

State Institute “Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development” Project Management Unit
One Health for Pandemic Prevention Food Systems Resilience and Ecosystem Health in
Central Asia Project (OHP)

Terms of reference for Veterinary and Food Safety Coordinator

I. BACKGROUND

The One Health approach is an integrated and unifying framework that aims to achieve optimal health for people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes the interdependence between human, animal, plant, and environmental health, and it mobilizes various sectors and communities to address global challenges, such as pandemic prevention, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety, and environmental sustainability. This approach is essential for fostering well-being and tackling complex health issues in interconnected systems.

The One Health for Pandemic Prevention Food Systems Resilience and Ecosystem Health in Central Asia Program for Tajikistan is a US\$31.79 million grant, with US\$30 million sourced from the International Development Association (IDA) and an additional US\$1.79 million from the Pandemic Fund. This initiative, part of the World Bank's Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA), aims to support the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) in addressing prevalent challenges related to zoonotic diseases, AMR, and food safety.

The One Health Program in Tajikistan, implemented as part of Phase 1 under the World Bank's Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA), is designed to strengthen the country's capacities for preventing, detecting, and responding to zoonotic diseases, AMR, and food safety risks. It supports investments across national and regional One Health coordination, communication, information sharing, regulatory frameworks, knowledge development, workforce capacity, risk-based surveillance, prevention and response systems, laboratory capacity, and data systems.

The project includes four key components:

1. **Strengthening One Health Governance** – Establishing a cross-sectoral governance structure to enhance coordination and policy alignment.
2. **Enhancing One Health Knowledge and Workforce Capacity** – Developing and implementing workforce training programs and research initiatives.
3. **Improving One Health Prevention, Detection, and Response Systems** – Strengthening national and regional laboratory networks, enhancing risk-based surveillance, and supporting digital information systems.
4. **Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Learning** – Establishing systems to manage and track project progress, ensure compliance, and facilitate knowledge dissemination.

The One Health Program in Tajikistan is implemented by the State Institute “Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development” Project Management Unit (SI AED PMU). The implementing agency works closely with national and regional stakeholders to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of the One Health approach.

The Project primarily focuses on technical assistance, capacity building, procurement of laboratory equipment, construction of research centers and laboratories, and One Health risks related to the laboratory civil works.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to priority zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food safety issues in Asia Tajikistan through a regional One Health approach.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

For the implementation of the project, the following agencies are engaged: The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoA), the Ministry of Health and Social Population Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan (MOHSPP), the Committee on Food Safety under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CFS) and the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP).

The Veterinary and Food Safety (VFS) Coordinator will support the implementation of all three Components by the CFS under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the guidance of the OHP Coordinator. The VFS Coordinator in close collaboration with the CFS responsible for developing ToRs for each activity of the three components and agreeing with relevant agencies, supporting tendering, and monitoring activities realization according to WB regulations and the Project Operation Manual.

The VFS Coordinator's duties and responsibilities

Liaison with CFS

- Within the PIU, act as a focal point for all activities and coordination efforts on topics related to veterinary and food safety.
- Develop detailed work plans for activities under the responsibility of CFS and monitor implementation.
- Organize coordination meetings with CFS and other stakeholders to discuss the issues related to the project, planning, and implementation.

Technical expertise on veterinary issues

- Provide technical input in the preparation of the procurement plan and procurement of materials and services required for the Project and ensure that the arrangements are in place for the timely delivery of these inputs.
- Prepare ToRs for hiring short-term consultants/specialists in close coordination with CFS; (attend during the hiring process and support on preparation of the evaluation report).
- Monitor the service providers' performance and verify that it conforms to the technical requirements and quality standards agreed to in the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement.
- Take notes on any material deficiencies in the service providers' performance and submit them to the immediate attention of the OHP Project Coordinator and AED PMU Management.
- Provide expert opinion on technical matters related to the OHP implementation.
- Facilitate technical training of CFS on regulatory compliance.

Project Management

- Liaise with E&S colleagues for due diligence, especially regarding construction activities;
- Contribute and assist M&E Specialist in monitoring progress and quality of inputs and outputs;

- Undertake day-to-day planning, implementation, and coordination activities under the responsibility of CFS and be responsible for ensuring in-time planned activities for implementation.
- Regularly review progress in the implementation of activities support to CFS, including regular visits to institutional partners and meetings with them, report any feedback and help develop measures to improve activities implementation.

National One Health coordination

- Contribute to the preparation and implementation of meeting of the National One Health Coordination structure: contribute to the agenda and prepare technical briefs
- Facilitate and assist in conducting consultation workshops with key stakeholders.

IV. REPORTING

The **VFS Coordinator** will report to and work under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator.

V. LANGUAGES

The **VFS Coordinator** shall work in the Tajik, and Russian, languages. The Reports/Documents shall be prepared in the Tajik, if needed in Russian languages.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS

- Preferably Master degree in veterinary sciences, agriculture, or related fields, livestock or equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in Food Safety, livestock, and veterinary in the public and/or private sector.
- Preferably experience in coordination of project activities.
- Knowledge of English is preferred.
- Good Computer skills: MS Word, MS Excel MS.

VII. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment will start in _____ and will initially be for a duration of one year, including a three-month probation period. The SI AED PMU will decide on the extension of the contract with the approval of the World Bank.