

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 Legal Specialist

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, Republic of Tajikistan, through a One Health approach.

III. Scope of work

For the implementation of the project, the following agencies are engaged: The Ministry of Health and Social Population Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan (MOHSPP), the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoA), 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 **Legal Specialist** will have the overall responsibility for ensuring the development of an effective legislation system that provides all the legal information required for the Project. He/she will also be responsible for the legal knowledge management of the OHP. He will be based at the SI “AED PMU” office in Dushanbe and will work closely with other Project staff, project implementing agencies, and project beneficiaries. In his/her activities, the Legal Specialist follows the Project Operation Manual (POM) of OHP”, Charter of SI AED PMU”, acting the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Legal Specialist shall ensure that all legal advice and document reviews are consistent with the requirements of the signed Financing and Grant Agreements (June 2025), as well as the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (February 2025), and the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (April 2025), Standard Conditions for Grant Financing (February 2019), and General Conditions for IDA Financing (last revised on July 15, 2023).

The **Legal Specialist** will be responsible for the following tasks:

- To provide legal advice to the project team and partners on the preparation and improvement of laws and regulations, concerning the One Health policies, or those which are required for future improvement of One Health approach development, including providing a draft legal document if necessary;
- To provide legal advice on and review the proposed structure and regulation of the NOHCS and its secretariat, technical working group and assist in the development national one-health action plan;
- To accompany project staff in the meeting or discussion with OH Project-related stakeholders concerning the implementation of Project policies as well as proposed Partner projects or transactions;
- Assist in developing the ToR for other temporary legal consultants to be hired by AED PMU on frame of the OH Project to revise the draft regulations and other legal regulatory works as needed for OH Project frameworks, supervision, improvements, and advice on feasibility studies and transactions;
- Liaise with relevant ministries, committees, institutions, and stakeholders to incorporate their legal comments and ensure alignment;
- To communicate and coordinate his/her work with the AED PMU Director/Deputy Director and Project Coordinator;

- In connection with a Procurement Specialist, review procurement documents and processes for compliance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations and national law;
- Monitor and report on compliance with ESCP/ESSs, including grievance mechanisms and codes of conduct for contractors.

Reporting Relations and Obligations:

The **Legal Specialist** will report and work under the supervision of the Project Coordinator and AED PMU Director/Deputy Director. The Legal Specialist will provide monthly activity reports to the Project Coordinator in Tajik or Russian.

IV. Languages

The Legal Specialist shall work in Tajik, if needed, in the Russian language. Documents shall be prepared in the Tajik and Russian Languages.

V. Qualifications

- University degree in Law (Bachelor or Master's degree or equivalent);
- Minimum of five (5) years working experience, including significant experience working with projects funded by international development organizations, private and government institutions in public finance and infrastructure delivery related areas;
- Have a good knowledge of policy and concept as well as the prevailing health or environmental related laws and regulations in Tajikistan;
- Have a good knowledge of Tajikistan's government structure and health or environmental development in Tajikistan;
- Sound Tajik and Russian language capability (written and spoken) and reporting writing skills and knowledge of English would be an asset;
- Excellent analytical, communication, and writing skills;
- Proven ability to work independently with limited supervision and operate effectively in a team environment.

VI. Duration of the assignment

The assignment will start in _____ and will initially be for 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.