

Back Page

March 26, 2015

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 31°C 17°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 18°C 5°C	Kandahar Clear 30°C 13°C	Mazar Clear 13°C 6°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 24°C 11°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 9°C 2°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 21°C 9°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

President Pledges Peace, Strong Institutions

WASHINGTON - Referring to a popular Afghan saying that a gift must be reciprocated, President, Ashraf Ghani, on Tuesday to answer America's goodwill gesture with strengthening state institutions. "You have given us generously. It is time that we reciprocated the gift," Ghani said in his remarks at a dinner hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry at the State Department. The way reciprocate that gift was returned by building institutions that would be a legacy of the Afghan-US partnership, he remarked, hailing, ...*(More on P4)...*(9)



Fulbright Scholarships for Afghans Increased by 50pc

WASHINGTON - The United States on Tuesday announced increasing Fulbright scholarships for Afghanistan by 50 percent over the next five years. The announcement in this regard was

made by President Barack Obama during a meeting with his visiting Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani. In a joint statement, Obama noted the significant impact that educational and cultural

exchanges have had on Afghan and American society and reiterated US commitment to promoting such programmes. "Obama announced the US intention to increase the ...*(More on P4)...*(10)

Protestors Call for Swift Trial of Farkhanda's Killers

PUL-I-KHUMRI/FIROZ-KOH - Angry protestors in northern Baghlan province on Wednesday asked the government to observe Farkhanda's death anniversary regularly, while a woman in western Ghor province named ...*(More on P4)...*(11)

US, Taliban Condemn Farkhanda's Lynching

KAUBL - The US Embassy in Kabul and Taliban on Wednesday condemned the killing of Farkhanda by an angry mob in the heart of Kabul. Farkhanda, 27, was murdered by on Thursday after she criticised a cleric at a Do Shamsheera Mosque for selling amulets. Ministries of Interior and Hajj ...*(More on P4)...*(12)

Kandahar Urges WHO to Expand Health Services



KANDAHAR CITY - Public health officials on Wednesday urged the World Health Organisation (WHO) to provide medical services in remote districts of southern Kandahar province.

The call came during a meeting of local officials with Dr. Richard Peepers, WHO representative for ...*(More on P4)...*(13)

15 Major Projects worth \$100m to be Launched

KABUL - Fifteen development projects worth \$100 million would be launched in northern Kunduz province, officials said on Wednesday.

Governor Mohammad Omar Safi told journalists the projects were aimed to promote education, agriculture, ...*(More on P4)...*(14)

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD)
National Solidarity Program (NSP)
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REoI)
For
National Individual Consultant: Head of MIS/M&E Department, NSP, MRRD
(Reference # MRRD/NSP III/CN/266)

Country: Afghanistan
Ministry: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD)
Type: Individual (National) Consultant
Project: National Solidarity Programme Phase Three (NSP III)
Project ID: P117103
Grant #: ARTF (and/or other grants as may be available)
Issue Date: 26th, March 2015
Closing Date: 4th, April 2015

I. General Introduction:

The National Solidarity Program is the largest of the Afghanistan Government's national priority programmes and is the second largest development programme in the world. The Program is implemented by the Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and currently into its 9th year and 3rd phase. NSP consists of four core elements:

- Facilitation at the community level to assist communities establish inclusive community institutions known as Community Development Councils (CDCs);
- Building the capacities of CDC and community members;
- Providing direct block grant transfers to fund approved subprojects; and
- Linking CDCs to government agencies, NGOs, and donors to improve access to services and resources.

NSP proposes to cover an estimated 39,200 rural communities to achieve full national coverage. In addition to its core structure comprising over 800 national employees, the NSP contracts an international firm to serve as its Financial Management Agent (FMA) and other individual international and national consultants to provide technical assistance to its various departments. The NSP also contracts around 30 firms (including UN agencies and NGOs) to serve as Facilitating Partners (FPs).

2. Overall/ General Responsibilities of the M&E and MIS Department

a. General

The Head of Department will be responsible for the management and smooth operations of the M&E and MIS Section. S/he will ensure that the Department supports the overall objective of the NSP, supervise the unit heads in each section and ensures preparation and implementation of departmental work plan.

In terms of M&E, the Head of the M&E and MIS Department shall ensure the NSP impact indicators, results framework and operational indicators – as well as other key reference frameworks such as the ANDS – are known, understood, and used within NSP as a reference for all relevant key decisions within NSP. The Head of Department will also design the M&E framework for ongoing and planned future discrete projects and future phases of NSP.

In terms of the MIS Section, the Department Head is responsible for the development and management of the physical workflow from subproject proposal receipt by the PMU to the disbursement of the block grants including the communication with involved parties, including archiving of all proposals. Further, s/he will ensure sound design, development, reporting and training regarding all NSP databases (both internal and external) and smooth operations of the NSP databases, provision of timely information and reports regarding program outputs, community profile and other

management related reports and information. The Head of Department will also be responsible for the development and maintenance of NSP's website and the production of GIS Maps.

II. Time Schedule

The assignment is expected to start by October 2014 and is for a period of (12) months, with an additional possible extension on a yearly basis, till 30th February 2016 or any later-agreed closure date for NSP Phase Three (NSP III).

b. Specific Tasks

i. Monitoring

Monitoring: Monitors at the provincial level are part of the NSP provincial team and report to the provincial manager. The Head of Department will help to enhance the decentralized monitoring system, and ensure that the relevant unit within the Department train the monitors, process their community visits reports entered through an on-line database, and issue monthly and quarterly analytical reports.

Community Participatory Monitoring: Roll out, maintain, scale up and develop this new pillar of NSP monitoring where community members themselves are equipped to monitor the subprojects being implemented in their own community.

ii. Evaluation

Develop and maintain evaluation and research strategies for NSP; Oversee various ongoing and planned studies that are mostly contracted out. For example, ongoing and planned studies including an impact evaluation, a gender study etc. Ensure that findings of evaluations are documented, disseminated, and used within NSP for future program design and for immediate program adaptation; Assist the HRD Department in undertaking regular impact assessments of the NSP cascade training system.

iii. Management

Lead the M&E team at HQ, and provide support to regional and provincial managers in their line management of decentralized monitoring officers; support mid-level management within the department in doing the same;

Develop and oversee training and capacity building programs for departmental staff and decentralized monitoring staff, as well as other stakeholders involved in M&E;

Lead on the identification and enforcement of required budgets, work plans action plans, etc.;

Report on the achievements of the department and liaise with all relevant stakeholders in close collaboration with NSP senior management;

Oversee the management and improvement of the departmental online database;

Ensure the smooth administrative running of the department in compliance with all NSP rules and regulations;

Perform other tasks relevant to the post as required.

iv. MIS

Carry out needs assessment and analysis of NSP MIS system;

Supervise and assist in the development of new software / databases if required and restructure the existing databases based on requirements (web based and desktop);

Assist in analyses of the proposal workflow restructuring;

Ensure that technical support to all relevant departments regarding the NSP databases is provided

Supervise and assist in design and development of the web related data exchange routines (Views and Data Provider);

Lead the process and assist in database design and development for some NSP database

Liaise with NSP department on their software and data requirements and ensure the necessary software is provided.

Assist other departments in promoting their manual system to computerized and improving their business process including information flow, data collection formats and report formats.

Ensure that daily MIS tasks are rendered professionally with minimal delay;

Assess the training needs of various MIS units and other departments and prepare training curriculum and material accordingly

Prepare user and technical documentation and make sure in-code technical document is implemented;

Ensure that standard data verification procedures are in place and followed by data verification teams

Meet the essential MIS staff on regular basis to ensure the smooth progress of MIS activities

Ensure that periodic and ad-hoc reports are regular and timely;

3.0 Qualifications Required:

KNOWLEDGE:

- Language Skills: Fluency in English including technical reporting language is mandatory. Working knowledge of Dari/Pashtu is a distinct advantage.

- Computer Skills: Extensive experience in the design, development and implementation of complex database systems (SQL server and MS Access), Strong knowledge of web programming languages (ASP, PHP, Java) and web development, Knowledge of IIS and other web servers and Auto Cad required.

COMPETENCIES

- Strong leadership and staff management skills in multidisciplinary setting;
- Excellent interpersonal communications and mentoring skills
- High degree of demonstrable flexibility in a complex and deadline-driven professional environment;
- Ability to maintain overall positive outlook with focus on overall program aims; demonstrated ability to work under pressure and in challenging operational environment;
- Ability and willingness to travel through-out the country including trips requiring overnight stays;
- Ability to both lead and work under other leadership; and considerable analytical and problem-solving skills.

EDUCATION

- At a minimum, a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Statistics, IT and/or related fields is required. Bachelor's degrees in other fields may also be considered if the work experience requirements are fully met. A Master's degree would be preferable.

EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of 4 years of work experience at mid or senior levels in large development programmes is required. A minimum of 3 years of direct work experience in M&E is required. Other Requirements: Good working knowledge of databases, database development and the use of MIS/ICT for M&E and programme management is required.

(a) Submission of Expression of Interest:

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant (IC) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 07:30-16:30hrs Saturday to Wednesday. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by fax, or by e-mail) by **4th, April 2015**.

Address of Focal Person for Enquires and Submission of EoIs:

Attn: M. Saleem, Senior Procurement Officer
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