

ACBAR



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اداره هماهنگی کمکهای بشری و انکشافی برای افغانها دافغانانو لپاره د بشری او پرمختیایی مرستو د همغږی اداره

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Monitoring Research of the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF)

1. Introduction to ACBAR

ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development, is an independent forum bringing together 152 National and International NGOs working in Afghanistan. ACBAR has a mission “to provide an efficient platform for members to carry out effective humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities in Afghanistan.” Under its advocacy pillar ACBAR carries out research on issues that affect its member NGOs and wider civil society. For more information on ACBAR please see: <http://www.acbar.org/>.

2. Context

The situation in Afghanistan continues to be challenging, with political turbulence, wide-scale conflict, increasing poverty and deepening inequality. There is also international donor fatigue, as many other crises around the world compete with Afghanistan on the geopolitical agenda. At the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan (GCA) in November 2018, the international community committed to continue political and financial support to Afghanistan’s development, security and peace processes, within the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF), in the pursuit of increased self-reliance by the end of the Transformation Decade in 2024. The GCA was the 13th high-level international conference on Afghanistan since 2001. The GMAF commitments, made at the conference by the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), are intended to be achieved by the end of 2020. The GMAF commitments should be aligned with existing national policy frameworks, notably the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and the 10 National Priority Programs (NPPs). As there has not been a thorough assessment, from the civil society side, on the progress towards the framework’s overarching objectives and attainment of short term deliverables in 2019 and 2020, ACBAR is commissioning a research project to review progress on the GMAF commitments and in particular, those areas more closely related to civil society.

3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess the effectiveness of GOA development activities related to civil society, as specified in the GMAF, and review to what extent progress has been made in its implementation. The study should also develop specific recommendations for an accountability framework, to ensure alignment of the development interventions with the needs and priorities of Afghan communities. The findings of the study will be used to guide and support evidence-based advocacy for development effectiveness, in general, and more specifically for the next International Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan in November 2020.

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Specific objectives:

1. Review the extent to which the GoA is programmatically on-track with the implementation of the GMAF indicators related to civil society in sectors such as health, education, social protection and women's rights;
2. Review the actual disbursement of financial pledges by donors, on-budget and off-budget;
3. Analyze the data on Government expenditure of its budgets;
4. Assess the efficiency, effectiveness and inclusiveness of the GMAF indicators related to civil society and based on that assessment, make recommendations for an accountability framework for civil society use;
5. Examine the specific challenges in Afghanistan, which include insecurity, social exclusion and gender inequality, and how these have constrained the roll out of the GMAF indicators, and associated lessons learned.

4. Scope of the work

The following should be considered in this study:

- Collection and analysis of specific literature and data related to the GMAF, from Ministries, Donors, Multilaterals and other development partners;
- Assessment of availability, functions and effectiveness of GMAF monitoring and accountability mechanisms;
- Assessment of civil society engagement in the GMAF process.

5. Approach and methodology

The primary data in Kabul will be collected from Ministries, Embassies, Donors, multilaterals and other international organizations, NGOs and civil society actors. The consultant(s) will collect both qualitative and quantitative data from primary and secondary sources.

The consultant(s) is expected to carry out:

i) Desk research:

- Collecting and analysing relevant literature about the GMAF and previous frameworks. The literature could be obtained from direct contact with relevant government entities and donors, in addition to what is available online.
- Collecting and analysing literature and data from other national and international actors, e.g. research reports by think tanks, NGOs and civil society organizations.

ii) Qualitative research:

- Conducting interviews with GoA officials in relevant Ministries and on provincial level, Donors and development agencies in Afghanistan and donor capitals, multilateral organizations and other contractors of large projects, NGOs and civil society actors, and community representatives through available means;

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- Providing illustrative cases studies (e.g. developed from interviews and other data) that provide ground level examples of practice in relation to the GMAF;

iii) Quantitative research:

- Reporting on the financial aspects of the GMAF in general.

6. Deliverables:

The consultant(s) should produce a report with an analysis of the data collected and with specific recommendations, tailored to specific stakeholders, such as the GoA, Parliament, Donors, civil society and international actors. Therefore, it is important that the study lists these stakeholders and examines their role and agency vis-à-vis the GMAF indicators related to civil society.

7. Management of task

ACBAR will form a GMAF Research Steering Committee, including ACBAR staff, to oversee the study from recruitment of the consultant(s) up to the end of the consultancy, including the launch of the report. ACBAR will assist the consultant(s) with initial contacts.

The consultant(s) will provide their own transportation, accommodation and work materials (e.g. hardware, software, consumables) for the duration of the study. The consultant(s) will need to have their own translation services, or ability to speak and read national languages, in order to review key documents and engage in interviews and related consultations.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the consultant should make a plan and budget based on the limited potential for travel opportunities, both in Afghanistan and internationally.

8. Professional Qualifications Required for the Application

The consultant(s) should have the following education and skills:

- Master's degree in a relevant social science, e.g. political science, development studies, or other equivalent degree;
- Experience in political, governance and civil society research in conflict, or post-conflict contexts;
- Experience in research, analysis and strategic communication.

Key competencies should be:

- In-depth knowledge about the national social-political context of Afghanistan.
- Data collection, data analysis and report writing skills.
- Excellent communication skills.

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9. Timeline for Deliverables

The consultancy will be budgeted for 3 months from June 2020 to Aug 2020 with findings published at the end of August 2020. The consultant(s) should:

- Prepare and submit an inception report within 15 days of signing the contract – the inception report should include a detailed plan on how the consultant(s) is intending to complete the tasks, including data collection, data analysis, report preparation and presentation by mid-August 2020;
- Begin data collection within one week of approval of the inception report by ACBAR and the Research Committee;
- Compile and analyze collected data and prepare a summary presentation of the findings of the study to present to ACBAR and the Research Committee at the end of the 2nd month of the contract (August 1st 2020);
- Prepare a full, draft report and share it with ACBAR and the Research Committee for review, and in accordance with feedback from the review, produce a final draft of report and submit it for approval to ACBAR by mid-August 2020;
- Support ACBAR in the launch of the report by presenting key findings and recommendations of the study at end of August 2020.

Submission of Proposals

Interested individuals or companies are required to submit the following documents to ACBAR:

Technical proposal clearly outlining the following:

- a) Their understanding of the Terms of Reference;
- b) Individual/Company profile;
- c) Proposed methodology for data collection;
- d) Financial proposal detailing the consultant(s) professional fees and any other costs related to this consultancy - the proposed costs should also include Afghanistan government tax;
- e) CVs of consultants involved in the proposal;
- f) Examples of previous work and three work related references.

The deadline to submit a proposal is Monday 25th May 2020, 5 PM in Kabul to: GMAFapplications@acbar.org

Additional remarks:

- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.
- The duration of the consultancy should not be more than 67 days.

Technical questions related to this consultancy should be emailed to: deputy.director@acbar.org