



## Mekong River Commission For Sustainable Development

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. CONSULTANCY SUMMARY

<b>Title:</b>	Regional Consultant to support the implementation of Social Impact Monitoring and Vulnerability Assessment (SIMVA) Surveys and Reports 2026.
<b>Consultancy Type:</b>	Special Service Agreement (SSA); (a) One-Time Consultancy Service
<b>Division:</b>	Planning Division
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>50 working days (from March to December 2026)</b>
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Home based, with possible participation (online) in the regional meeting and in person in the Mekong Region (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam)
<b>Reporting to:</b>	The regional consultant will work under the supervision of the MRCS Director of Planning Division, , with guidance and oversight from the MRC Socio-Economic Specialist
<b>Expected Deliverables:</b>	Preparation and Implementation of SIMVA Surveys in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, and the draft SIMVA national and regional reports during 2026. Please refer to the detailed deliverables in Section 5 below.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The MRC adopted the MRC's Mekong River Basin Indicator Framework (MRB-IF) in June 2019 and the MRB-IF Technical Guidelines in Oct 2020 to guide the monitoring and evaluation of the social, economic and environment situations in the Lower Mekong Basin. In addition, the MRC developed and published the Data Acquisition and Generation Action Plan (DAGAP) in 2021 for implementing the MRB-IF in support of the MRC's core river basin management functions and role as a regional knowledge hub. In this regard, the MRCS has been coordinating and working with MCs to implement the Basin Development Strategy (2021-2030) and the MRC SP (2021-2025), including the BDS Output 2.1.4. is "Gender and Vulnerability aspects of basin water, food and energy security addressed".

As a result of the socio-economic exercises within DAGAP during 2023 (secondary data collection), the available socio-economic and gender vulnerability data/indicators were used/integrated in the SOBR 2023, Mekong Atlas Maps 2024, updated Socio-Economic Database 2024 and the draft national and regional reports on improving equity for vulnerable groups (2024/2025). However, remaining data gaps identified particularly the gender-disaggregated data and data at sub-national level (provincial and village/household data) to better understand and identify the vulnerable population/communities who are at risk and potentially affected by water resource development and climate change (floods and droughts) in LMB, and how those potential effects could differ across gender and different disadvantaged groups.

The MRCS Planning Division has been working with Member Countries, including national and regional experts to develop and finalize the Social Impact Monitoring and Vulnerability Assessment (SIMVA) Guidelines (2025), including scope of SIMVA surveys, sample villages, sampling, methodology, data/indicators, questionnaires and detail guides on data collection, processing, and reporting of SIMVA national and regional reports in 2026. The MRCS/PD consulted and finalized the SIMVA Guidelines (Quantitative and Qualitative Guidelines), including questionnaires, forms and other annexes through online and offline regional and national consultation meetings held during 2025 and possibly January

2026. The regional and national technical training and field testing of questionnaires will be conducted during the first quarter of 2026.

Following the SIMVA baseline survey in 2011, the SIMVA 2014 survey on Shocks and Trends in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) Corridor, the 2018 SIMVA survey on the core social impact, vulnerability, and resilience features in the Corridor, and complemented with qualitative surveys, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat is undertaking the 2026 SIMVA survey on the Livelihoods, Vulnerability and Resilience in the Corridor of LMB. The 2026 SIMVA builds on the 2018 SIMVA Surveys and aims to establish a continual data series with a panel dataset and list of indicators to serve as the basis for future SIMVAs.

Complementary to the household quantitative survey, a village quantitative survey will focus on villages' basic socio-economic characteristics, including available services and infrastructure. The Qualitative Surveys on resilience, vulnerabilities and social impacts in SIMVA sample villages will seek to provide more in-depth knowledge with a view to supporting policy recommendations for different types of support interventions. In particular, the data collected through SIMVA field surveys and the SIMVA reports will provide key inputs for the preparation of the next SOBR 2028 and other MRC's assessments and reports. In this regard, the MRCS/Planning Division requires a regional consultant to work and support the NMCSs and MRCS in preparing and conducting the SIMVA surveys and preparing the SIMVA reports in 2026.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY**

The objective of this consultancy is to assist the MRCS and MCs to deliver high quality data collection and data analysis for SIMVA regional report which will be drafted, consulted and finalized with MCs based on the SIMVA field surveys and SIMVA national reports from MCs, including national experts. The specific objectives of this assignment are to:

- 3.1. Strengthen capacities and technical expertise of the MRCS and MCs, including national experts in applying the SIMVA Guidelines (2025), supporting the regional and national trainings on SIMVA and the SIMVA field surveys, data collection, data processing and data analysis;
- 3.2. Technical support for MCs in implementing the SIMVA Field Surveys in each MC (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam), including QA/QC of the national SIMVA database/dataset, data collection and data processing;
- 3.3. Technical support for reviewing and providing technical input on the SIMVA national database and the draft SIMVA national reports submitted MCs;
- 3.4. Developing SIMVA regional database/dataset and data analysis from national SIMVA database;
- 3.5. Prepare draft SIMVA regional report for consultations with MCs;
- 3.6. Support further discussion, regional and national consultation meetings and finalization of the SIMVA national and regional reports by intergrating feedback from MCs and MRCS experts.

### **4. EXPECTED RESULTS**

- 4.1. With the support from MRCS/PD, a regional consultant completed the development of training modules and the regional training on SIMVA and field testing of the questionnaires during the first quarter of 2026 for MCs and national experts to prepare for the SIMVA field surveys during 2026.
- 4.2. SIMVA national database and national reports are reviewed and finalized with QA/QC, with technical support throughout the SIMVA field surveys and data analysis for SIMVA national reports from MCs, including national experts.
- 4.3. The SIMVA regional database/dataset and regional report captures the main findings of the SIMVA field surveys and SIMVA national reports.
- 4.4. The MRCS, MCs, including national experts and survey teams enhance their capacity in SIMVA field surveys, data collection, data processing and data analysis, and improve their understanding of vulnerability and dependency of communities and households on the Mekong water resources, and their coping strategies to deal with changes in the river.

## 5. DELIVERABLES AND CONCRETE TIMELINES

The Regional Consultant will produce the following deliverables in close collaboration with concerned staffs of MRCS/PD. It is anticipated that the assignment will commence on 01 March 2026 and concluded by 31 December 2026:

No.	Deliverables	Estimated Number of Days	Timeline/ Deadlines
1	Training modules developed based on SIMVA guideline frameworks for regional training of survey teams and field testing of questionnaires	4 days	30 March 2026
2	Technical training to strengthen capacities and technical expertise of the MRCS and MCs in applying the SIMVA Guidelines (2025) by supporting the regional and national trainings on SIMVA and the SIMVA field surveys (including field test), data collection, data processing and data analysis	6 days	30 April 2026
3	Technical support for MCs in implementing the SIMVA Field Surveys in each MC (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam), including QA/QC of the national SIMVA database/dataset, data collection and data processing	5 days	April-Sept 2026
4	Technical support for reviewing and providing technical input on the SIMVA national database and the draft SIMVA national reports submitted by MCs	5 days	April-Oct 2026
5	SIMVA regional database/dataset developed and integrated based on submission of national SIMVA database from MCs	4 days	Aug-Sept 2026
6	Draft SIMVA regional reports prepared by conducting statistical analysis of survey data, triangulating with other relevant hydrological data from MRC Core River Monitoring Network (CRMN), and other analyses related to extent, severity and vulnerability to flood and drought.	20 days	Sept-Dec 2026
7	Support further discussion, regional and national consultation meetings and finalization of the SIMVA national and regional reports by intergrating feedback from MCs and MRCS experts	6 days	Dec 2026
	<b>Total working days</b>	<b>50 days</b>	<b>1 March – 31 Dec 2026</b>

## 6. REQUIRED TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Regional Consultant will carry out the following tasks.

- 6.1. Develop training modules based on SIMVA guideline frameworks for training of survey teams
- 6.2. Undertake and work with MRCS and MCs for conducting the regional and national trainings on SIMVA and field testing of the questionnaires and SIMVA field surveys (including field test), data collection, data processing and data analysis.
- 6.3. Undertake and work with MRCS and National Experts for conducting the SIMVA field surveys in MCs, including QA/QC of the SIMVA database, data processing and analysis.
- 6.4. Undertake and work with MRCS and National Experts for reviewing and providing technical inputs on the draft SIMVA national reports.
- 6.5. Support the MRCS in consolidating/aggregating data from SIMVA field survey database and SIMVA national reports into a SIMVA regional database/dataset.
- 6.6. Conduct statistical analysis of quantitative survey data and qualitative study for SIMVA including triangulation with other relevant hydrological data from MRC CRMN and other analyses related to extent, severity and vulnerability to flood and drought.

- 6.7. Prepare draft SIMVA regional reports for consultations with Member Countries.
- 6.8. Support in participating and preparing presentations for the national and regional consultation meetings on the draft SIMVA national and regional reports and databases, and revising/finalizing the SIMVA regional report by integrating MCs' comments and feedback.

## 7. PAYMENT MODALITY

Payment will be made based on the delivery of the above deliverables in section 5 by submitting progress reports and timesheet to be certified/approved by MRCS. All deliverables must be satisfactorily accepted by the MRCS Planning Division.

- First payment, upon the signing of the contract by MRCS (expected to be 30% of the total contract value)
- Second payment, the consultancy fee for the expected deliverables completed up to October 2025 as specified in Section 5 of this TOR as approved by MRCS PD (expected to be 40% of total working days)
- Third and final payment, the consultancy fee for all deliverables completed up to December 2026 as specified in Section 5 of this TOR as approved by MRCS PD (expected to be 30% of total working days)

*Note: the consultancy rate is defined by the MRCS consultancy rate policy and the level of consultancy. MRC is a tax-exempted agency for the work done for the MRC. Consultant, in case of mission, is required, will be covered with a return ticket to and from the assigned duty stations with a daily related subsistence allowance of 75% of the UD for the mission days.*

## 8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Intellectual property rights - IPR: Information, data, database, knowledge resources in the forms of briefings, reports, proceedings, articles, essays, etc. issued by and for the MRCS will be the MRCS property.

Any utility, announcement and disclosure that are without MRCS highest levels of authority' permission is considered illegal and will be charged by relevant local and international legal procedures.

## 9. DECLARATION OF NON-FRAUDULENCE AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

The Subscriber shall adhere to the MRC's relevant rules and regulations of the MRC on personal data protection, business exclusion, and fraud prevention and anti-corruption principles, and shall be under strict disciplinary measures should any violation occurs.

## 10. WORKING ARRANGEMENT

<b>Reporting Line:</b>	MRCS Director of Planning Division
<b>Communication Line:</b>	The regional expert will work under the strategic guidance of Director of the MRCS Planning Division and work closely with Chief River Basin Planner as well as Socio-Economic Specialists.
<b>Work station:</b>	Home based with possible online working sessions and meetings in the home country and region

## 11. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Regional Consultant on SIMVA will have the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree (Master/Doctoral degrees or equivalent minimum) in social science, statistics, community-based approach, livelihoods, water resource management, climate change or similar fields of studies/research;

- At least 10 years of experience working on statistical information and analysis related to socio-economics, livelihoods, food security, poverty, climate change and relevant data for conducting quantitative and qualitative research, data collection and data analysis from the national and sub-national levels data, including village and households data;
- Demonstrated ability to write technical/analytical reports, research skills and technical skills in conducting data collection, data processing and analysing/aggregation of large datasets;
- Excellent communication skills, including writing and presentation in English language;
- Very good knowledge of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) and Mekong River Commission and the regional situation regarding social impact monitoring and vulnerability assessment (SIMVA);
- Good conceptual and analytical thinking, communication and writing skills; and
- Proven experience in working within multi-disciplinary teams.
- Compliance with all MRC's Rules and Regulation Regarding Consultancy Management and Contract Monitoring and Closure.

**12. SIGNATURE BLOCK**

MRCS:

Full Name: **Nguyen Huy Phuong**

Incumbent's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Director of Planning Division**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Incumbent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_