**Livelihood Landscape and Strategy Review**

**BACKGROUND**

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war or disaster. At work today in over 40 countries and 22 U.S. cities, we restore safety, dignity, and hope to millions who are uprooted and struggling to endure. The IRC leads the way from harm to home.

The IRC opened the country program in Afghanistan in 1988. Our programs span the range from humanitarian relief to early recovery and development activities, focusing on child protection, education, economic wellbeing, health, and power. The IRC works in 9 provinces throughout Afghanistan, among which some of the most security volatile, and employs over 500 staff.

**PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY**

IRC Afghanistan is looking for an eligible, technically competent consultancy firm to conduct a livelihoods landscape review and subsequently support the development of a livelihoods strategy for IRC Afghanistan. The landscape and strategy review will define funding opportunities, partners, and priorities for future IRC interventions, and the livelihoods strategy will define areas of IRC livelihoods expansion in Afghanistan.

**METHODOLOGY**

The IRC anticipates that the completion of the deliverables (specified in the next section) will require/include both reviews of the existing secondary data such as IRC’s end of projects reports and Afghanistan contextual documents (e.g. existing economic and market assessments, including labor, climate change risk assessment, etc.) as well as collecting primary data, including at a minimum key informant interviews with IRC staff, members of the different organizations, affected populations as well as relevant public and private sector stakeholders. The consultancy firm will propose the final methodology to be applied during this review which will be agreed upon between the consultancy firm and the IRC. Potential in-country travels to the provinces will be coordinated with the IRC.

**DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

There are three key deliverables for this review process:

***Deliverable 1: Inception report and work plan (20% of the total payment)***

1. *Conduct an inception report with work-plan* 
   1. *The inception report will include a detailed review framework of the key Livelihood**projects implemented during (2015-now) in Afghanistan as detailed below:* 
      1. *South (Helmand)*
      2. *West (Herat and Badghis)*
      3. *East (Khost, Paktya, Nangarhar, Logar, Laghman, Kabul)*
2. *Present the Inception report to the IRC*

The detailed review framework will be reviewed and approved by the IRC. It should however consider the summary of review methodology, timeline, and primary collection methods (desk review, key informant interviews, or other tools deemed necessary by the consultancy).

The specific tasks of this consultancy will be defined in agreement with the selected consultancy as a result of the initial desk review.

***Deliverable 2: Draft Reports (60% of the total payment)***

Contingent upon the results/findings on the deliverable 1, the consultancy firm and the IRC will agree on the prioritized areas. The consultancy firm will then need to do a deep-dive into the agreed sectors and deliver a draft livelihoods landscape and strategy review to the IRC by June 30th, 2021.

The consultancy firm prepare a draft livelihoods landscape review will include the following sections:

* Mapping stakeholders, including donors and other organizations (including women-led organizations, civil society organizations), engaged in each sector programming and on-going, completed, and planned programs on each sector in the specified regions
* Review of recommendations on types and quality of interventions, gaps and barriers to successful implementation, and actors that should be engaged;
* Provide reflections on key enabling and impeding factors that affect women’s participation (from the rural and urban areas) in each sector
* Mapping of key government actors and departments responsible for the prioritized sectors
* Analyze key local/national legislation and policies related to the prioritized sectors
* Identify opportunities and role of IRC in each identified sector based on historical experience, technical areas, and resources available.
* Interviews with IRC staff, partners, and donors.
* Support IRC to identify potential partners (in particular local) and relevant actors that will help expand the sectors identified by the deliverable 1 through building on the technical expertise.
* Share a list of recommendations for IRC’s future interventions in each sector.
* Co-facilitate each prioritized sectors’ workshops (could be remote or in-person) to validate findings from landscape and strategy review.

1. *Based on the findings of the livelihoods landscape review, the consultancy firm will organize a design workshop where he/she will present the review findings as well as kick start the design process of the draft strategy.*
2. *Draft livelihoods strategy*

*Summary of key findings on each sector*

*Review of current IRC Afghanistan programming and mapping of IRC’s strengths and weaknesses against government/donor strategies and stakeholder landscape in each sector.*

*Key strategic direction in each sector*

***Deliverable 3: Final Reports and presentation (20% of the total payment)***

1. *Finalize the landscape review report and livelihoods strategy following feedback from the IRC team*
2. *Present the validated landscape and strategy review report to the IRC Team in one workshop (consider remote interactive meeting)*
3. *Share a folder with all research related report, documents*

**REQUIREMENTS**

**2 Different Proposals to be submitted in one envelope (1 Technical and 1 Financial). The Technical Proposal to include following information/documentation:**

* Minimum 8 years of experience in leading project/program evaluations, including evaluating food security and livelihoods projects
* Master’s degree in rural development, agricultural sciences, livelihood, social sciences, or related field.
* Experience in both research as well as a practitioner/practical development experience.
* Knowledge and practical experience in working with rural communities in developing countries. Experience in the Afghanistan context is an advantage.
* Expertise related to agronomy, gender, resilience, and climate-smart agriculture is a priority. Other assets include expertise in markets, nutrition, rural household economics in developing countries, or other relevant topics.
* Excellent analytical and report writing skills in English.
* Excellent interpersonal and communication skills in English.
* Experience in qualitative and quantitative methods.
* Proficiency in spoken and written English.

**TIMELINE**

The review will be carried out from end April- to June 2021, with a draft report submitted June 15th, 2021. The IRC expects the submission and presentation of the final report by June 30th, 2021.