

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(Consulting Services – Firm Selection)

Date of Issue: 12th August 2026

Country: Republic of Sierra Leone

Name of Project: Sierra Leone Digital Transformation Project

Consulting Services: Recruitment of a Consulting Firm for the Implementation and Operationalization of a License-Free National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS).
Ref: SL-MoF-565234-CS-QCBS

I. Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) has committed to transforming its economy based on a more inclusive and human-centric digital growth and development approach. A high-level vision for the digital economy is articulated in the new National Digital Development Policy (NDDP), which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2021 setting the GoSL's vision to transform Sierra Leone into an inclusive digital economy and society and to leverage digital technology to support the GoSL to deliver on its national development plan effectively and efficiently. The Sierra Leone Digital Transformation Project (SLDTP) aims to expand access to broadband internet, increase digital skills, and improve government capacity to deliver public services digitally. The project will support the development of a strong enabling environment for the nation's digital transformation and digital development agenda as articulated in the National Digital Development Strategy.

II. Objectives

The general objective of this assignment is to design, customize, implement, and operationalize a national, end-to-end MHEWS for Sierra Leone that enables NDMA and its partner institutions to effectively manage the full early warning value chain, from risk knowledge and hazard monitoring to warning dissemination and coordinated preparedness and response, using a license-free, sustainable, and nationally owned digital platform. The implemented system shall translate the technical recommendations, blueprint, and SRS into a fully functional, interoperable, and people-centred solution that strengthens disaster risk reduction, protects lives and livelihoods, and supports timely early action.

iii. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the assignment are to:

- **Configure and customize an existing, license-free EWS application** (open-source or equivalent) to fully meet the functional and technical requirements defined in the approved blueprint and SRS, without developing a system from scratch.
- **Implement an integrated national EWS platform** that operationalizes all four pillars of a MHEWS:
 - Risk Knowledge
 - Detection, Monitoring and Forecasting
 - Warning Dissemination and Communication
 - Preparedness and Response
- Implement the MHEWS using a phased implementation approach, beginning with a priority hazard to validate system functionality, data-sharing workflows, and warning dissemination mechanisms before expanding the system to additional hazards, datasets, and dissemination channels.
- **Establish a centralized decision-support and early warning platform** anchored at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), with secure connectivity to District Emergency Operations Centres (DEOCs) and community-level structures.
- **Enable real-time and near-real-time data integration** from multiple hazard monitoring systems, sector institutions, and external data sources, supporting automated analysis, forecasting, and impact-based decision-making.
- **Operationalize a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)–compliant national alerting system** that serves as the single authoritative source for public warnings and supports multi-channel dissemination, including digital, telecom, media, and community-based channels.
- **Ensure inclusive, people-centred warning delivery**, including accessibility features for persons with disabilities, and mechanisms to reach at-risk populations in remote and low-connectivity areas.
- **Strengthen preparedness and response coordination** by providing digital tools for incident management, forecast-to-action workflows, resource tracking, situation reporting, drills, and after-action review.
- **Ensure interoperability with existing national digital platforms and sector systems**, using open standards and APIs, and leveraging the hosting environment provided by MoCTI.
- **Implement robust security, role-based access control, audit trails, and governance mechanisms** to protect the integrity, authenticity, and reliability of life-critical warning information.
- **Design and operationalize integrated data-sharing protocols** between NDMA and relevant national institutions to support effective early warning operations. This shall include the definition and implementation of data governance and access protocols;

interoperability standards and application programming interfaces (APIs); secure real-time and near-real-time data exchange mechanisms; and clearly defined roles and responsibilities of participating institutions. The assignment shall also support the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to govern operational workflows for the MHEWS, including protocols for validating and acting upon field reports and community acknowledgements, alert generation and approval processes, inter-agency coordination during emergencies, and procedures for warning dissemination through telecom operators, broadcasters, and other communication channels. The data-sharing framework shall enable timely, accurate, and secure dissemination of disaster-related information to NDMA decision-makers, partner institutions, and the public, in line with national governance arrangements and security requirements.

- **Build institutional capacity and ensure sustainability** through comprehensive documentation, training, knowledge transfer, and handover, enabling NDMA to fully own, manage, maintain, and expand the system without reliance on proprietary licenses or vendor lock-in.
- **Deliver a fully tested, accepted, and operational EWS** that complies with national policies and international best practices for multi-hazard early warning systems and supports Sierra Leone's commitments to disaster risk reduction and early warnings for all.

The Project Coordination Unit of the Sierra Leone Digital Transformation Project now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are core business and years in business, relevant experience, and technical and managerial capability of the firm. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers July 2016 Revised September 2025 Seventh Edition, and National Public Procurement Act 2016, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

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 in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Base Selection (QCBS)** method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information and detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained at the link below: xxxx

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below by e-mail on or before **28th August 2025 at 12:00 GMT**.

Project Coordination Unit
Sierra Leone Digital Transformation Project
Attn: The Project Coordinator
8th Floor,
Youyi Building
E-mail: procurement@sldtp.moic.gov.sl CC: coordinator@sldtp.mocti.gov.sl

Please indicate clearly the **Name of the Assignment** in the email subject heading and attachment as only electronic submission will be accepted.