



د کليو د پياوړتيا او پراختيا وزارت  
وزارت احيا واکتشاف و ديات

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوريت  
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development  
Procurement Directorate**

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

**Country:** Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**Name of Project:** Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEE-RDP)

**Grant No.:** IDA-DE840

**Assignment Title:** Qualitative Diagnostic of Rural Women's Social and Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan

**Duration of Assignment:** 3 Months

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)

**Province:** Nangarhar and Balkh

**Reference No:** 22/WB/28/NCB/BLH, NGR/98

**Issue date:** September 01, 2019

**1. Background:**

Recognizing the imperative for investing in women's economic empowerment (WEE), the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) launched the Women's Economic Empowerment National Priority Program (WEE-NPP) in March 2017. The WEE-NPP forms the third pillar of the GoIRA's Gender Strategy which is encompassed in the broader Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), the Afghanistan government development plan for 2017-2021. The WEE-NPP aims to build poor women's capacity to strengthen the economy of their households, communities, and the entire nation. It is structured as an umbrella program that operates through more than a dozen line ministries (via ongoing or pipeline projects) and is coordinated by a Program Coordination Office (PCO) based in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA).

The cornerstone project under the WEE-NPP is the Women's Economic Empowerment Rural Development Project (WEE-RDP), which is currently being rolled out in 76 districts of 34 provinces of selected communities. The WEE-RDP is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and is supported by a \$100 million grant administered by the World Bank that was approved in September 2018. The project will work to increase poor and ultra-poor women's participation in community-level institutions, and these institutions will be provided with seed capital, technical assistance, and linked to formal financial institutions and markets. The implicit 'theory of

change' of WEE-RDP, is that though participation in these institutions, women will accrue social capital that they can leverage to access financial, political (rights, access to justice), and economic capital, thus increasing their social and economic empowerment.

The WEE-RDP builds on the predecessor project; the Afghanistan Rural Economic Development Project (AREDP) has been implemented in 5 provinces. The AREDP achieved a lot of good on the ground and female participation (over 60 percent) was one of its key strengths. An assessment of the AREDP was conducted in late 2018<sup>1</sup>, and a separate study of AREDP's impact on rural women was previously conducted in 2015.<sup>2</sup> To build upon this existing evidence-base, additional research is needed to help test and refine the project's theory of change and outcome indicators. Further research can also improve our understanding of the social impacts and the potential unintended consequences of WEE..

## **2 Key Objectives of the assignment**

### ***Objective 1 – Testing Pathways to Women's Social and Economic Empowerment under WEE-RDP***

- a. What traits do men and women associate with empowered women in their communities?
- b. Did participants report feeling more empowered after their participation in AREDP? Why or why not?
- c. What other benefits did women and men experience as a result of women's participation in AREDP?
- d. How do these local assessments (under a. b. and c.) converge or diverge with the theory of change, and outcome indicators set under WEE-RDP?
- e. To what extent and how was interaction with other women in the program, viewed as beneficial by participants?<sup>3</sup>
- f. What other actors in the community (local authorities, community and religious leaders, professional bodies, NGOs etc), do women perceive as assisting or hindering their empowerment, whether in terms of their participation in AREDP/WEE-RDP programs or otherwise?
- g. Have impacts been sustained after project participation ended?

### ***Objective 2 – Understanding the Social Impacts of Participation on Women***

- a. Do men and women report positive or negative changes in household dynamics, as a result of WEE?
- b. Do women report any increased risks of violence towards them within the household, as a result of their participation in AREDP?<sup>4</sup>
- c. Do women report any increased risks of violence outside of their homes, as a result of their participation in AREDP?<sup>5</sup>
- d. In such cases, how do women cope and respond?
- e. What are the enabling and inhibiting factors for women to access support services?

### **3. The short listing criteria:**

- a) The firm should be registered legal entity and the firm should have at least 3 years of experience conducting qualitative research on social issues including gender, poverty, inequality, or social inclusion and qualitative research on Gender Based Violence preferably in Afghanistan or other south Asian countries.
  - b) The consultant shall demonstrate having sound financial situation by submitting audited financial reports or any other credible financial documents in which the consultant annual
-

turnover for one of the last three years (2016, 2017 and 2018) shall be USA 55,000 (Fifty-five thousand USD).

- c) Evidence of past similar experience at least one contract with a minimum of USD 30,000 thirty thousand in one of the last five years.
- d) Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a **joint venture** or a **sub-consultancy** to enhance their qualifications. If consultants intend to associate with other firms, they are advised to clearly identify the lead partner and state the composition and nature of the association (JV/ sub-consultant) in their EOI.
- e) In case the EOI is submitted in the form of a **joint venture (JV)**, the lead partner should meet 60% of criterion for each (b) and (c) and the JV partner should meet 40% of each (b) and (c) shortlisting criteria. In the event that such an EOI is shortlisted for the Request-for-Proposal stage, no changes can be made in the JV composition of partners.
- f) In case the EOI is submitted in the form of a **sub-consultancy (SC)**, the overall merits will be considered for such partnership, but the actual short listing criteria will apply only to the primary and not the sub-consultants.

#### 4. Method of Selection and submission deadline for EoI:

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Based Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in investment Projects Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services July 2016, revised November 2017.

Rules of Procedure is available at this site [www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **15<sup>h</sup> September 2019** at 2:00 p.m. Kabul Local Time. (Kabul Local Time).

Further information in respect to this REOI and TOR can be obtained at the address below by email or in person during office hours *08:00-04:00 Hours*.

#### Address of Focal Persons for Enquires and Submission of EoIs:

Attn: Ali Mohammad Joyan, Procurement Manager, Procurement Directorate, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Afghanistan Tashkilat Street, Darul Aman Road, Kabul, Afghanistan

E-mail to: [Ali.joyan@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:Ali.joyan@mrrd.gov.af) copied to [Fahim.ahmadi@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:Fahim.ahmadi@mrrd.gov.af); [abdul.moeen@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:abdul.moeen@mrrd.gov.af); [ehsan.nabil@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:ehsan.nabil@mrrd.gov.af)

#### Annexure 1: Format for Expression of Interest

The expression of interest must be submitted as per the following format:

*{Note: In case documents submitted are in any language other than English, the consultant should submit a self-certified copy of the translated document in English (along with originals).}*

**SECTION 1:** Organization Details (In case the EoI is being submitted as a Joint Venture, the information has to be submitted for the Lead Partner as well as other members of the Joint Venture separately.)

Part 1: Organisation Detail		
I.	Name of the Organization	
II.	Details of the Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address of the Registered Office:</li><li>• Telephone:</li><li>• Facsimile:</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website:</li> </ul>	
III.	Information about Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year of Establishment: (copy the incorporation certificate shall be provided)</li> <li>• Status of the Organization: (Public Ltd./Private Ltd./LLP etc.)</li> </ul>	
IV.	Name and designation of the person authorized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Designation</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• Contact Number</li> </ul>	
V.	Annual Turnover for the last three Financial Years	Financial Year	Annual Turnover (Million AFN)
		2016	
		2017	
		2018	
VI.	Number of Personnel		
<b>Part 2</b>	EOI Respondent firm needs to mention its core business areas and any other relevant details / experience in a descriptive format. EOI Respondent firm needs to mention its Technical and managerial capability for executing the scope of services.		
<b>Please provide a response with details in not more than 2 pages</b>			

**SECTION 2:** Documents to be submitted

	Information to be provided	Documentary Evidence to be Provided	Page number as part of Annexure
a	The firm should be registered legal entity and the firm should have at least 5 years of experience conducting qualitative research on social issues including gender, poverty, inequality, or social inclusion in Afghanistan or in similar country contexts (documented evidence is required, e.g. summary of reports and names of contracting agencies). The firm must have demonstrated experience conducting	Copy Certificate of Incorporation issued by relevant authority in country of establishment	

	Information to be provided	Documentary Evidence to be Provided	Page number as part of Annexure
	qualitative research on Gender Based Violence (preferably in the Afghan context).		
b	The consultant shall demonstrate having sound financial situation by submitting audited financial reports or any other credible financial documents in which the consultant annual turnover for any of the last three years <b>(2016, 2017 and 2018) shall be USD 55,000 (Fifty five thousand USD).</b>	<p>Statutory Auditor's certificate (i.e. FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018) that provides the information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Financial statements duly certified by the Chartered Accountant</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Self-certification by the authorized signatory of the EoI mentioning the Annual Turnover for the last three years supported by financial statements or Annual Auditor Reports (for FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018) clearly indicating the annual turnover.</p> <p>The <b>official contact (not Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail) detail for the auditors</b> shall be provided for verification purposes.</p>	
C	Evidence of past similar experience at least one contract with a minimum of <b>USS 30,000 (thirty thousand)</b> in one of the last five years.	<p>Details of the experience should be submitted as per format in <b>Section 3</b>.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <p><i>The credentials cited under this must have been executed by the EoI Respondent or the Lead/JV partner and not its parent/child company</i></p> <p>The <b>Official contact (not Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail) detail for the Client</b> shall be provided for verification purposes.</p>	

**SECTION 3:** Format for furnishing details of Credentials / Past Experiences for projects in undertaking related or similar assignment as at Sl. No. 3 of Section 2. The information need to be furnished as per the Format below for each credential.

The project citation should be a maximum of 2 pages per credential/project along with documents as mentioned under Sl. No. 3 of Section 2 (above). The citation need to be furnished for each credential.

Assignment name:	Country:
	Location within the country

Name of Client:	Address:
Name of the Legal Entity in whose name the contract is:	Duration of assignment (months):
No. of man month of the assignment:	Start date (Month/year): Completion date (Month/year):
Approx. value of the overall contract (in AFN):	Approx. value of the services provided by your firm under the contract (in AFN):
Name of associated organizations, if any:	Role of Consortium member:
Narrative description of the Project:	
Detailed Scope of services, coverage of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Consultant should explain in what way the executed assignment(s) was/were similar in nature to the current assignment</i></li> <li>• <i>The Consultant should explain the exact role played by the Consultant in the assignment if the assignment was carried out in association with other firms as JV or in sub-consultancy for carrying out the assignment.</i></li> <li>• <i>Key-person inputs provided by the Consultant in executing the assignment giving particulars such as qualification and experience of Key staff provided for the assignment (CVs of such key staff are not required to be attached)</i></li> </ul>	
Relevance of Project to the current scope (i.e. relevant project components in detail)	
Details of the impact of the project for the client:	

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## **3 Key Objectives of the assignment**

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- j. What other benefits did women and men experience as a result of women's participation in AREDP?
- k. How do these local assessments (under a. b. and c.) converge or diverge with the theory of change, and outcome indicators set under WEE-RDP?
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- m. What other actors in the community (local authorities, community and religious leaders, professional bodies, NGOs etc), do women perceive as assisting or hindering their empowerment, whether in terms of their participation in AERDP/WEE-RDP programs or otherwise?
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**4. Method of Selection and submission deadline for EOI:**

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E-mail to: [Ali.joyan@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:Ali.joyan@mrrd.gov.af) copied to [Fahim.ahmadi@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:Fahim.ahmadi@mrrd.gov.af); [abdul.moeen@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:abdul.moeen@mrrd.gov.af); [ehsan.nabil@mrrd.gov.af](mailto:ehsan.nabil@mrrd.gov.af)

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Part 1: Organisation Detail			
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XII.	Number of Personnel		

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	Information to be provided	Documentary Evidence to be Provided	Page number as part of Annexure
		Annual Auditor Reports (for FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018) clearly indicating the annual turnover.  The <b>official contact (not Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail) detail for the auditors</b> shall be provided for verification purposes.	
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Assignment name:	Country:  Location within the country
Name of Client:	Address:
Name of the Legal Entity in whose name the contract is:	Duration of assignment (months):
No. of man month of the assignment:	Start date (Month/year):  Completion date (Month/year):
Approx. value of the overall contract (in AFN):	Approx. value of the services provided by your firm under the contract (in AFN):
Name of associated organizations, if any:	Role of Consortium member:

Narrative description of the Project:

- Detailed Scope of services, coverage of the project:
- *Consultant should explain in what way the executed assignment(s) was/were similar in nature to the current assignment*
  - *The Consultant should explain the exact role played by the Consultant in the assignment if the assignment was carried out in association with other firms as JV or in sub-consultancy for carrying out the assignment.*
  - *Key-person inputs provided by the Consultant in executing the assignment giving particulars such as qualification and experience of Key staff provided for the assignment (CVs of such key staff are not required to be attached)*

Relevance of Project to the current scope (i.e. relevant project components in detail)

Details of the impact of the project for the client: