14 February 2020

**Call for Expression of Interest**

**OBJECT**: Call for Expression of Interest for Partnership – Caritas Germany in Afghanistan

*With the following, Caritas Germany Country Office in Afghanistan / COA aims to solicit interest from prospective partners that wish to participate in the implementation of Caritas Germany projects as of 2020 and can contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge, funds, in‐kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment) to achieve objectives as agreed in our generic Project Partnership Agreement.*

The purpose of this Call for Expression of Interest is to identify eligible Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for prospective partnership with Caritas Germany Country Office in Afghanistan (COA) to ensure that people in fragile and conflict-affected societies are assisted in a respectful and dignified manner.

Eligible NGOs are invited to submit applications to be considered for partnerships to support the achievement of results for humanitarian and development assistance outlined in Caritas Germany Country Office in Afghanistan Strategy 2018-2022.

Organizations that wish to participate in this Call for Expression of Interest are requested to email their submissions to the COA Country Representative at CR-afghanistan@caritas.de with the subject line “NGO Call for Expression of Interest”

By **20th March 2020**. Applications must be submitted in English.

Any requests for additional information should be addressed until 05th March 2020 in writing to CR-afghanistan@caritas.de. Caritas Germany responses to any queries or clarification requests will be made available by email or direct contact until 14th March 2020.

Applications will be assessed by Caritas Germany’s Partners Review Committee to identify NGOs that have the mandate, capacities and comparative advantage to support achievement of results using criteria outlined in section 3 below. It should be noted however that participation in this Call for Expression of Interest does not guarantee that the NGO will ultimately be selected for partnership with Caritas Germany. Selected NGOs will be invited to discuss further answers provided in the attached “Partner Assessment Checklist” and the possible partnership following applicable policy and procedures on partnership with NGOs.

Successful applicant NGOs will be informed by communication sent to the email that is indicated in the NGO’s application submission.

1. Background

1.1 Mandate

Caritas Germany has supported Afghan NGOs since 1984, finally establishing a Country Office in Afghanistan (COA) in 1994. Caritas Germany Afghanistan’s operations are inspired by its corporate mission “to save the lives of the most vulnerable people involving communities, local government and authorities, by building resilient and flourishing communities ensuring transparency and accountability.”

Abiding to the Secretary General’s request to the Humanitarian community after the World Humanitarian Summit consultations in 2016, Caritas Germany increased its commitment to localization principles. Supporting and enabling national and local actors, providing expertise, good practice, and increasing capacity and capability Caritas Germany channels funds to local humanitarian responders.

Wherever possible, Caritas Germany combines lifesaving humanitarian aid with the longer-term improvement of economic opportunities and resilience. Geographic focus has always been represented by the Central Highlands, particularly the province of Daykundi. Caritas Germany began supporting activities in the area in 2002. However latest developments, allowed Caritas Germany to expand to other provinces responding to the humanitarian needs in Bamyan, Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Faryab and Nangarhar provinces.

Caritas Germany, through partners, is currently implementing lifesaving emergency and long-term development projects in the sectors of multi-purpose cash, shelter, WASH, DRR, income generation and access to labour market, child protection, mother and child health and social assistance. Additionally, Caritas Germany is partner in the “Twinning Initiative” funded by DFID through ACBAR, mentoring N-NGOs in their capacity building. Caritas Germany has provided programmatic leadership while also ensuring that its operations and those of its local partners are implemented to the highest standards by focusing on human capital development, service delivery and social inclusion.

1.2 Caritas Germany Country Office in Afghanistan Strategy 2018-2022

In 2020, Caritas Germany will continue to work with its national and international partners but will also work to increase its presence in specific operational areas, especially in assisting IDPs and returnees, where sectoral approaches (Food security and WASH) can be mainstreamed with Protection and Livelihoods.

The overall goal of Caritas Germany’s presence in specific geographical areas is to enable a pro-active and holistic response, addressing multiple needs side by side with partner agencies.

Caritas Germany contribution to Afghanistan relief is expected to increase in 2020 through the strengthening of long-lasting and well-established relations and the development of new partnerships, expanding areas of competencies, especially in the emergency response.

Caritas Germany will focus its intervention on 3 Specific Objectives:

* Save lives through the provision of immediate basic services;
* Build resilience of local communities towards future hazards increasing access to productive assets and livelihood opportunities;
* Ensure child and women protection services and access to Disaster Risk Reduction measures through strengthened coordination.

Emergency and development assistance will include cash, food, emergency shelter and NFIs kits, sanitation services, provision of sustained access to safe drinking water, as well as income generation, mother and child health, protection and capacity building.

The new partnerships will supply to Caritas Germany’s need to consolidate the gains already made in current operational areas, in order to ensure the sustainability and to continue provide assistance to the vulnerable caseloads in these regions.

1. Application requirements and timeline

The expression of interest shall include the following documentation:

* Partner Assessment Checklist completed;
* At least 2 references (from partners or donors);
* Code of Conduct and PSEA policy;
* Self-declarations to be provided on organization letter head (signed and stamped): conflict of interest / not being blacklisted / correctness of Information.

The deadline for requests of additional information/clarification is 5th March 2020 while deadline for submission is **20th March 2020**. Review of submissions will take place on the following week and selected NGOs will be contacted for further information early April 2020 at the latest.

1. Process and Timeline

NGO submissions are assessed by Caritas Germany’s Partnership Review Committee including COA Country Representative and Programme Advisor, using the criteria outlined below. Only NGO submissions which comply with the requirements of the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be eligible for further evaluation.

Results from the first review will be used for purposes of mapping and selection of NGOs in relation to the specific results, sector and priorities outlined in section 1.2 above.

It should be noted that participation to this Call for Expression of Interest however, does not guarantee NGOs will be ultimately selected for a partnership agreement with Caritas Germany. Caritas Germany reserves the right to invite selected partners to elaborate on the information provided, agree on a face-to-face meeting, visiting partner’s facilities and project locations, review partnership activities and draft potential partnership agreements in accordance with Caritas Germany’s policy and procedures for partnership with NGOs.

3.1 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, NGOs must:

* Be registered with the Ministry of Economy of Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, for at least three years
* Not be an entity named on any of the UN Security Council targeted [sanction lists](http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml)
* NGO should have human resources and financial/procurement policy
* NGO should have a Code of Conduct
* NGO should have experience in working in the humanitarian sector, especially in WASH, ES&NFI, Food security and livelihoods, DRR and NRM, Protection and Cash based interventions
* NGO should be an active member of the clusters and ACBAR

Will not be eligible, thus excluded from the selection process, NGOs that:

* Submit their Expression of Interest not by e-mail to the appointed reference person (CR-afghanistan@caritas.de) before the specified deadline
* do not include all required documents duly completed and signed or do not comply with specifications set in this Call for Expression of Interest
* required documents are not submitted in English