

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD)
Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REoI)
For

Impact Assessment of AREDP's Interventions on Creating Employment and Income Generating Opportunities in Rural Communities. (Reference # AREDP/2AF/C-1-CS)

Project ID: TF0A3502
Grant #: ARTF
Issue Date: 20 December 2017
Closing Date: 03rd January 2018
Locations of Study: Bamyan, Parwan, Nangarhar, Herat and Balkh provinces

1. General Introduction:

Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) is a national multi-donor funded, government-led Program with *Improved employment opportunities and income of rural men and women; & sustainability of targeted local enterprises* Objectives. The AREDP consist of **Community-based Enterprise Development SME Development, and Program Management Support components. A study was done by third party in 2015 to measure the impact of AREDP over rural women.**

2. Impact Assessment Objectives:

It is imperative to conduct third party evaluation to measure the impact of program and to review and assess the implementation and to identify and measure the direct and indirect impacts of the program on the lives of the rural communities where the **specific objectives of the assessment are:**

- Measure direct and indirect impacts of the program around specific indicators mentioned in the Result Framework of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) or Emergency paper of the Project.
- Identify and measure the indirect impacts of the program in terms of socio economic aspects of the work on beneficiaries before and after AREDP intervention, their families and community.
- Use the result of this study as a baseline data for future measurement of the program progress on beneficiaries during different phases of the project.
- Understand enterprise development approach, understand inclusion of business financial services (saving and lending through community groups SGs and VSLAs), understand enabling environment and sustainability of MSMEs development; understand gender sensitivity in enterprise development; understand the role and effectiveness of M&E; and inclusion of environment and social safeguard

3. Scope of Work and Methodology:

- The program impact assessment will provide an assessment of the design and delivery of AREDP, with a focus on: Improving the business environment; private sector led growth through enterprise and entrepreneurship interventions. The assessment will also assess whether the program has achieved intended results and socio-economic impacts, the potential of sustainability of various program interventions once program ends, and the lessons learned. It is also critical to establish a methodology for counterfactual on attribution of results to the Program.

4. Assessment - Key Impact Areas & Related Indicators:

4.1: Household Level Impacts:

- To Identify and measure the indirect impacts of the program in terms of socio economic status i.e. income; consumption; jobs and employment etc. on household level and particularly on rural women.
- To what extent program successfully addressed the social and economic mobility, ability and connectivity.

4.2: Community Institution and Social Capital Level Impacts:

- Quality and cost effectiveness of Social Mobilization strategy, formation and strengthening of community groups and saving and loaning activities, on the lives and circumstances of people, their families and their communities.
- Do the community groups (SGs, VSLAs, EGs, PAs) created/developed and interventions implemented with the help of the Program continue to serve the same target audience (e.g. SMEs and individual entrepreneurs)

- Do the community groups (SGs, VSLAs, EGs, PAs) created/developed and individual enterprises MSMEs with the help of the Program have enough capacity and resources to continue to operate in accordance with findings and recommendations that were made by the program?
- Are the community groups (SGs, VSLAs, EGs, PAs) created and developed and individual enterprises MSMEs with the help of the Program will be functional after the end of AREDP's assistance?
- Have EGs, SMEs, SGs, and VSLAs reached by the Program improved their performance as compared to the beginning of the program and can the success be attributed to the program? If so to what extent?

4.3: Meso & Ecosystem level Impacts of the Program:

- Did the Program improve or contribute to the growth & development of the private sector in target areas?
- Were the Program's objectives, programmatic approach, and methodology aligned with the key stakeholders needs and -if affirmative- how?
- Identify/highlight level of investment the Program has leveraged/facilitated

4.4. Project Level Impacts of the Program:

- Review of the M&E framework specifically looking at (i) adequacy of the indicators (ii) tracking and monitoring of results (iii) finding a balance between consistent indicators and responding to the changing conditions and program components (iv) recommendations on improving the framework and indicators and remaining flexible to the changing roles of the Program (v) identify results that are important and are not captured/measured or monitored by the Program, if any.
- Review of cost-efficiency of the program with a review of reach and outcome results against input costs, in terms of value for money and as part of this review of the (i) overhead costs, ii) organizational set-up (presence of separate staff versus specialized, thematic staff and BDSPs), and (iii) allocation / commitment / expenditure mechanisms under the program.
- To what extent has the program's model, design, and methodology been effective at achieving the programmatic objectives? How effectively has the program learned using its knowledge management systems, and adjusted its strategic planning and activities? How effectively has the program managed risks related to its activities, including financial risks, reputation risks, and political risks?
- To Identify and measure the indirect impacts of the program in terms of socio economic aspects of the work on household level and particularly on rural women.
- To identify specific constraints affecting the efficiency of the implementation and the effectiveness of the project (project design, institutional framework, organizational relationships, placement and performance of the consultants international and local).
- Has the Program succeeded in improving the financial infrastructure, building financial institutions and improving legal and regulatory environment for increasing access to finance?

5. **Required Qualification and Experiences:**

5.1 The consulting firm should have following qualifications and experiences:

The consulting firm should have successful track record of minimum five years of program/projects monitoring, evaluation, surveys, assessments, studies and or research experiences in the development sector, or similar nature of work in the region (Central Asia & South Asia) with projects funded by the World Bank/Government of Afghanistan; Other multilateral agencies/ international NGOs etc.

5.1.1 The consultant shall demonstrate having sound financial situation and capacity by submitting financial audit report of the last 3 years (2014, 2015 & 2016) with annual turnover of at least/minimum USD 500,000.

6. **Special Note:**

- 6.1 EOI can be submitted both in hard and/or soft copies within the stated deadline. If being send only in soft copy, all pages need to be signed and scanned when sending. An EOI must be a maximum of 15 pages. Any EOI submission over 15 pages will only be reviewed for the first 15 pages.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 AREDP will not pay other than agreed program and support cost budget of the project.

7. EOI Needs to Include The Following Elements:

- 7.1 A cover letter expressing interest in the services and briefly stating, which package is being applied for. (Maximum 2 pages).
- 7.2 Consultant's overall profile (Maximum 2 pages).
- 7.3 Consultant's overall organizational structure and profile of key/leading staff (Maximum 2 pages).
- 7.4 List experience (10 monitoring, evaluation, surveys, assessments, studies and or research experiences in the development sector, and/or experience of conducting impact assessments) of the firm/firms submitting the EOI in a tabular form including country, client and donor, project title, project reference number, project value, # of international staff months, # of national staff months, project period, and brief description of consultant's role in the project. List only the most important and relevant ones in Afghanistan and/or other conflict/immediate post conflict zones/countries (Maximum 5 pages).
- 7.5 Provide profile summary of Team with qualifications, technical and professional competence necessary for successful implementation of the assignment (no need to provide CVs)
- 7.6 Contact details of the firm or all the firms forming part of the joint venture. (Maximum 1 page)
- 7.7 Submit financial audit report with annual turnover of the last 3 years (2014; 2015 and 2016);
- 7.8 Provide evidence for being in development sector at least for last (5) years.
- 7.9 Copies of verifiable of similar nature assignments contracts with full address and contact information of the employer.

8. Knowledge/Experience, Qualifications/Skills and Abilities Required:

- **Team Leader: (International):** Master's degree with 10 years' experience in business, economics, rural development, enterprise development and other related fields, PhD holder is preferred;
- **Lead researcher /Analyst:** Bachelor's degree with three years' experience in Information Management, Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Rural Development, Enterprise Development and other related fields, Master's degree holder is preferred;
- **Research Specialist /Analyst:** Bachelor's degree holder from any recognized university with 3 years experiences in Information Management, Statistics, economics, rural development, enterprise development and other related fields, or in a field of study related to the research. Master's degree in a related field preferred;
- **Filed coordinator:** Bachelor's degree holder from any recognized university with 3 years experiences, Master's Degree is preferred;

9. Procurement Process & Guidelines:

- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) published by the Bank in January 2011, Revised 1st July 2014. ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- A Consultant will be selected Based on the Consultant's Qualification (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

10. Address of Focal Person for Enquires and Submission of EoIs and Further information:

- Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 03rd January 2018.
- Attn; Lutfullah Noorzai, A-Procurement Manager, Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Afghanistan Tashkilat Street, Darul Aman Road, Kabul, Afghanistan
- E-mail to: Lutfullah.noorzai@mrrd.gov.af ; rohullah.momand@mrrd.gov.af, Website: www.aredp-mrrd.gov.af