



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independence Directorate of Local Governance
Eshteghal Zaiee – Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

International Economic Expert

Country: Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Project Name: Eshteghal Zaiee – Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar)

Grant No.: TF-A9092/ IDA-D4160

Assignment Title: Hiring International Economic Expert

Ref. No.: AF-EZ-K_CCNP- IDLG-126335-CS-INDV

Contract duration: (12 months)

Reporting to: Executive Director (ED), Urban CCAP-EZ-Kar PIU, DMM, IDLG

Duty Station: Primarily in Kabul, with some essential work travel to EZ-Kar coverage cities

I. Introduction/ Background

The Deputy Ministry of Municipalities (DMM) within the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) serves as the Implementing Agency (IA) for

- the urban Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP or CC),
- the Cities Investment Project (CIP),
- the Component Two of the Eshteghal Zaiee – Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar CII, sharing a PIU with the urban CCAP),
- the Component Three of the Eshteghal Zaiee – Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar CIII, sharing a PIU with the CIP) and

These four of these are closely inter-related given shared operational modalities, one dependent on the other for its funding tranche releases, shared Project Implementation Units (PIUs) etc. The Consultant will be required to focus on the urban CCAP and the EZ-Kar CII that share a common Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

The urban CCAP, with a total budget currently of US\$ 123.7 million has a current mandate for 850 communities and 170 gozars in the four cities of Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar. With a duration from January 2017 to October 2021, this Project is nearing the Mid-Term Review (MTR) phase. The urban CCAP aims to provide basic infrastructure, emergency support and social services to communities via strengthened Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Gozar Assemblies (Gas). It includes grants to these CDCs and gozar assemblies (GAs) for a limited permissible menu of subprojects.

The EZ-Kar CII, with a total budget currently of US\$ 120.5 million, had an approved mandate for 1,160 communities, 232 gozars and 75 business gozars in 12 cities. With a duration from January 2019 to December 2023, the work for this Component is still under mobilization phase. This sub-component includes short term employment opportunities, market enabling infrastructure and municipal level regulatory reforms in the target areas. The objective of the EZ-Kar as a whole, including this Component, is to strengthen the enabling environment for economic opportunities in cities with the highest influx of displaced populations, including both IDPs and returnees.

II. Roles/Responsibilities Expected for the Position:

General:

The Consultant will serve as an Economic Expert/ Advisor to the CCAP-EZ Kar PIU, especially supporting the Program Units within the PIU in assessing the economic outcomes and impacts of the stated projects, advising on improving the economic opportunities, and helping with the technical management of program evaluations and studies.

Specific:

- Support the PIU in the implementation of the construction permit and G2B regulatory reforms action plans in the four cities. This will include periodic revisions in the action plans, negotiations with the World Bank and MoEc on the changes, possibly procuring consulting firms for technical assistance in the implementation of the action plans, and reporting on all of the above.
- Support the program units in devising monitoring tools for assessing and documenting reduction in steps and/or reductions in time in each of the 4 cities with each construction permit applications received after the regulatory reforms are introduced. Train the relevant PIU and PMU teams in monitoring and reporting on the reductions in a systematic manner such that the changes over time can also be assessed.
- Review all sub-project proposals and project concept notes (PCNs) received during the contract period for gozar-level and business gozar level subprojects under EZ-Kar component 2, and advise on whether they meet the development objective of strengthening the enabling environment for economic opportunities. Provide written feedback on revisions needed and recommend internal approvals before sharing the Business Gozar Association (BGA) PCNs with MoEc Public Investment Management (PIM) Specialists.
- Review the reports of the consulting firms contracted by the IDLG for the (a) BGA feasibility, (b) construction permit and overall government-to-business (G2B) service regulatory reform implementation, and (c) other evaluations/ studies that may be contracted and ongoing/ completed during the consultant's contract period. Provide written feedback to the PIU management on each of these reports, and advise of revisions needed by the consultant, and key summaries for the leadership.
- Conduct an in-depth review of a minimum of 12 randomly selected business gozars (spread across at least 6 of the EZ-Kar CII coverage cities). Analyze and report on revisions required in policy, procedure or guidelines in the business gozar mobilization, BGA formation, selection and implementation of market-enabling infrastructure.
- Conduct a comparative analysis on the coverage of both urban CC and EZ-Kar CII of displaced populations (Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees) in the 12 cities, with regard to mobilization, CDC/ GA/ BGA elections and membership, inclusion and participation in the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tools and Community Development Plan (CDP) preparation, inclusion and participation in subproject selection and implementation, equity in distribution of benefits etc.
- Conduct a detailed review of a minimum of 5 women's livelihood subprojects in each of the 4 CC cities (i.e. total 20) and report on the actual economic impacts of the sampled subprojects. Provide detailed recommendations on how to improve market analysis, productivity, marketing, distribution of benefits, sustainability of outcomes beyond subproject implementation, and other pertinent details as may arise from the study.
- Conduct a review of the labour generated under the Maintenance and Construction Cash Grants (MCCG) by reviewing a minimum of 10 communities per city in a minimum of 6 cities covered by EZ-Kar CII (total 60). Provide a detailed report that includes, at a minimum the following, adherence to the operations manual, timeline and distribution of the labour over the project cycle, selection of beneficiary households (especially highlighting inclusion of displaced populations) for the paid labour, selection of subprojects under MCCG, record keeping for the paid labour components, economic impacts of the labour and of the improved/ new infrastructure subprojects, and impacts (if any) on female headed households and other most vulnerable households in the sampled communities.

- Devise a methodology, and establish and train a team within the Program units of the PIU, on how to calculate the Economic Rate of Return (ERR) of individual subproject types financed under both the urban CC and the EZ-Kar Component II.
- Review the linkages between the 8 smaller EZ-Kar cities with their immediate rural districts. Highlight gaps in terms of development program/ project coverage, government service provisions, public infrastructure, urbanization and youth migration, employment opportunities, seasonal hunger and poverty, and explore the feasibility of improving economic linkages through the CC and EZ-Kar and other urban/ rural initiatives
- Work closely with the national economic experts and advisors in the PIU in preparing and implementing all of the above. Build their capacity to handle these activities on a regular and ongoing basis.

Note: All work outputs of the Consultant as part of this Contract will remain the property of the IDLG/ DMM and may not be reproduced or used by the Consultant without the express written confirmation of the Client. All reporting by the Consultant will be shared only to the stated officials and not to third parties (including CCAP/ EZ-Kar stakeholders).

I. Payment Schedule Proposed:

	% of net consultancy fees	Month expected
Detailed work plan broken by week and month showing how the Consultant proposes to complete all aspects of the ToR over the 12-month contract period.	10	1
Approved detailed report on the women's livelihood subprojects as outlined in the ToR	15	3
Approved detailed system and tools for monitoring and reporting on the reduction in steps and time in construction permit applications	15	5
Approved detailed report on the MCCG analysis as per the ToR	15	7
Approved detailed report on the comparative analysis between CC and Ez-Kar CII on the coverage of displaced populations as outlined in the ToR	15	9
Approved report on the BGA analysis and findings with recommendations as per the ToR	15	11
Approved final report summarizing all key work outputs against the work plan.	15	13
Total: 5 installments	100	

II. Qualification and Experience Requirements:

Education: A Master's Degree in Economics is required. Exceptionally, master's degrees in statistics, development studies, international development or related fields may also be considered provided the majority of the work experience of the given candidate closely relates to this ToR.

Work Experience: A minimum of 10 years working in economic development. A minimum of 5 years working in senior management and/or advisory roles, and with at least 2 working in Government, donor agencies and/or very large NGOs for large development programs.

Other Requirements:

- Experience working in Afghanistan and familiarity with the urban development program and aid context and development process in Afghanistan is preferred.
- Willingness and ability to travel to the field is required.

- Ability to work under difficult circumstances and with changing priorities.
- Good English language skills, in both verbal and written communication.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and Power point)
- Eligibility requirements in compliance with paragraphs 3.21, 3.22, & 3.23 of the *World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement In investment Projects Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services revised November 2017 and August 2018*.

The attention of interested Individual Consultant is drawn to *paragraph 3.14 and 3.15 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement In investment Projects Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services revised November 2017 and August 2018*, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as *per paragraph 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement In investment Projects Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services revised November 2017 and August 2018* available at www.worldbank.org/.

1. An Individual Consultant will be selected through **Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants** in accordance with the procedures set out in the *World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement In investment Projects Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services revised November 2017 and August 2018*.
2. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **15th January, 2020 by 16:00 Hours. (Kabul Local Time)**. Further information in respect to this REOI can be obtained at the address below by email or in person during office hours [08:00-16:00 Hours].

Attention: Procurement Management Unit Head, Umar Sultani

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