Government of Nepal
Ministry of Education and Sports
Department of Education
Sanothimi, Bhaktapur

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

NEPAL
Nepal Safer Schools Project (NSSP) — Project Preparation
Grant No.: IDA E758-NP (Preparation Grant for Nepal Safer Schools Project)

Assignment Title: Validation of Prioritized Schools for Resilience Intervention (Consulting Firm)
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): NP-CLPIU EDU-577039-CS-CQS
Date of Publication: 7 November 2026 (2083/07/21 BS)

The Government of Nepal has received financing from the World Bank (International Development Association) toward the cost of the Preparation Grant for Nepal Safer Schools Project (IDA Grant No. E758-NP, under the Grant Facility for Project Preparation), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include validation of the list of schools identified as eligible on the basis of Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) data through field visits to 353 schools in up to 12 districts; assessment of the pre-feasibility of construction or reconstruction (land suitability, technical feasibility and recommended intervention type); detailed topographic surveys and infrastructure needs assessment; analysis including provisional cost estimates and cluster analysis for procurement packaging; preparation of master plans and site plans to guide detailed project reports (DPRs); and a final report with a validated and prioritized list of schools for intervention. The assignment is estimated to require approximately 36 key-expert staff-months (indicative; the Firm shall define the total number of personnel required, TOR Section 7.2). The implementation period is approximately 14 weeks (98 days) from contract signing, and the assignment is expected to start in January 2027.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment (Annex 1) and the evaluation criteria (Annex 2) are attached to this request for expressions of interest, and can also be found at the following websites: www.cehrd.gov.np / www.moe.piu.gov.np.

The Department of Education (DOE), Ministry of Education and Sports, now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the

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required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are given in Annex 2. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" September 2025 ("Procurement Regulations"), 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.

The Consultant will be selected on the basis of qualifications and relevant experience. The procurement process will be in accordance with the Consultants' Qualification-based Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 09:00 to 16.00 hours (Nepal Standard Time), on Government working days.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by 12:00 hours (Nepal Standard Time) on 2 December 2026 (2083/08/16 BS).

Department of Education (DOE)
Attn: SDE Ashok Adhikari, Section Chief, Project Infrastructure Development Section (PIDS), Department of Education
Sanothimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal
Tel: +977-9851422340
Website: www.cehrd.gov.np / www.moe.piu.gov.np

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ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Validation of Prioritized Schools for Resilience Intervention — Consulting Firm

Project	Nepal Safer Schools Project (NSSP) — Project Preparation Phase
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), through the Department of Education/Project Implementation Unit (DOE/PIU)
Financing	International Development Association (IDA) Grant No. E758-NP – Preparation Grant for Nepal Safer Schools Project, under the World Bank Grant Facility for Project Preparation (GFPP)
Grant Agreement	Letter Agreement between Nepal (Recipient) and the International Development Association, signed on 30 August 2026; Grant amount SDR 1,100,000; Grant Closing Date 31 December 2027
Grant Activity (Annex, Section 2.01)	Component 1: Site Assessment and Technical Studies – Part (a) Fieldwork and Site Assessments (validation of the list of schools to be included in the project), with inputs to Part (c) Market Analysis and Early Market Engagement
Procurement Plan Activity Ref.	NP-CLPIU EDU-577039-CS-CQS
Name of Consulting Service (as per Approved Procurement Plan)	Hiring Consulting firm from re-validation of shortlisted schools from RVS-based prioritization to selected schools for reconstruction and/or retrofitting.
Assignment Type	Consulting Firm (Individuals/JVs not eligible except as a registered firm or joint venture)
Market Approach	Open – National
Selection Method	Consultants' Qualification-Based Selection (CQS), in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, dated September 2025

1. Background

1.1 Vulnerability Context

Nepal is ranked among the countries most vulnerable to climate risks and earthquakes globally. The 2015 7.8-magnitude earthquake damaged or destroyed over 7,000 schools, directly affecting the education of more than 1.5 million children, and in 2023 a 6.4-magnitude earthquake in the Far-Western region affected about 900 schools, disrupting the learning of around 125,000 students.

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Climate-related disasters, including floods, landslides, and extreme temperatures, also frequently disrupt education, leading to school closures and increased risk of dropout, particularly among disadvantaged children. In August 2017, widespread floods in the Terai region affected 1,945 schools, impacting the education of 238,900 children. More recently, in September 2024, floods caused full and partial damage to 142 schools, affecting about 10,925 students.

Beyond these recent disaster events, many schools are located in hazard-prone areas and lack resilient design, posing severe risk to the safety of students and teachers, the continuity of education, and the structural integrity of educational infrastructure.

1.2 Disaster Response and Interventions

To address these challenges, the Government of Nepal GoN) has intervened in post-disaster reconstruction through its own resources and development partner support in the fourteen districts most affected by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, as well as seventeen neighboring districts. The Presidential Education Reform Program, Model School Program, and Provincial and Local Government initiatives have continued to provide resources to address infrastructure gaps in the education sector.

1.3 Proactively Reducing Disaster Risk to School Infrastructure

Despite this progress, many schools remain exposed to multiple hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, and heatwaves. Moving beyond the reactive cycle of post-disaster "Build Back Better" reconstruction, the Project signals a strategic shift toward a "Build Better Before" paradigm for Nepal's education infrastructure. This approach systematically address infrastructure vulnerability through risk-informed investment prioritization.

1.4 Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) and Intervention Prioritization

In 2023, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), under the Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Project (EHRP), conducted Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) of 6,722 educational facilities in 13 districts across all seven provinces. The screening identified 5,967 education facilities requiring varying levels of intervention, from reconstruction and retrofitting to rehabilitation and repairs.

Given the scale of financial need to reduce the risk of school collapse and education disruption, a systematic, evidence-based approach was developed to prioritize investments, ensuring that the most vulnerable schools receive immediate attention while providing a clear, risk-ranked pipeline for subsequent interventions grounded in cost-effectiveness. The risk-informed prioritization process identified eligible schools across 12 districts for which RVS data is available.

1.5 The Proposed Nepal Safer Schools Project

The Government of Nepal, with funding support from the World Bank through IDA Grant No. E758-NP (Preparation Grant for Nepal Safer Schools Project, SDR 1,100,000, Letter Agreement signed on 30 August 2026, the "Grant Agreement") under the Grant Facility for Project Preparation (GFPP), is preparing the Nepal Safer Schools Project (NSSP) to support investment in the prioritized list of schools, while enabling long-term, risk-informed school infrastructure prioritization for disaster risk reduction. Project preparation is led by DOE/PIU under MoES.

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Under Section 2.02 of the Grant Agreement, the Recipient carries out the grant-financed Activities through its project implementing unit under MoES, or any successor thereto, which is now the Department of Education/Project Implementation Unit (DOE/PIU). This assignment is financed under Component 1 (Site Assessment and Technical Studies), Part (a) Fieldwork and Site Assessments, which supports fieldwork to assess schools identified through risk-based prioritization and key eligibility criteria and to validate the list of schools to be included in the project, with inputs to Part (c) Market Analysis and Early Market Engagement, as described in Section 2.01 of the Annex to the Grant Agreement. Consulting services are eligible expenditures under Category (1) of Section 3.01 of the Grant Agreement, financed at 100% inclusive of taxes. The Grant Closing Date is 31 December 2027 (Section 3.03 of the Grant Agreement); all services under this assignment shall be completed within the Grant period.

The specific objectives of NSSP are to (i) improve the safety and disaster resilience of selected existing school infrastructure in Nepal, and (ii) strengthen the institutional systems needed for long-term, risk-informed planning and implementation of school infrastructure investments for disaster risk reduction — thereby ensuring safety and continuity of education in the face of multi-hazard risks.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of this assignment are to:

- Validate the list of schools identified as eligible based on RVS data, ensuring the accuracy of data on school infrastructure, hazard exposure, and functional needs.
- Assess the pre-feasibility of construction or reconstruction at identified schools, including land suitability, technical feasibility, and recommended intervention type.
- Conduct detailed topographic surveys and infrastructure needs assessments of the schools.
- Prepare master plans and site plans to guide detailed project reports (DPRs) to ensure project implementation readiness.
- Strengthen the evidence base for risk-informed investment prioritization to ensure safety and continuity of education.

3. Scope of Work

3.1 Desktop Review

DOE/PIU will provide the Firm with the project concept note, School Physical Infrastructure Assessment, Master plan development and Implementation Procedure,2083, draft environmental and social (E&S) instruments, the RVS report and database, the draft validation questionnaire, and the prioritization approach and dataset. In addition to reviewing these documents, the Firm shall undertake its own desktop study covering:

- The state of prevailing school construction practices in Nepal.
- The state of existing school infrastructure design, including applicable type designs, National Building Codes (NBC), and relevant guidelines.
- Environmental and social considerations to be reflected in the design and implementation of the proposed interventions.

Deliverable A — Inception Report, comprising: (i) the survey approach, including sequencing, prioritization, and clustering; (ii) final survey questionnaire and execution plan, including use of digital technology (e.g., KoboToolbox or the Project Management Information System); (iii)

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enumerator and supervision assignment; (iv) timeline; (v) delivery schedule; and (vi) progress reporting methodology.

3.2 Field Data Collection

This activity involves field visits to 353 schools to validate the RVS findings as envisioned in School Physical Infrastructure Assessment, Master plan development and Implementation Procedure,2083. The validation process will collect data on:

- General school information, including name, EMIS Code, RVS ID, and other relevant location information; geographic coordinates; school land area (sqm); date of establishment; number and date of construction of classroom blocks; typology; grade classification; and enrollment data for 5–10 years, disaggregated by gender, including persons with disability, data on teachers and other staff.
- Physical condition of school infrastructure assessed against the RVS assessment, to evaluate structural integrity, identify defects and deterioration, and re-validate intervention needs, including any recent physical infrastructure interventions, their level of progress, and timeline in coordination with School infrastructure Assessment Team.
- Historical exposure to physical hazards — earthquakes, floods, landslides, and heatwaves — based on visual survey of the surrounding area and engagement with stakeholders on historical disaster events.
- Local demographics, including population and migration trends, distance to the nearest schools, and any plans for merging schools or establishing new schools in the school's catchment area.
- Land title and allocation documents from local governments, for verification of ownership.
- All-season accessibility of the school for material and labor transport, and availability of materials (cement, aggregate, sand, bricks, wood, steel, electrical, plumbing, roofing and finishing materials), labor, and utilities (water, electricity, internet, sewerage, and waste disposal/management) in the school and surrounding construction area, including alternative sources.
- Additional requirements identified through survey and consultation with relevant stakeholders (school officials, School Management Committees, local government officials, students, etc.).
- Environmental and social aspects (ventilation, adequate light, indoor air quality, separate toilets for boys and girls, waste management, universal accessibility), possible temporary learning arrangements, green space, labor, stakeholders, and Indigenous persons.
- Pre-feasibility data including land suitability, technical feasibility, and intervention recommendations.
- Topographic surveys using Total Station only (theodolites, auto levels or other survey instruments shall not be used); proposed land survey and hazard data within a 500-meter radius.
- Installation of Bench Mark (BM) pillars (35 cm depth) for survey reference.
- Geotagged and labeled photographs (school code, building ID, GPS coordinates).
- Information on local material availability, and site accessibility for tentative cost estimation.

Deliverable B — comprising: (i) an Excel database of data collected for all schools, including a worksheet summarizing all data categories, and access to the backend digital data collection system; (ii) a report compiling and summarizing findings from stakeholder consultations; (iii) geotagged photographs and land ownership documentation.

3.3 Assessment and Analysis

Analysis of collected data to confirm RVS findings and identify gaps or discrepancies, with solution recommendations, including:

- Assessing the number of classroom blocks per school requiring structural intervention (reconstruction or retrofitting), as well as the repair and rehabilitation needs of other blocks.
- Quantifying other amenities required to support education outcomes (furniture, WASH, laboratories, library, offices, sick bays, playground, green spaces, ramps, solid and liquid waste management, etc.), with

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recommendations developed through stakeholder discussion, taking into account available land area, enrollment trends, demography, and professional judgment.

- Analyzing and providing provisional cost estimates for required interventions, amenity requirements, site-condition peculiarities, and current market realities.
- Assessing historical hazards and intervention requirements, and conducting demographic analysis of current and projected enrollment based on historical trends, including rationale for any observed decline and data on nearby schools within the catchment area.
- Analyzing and presenting information on geological, environmental, and social screening risks and potential impacts of the planned construction, and proposing mitigation measures.
- Presenting evidence of land ownership verification and availability of utilities to support school construction and access requirements.
- Undertaking a cluster analysis of schools to derive optimal clusters for procurement packages and implementation; mapping access to schools (including conditions and passability); and mapping material, labor, and machinery availability around project clusters, with recommendations for alternatives where needed.

Deliverable C — an Excel database of analyzed data for all schools, including a worksheet summarizing all data categories, and interpretation of the analysis.

3.4 Drawings and Technical Outputs

For schools identified for construction or reconstruction, the consultant will prepare:

- Detailed Topographical Survey and Contour Survey plans (0.5-meter contour interval).
- Key Plan (scale 1:1,000); Site Plan (scale 1:2,000); Longitudinal Section (V 1:200, H 1:1,000); Cross-Section (V 1:200, H 1:1,000).
- Master Plan/Layout Plan showing school boundaries, existing and proposed buildings, and site protection measures, based on DOE/PIU type designs.

Expected Output D: Three (3) hard copies and AutoCAD (.dwg) soft copies.

3.5 Reporting

- Prepare the Inception Report as described in Section 3.1 (Deliverable A) in coordination with School infrastructure Assessment Team.
- Submit brief weekly interim field-progress updates during active data collection, summarizing findings and challenges encountered and proposed solutions to address field constraints, and monthly reports of analytical progress.
- Develop a comprehensive Final Report, including validated data, recommendations for infrastructure and design requirements (including E&S considerations), cost estimates, and a prioritized list of schools for intervention (Final Deliverable).

4. Deliverables, Outputs, and Timeline

The table below aligns the deliverables and expected outputs described in Section 3 with the schedule and payment structure. To reduce the number of payments, the field data and analysis deliverables are combined into two Interim Reports, and the Draft Final Report is a review milestone without separate payment; payments are consolidated into four (4) installments. As this assignment is on the critical path of Project preparation, the validated and prioritized list of schools shall be delivered with Interim Report II.

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Deliverable	Includes	Timeline (from contract signing)	Payment %
A. Inception Report	Survey approach, methodology, questionnaire, digital data collection plan, enumerator/supervision assignment, timeline, reporting methodology	Week 1	10%
B1/C1. Interim Report I (Field Data and Analysis – Part 1)	Field data collection for approximately the first half of the schools: partial Excel database (Output B-i), interim stakeholder consultation summary (Output B-ii), geotagged photographs and land ownership documents (Output B-iii); analysis of the first-half dataset (Outputs C and D): preliminary classroom-block intervention needs and cost indications	Week 5	30%
B2/C2. Interim Report II (Validation Report – Field Data and Analysis – Part 2)	Field data collection for the remaining schools and completed Excel database of all collected data (Output B-i, full), final stakeholder consultation report (Output B-ii, full), Output B-iii (full); analysis of the full dataset (Outputs C and D): classroom-block intervention needs, amenity requirements, cost estimates and cluster analysis; validated and prioritized list of schools	Week 8	30%
D1. Draft Report	Draft report including all findings, surveys, assessments and drawings	Week 11	No separate payment
D2. Final Report	Validated data, infrastructure/design recommendations (incl. E&S considerations), DPR inputs, drawings, recommendations, and prioritized list of schools in coordination with School infrastructure Assessment Team.	Week 12	30%

Weekly interim field-progress updates (brief, not separately paid) shall continue throughout the active field data collection period (indicatively Weeks 2–7), and monthly progress reports shall be submitted throughout the assignment. Weeks 13–15 are reserved for DOE/PIU and World Bank review, no-objection, and any revisions required prior to final acceptance and contract closure, consistent with the completion date in the Procurement Plan.

All deliverables shall be submitted in English, in editable electronic format (.docx/.xlsx) and PDF, together with the underlying Excel databases and access to the backend digital data collection system. DOE/PIU and the World Bank Task Team shall endeavor to provide consolidated comments on each deliverable within 5 business days of submission.

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5. Reporting and Supervision Arrangements

The Firm shall report to the DOE/PIU Project Director (or designated Deputy Project Director), and shall coordinate as needed with the Environmental Specialist, Social Development Specialist, and Procurement Specialist engaged under the Project, as well as with the World Bank Task Team.

The Firm's monthly progress reports shall also provide inputs to the semi-annual Activities Report, which the Recipient is required to furnish to IDA not later than fifteen (15) days after each calendar semester, covering that semester (Section 2.04 of the Grant Agreement).

- Submit weekly interim field-progress updates during active data collection and monthly progress reports throughout the assignment, per Section 4.
- Designate a single Team Leader as the primary point of contact for day-to-day coordination with DOE/PIU and work in coordination with School infrastructure Assessment Team.
- Participate in periodic review meetings with DOE/PIU and, as required, the World Bank Task Team, to present interim findings and agree on any adjustments to survey sequencing or clustering.
- Promptly flag to DOE/PIU any field constraints (e.g., access, security, seasonal weather) that may affect the delivery schedule, together with proposed mitigation measures.

6. Duration of Assignment

Per the Project's Procurement Plan, the assignment is planned to run for approximately 3.5 months (about 15 weeks) from contract signing to contract completion. As the output of this assignment is critical for the Project preparation timeline, the contract is targeted for signing in the first week of December 2026, so that the validated and prioritized list of schools (Interim Report II, Week 8) is available by end-January 2027 and the Final Report (Week 12) by early March 2027. The deliverables schedule in Section 4 allocates approximately 12 weeks to substantive field and analytical work, with the remaining period reserved for DOE/PIU and World Bank review, no-objection, and contract closure.

7. Qualification and Experience of the Consulting Firm, Key Experts and Non-Key Experts

7.1 Firm Eligibility

- The Consulting Firm must be a legally registered/recognized/competent institution, registered for PAN/VAT and with taxes cleared to date, in case of national consultants. In the case of a Joint Venture (JV), comprising of all national consultants, all partners must meet this requirement.
- The Firm shall have at least seven years of general experience in consulting services for engineering surveys, infrastructure assessment/design, or construction supervision, and at least three (3) years of specific experience in structural/seismic assessment, validation or condition surveys, or feasibility studies of public infrastructure (school infrastructure preferred). In the case of a JV, the lead partner must meet this requirement.
- The Firm shall have completed at least two (2) similar assignments in the last seven (7) years (structural/seismic assessment, validation or condition survey, topographic survey with infrastructure needs assessment, or feasibility study of public infrastructure), each with a consultancy fee of not less than NRs 12 million, including at least one (1) assignment involving school/education infrastructure and at least two (2) assignments in remote hill or mountain regions of Nepal. In the case of a JV, the experience of all partners shall be considered.
- The Firm shall have an average annual turnover (best 3 of the last 7 years) of not less than NRs 55 million (cumulative for all partners in the case of a JV), and shall own or hold under a notarised lease at least four (4) Total Stations for the topographic surveys; theodolites, auto levels or other survey instruments will not be accepted in lieu of Total Stations.

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7.2 Key Experts (minimum requirements; not evaluated at the EOI/shortlisting stage)

The consulting team will comprise, at minimum, the following Key Experts. In accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations, Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting (EOI) stage; the Key Experts proposed by the selected firm in its combined technical and financial proposal shall meet the minimum requirements below. The Firm shall define in its proposal the total number of personnel required to achieve the assignment results within the required timeline.

- Team Leader (1 no.): Minimum 15 years of general experience and 10 years of specific experience in school infrastructure planning, or related fields, with proven expertise leading multi-disciplinary teams and managing similar-scaled projects. Master's degree in civil engineering (structural/earthquake engineering), or a related discipline. Knowledge and experience in environmental and social risk management will be preferred.
- Structural Engineer(s) (2 nos.): Minimum 7 years of general experience and 3 years of specific experience in structural assessments and retrofitting design; familiarity with multi-hazard risk assessments and building codes. At least a Master's degree in civil or structural engineering.
- Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (1 no.): Minimum 7 years of general experience and 5 years of specific experience in environmental and social impact assessments and E&S risk management. Knowledge of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) will be preferred. Master's degree in environmental science/engineering, social science, or a related field; experience in the education sector is an asset.
- GIS/IT Specialist (1 no.): Minimum 5 years of general experience and 3 years of specific experience managing digital tools for data collection and geospatial analysis (e.g., cluster and network analysis); proficiency in GIS, including set-up, configuration, and training on KoboToolbox/Kobo Collect or the Project Management Information System. At least Bachelor's degree in information technology, geomatics, computer science, or a related field.
- Data Analyst (1 no.): Minimum 5 years of general experience and 3 years of specific experience in data analysis and visualization; proficiency in data cleaning, management, and visualization, including Excel, Python, and Power BI. At least a Bachelors' degree in statistics, data science, computer science, or a related field.
- Civil Engineer(s) (minimum 4 nos., to be proposed by the Firm based on the survey plan): Minimum 6 years of general experience and specific experience of working in at least two building construction/reconstruction/engineering survey projects as a Civil Engineer. Bachelor's degree in civil engineering.
- Architect/Planner (minimum 4 nos., to be proposed by the Firm based on the survey plan): Minimum 5 years of general experience and specific experience of working in at least two building construction/planning projects as an Architect/Planner, bachelor's degree in architecture.
- Senior Surveyor (minimum 2 nos., if required based on the survey plan): Minimum 6 years of general experience and specific experience of working in at least two building construction/reconstruction/engineering survey projects as a Senior Surveyor. Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or Geomatics Engineering.

7.3 Non-Key Experts (minimum qualifications; not evaluated)

The Firm shall also deploy the Non-Key Experts and support personnel required by its survey plan. Non-Key Experts will not be evaluated; each shall meet the minimum qualifications below, and the Firm shall submit their CVs to DOE/PIU for confirmation before mobilization.

- Surveyor (one per survey crew): Diploma in civil engineering or survey/geomatics, with at least 3 years of experience in topographic surveys using Total Station.
- Enumerator (one per validation team): Diploma in civil engineering (sub-engineer level), with at least 2 years of experience in building surveys, field data collection or construction supervision; able to use digital data-collection tools (e.g., KoboToolbox).
- Draftsperson (AutoCAD): Diploma or certificate in civil engineering/architecture or draftsmanship, with at least 3 years of experience in preparing AutoCAD drawings (site plans, contour plans, sections).
- Helpers/Chainmen: no formal qualification required; may be engaged locally as needed for survey work.

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8. Selection Method

The Consulting Firm shall be selected using the Consultants' Qualification-Based Selection (CQS) method, following the Open - National market approach, in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (7th edition, dated September 2025). As the output of this assignment is critical for the Project preparation timeline, DOE/PIU will process the selection on a priority basis, targeting contract signing in the first week of December 2026. Expressions of interest will be evaluated on the basis of core business and years in business (15%), relevant experience (70%) and technical and managerial capability (15%), as set out in the EOI evaluation criteria; the firm with the highest score will be invited to submit a combined technical and financial proposal and to negotiate the contract.

9. Data Ownership, Confidentiality, and Child Safeguarding

- All data collected under this assignment — including the Excel databases, geo-coordinates, land title and ownership information, and any personal or sensitive data (e.g., enrollment data disaggregated by gender and disability) — shall remain the property of DOE/PIU/Government of Nepal. The Firm shall not use, share, publish, or retain such data for purposes other than this assignment without DOE/PIU's prior written consent, and shall hand over all data and backend digital-system access to DOE/PIU upon contract completion.
- Given that fieldwork involves visits to active schools and engagement with students, school officials, and communities, the Firm shall ensure all enumerators and field personnel sign DOE/PIU's Code of Conduct and Child Safeguarding declaration prior to commencing fieldwork, and shall comply with the Project's provisions on prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEA/SH) and child protection throughout the assignment.
- The Firm shall obtain appropriate consent before collecting personal information from students, parents, or school staff, and shall aggregate or anonymize sensitive personal data in all reports and databases where individual identification is not required for the assignment's purpose.
- The Firm shall maintain confidentiality of land title, ownership, and demographic information collected during the assignment, and shall not disclose such information to third parties without DOE/PIU's authorization.

10. Facilities to be Provided by DOE/PIU

- Access to the project concept note, draft E&S instruments, the RVS report and database, the draft validation questionnaire, and the prioritization approach and dataset, as referenced in Section 3.1.
- Introduction letters and coordination support with EDCUs, local governments, School Management Committees, and school authorities to facilitate field access.
- Access to the Project Management Information System (PMIS) or equivalent digital platform like EMIS, where used for data collection, and to relevant DOE/PIU and CEHRD counterparts.

Field logistics (transport, enumerator accommodation, and related costs) are assumed to fall within the Firm's own scope and cost, consistent with standard consulting-firm contracting, and are not a facility furnished by DOE/PIU.

11. Payment Schedule

Payments will be made in four (4) installments upon submission and DOE/PIU's approval of the deliverables, as per the schedule in Section 4: Inception Report 10%, Interim Report I 30%, Interim Report II 30%, and Final Report 30%. The final payment will be contingent upon DOE/PIU's acceptance of the Final Report and satisfactory handover of all data and databases described in Section 9.

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ANNEX 2: EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria for Short Listing of EOI (CQS) – Validation of Prioritized Schools for Resilience Intervention, NSSP, IDA Grant No. E758-NP (Ref. No. NP-CLPIU EDU-577039-CS-CQS)

The EOI application which meets the eligibility criteria will be ranked on the basis of the evaluation criteria below:

S. No.	Aspects of Evaluation (Evaluation Criteria)	Max. Points
1	**Eligibility Criteria (Pass/Fail)**	**Pass/Fail**
1.1	**Legal documents:**	
1.1.1	Copy of Company/Firm Registration Certificate (legally registered/recognized/competent institution — TOR 7.1)	
1.1.2	Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate of FY 2082/83, or Tax Clearance Certificate of FY 2081/82 and time-extension letter for FY 2082/83	
1.1.3	Copy of VAT/PAN Registration Certificate	
	[The firm will be fully responsible for the validity of the legal documents. In the case of a Joint Venture, each partner shall submit the documents under 1.1.]	
1.2	In the case of a Joint Venture: JV Agreement or Letter of Intent to form a JV, signed by all partners and identifying the Lead Partner	
1.3	Duly completed EOI Forms 1 to 4 (Letter of Application, Applicant's Information, Experience, Capacity)	
1.4	The Applicant (including any JV partner) shall not be debarred/declared ineligible by the World Bank or blacklisted by the Government of Nepal, and shall have no conflict of interest as per the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (September 2025)	
1.5	Any natural person or firm/institution/company already declared blacklisted and ineligible by the GoN, and any new or existing firm owned partially or fully by such natural person or owner/board of director, shall not be eligible; a firm (or any JV partner) whose natural person or board of director is facing a corruption case filed in Court shall not be eligible until cleared by the Court	
2	**Core Business and Years in Business (General Experience of the Firm)**	**15**
2.1	General experience in consulting services for engineering surveys, infrastructure assessment/design, or construction supervision (Lead Partner in the case of a JV)	
	Minimum 7 years	
3	**Relevant Experience (Specific Experience of the Firm)**	**70**
3.1	Specific experience in structural/seismic assessment, validation or condition surveys, or feasibility studies of public infrastructure (Lead Partner in the case of a JV)	
	Minimum 3 years	
3.2	Similar assignments completed — structural/seismic assessment, validation or condition survey (including Rapid Visual Screening/damage assessment), topographic survey with infrastructure needs assessment, or feasibility study of public infrastructure — each with a consultancy fee of not less than NRs 12 million	
	Minimum 2 projects	

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S. No.	Aspects of Evaluation (Evaluation Criteria)	Max. Points
3.3	Similar assignments under 3.2 involving school/education infrastructure, each with a consultancy fee of not less than NRs 12 million	
	Minimum 1 project	
3.4	Similar assignments under 3.2 completed in remote and geographically challenging (hill or mountain) regions of Nepal, each with a consultancy fee of not less than NRs 12 million	
	Minimum 2 projects	
4	**Technical and Managerial Capability of the Firm**	**15**
4.1	Financial capacity — average annual turnover (best 3 of the last 7 years); cumulative for all partners in the case of a JV	
	Minimum NRs 55 million (approximately USD 362,800)	
4.2	Survey equipment — Total Stations, owned or under a notarised lease covering the field period (theodolites, auto levels or other survey instruments shall not be accepted in lieu of Total Stations)	
	Minimum 4 Total Stations	
Total		**100**

Note:

1. The eligibility criteria (1) are assessed on a pass/fail basis; an EOI failing any eligibility criterion will not be evaluated further.

2. Joint Venture: criteria 2 and 3.1 — Lead Partner only; criteria 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 — experience of all JV partners; criterion 4.1 — cumulative turnover of all partners; criterion 4.2 — Total Stations of all partners combined.

3. In the case of a JV, the value of contracts completed by its members shall not be aggregated to determine whether the minimum value of a single contract (NRs 12 million) has been met; each contract shall satisfy the minimum value on its own. In determining the number of contracts, only contracts of value equal to or more than the minimum value shall be counted.

4. Associated firms in the capacity of sub-consultants shall not be considered for evaluation.

5. A Consultant shall not submit more than one EOI, either individually or as a joint venture partner.

6. Only assignments completed within the last seven (7) years, counted from the EOI submission deadline, shall be considered. Experience shall be supported by contract agreement and completion/progress certificate issued by the client; experience without documentary evidence shall not be considered.

7. In accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, the qualifications and experience of Key Experts are not included in the shortlisting criteria; Key Experts will not be evaluated at the EOI stage.

8. If more than one Consultant secures an equal score, the Consultant with more experience under criterion 3.2 shall be given preference; second and third preference will be given to criteria 3.4 and 3.1 respectively.

9. Under CQS (TOR Section 8), the firm with the highest total score shall be invited to submit a combined technical and financial proposal and to negotiate the contract.

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Education and Sports
Department of Education
Sanothimi, Bhaktapur