvement and maintenance of the current statistics in the field of agriculture and construction, development of a toolset for sample surveys, etc.

Specific objectives of the surveys are the following:

* Store the collected data (on the individual (rural) households) in the statistical register database, in order to complement and update the already existing data, improve the existing survey instruments and the overall methodological approach.
* Reveal the existing general problems in the sector of agriculture, and provide justified information to policy makers for them to apply balanced policy making and strategic development measures.

# Both surveys shall be conducted within 10 months period.

# *Scope of Work*

## Agriculture Structural Survey

In Armenia data sources for agricultural statistics are different. Thus, the statistical data on the sown areas under agricultural crops, areas under perennial crops and gross harvest in RA are provided to the SCRA by all communities of RA. Those are considered administrative registers for the SCRA, as well as by commercial organizations engaged in agriculture through statistical reports.

The statistical data on the main animal husbandry products are provided to the SCRA by the RA Ministry of Economy, which is also considered an administrative register for the SCRA, as well as by commercial organizations engaged in agriculture through statistical reports.

In order to update the list of statistical indicators in the field of agriculture, to ensure the comparability of the collected data with the international standards, as well as to collect data on the structure of agriculture, e.g., agricultural lands, number of livestock, agricultural machinery, agricultural buildings, available human and material potential and their use, on the republic, marz (regional), community and individual (agricultural) household level. The results will significantly contribute to the improvement and enrichment of the SCRA’s register / database of agricultural statistics.

By the AC results a statistical register of individual (rural) households (farm register) was formed, which includes approximately 317,000 households, as well as legal entities (for profit business units). According to the international practice, particularly that of European Union member-states, agriculture structural surveys (hereinafter, the Survey) are to be conducted before the next agriculture census. As a rule, structural surveys are carried out as sample surveys.

The ASS sample will be designed based on the farm register, which in turn bases on the results of the AC 2014. Also, existing draft questionnaire (for the structural survey) and methodological guidelines for the completion of the questionnaire will be elaborated, etc. All those activities should be fully in line with the methodological approaches used in the international practice, at the same time they should be organized taking into account national peculiarities. Particularly, statistical indices related to the sown areas of agricultural crops, the number of livestock by sex and age groups, the availability of labour force, etc. will be included in the questionnaire.

Selected Consultant will attract and recruit sufficient number of interviewers (enumerators) and respective instructors/supervisors to be engaged in fieldwork data collection. The sample of the survey should include those households and communities that are more representative on the marz level to provide the general description of the agriculture. The SCRA will control the overall process of the Survey. The SCRA will assign a focal person, who will coordinate the Survey, approve methodological aspects, and provide clarifications on subject issues, if any.

## Individual Housing Construction Survey

The level of activity in the construction sector is one of the key determinants of the level of short-term economic activity. Construction statistics indicators provide insight into the behavior and evolution of the construction sector in the country, identify potential building activity, and quantify the total area approved for construction and the resources allocated to it.

In Armenia, for the development of construction statistics, the SCRA cooperates with the Urban Development Committee of the RA, which provide data on construction licenses and the estimated construction costs per m2 (depending on the type of construction within the framework of state projects). The SCRA receives data on construction permits in case of Yerevan from the municipality of Yerevan city, in case of the communities - from community offices.

The SCRA conducts monthly surveys of construction companies (legal entities and individual entrepreneurs) obtaining quite reliable results on the constructed housing units. Nevertheless, the volume of individual housing construction comprises about 70% percent of total housing constructions in the recent years.

The current situation of the Individual Housing Construction in Armenia presents three main problems:

* Some of the individuals do not apply for building permits,
* Individuals do not submit statistical reports to the SCRA,
* The quality of the addresses is problematic.

In 2019 the individual housing construction represented 64 % of the total of the housing construction, and the housing construction, including all types of housing construction represented about 27 % of the total construction. The main part of individual housing construction is carried out in Yerevan, the main reason why this statistical operation will take place in this city.

Information on sites (addresses) of construction permits is needed for the implementation of the Individual Housing Construction Survey. The SCRA formally obtains such information from the local authorities, including from the Yerevan Municipality, which issues those permits for allowing construction works in Yerevan. The comprehensive database of addresses having permits for conducting individual housing construction, which includes approximately 800 buildings (as of 01.05.2020) will serve as the sample frame for organizing and conducting this survey. The SCRA will also provide the questionnaire and the guidelines for further elaboration.

Questions included in the survey instrument will allow to obtain data on several important issues, such as the degree of readiness of individual residential buildings, expenses made on the construction of the building, number of storeys/floors, construction area, main types of the walls, availability of auxiliary buildings, etc.

It is planned to conduct the survey through the visits of the interviewer to the individual residential buildings included in his/ her observation field and face-to-face interviewing of the owner or any other informed person (e.g. the builder), or in case when this is not possible, through an expert assessment, and filling-in one questionnaire for each building and attaching a photo of each observed building.

The survey will be conducted in four phases (bi-monthly), thus, the interviewer shall visit and observe the individual residential buildings under construction during the whole survey for 4 times, except for those cases when the construction is completed during any period of the survey, and agree the information on the latter with the SCRA.

# Qualifications and requirements for the Consultant

It is required that the Consultant shall:

• Have at least 3 years’ experience in implementing large scale quantitative, nation-wide surveys, researches and analyses in the CIS countries,

• The consultant shall have at least 3 year proven experience in conducting research and studies in the field of agriculture and housing construction, within the last 10 years,

• Projects implemented with statistical agencies will be an advantage,

• Experience of implementation of projects funded by international institutions will be an advantage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans & IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” (January 2011, revised July, 2014) (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on the Consultants’ Qualifications (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

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.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 18:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by August10, 2020, 18:00 (local time).

Mr. Gagik Gevorgyan

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