

## GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INDIA-National Programme for Improving the Quality of Statistics in India [NPIQSI]

Loan Number : TBD

Project ID : P169497

The Government of India [GOI] has applied for financing in the amount of US \$30 million equivalent from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Programme for Improving the Quality of Statistics in India [NPIQSI]. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation [MOSPI] of the GOI is the implementing agency for this project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, consultancy and non-consulting services to be procured under this project.

The project has three components as below:

**Component [i]: Improving Survey Data Quality**

**Component [ii]: Making Most of Existing Data**

**Component [iii]: Enhanced User Relevance of Published Statistics**

Brief description of these components is as below.

**Component [i]: Improving Survey Data Quality.** The Survey Wing of National Statistical Office [NSO] in MOSPI has a long history in survey data collection. There exists a well-defined program of household surveys comprising of regular [such as the five yearly consumption survey; the Annual Survey of Industries or the quarterly Labor Force Survey] as well as ad-hoc surveys such as, recently, the time use survey. Besides these surveys, NSO collects data on rural and urban prices and plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the State agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban area units for use in sample surveys in urban areas.

Survey related activities of the NSO are conducted by four Divisions: Survey Design and Research Division [SDRD] responsible for technical planning of surveys, formulation of concepts and definitions, sampling design, designing of inquiry schedules, drawing up of tabulation plan, analysis and presentation of survey results; the Field Operations Division [FOD] with headquarters in Delhi and a network of 6 Zonal Offices, 53 Regional Offices and 116 Sub-Regional Offices spread throughout the country, is responsible for the collection of primary data for the surveys undertaken by NSO; the Data Quality Assurance Division [DQAD] which has its headquarters at Kolkata and has 6 Centers at various places, is responsible for sample selection, software development, processing, validation and tabulation of the data collected through surveys; and the Survey Coordination Division [SCD], which finally, coordinates all the survey related activities of the NSO. It also brings out the bi-annual journal of NSO, titled “Sarvekshana”, and organizes National Seminars on the results of various Socio-economic surveys undertaken by NSO.

The NSO introduced CAPI [Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing] in selected surveys using off-the shelf software. Informed by this experience it was decided to develop a customized CAPI platform which would gradually be rolled out to all core surveys implemented by NSO. This shift will have profound implications for survey design [a move from schedules to questionnaires], implementation [from paper to tablets], supervision [from field based to paradata based] as well as processing [which can now be done in parallel with data collection]. A

full transition to CAPI is expected to improve data quality while reducing the time needed for data processing. Realizing these benefits requires research into implications of the switch from paper to tablets on non-sampling errors and the introduction of new ways of working as field supervision can be reduced and replaced by monitoring paradata using electronic dashboards. MOSPI has already commissioned the preparation of CAPI software to its design specifications. The project will support accompanying measures to ensure its benefits are fully realized including process efficiencies to reduce the time between survey completion and data release, by supporting an advance release calendar; through training and certification of investigators and by supporting methodological research.

**Component [ii]: Making Most of Existing Data.** Modern statistical offices rely increasingly on administratively collected information for the generation of statistics. Population registers, business registers, land registers, public and private monitoring systems as well as transactional data bases [such as compiled by the Goods and Services Tax [GST), customs or banks (SWIFT)] provide the raw material for producing statistics. The nature of these data is such that its information is often incomplete, not-fully up to date, while the definitions used reflect the primary use of the data and not statistical concepts. Administrative data can therefore rarely be used directly, and needs to be processed, checked for quality and triangulated.

With the development of the National Integrated Information Portal [NIIP], MOSPI is taking an important step towards the routine use of administrative data for statistical production. The NIIP is an all-in-one platform intended to facilitate [i] data acquisition; [ii] data processing and [iii] archiving and dissemination. Data for acquisition can come from MOSPI's own survey program or from administrative sources, preferably through Application Program Interfaces [APIs]. Data processing includes all the steps from raw data to publishable statistics. Processing in statistical offices requires careful definitions of roles and responsibilities to assure that any changes to data are fully recorded and accounted for. Doing so requires reliance on meta data systems which define the contents of each statistics and the various processing steps needed to go from raw material to final product [and who is permitted to make which changes]. The transition from an approach in which individual officers are responsible for particular statistics to the introduction of transparent meta data systems with full accountability is a complex and involved process. The introduction of the NIIP data processing modules will give impetus to such a transition. The NIIP will also act as a data archive and dissemination platform, incorporating existing dissemination platforms such as the micro-data library run by NSO, but enhancing the user experience by offering customized mapping or tabulation facilities.

The project catalyzes the implementation of NIIP by [i] promoting attention to data quality; [ii] supporting selected data use cases which rely heavily on existing administrative data, in particular the creation of a statistical business register [using the 7th Economic Census and data from secondary sources and state registers], the production of natural capital accounts and the publication of Sustainable Development Goals [SDG] and Evidence and Data for Gender Equality [EDGE] indicators; and [iii] stimulating data innovation through a data innovation lab, and training and capacity building.

### **Component [iii]: Enhanced User Relevance of Published Statistics**

Modern statistical offices produce core statistics relevant for monitoring key socio-economic trends, such as GDP, inflation, or employment, but also thematic material relevant to inform critical debates in society. As such one observes less reporting on, for example, results from a recently completed survey, and more reporting on issues pulling together information from

surveys and other data sources. To help MOSPI make this transition the project supports greater interaction with data users [to identify relevant issues], stimulates data innovation [to be able to respond to emerging issues], promotes research [to identify new ways of reporting] and promotes different ways of disseminating data: not just reports and raw data, but also tabulation tools and interactive maps.

Procurement profile under the project includes IT hardware and software, consultancies such as for specialists in different domains, communications and outreach, need based studies and assessments, individual experts project management consultants, selection of a third party verification agent, etc.

Procurement of contracts financed by the World Bank will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers [dated July 2016; revised November 2017 and August 2018] [Procurement Regulations] and is open to all eligible firms and individuals as defined in the Procurement Regulations. After project negotiations, the World Bank shall arrange the publication on its external website of the agreed initial procurement plan and all subsequent updates once it has provided a no objection.

Specific procurement notices for contracts subject to open international competitive procurement will be announced, as they become available, in UN Development Business online, on the World Bank's external website, on the project website: [mospi.gov.in](http://mospi.gov.in) and on e-Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/>

Interested eligible firms and individuals who would wish to be considered for the provision of goods, consultancy services, and non-consulting services for the above mentioned project, or those requiring additional information, should contact the Borrower at the address below.