



**AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK GROUP**



**MANO RIVER UNION
UNION DU FLEUVE MANO**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICE)**

**FOR THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO “DEVELOP
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GENDER INCLUSION IN TRADE” IN MRU (DIGIT).**

COUNTRIES: Sierra Leone and Liberia

Sector: Gender Equality

Mode of Financing: Grant

Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009

Grant No: 5900155016801

Issued Date: 30 May 2025

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a consultant for the provision of Technical Assistance to “Develop Infrastructure for Gender Inclusion in Trade” in MRU (DIGIT)

The assignment for the provision of Technical Assistance to “Develop Infrastructure for Gender Inclusion in Trade” in MRU (DIGIT) will include the following:

- Conduct an assessment to establish key infrastructure challenges facing small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), mainly cross-border businesses involving women in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Taking into consideration technological advancement, the assessment to be conducted involving all actors, SMEs, and critical stakeholders should endeavour to document findings relative to infrastructural challenges hampering or preventing cross-border traders from accelerating trade in the two countries (Sierra Leone and Liberia) with recommendable actions to help improve trade involving mainly cross- border women in the two countries. The assessment should endeavor to review the ongoing infrastructure

arrangement with the ongoing effort of ECOWAS that is aimed at establishing/constructing a Joint Border Post at the Bo-Waterside.

- Produce an Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) that will serve as a roadmap in empowering and transforming trade involving cross-border women in the three selected value chains at the two separate project locations (Jendema/Bo Waterside and Koindu/Foya).

The assignment will be undertaken in one (1) Month (not to exceed 30 working days), and the duration of the contract is six (6) months, from the date of signature of contract.

The Mano River Union Secretariat is therefore inviting eligible individual consultants to submit their Interest with their CVs for providing these services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience (cover letter, academic credentials, supporting documents referencing similar services and showing demonstrated experience in similar assignments, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group funded Operations" (BPM), dated 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. MRU is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.

Interested Individual Consultants may obtain further information and Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Procurement Specialist email address: kensah@mru.int during the Office's working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.

Proposals (technical and financial) must be delivered to the address below or by email procurement@mru.int not later than June 30th, 2025 at 4:30pm Sierra Leone time and mention **"Expression of Interest to Develop the Infrastructure for Gender Inclusion in Trade in MRU"**

Attention:

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