



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
د فواید عامی وزارت

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Public Works

جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
وزارت فواید عامه



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: **Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Project: **Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project (THRCP)**

Project ID: **P145347**

Grant No: **D093-AF**

PP Ref. No.: **AF-MOPW-194851-CS-CQS**

Assignment Title: **Consultancy services to Prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)**

Reference No.: **AF-MOPW-194851-CS-CQS**

Date of Issuance: **February 17, 2021**

Date of closing: **March 3, 2021**

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoA) has obtained funding from the World Bank (IDA Grant) for a seven-year Program for improving the road connectivity across the Hindukush mountain range north of Kabul. The project has a total estimated cost of US\$ 150 million, most of which are to be spent on civil works for the construction of the Baghlan to Bamiyan (B2B) road and for the rehabilitation of the Salang pass road and the Salang Tunnel, and for the supervision of works for the same roads.
2. The project development objective is improved road transport connectivity across the Hindukush mountain range. The means to achieve this objective are (i) to rehabilitate the Salang Pass and to develop the Baghlan to Bamiyan (B2B) road to become a viable alternative to the Salang Pass, and (ii) to establish suitable arrangements for the management, maintenance and operation of those two roads.

The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, through the Ministry of Public Works (MOPW) wishes to engage a qualified consulting firm to support the THRCP in GBV risk prevention, mitigation, and response, including SEA and SH, linked to implementation operations

The Specific objectives of the assignment shall include:

- I. Mapping GBV risks and services in the project implementation zone in order to create safe, reliable, referral pathways for survivors**
 - Building on the existing mapping of the GBV service providers, map/verify services in communities in which the project is being implemented, including medical, psychosocial, and legal services at a minimum. Include in the mapping exercise an assessment of basic service quality and accessibility (using international minimum standards¹ as a benchmark) in order to establish a referral pathway for use by the project in the various implementation locations. If informal service providers are more popularly used by survivors, consider if it is possible to include them in a safe

and ethical referral plan. NGO will have to adapt methodology in the wake of the COVID pandemic given social distancing measures.

- Develop a referral pathway² that includes case management for survivors, which permits ethical and nondiscriminatory case management and referrals for GBV survivors to essential services in project implementation zones. The NGO will be expected to follow WB guidelines from the Good Practice Note and consult with the government Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in the development of this system. The NGO should provide technical input into planning with the PIU for safe and confidential services for survivors to facilitate access to minimum basic services when necessary.
- Engage in regular participatory community mapping of GBV and SEA risk “hot spots” (for example: contractors camps, or high risk points for trafficking or sex work or exploitation) and the most vulnerable groups, especially within the context of project implementation. A thorough GBV risk analysis should be completed for each segment of the project location and shared regularly.

Note: The response system proposed by the NGO will ensure adherence to a survivor-centered approach, prioritizing at all times respect for the survivor’s confidentiality, safety, choice, and right to no discrimination. The system will be tasked with responding to all GBV incidents linked to the project, independently of the process for investigating and identifying the perpetrator.

II. Training and awareness-raising

The NGO will be required to conduct training and capacity building throughout the remaining project duration of a variety of actors to sensitize not only on the risks of GBV in the project areas, but also on the appropriate, ethical and survivor centered ways to respond to incidents of violence and to familiarize different actors with the various instruments and procedures in place within the project to prevent or respond to gender-based violence or SEA/SH.

For Project Implementation Unit team and Contractors:

- o Design and offer interactive trainings on the root causes and risks of gender-based violence in the project and ethical survivor center approach. These trainings will also include detailed trainings on the Code of Conduct, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and case reporting systems in place.
- o Conduct trainings to the project’s specific staff (Safeguards and Gender) on how to reduce risk of SEA/SH during the project as well as ethical case handling mechanisms. Provide insights and understanding about gender equality, protection and support for women, as well as the high risks of sexual abuse of young boys who are at risk in such contexts. Provide information on responses and referrals for GBV survivors, as well as training on specific topics concerning project-related GBV identified within the communities.
- o Offer technical training on how to supervise issues related to SEA/SH to ensure that relevant members of the PIU are able to safely and ethically document, monitor, handle cases that might be reported..

For Community:

- o Define and implement a community communication and awareness-raising strategy, paying special attention to zones in the project area that are at higher risk. Communication must be clear, easy to understand and accessible to all members of the community (for example: culturally appropriate community dialogue, well designed signs, posters, pictures prominently displayed)
 - o Report regularly on progress regarding activities and the project implementation timetable targeting the communities living in the project adjoining areas, as well as especially vulnerable groups (e.g. families with smaller children, women’s groups, and engaging local community and religious leaders).
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III. Support for the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism

- Make recommendations on steps required to prepare an alternate GRM process and system that is separate from the project GRM and focused specifically on GBV to be sensitive to survivors and take into consideration a survivor-centered approach. This should include referral mechanisms to address SEA/SH complaints and the role of third party monitors. In the event of a lockdown or curfew due to the Covid Pandemic, certain additional provisions and adaptations may be necessary. Ensure grievance redressal committees are effectively connected to the GRM process.
- Coordinate and advise on, a thorough referral system established in the project areas, and appropriate referral procedures of survivors to a confidential GRM set up to respond to GBV incidents. Community consultations should be used for feedback and to ensure systems are effective.
- Provide inputs into operations manual on reporting and response mechanisms, as well as accountability measures to ensure that any collection of GBV, SEA, and SH-related data, including intake and referrals, is done confidentially and ethically and that files are kept in a safe and confidential place, in compliance with international good practices.
- Support the project with complaint intake, documentation, and referrals, in compliance with the GBV GRM structure developed by the project and collaborate to diversify the possible channels for receiving and filing complaints. Provide additional guidelines and resources on how to handle GBV complaints, reporting and referral mechanisms and redress procedures; as needed.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

- Make random visits (at least two) to the project sites including the labor camp during implementation of the project, interacting with laborers and community members, to ensure they are observing any misconduct and ensuring that laborers and community members are aware of the GRM and how to access it.
- Submit monthly reports of aggregated data on recorded complaints as recorded by the NGO, project or the contractor as well as on the support provided to survivors who report project-related incidents, while ensuring the confidentiality, safety, and informed consent of survivors;
- Report any GBV complaints recorded and presumed to be project-related within 24 hours of receiving them, using the information-sharing protocol established beforehand by the project and in compliance with the GBV Good Practice Note³ and ethical considerations on documenting and reporting information about GBV incidents;
- Collect quarterly information about GBV and SEA risks linked to the project using participatory methods and propose risk mitigation measures to the Environmental and Social Unit within the PMU to be implemented by different project stakeholders.

Provide other support, as requested, such as assistance to third party monitors to integrate GBV (questions and methodology) into procedures; Review and assess GRM effectiveness from a technical perspective; and assess roll-out of Codes of Conduct and basic ethical orientation for project staff, contractors, and laborers

For further information on the scope of the services, you can access the ToR under the above mentioned assignment title and reference number on the website: www.mopw.gov.af

3. The Ministry of Public Works now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
4. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - i. The consultant shall demonstrate having sound financial situation and capacity by submitting financial audit report with annual turnover of at least US\$ 150,000.00(One Hundred and Fifty Thousand United States Dollar) for any of the last 3 years (2017, 2018 & 2019);
 - ii. The consultant should have significant experience in similar assignments in terms of nature, size and complexity of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment projects – the consultant shall provide proven experiences of having executed at least one contract of similar nature and complexity, with the value of minimum US\$ 60,000.00(Sixty Thousand United States Dollar)
 - iii. Proven experience in the region;
- iv. Eligibility requirements in compliance with paragraphs 3.21 and 11.1, 11.2 & 11.3 of The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers.
5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 & 3.16 of the World Bank’s procurement regulations for IPF November 2020 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. Bank policy requires that consultants provide professional, objective and impartial advice and at all times hold the client’s interest paramount, without any consideration for future work, and that in providing advice they avoid conflicts with other assignments and their own corporate interests. Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in a position of being unable to carry out the assignment in the best interest of the Borrower. The Guidelines are available at www.worldbank.org/ .
6. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a **joint venture** or a **sub-consultancy** to enhance their qualifications. **If consultants intend to associate with other firms, they are advised to clearly identify the lead partner and state the composition and nature of the association (JV/sub-consultant) in their EOI.** In case the EOI is submitted in form of JV, each partner in the association shall meet the minimum requirements defined above, under the short listing criteria. However, the short listing criteria will not be applied and considered for sub-consultants.
7. A consultant firm will be selected through **Consultant Qualification Selection (CQS)** in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Procurement regulation dated November 2020 . Particular importance will be given to the qualification of the consultants and their ability to operate in Afghanistan.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 09:00 to 16:00 hours. Electronic queries will be entertained.

8. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **March 3, 2021 14:00 Hrs (Kabul Local Time)** duly quoting the case’s reference number i.e. AF-MOPW-194851-CS-CQS

Attention: Hekmatullah Habbibi
Executive Director

Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project (THRCP)
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