

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**Pakistan Financial Inclusion & Infrastructure Project**

**Credit No.:** 5989-PK (Part B)

**Project ID No.** P159428

**Assignment Title:** Firm to Assist in the Design & Implementation of Women's Linkages Program

**Reference No.** PK-SBP - FIIP-64999-CS-QCBS

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Financial Inclusion & Infrastructure Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include designing and implementing a women's linkages program to foster availability of finance to women entrepreneurs. The aim of the consultancy is to provide recommendations on improving access to finance to SMEs owned by women entrepreneurs of Pakistan and to assist banks in designing women specific financing & non-financing products. It will ultimately contribute in enhancing the ability of women entrepreneurs to pursue economic opportunities and to grow their businesses. The consultancy will focus on addressing the extent to which women are less able to access finance. For the purpose, the hired consultant will develop a comprehensive plan for designing and implementing the Women's Linkages Program for improving access to finance in Pakistan. The consultancy will aim to i) conduct a diagnostic Survey, ii) prepare an action plan to implement the proposed recommendations including a mechanism for monitoring the plan and iii) do product development.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) of the assignment can be downloaded from the website: [www.sbp.org.pk](http://www.sbp.org.pk).

SBP now invites interested consultants/ joint ventures to indicate their interest to **Assist in the Design & Implementation of Women's Linkages Program** as per the provision mentioned in the Terms of Reference. The eligible firms are required to demonstrate/ provide requisite information to prove their qualification/ eligibility to perform the assignment. In this regard, there are prescribed instructions which have been mentioned in the Instructions for the Consultancy Firms which may be downloaded from the website [www.sbp.org.pk](http://www.sbp.org.pk). Prospective firms are encouraged to provide materials/ information that would be specific to the proposed services only by giving all the relevant details as required in the Instructions, and to avoid submitting generic promotional material. The unrelated or incomplete materials/ information shall not be considered. The parameters for evaluation of REOIs responses are as follows:

- a) General Capability (Max Score= 15)
- b) Relevant Experience (Max Score=40)
- c) Technical Capability (Max Score 45)

The attention of interested Consultants 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 and August 2018*] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest, the same shall be observed while participating in the procurement process.

"A firm that has been engaged by the Borrower to provide Consultancy Services for the preparation or implementation of a project (or an affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under

common control with that consulting firm), shall be disqualified from subsequently providing Goods, Works, or Non-Consulting Services resulting from, or directly related to those Consulting Services”.

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. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A consultant will be selected through “Quality and cost based selection (QCBS) Method” in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations. In addition, the whole procurement process will be governed under the World Bank “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016 [*Revised November 2017 and August 2018*].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by or before 1100 hours on August 21, 2019 which shall be opened on same day at 1130 hours in the presence of representatives of consulting firms who may choose to be present. This REOI is also available on the websites: [www.sbp.org.pk](http://www.sbp.org.pk)/[www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).

The assignment title of the consultancy should be clearly written on the front of the envelope or in the subject line.

**Joint Director**

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