

## **Call for Application for Strategic Partnership with NCA**

**Deadline for Submissions: 05 October 2019**

Only Afghan National Organisations can apply (NGOs)

### **1. Introduction**

NCA has been working with the Afghan people for nearly four decades (since 1979). NCA is a partner based organisation which implements its projects through national partner NGOs in Daikundi, Kabul, Khost, Samangan and Faryab provinces of Afghanistan. NCA engaged in long-term development, humanitarian support and advocacy work. This long presence has allowed NCA to build solid relationships with national civil society organisations, including NCA partners, government agencies, and other related formal and informal institutions at the national and local level. NCA Afghanistan's strategic vision (2020-2024) is **"A stable Afghanistan with a socially inclusive society that lives a life of durable peace and prosperity."** To contribute positively towards this goal, NCA will be working on three thematic areas; Peacebuilding, Climate Resilience WASH and Climate Smart Economic Empowerment programmes and recognizes civil society as a key driver of change for the strategic period of 2020-2024. Based on its commitment to, and length of, service in the country, together with the well documented quality of its work and its ability to access hard to reach communities, NCA is seen as a respected development actor in Afghanistan.

NCA's integrated strategy specifically addresses gaps in economic opportunities, climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene, and advances peaceful co-existence, while also aiming to contribute, in one form or another, to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NCA's country strategy reflects and complements the Triple Nexus (humanitarian, development, and peace), while also referencing relevant GoA and NCA plans, to determine the appropriate geographic and thematic areas on which the strategy should focus. The NCA strategy links with several specific GoA national plans (which are also linked to the SDGs), including the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework 2017 – 2021 (ANPDF) which addresses 1) development priorities, by promoting sustainable job creation to improve public welfare, 2) governance and state effectiveness by reinforcing the importance of advancing peace, building political consensus, and stabilising security, and, 3) social capital and nation-building, by promoting human rights and civil society to build a national identity and sense of citizenship that rises above local enmities and perceived differences.

### **2. Background**

In Afghanistan, civil societies play important roles in protecting and advocating for the interests of their members and the population as a whole. The low presence of civil society actors in the provinces where NCA works, raises a need for development intervention due to remoteness and the potential to contribute towards peace and stability. Despite difficult access into these provinces for international organisations and authorities, NCA has been able to implement programmes through its network of national partner organisations. As national partners have greater acceptance amongst rural communities and they better understand the local contexts, culture and traditions of rural communities.

National and local civil society partner organisations are a part of the wider civil society in the countries where NCA operates. NCA's partner approach is based on the belief that working with local organisations

will enhance participation and local ownership. It also strengthens the sustainability of civil society organisations that deliver services to marginalised groups and promote human rights.

In addition and in recognition of the fact that civil society is a key driver of change, NCA, through its national partner organisations, advocate duty bearers to fulfil their obligations to manage resources fairly, to promote social cohesion and to deliver services equitably.

NCA understands partnership as a mutually empowering relationship where the partners are challenged, open to change, and NCA and its partners learn from one another. Partnership is a relationship in solidarity that goes beyond funding, though NCA is aware of asymmetric factors, such as access to resources.

Currently NCA Afghanistan is working with ten national partner organisations of differing sizes and organisational capacity. Originally, these partners were chosen on the basis of shared objectives and values and their presence in NCA's target provinces.

### **3. Purpose**

NCA Afghanistan for its new country strategy (2020-2024) would like to conduct partnership assessment and will focus on partners' effectiveness, efficiency and as basis for selecting relevant partners for the future partnership. The overall purpose of the assessment is to select potential partners who have the right capacity, skill, knowledge, experience and ability to work more systematically as civil society actors in the coming strategic period.

### **4. Objectives:**

The assessment will focus on the following issues 1) Organisation capacity: Fund raising, Strategy & PMER, HR, Code of Conduct and security, 2) Accountability Capacity: Internal democratic governance, Integrating gender justice, Participation of RHs, 3) Advocacy capacity: Advocacy methods, networking, interaction with government and other decision-makers and 4) Financial Capacity: Budget process, Financial system, internal control and reporting process.

The partnership assessment will be carried out by independent consultant to screen and assess all applications (with consultation of NCA country and main office) to pave the way for shortlisting at least 25 potential applications and after that conduct proper review/evaluation, discussion and assessment of shortlisted organisation and finally select ten core partner organisations for NCA Afghanistan. This will help NCA and the consultant to ensure that the selected organisations are relevant to NCA's priorities and can meet the requirements for partnership with NCA. NCA current partners should submit their applications, if they are interested to be included in the assessment process.

### **5. Requirements:**

The Civil Society Organisations/Local NGOs who are interested to be partner with NCA Afghanistan are requested to comply with the following requirements:

#### **A) List of documents**

- ✓ Scan copy of legal registration issued by relevant ministries in Afghanistan
- ✓ Organisational strategy
- ✓ Samples of employment contracts and job descriptions
- ✓ Administrative handbooks
- ✓ Last year's annual financial statement (AFS)
- ✓ Total budget

#### **B) Organisation Information**

- ✓ Type of organisation:
- ✓ Year of establishment:
- ✓ Legal status: *When was the organisation registered and with which ministry?*
- ✓ Year of establishment of partnership: *with NCA or any other donors/networks.*
- ✓ Current status of partnership: *Ongoing, Finished or etc*
- ✓ Geographic area: *Name of provinces of operation*
- ✓ Global programme: *What global programme(s) is the organisation is working in? for example: WASH, Livelihood, peacebuilding, Climate Change, GBV or etc*
- ✓ Number of employees: *X (disaggregated by gender)*
- ✓ Number of members: *Briefly explain what members are in your context, if relevant*
- ✓ Financial foundation: *What is the annual budget?*
- ✓ Membership in any Alliance: *Yes or no and since when*
- ✓ List of donors: *List of main donors the partner has, (if the organization have fund from NCA please include it in the list of donor)*
- ✓ Capacity development initiatives carried out by others: *Provide sufficient information about other recent or on-going capacity development initiatives*
- ✓ Organogram and CVs of senior management team
- ✓ Proof of previous project implementation experience
- ✓ Proof of organizational capacities (including staff with technical expertise)
- ✓ Contact details for a focal point within the organization.

## 6. Timeframe

The partnership assessment and selection is planned to be undertaken in October and November 2019. The following is a proposed timeframe for the assessment and selection

| No | Date               | Activity Description   |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 1  | 05 October 2019    | Submit your application including the requested documents    |
| 2  | 20 Oct 2019        | Complete shortlisting of eligible organisation               |
| 3  | 24-31 October 2019 | Interview and meetings with shortlisted organisations        |
| 4  | 06- 10 Nov 2019    | Selection process of ten core partners                       |
| 5  | 15 Dec 2019        | Complete selection process and inform selected organisations |

## 7. Submission

The applicant organisations should send their proposal along with the requested documents to the following addresses:

- All should be sent by email to [moinullah.moin@nca.no](mailto:moinullah.moin@nca.no) with Cc to [abd@nca.no](mailto:abd@nca.no) by 20:00 (GMT +4:30) 05 October 2019.
- Only shortlisted organisations who meet the criteria will be contacted