

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development
Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies
| Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Project

Consultancy on Enabling Fintech Services for Governments and Women MSMEs in the Eastern Caribbean

Type of contract: Consultant

Duration: 2 months

Estimated Contracted Period: October 1 – November 30, 2024

BACKGROUND:

The Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the American States (GS/OAS) is the development arm of the OAS which is mandated to support member states in the efforts to secure sustainable inclusive and equitable development as a foundation for democracy, security, social justice and progress. Central to the work of the SEDI is effectuating technical cooperation in all its modalities. A key initiative of the Secretariat is the 'Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies' (WEE) Project which is being implemented in six countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and three countries of Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This consultancy opportunity is established in support of the implementation of this project in the six beneficiary countries from the Eastern Caribbean.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this consultancy is to develop a blueprint for key stakeholders, including Governments and Women MSMEs in the Eastern Caribbean, to gain access to fintech services for women entrepreneurs and MSME owners to benefit from the digital economy and increase their overall participation in the economy.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The consultant will implement this over two months across the six participating countries from the Eastern Caribbean. The technical assistance will be completed in close coordination with the OAS WEE team to ensure that the support provided is tailored to the needs of Governments, women-led and owned MSMEs and overall project objectives.

All communication for this project will be executed in English.

Among other duties, the consultant will:

- 1) Develop a blueprint and a benchmarking guide of what is needed by fintech companies to operate within each participating Eastern Caribbean country. This will include a comprehensive analysis with policy recommendations for Governments and other key stakeholders across the region on what is needed by

fintech companies to operate; the relevant operational barriers fintech companies face; a checklist of conditions needed by fintech companies to operate in each country with an assessment of what each country already has in place or needs to fulfill said checklist; and identification of the companies that are or would be available to operate within the Eastern Caribbean countries should conditions for their operation be met. This product will also include estimated costs to operate in each country and the recommended stakeholders, including the government or the private sector, to cover the identified costs.

- 2) Provide a practical and user-friendly roadmap for women led and owned MSMEs on how they can prepare their companies for use of payment platforms. This must include a guided process on how the MSMEs can access payment platforms and relevant fintech services to enhance their success in the domestic and international marketplace.
- 3) Prepare final documents as outlined above and share findings and recommendations with identified stakeholders including MSME national authorities of beneficiary countries through the National Focal Points.

Deliverables:

- 1) Policy Guide for Governments and Key Stakeholders:
 - a. Provide a blueprint and a benchmark of what is needed by fintech companies to operate within the Eastern Caribbean. This will include a comprehensive analysis with policy recommendations for Governments and key stakeholders on what is needed by fintech companies to operate specifically in their Eastern Caribbean country.
 - b. Conduct a survey among fintech companies to understand details of the barriers they face in operating within each Eastern Caribbean country.
 - c. Provide a checklist of conditions needed by fintech companies to operate in each country and assess what each country currently has in place or needs to fulfill this checklist.
 - d. Determine which companies are available to operate within the Eastern Caribbean countries and the cost to operate in each country.
- 2) MSME Roadmap:

Provide a practical and user-friendly roadmap for women led and owned MSMEs on how they can prepare their companies for use of payment platforms. This must include a guided process on how the MSMEs can access payment platforms and relevant fintech services to enhance their success in the domestic and international marketplace.

- 3) Reporting and Documentation:
 - a. Prepare final documents as outlined in above.
 - b. Share findings and recommendations with MSME national authorities of beneficiary countries through the National Focal Points.

REQUIREMENTS:

Essential:

- A minimum of 5 years of experience in supporting MSMEs, preferably with a focus on women-led enterprises.
- Demonstrated technical expertise on fintech services.
- Demonstrated experience in market research.
- Familiarity with the nostalgic product sector is an asset.
- Exceptional communication, stakeholder engagement and collaboration skills to work effectively with diverse stakeholders.
- At least three References.
- Sample of work is essential.
- Fluency in English

TO APPLY:**Please submit:**

- A cover letter.
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) highlighting relevant experience or company portfolio.
- All essential documents and additional documents to support application including proposal outlining the proposed approach to executing the capacity building support, including a tentative timeline and cost estimate.
- Samples of or a portfolio showcasing previous relevant work.

by email to LFabien@oas.org with the subject "OAS WEE Consultancy - Enabling Fintech Services for Governments and Women MSMEs in the Eastern Caribbean". Applications will be accepted until September 2, 2024, at 5:30 pm US Eastern time.

Note:

- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further evaluation and interviews.
- All submitted materials will be treated confidentially and used solely for the purpose of this consultancy selection process.