

Package MAF/SSS-03: Social safeguard specialist

Contracting Authority:	MAF- Department of Planning and Finance
Location:	Based in MAF, Vientiane with frequent travel to the five target provinces: Xayabuly, Vientiane Province, Vientiane Capital, Bolikhamxay Province and Khammouane Province
Duration:	One year, renewable (subject to satisfactory performance).

Objective of the assignment

A social safeguard specialist is to overview the project compliance with the environmental and social management framework and relevant national laws and WB policies. The following World Bank safeguard policies will be triggered: (i) Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01); (ii) Pest Management (OP 4.09); (iii) Natural Habitats; (iv) Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10); (v) Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12); (vi) Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37); and (vii) International Water Ways (for irrigation rehabilitation).

The consultant will be assigned to the Project Component (3) Project Management.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Review the Compensation and Resettlement Plans prepared for subprojects.
- Lead and conduct the screening and planning procedures to be applied to sub-projects.
- Work with staff of Implementing Agencies (IA) to ensure that the requirements for resettlement and compensation works on sub-projects are compliant.
- Facilitate and support the staff of IAs to undertake and report on regular resettlement monitoring of ongoing sub-projects, to check compliance with project guidelines and implementation of mitigation measures defined in the Resettlement Plans.
- Provide simple guidance on the tasks and responsibilities involved in the RPs and ensure that the contractors understand their responsibilities in actually meeting resettlement targets and implementation of RP recommendations of the subproject.
- Where appropriate, highlight to concerned agencies: (a) situations of significant deviation from subproject resettlement requirements; and (b) proposed remedial actions, for consideration by the Project Coordination Office.
- Screen all sites identified for civil works to ensure that these sites are in accordance with World Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Requirements
- Conduct village consultation meetings, prepare, plan and implement income-generating activities and livelihood restoration program and women's empowerment action plan
- Implement environmental and social related activities as outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the project.
- Prepare necessary documents, such as EGDP, RPs and tools in consultation with stakeholders

- Support Social Mobilizer to distribute assistance and collecting grievances regarding assistance distribution
- Orient contractors and labors on principle and provision of ESMF along with child labor, and other social safeguard issues.

Consultant Qualification Requirements

- At least a Bachelor's degree in one of the following fields of study: social sciences, community development, or other relevant academic study.
- Good experience in social safeguards/performance standards in agriculture or work on social aspects management preferably in an agricultural context.
- Experience preparing and implementing development projects, preferably with the World Bank. Experience with World Bank Group Operational Policies and Performance Standards is a plus.
- Ability to effectively communicate in English and Lao languages and strong report writing skills is essential
- Respect to different gender, all ethnic groups and cultures in Laos and good interpersonal skill is required.
- Willingness and ability to perform fieldwork, and in-country travel to provinces.

Timeframe of the Assignment

The services of the Consultant are for forty-two (42) months with intermittent mobilization over the project 6-year timeframe (2018-2023). The position is based in Vientiane Capital at MAF, with extensive travel to target provinces.