



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان

د اقتصاد وزارت

Deputy Ministry of Policy and Technical Affairs
Eshteghal Zaiee- Karmondena project (EZ-Kar)



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

Country: Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Project: Eshteghal Zaiee – Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar)
Project ID: P166127
Grant No: IDA Grant D416-AF and ARTF Grant TF-A9092-AF
Reference No. AF-EZ-KAR MOEC-PIU-95982-CS-INDV
Contract Duration: (12 Months, with possibility of extension, ideally from November 2019 to December 2020)
Duty Station: Kabul, Afghanistan
Date of Issuance: October 07, 2019
Date of Closing: October 21, 2019
Assignment Title: International Economic Technical Expert

I. Introduction to the EZ-Kar:

The Eshteghal Zaiee- Karmondena Project (“EZ-Kar”), with the name literally meaning job creation or finding employment in Dari and Pashtu respectively, is a whole-of-Government umbrella program supporting the short-term humanitarian needs to longer term economic and sustainable development of cities affected by the recent displacement (both IDPs and refugee returnees) crises. The US\$ 200 million Project, formally signed between the World Bank and the Government in February 2019, has a duration of five years from 2019 to 2023. The project’s development objective is to strengthen the enabling environment for economic opportunities in cities where there is a high influx of displaced people. The Project targets Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and whole populations in the 13 provincial capital cities in Afghanistan with the highest numbers of recent returnees/ IDPs. The cities include: Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat, Puli Khumri, Maimana, Ferozkoh, Khost, Asadabad, Kunduz, Mehtarlam, Taloqan and Parun.

The project has **five components** as outlined below:

- a) Component 1: Regional and national integration of displaced persons: implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in close association with the Ministry of Refugees and Returnees (MoRR), primarily facilitating the voluntary return of Afghan refugees in Pakistan through issuance of travel documents/ passports and awareness raising. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in MoFA will be the primary IA for this Component. Budget US\$ 4.5 million
- b) Component 2: Short term employment opportunities, reforms, market enabling infrastructure and municipal level regulatory reforms: implemented by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG). This allows for maintenance and construction cash grants (MCCG) for paid labor to support poor households in an estimated over 1,160 communities; gozar and business gozar grants allowing for market-enabling infrastructure subprojects in 12 cities, and regulatory reforms at municipal level in select municipalities especially related to construction permits. The PIU for the urban Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP) is being expanded to then serve as a joint PIU for the urban CCAP and the EZ-Kar Component 2. Budget \$ 120.5 million.
- c) Component 3: City investment priority projects: implemented by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) allowing for larger scale infrastructure and city development subprojects in the cities of Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad and Khost Matun. The PIU for the Cities' Investment Project (CIP) will serve as the joint PIU for both CIP and the EZ-Kar Component 3. Budget \$ 25 million.
- d) Component 4: Market enabling infrastructure and regulatory reforms: implemented by the Kabul Municipality (KM), for Kabul city. The PIU for the ongoing Kabul Municipality Development Project (KMDP) is being expanded to then serve as a joint PIU for the KMDP and the EZ-Kar Component 4. Budget \$ 40 million.
- e) Component 5: Project coordination, red carpet and national level regulatory reform: implemented by the Ministry of Economy (MoEc). A stand-alone PIU has been set up for this Component and will serve as the lead IA for EZ-Kar. Budget \$ 10 million.

II. Introduction to the Component Five: Red Carpet and Coordination

The Component Five is implemented by the Ministry of Economy (MoEc) through a designated PIU. The EZ-Kar PIU for this Component will also serve as the lead implementing agency for the whole project. This Component will include the following core functions:

1. National-level regulatory reforms related to Government-to-Business (G2B) services
2. Specific national-level construction permits regulatory reforms
3. Feasibility study for establishing and running business service centers (BSCs) in select coverage cities as one-stop-shops for G2B services
4. Chairing the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Technical Committee (PTC)
5. Organizing and coordinating the functions of the Donor- Government Coordination Platform (D-GCP) for the Project
6. Managing the Project-level joint Management Information System (MIS)
7. Compiling data, analysis and reporting on the overall project to donor and government stakeholders, including the legal covenants of the quarterly Interim Unaudited Financial Reports (IUFs) and quarterly Implementation Progress Reports.
8. Reviewing and approving project concept notes from IDLG and Kabul Municipality for EZ-Kar grant funded subprojects, in line with the simplified Public Investment Management (PIM) framework.
9. Verification of action plan implementation for the construction permit regulatory reforms agreed to for the four municipalities (i.e. 3 by IDLG and 1 by KM) in order to release the third and final tranche (of 50%) of funds for Components 3 and 4.

10. Coordinating the communication strategy and its implementation (including products such as the logo, website, social media pages, print/audi/visual products etc) for the Project
11. Coordinating cross cutting areas such as gender, environmental and social safeguards, grievance handling, access to information requests etc across the project
12. Overall coordination and liaison with donors, especially the World Bank Task Team for the Project.

III. Project Objectives

The assignment's objective is to support the implementing entities of the EZ-Kar in maintaining satisfactory financial management arrangements in full compliance with the financial management manual, government regulation, the World Bank fiduciary guidelines and relevant best practices.

IV. Roles & Responsibilities Required of the Consultant

1. **General:** The Consultant is expected to work closely with the EZ-Kar Component 5 PIU management team to provide technical assistance to all economic strategies/policies/project planning, designs and/or implementation with the EZ-Kar project PIU and also support MoEC in enhancing the achievement of direct and higher objectives of the project by providing inputs to support synergies, linkages and assessments between EZ-Kar (especially Component 5) and other economic initiatives of the ministry.
2. **Specifically,** the Consultant will be required to ensure the following:
 - Review the government-to-business (G2B) services related regulatory frameworks embedded within the MOEC's mandate. Advise and guide the Ez-Kar Component 5 PIU's program team in the regulatory reforms for these, especially on its economic impacts. This may also involve close consultations with a variety of actors outside the MOEC also responsible or impacted upon by the proposed regulatory reforms.
 - Provide contribution to COM-5 PIU to assess and review the status/reports of regional and national integration of displaced people (Component-1), provide consultation towards achieving the project mandate as stated in component 1.
 - Support the Public Investment Management (PIM) Specialists in the review of the project concept notes (PCNs) for EZ-Kar financed subprojects at business gozar level (Component 2), city investment projects in 4 provincial centers (Component 3) and priority projects in Kabul city (Component 4), especially with regard to potential (and later actual) economic impacts of these projects.
 - Conduct review of the outcomes and impacts of the EZ-Kar project in general, specifically with regard to national economic indicators, and assist in providing policy recommendations to further strengthen outcomes for the targeted beneficiaries comprising of internally displaced people (IDPs.) Conduct provincial and field trips with the COM-5 PIU management whenever deemed necessary.
 - Contribute to conceptual research to help measure and quantify the factors that generate economic growth, create job opportunities and boost mitigating approach to IDPs and refugees.
 - Assess the current status of national economic indicators, foresee the economic impacts of the Ez-Kar project, and provide policy recommendations for economic growth and development for the targeted provinces.

- Provide support in preparing concept notes/ proposals for possible restructuring and/or additional financing for the EZ-Kar's current phase, and for possible future phases, including but not limited to expansion in coverage.
 - Support component-5 PIU and MOEC in the procurement of relevant consultancies, by providing technical inputs for preparing detailed ToRs, evaluating and scoring technical proposals, and preparing Technical Evaluation Reports (TERs).
 - Contribute to the conceptual research framework for all program related aspects of the EZ-Kar project. Support the Component 5 PIU review reports from the ARTF third party monitors, external evaluations and/or studies related to regulatory reforms, business service centers feasibility, EZ-Kar outcomes and impacts. Support the PIU in providing feedback for such consultancies and controlling the quality of work outputs against agreed ToRs.
 - Review program manuals, policies, ToRs, papers and other documents related to economic development, and provide briefs on the same to the PIU management team on creating synergies and linkages between the various development projects and EZ-Kar.
 - Assist component-5 PIU in proper implementation of studies to generate baseline, midterm, and post completion phases of impact evaluation of the project, measuring theory of change, result framework indicators, and project development objective (PDO.)
 - Work with the PIU managers compiling and analyzing data across all Ez-Kar components on how each respond to the Ez-Kar's Project Development Objective (PDO,) agreed actions documented in the aid memoire for every component of the project, and the project legal covenants and stipulations as agree.
 - Provide write-ups for quarterly and annual reports of the project and contribute towards arrangement and preparation for the project implementation support missions (ISMs.)
 - Assess the current frameworks and platforms including but not limited to Donor-Government Coordination Platform (DGCP,) provide necessary consultation, and amend the documents as needed considering the project lifecycle.
 - Conduct any other task as may be assigned by the PIU management/executive and deputy minister for technical affairs.
- V. **Work Station:** Primarily within the EZ-Kar Component 5 PIU HQ offices within the MoEc compound in Kabul. Some limited (10% of work time) travel to the EZ-Kar coverage cities.
- VI. **Reporting to:** Executive Director (as Client Coordinator), EZ-Kar Component 5 PIU for all contractual issues. Minister of MoEc and Deputy Minister for MoEc Technical Affairs for particular ministry-wide activities.
- VII. **Benefits allowed under this contract during the contract period:** Will be elaborated during contract negotiations. Briefly these include:
1. Negotiated monthly consultancy fee (taxable),
 2. Accommodation costs (for accommodation at fixed ceiling payable as reimbursable for every night spent within Afghanistan),
 3. Local mobile phone allowance (fixed rate on monthly basis),
 4. Pick up and drop off from residence to office and for work related travel within city,
 5. Afghan visa and work permit,
 6. Office space including furniture/ IT and office equipment, and security related advisories,
 7. 5.5 work days per week with 1.5 days weekend holiday
 8. 2 days of annual leave per month of work completed (on accrual basis).

VIII. **Eshteghal Zaiee and Karmondena Project (Ez-Kar), MoEc**, now invites eligible Individual Consultant to indicate their interest in providing the aforesaid services through submitting a Curriculum Vitae. Interested Individual Consultant should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the services.

IX. **Key Qualification Requirements**

Academic: A doctoral degree in Economics is preferred. At a minimum, a Master's Degree in Economics is required. Exceptionally master's degrees in other disciplines (such as MBA, MPA, or private sector development) may be considered provided the applicant can show additional studies or most relevant work experience related to economic development.

Work Experience: A minimum of 10 years of work experience post completion of the master's degree is required. A minimum of 1 year of work (of the 10) working at senior Government/ donor levels; advisory capacity at ministerial level will be preferred. A minimum of 5 years of the 10 must have been directly related to work in mid to senior management levels in economic development related projects/ agencies/ ministries.

Other Requirements:

- Excellent communication skills and ability to work with a wide variety of stakeholders
 - Excellent analytical and reporting skills
 - Familiarity with public administration in general
 - Willingness and ability to travel within Afghanistan
 - Working fluency in Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel and Power point
- **Eligibility requirements** in compliance with the **Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – July 2016 revised November 2017 and August 2018** the consultants should also provide a copy of the Educational Document and Work Experiences.
- A consultant will be selected through **Selection of Individual Consultants** following open international market approach method as defined in **Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – July 2016 revised November 2017 and August 2018**.
- **Further information** can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 08:00 to 16:00 hours Kabul standard time. Electronic queries will be entertained.
- **Expressions of interest** must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **October 21, 2019 15:00 Hrs (Kabul Local Time)** duly quoting the case's reference number i.e. **AF-EZ-KAR MOEC-PIU-95982-CS-INDV**

For EOI submission and Clarification purpose only:

**Attention: Procurement Management Unit Specialist, Hamed Hameedi
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