

## ALLEGATO 1



Ambasciata d'Italia  
Kabul

### UFFICIO DI COOPERAZIONE

(UNITÀ TECNICA LOCALE)

ITALIAN COOPERATION OFFICE

(LOCAL TECHNICAL UNIT)

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**Kabul**



Date: 24 October 2009

**SUBJECT: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Issue Date: October 24, 2009**

**Closing Date: October 30, 2009**

The Italian Development Cooperation office in Kabul is urgently looking for one non-profit organization in order to implement a project to support the education and social protection of women and young vulnerable girls in Badakhshan Province.

**Project Title:**

“Education and Social Protection of Women and Young Vulnerable Girls – Badakhshan Province”

**Project background**

National efforts to strengthen the education system in Afghanistan have produced impressive results. However, low rates of female literacy and of female enrollment in primary education and vocational training courses still persist. This is due to multifaceted reasons stemming from cultural barriers, structural poverty and security issues. The low rates of women’s literacy and enrollment in primary education, vocational and basic skills training courses have many negative effects, including hindering women’s entrance into the job market.

For long time the Italian Development Cooperation has supported the education and vocational training of women in Afghanistan. Among such activities, it is worth

mentioning the two projects titled “Professional Training and Women Enterprises – First and Second Phases”. Both projects have aimed at broadening job opportunities for women through primary schooling, vocational training and support to micro-entrepreneurial ventures. Both projects have been carried out in Kabul and Baghlan in close collaboration with the Economic Department of the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA).

In order to build on the positive results of the previous two projects and enlarge the geographical reach of its efforts in support of the improvement of the living conditions of Afghan women, the Italian Development Cooperation has recently allocated new funds to finance a project to support the education and social protection of women and young vulnerable girls in Badakhshan Province.

### **Call for expression of interest**

The Italian Development Cooperation Office is seeking one implementing agency to carry out activities to support the education, basic skills and vocational training, and social protection of women in Badakhshan Province.

In order to qualify as a potential implementing agency, interested organizations should submit their Expression of Interest (EoI), as well as the following documents:

- Updated certificate of registration to the Ministry of Economics
- A brief presentation of your organization
- A list of the running projects
- A list of the project implemented in the past three years
- Yearly turn over

### **Eligibility:**

To apply, organizations must have a non-profit status and be registered in Afghanistan to the Ministry of Economics. They can be non-governmental organizations (national and international), foundations or women’s groups/networks.

Organizations that have a strong track record of working on primary schooling, basic skills and vocational trainings, and women entrepreneurship are encouraged to apply.

All EoI will be screened and the relevant qualifying organizations will be invited through an official invitation letter to bid according to the Terms of Reference which will be attached to the letter.

### **Deadline and where to submit the EoI:**

The Expression of Interest and accompanying documents must be received no later than the **30 October 2009 11:00AM (Kabul time)** and be forwarded as following:

**By hand** – documents to be handed in to the following address:

**Attention: Mr Idris Osman**  
**Italian Cooperation Office, Embassy of Italy**  
**Great Massoud Road, Kabul – Afghanistan,**  
+93 (0)20 2104751, +93 (0) 797 474745

**By email** – documents to be forwarded to the following address:

[giuseppe.balducci@coopitafghanistan.org](mailto:giuseppe.balducci@coopitafghanistan.org)

### **Criteria for selection**

Organizations will be screened and invited to bid against the following criteria:

- Proven experience in implementing and managing similar kind of projects (primary schooling, basic and vocational trainings and women micro-enterprises).
- Clear commitment to gender-based approach to programming.
- Experience in implementing gender sensitive projects.
- Experience in implementing projects funded by international donors.
- Yearly turn-over.

The Italian Cooperation reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest based on the above mentioned criteria. Only qualified organizations will be invited to participate to the subsequent bidding exercise. Nothing in this EoI shall be taken to form a binding legal Contract.