 **Tender Notice**

**Consultancy:** External Midterm Evaluation

**Background:**

Mercy Corps (MC), in a consortium led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and including Aga Khan Foundation - Afghanistan (AKF-A) and the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), work jointly to promote inclusive (re)integration of returnees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and potential migrants in Kunar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Helmand, Parwan, Kandahar, Badakhshan, Takhar, Bamyan, Nuristan, Laghman and Balkh provinces, which are highly susceptible to migration and/or experience high return rates. The program is strongly committed to provide returnees with market-demanded skills by working with vocational training centers and liking beneficiaries with the job market through post-graduation support. Mercy Corps is the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) lead of the consortium, providing leadership in tools’ design and standardization as well as M&E coordination among the partner NGOs.

More information about the objectives outlined below:

1. Objectives of the action: The overall objective is to promote inclusive (re)integration of returnees, IDPs and potential migrants in communities which are highly susceptible to migration or which experience high return rates. The specific objective is that IDPs, returnees and potential migrants, in particular youth, have enhanced market driven skills and knowledge for improved employability, income generation and resilience.
2. Target Group: youth/adults (ages 18-35, 60% male, 40% female), with a focus on IDPs, returnees, and those who are susceptible to migration and have at least one of the following characteristics: 1) come from conflict-affected communities or disadvantaged communities, 2) are unemployed with few employment prospects.
3. Expected Results:
4. Result 1: To undertake a labour market assessment (LMA) in order to identify the skills required by the public and private sectors. The LMA includes non-traditional and emerging sectors for potential TVET programming linked to macro-economic developments in Afghanistan. On the basis of this analysis, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), demand driven vocational and professional training courses are developed and tailored to the context in order to cover both existing and newly identified skills.
5. Result 2: To ensure that vulnerable youth from returnee, IDP and potential migrant communities graduate from market driven vocational trainings, which are also consistent with the needs of the new development initiatives, including the Citizens’ Charter and other National Priority Programs. The LMA conducted under Result 1 will inform both the geographic locations in which Result 2 takes place and the choice of programs offered under Result 2.
6. Result 3: To ensure that vulnerable youth from returnee, IDP and potential migrant communities have improved employability through access to post-graduate support mechanisms including self-employment opportunities. Graduates receive post-graduation support which aims to transition them to long-term income generation improvement. This will consist of access to employment service centres, business start-up support, provision of toolkits, establishment of women’s markets, sales outlets for products, work placements and internships and value chain and business networking events.
7. Result 4: To involve private sector and community based subnational structures to support TVET graduates. This result will be mainstreamed through the process, with private sector and Community Development Councils involved in the project from the assessment phase. The project will support private sector businesses to provide internships, coaching/mentoring, and job placements for TVET graduates.
8. Result 5: To standardize Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning tools, which are developed and jointly used by the consortium for effective and efficient implementation of the programme.
9. **Rationale of Midterm Evaluation**

The midterm evaluation aims at generating lessons learnt and guiding the consortium partners to adjust their implementation activities for the second half of the project in order to achieve the expected outcomes and contribute towards the overall objective.

The primary users of the mid-term evaluation will be consortium partners and the donor, EU.

1. **Specific Objectives of the Evaluation**
2. To assess the project effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability, impact and gender mainstreaming (see Section 4)
3. To recommend remedial actions to yield synergy and ensure achievability of the expected outcomes
4. **Key Questions**
5. **Relevance**
   1. To what degree the program activities are relevant with the need of project beneficiaries, national priorities and donor’s interest?
   2. Does the project have the potential to be up-scaled and/or replicated in other geographical locations based on existing need?
6. **Effectiveness**
7. To what extend the project has achieved its intended results, so far, considering cost and timeliness?
8. What are the added values of working within a consortium and collaborating with government agencies in implementation of TVET?
9. **Impact**
10. To what degree the fulfilment of the project outcomes will ensure the expected impact?
11. **Sustainability**
12. What other interventions are needed to address the long-term need of the target beneficiaries and multiply the project’s impact?
13. How likely it is that the vocational skills development will continue in the consortium target location after the project ends? Or, how do you assess level of the sustainability of this project
14. **Gender**
15. To what extent gender has been mainstreamed in the program?
16. To what extent the program has effectively enhanced women socioeconomic status?
17. **Suggested Approach**

All key documents of the program, comprising project proposal, progress reports, baseline and post-graduation survey reports, labor market assessment, field visits notes, and monitoring reports should be reviewed. A mixed method design is recommended and instruments should be developed based on findings of literature review and the existed information gaps. Data should be collected from consortium partners’ staff, government officials, beneficiaries, non-beneficiary community members and other stakeholders.

Findings on what was expected to happen, what actually happened, what went well and why, what can be improved, and how and what lessons can be used in the future should be discussed with consortium partners in a one-to-two day session.

1. **Expected deliverables (chronological order)**
2. Submit a detailed plan and draft methodology which includes data collection tools/ methods and sampling options
3. Present key finding of the literature review about TAALIM project
4. Modify, finalize and submit the methodology and instrument based on finding of secondary information and feedback from MC and other consortium partners
5. Assist with MC in setting criteria for quality review of the midterm evaluation report. This criteria will be used by a quality review committee (article K) to review and endorse the report
6. Provide training to interviewers and enumerator on data collection tools
7. Share an outline of the initial findings of the midterm evaluation
8. Present the initial findings of midterm evaluation and discuss it with MC and other implementing partners
9. Share an outline of the report to receive feedback from MC and other partners
10. Share the first draft of the report and hold a session on the key findings, challenges and recommendations
11. Incorporate MCs and other consortium partners’ feedback to the report and submit the revised midterm evaluation report to MC
12. MC will approve the midterm evaluation report after endorsement made by quality review committee
13. **Qualifications and requirement:**
14. The consultant (if individuals apply) or the lead researcher (if consultancy firms apply) should have a PhD degree in relevant field or a master degree with substantial experience in project/ program evaluations
15. Good knowledge about technical vocational education and trainings (TVET) projects
16. Highly skilled in development and application of qualitative and quantitative tools
17. Excellent skills in data analysis and interpretation
18. Expertise in usage of qualitative and quantitative data analysis software such as SPSS, STATA, NVivo or Atlas.ti
19. Highly skilled in writing evaluation reports in English.
20. Ability to communicate with government authorities, community people, and NGOs effectively
21. Good knowledge of Afghanistan context
22. **Submission Guideline:**

The interested firms are encouraged to collect the Tender Package from 7th March 2019 with the submission date 24th March 2019 from Mercy Corps office (see below the address). Subsequently, the firms may fill the tender package where requires accordingly, stamp each page and submit the signed, stamped and sealed hard copies of the documents to Mercy Corps, by 24th of March 2019, no later than 3:30 pm.

For more information, please contact below numbers:

Address: Mercy Corps Afghanistan Kabul Office at house # 1010, street # 5, Qala-e- Fatullah, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Phone: +93(0) 0793 506 503/0793506502

***Note: The tender package that will be distributed to the firms should be also submitted with above requested documents.***