



## **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (Short-term Consultancy Opportunity for Individual Consultant)**

Country: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Project: Access to Finance  
Project ID: P128048  
Grant No: IDA H 894  
Assignment Title: Review of Progress of the Microfinance Program in Afghanistan and Strategic Outlook for Future

Method of Procurement: Individual Consultant

Reference No: IC-10  
Issue Date: August 10, 2017  
Closing Date: August 27, 2017

The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) has received financing from the World Bank to support the implementation of the Access to Finance project. MISFA intends to apply part of the project's proceeds for consulting services.

### **Background of the microfinance program in Afghanistan and MISFA**

MISFA was established in 2003 as a vehicle through which the Afghan Government and international donors could channel technical assistance and funding to build Afghanistan's microfinance sector. This mandate was further expanded to include the lower ranges of small and medium enterprise lending, another underserved market.

### **About the Consultancy**

In 2008, the World Bank, through the Ministry of Finance (MoF), provided funds to MISFA to support the operational sustainability of microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Afghanistan, and help them scale-up outreach of financial services to meet the needs of low income Afghans. MISFA has been utilizing the aforementioned financial resources as a revolving loan fund for on-lending to the MFIs, which in turn provide loans to the microfinance borrowers, thereby serving the financial needs of the underserved people.

The main objective of the consultancy would be to (i) review progress of the microfinance program in Afghanistan, and (ii) assess, analyze and report, whether the microfinance sector has potential for further growth, and whether the aforementioned World Bank funding can be re-invested in the microfinance sector to bring about more benefits to the MFIs and to promote the overall sector.

The Microfinance Investment Support Agency for Afghanistan now invites eligible 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. The consultant will be selected based on his/her qualification and responsiveness to the selection criteria.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the consultant will be as follows:

- a) Develop a work-plan to undertake a quick review of the opportunities and scope for expansion of the microfinance program in Afghanistan.
- b) Desk review of the relevant agreements between MISFA, MoF, and IDA/World Bank.
- c) Desk review of documents and reports relating to the microfinance program.
- d) Desk review of past programs and activities financed through the funds above.
- e) Meet MISFA staff and the stakeholders, mainly the partner MFIs to understand their long term strategies and growth potential.
- f) Prepare final review report to include findings, analysis and recommendations.

### **Period of Performance**

This is a short term assignment expected to take about one month.

### **Place of Performance**

This consultancy assignment will primarily be performed in Kabul, Afghanistan.

### **Qualifications and Competencies**

The Consultant to undertake this assignment must fulfill the following requirements:

- Minimum of five years professional experience in the field of microfinance, preferably working in a senior position in any reputed microfinance institution.
- At least five years proven research and analytical skills on microfinance.

- Knowledge of the Afghanistan financial services sector would be an advantage.
- Experience in conducting similar assignments in other developing countries would be an added advantage.

**Application Submission Guidelines**

The application should include a CV and a cover letter stating your interest and suitability for the consultancy.

Interested candidates should submit their application/cover letter and CV at [jobs@misfa.org.af](mailto:jobs@misfa.org.af) by COB August 27, 2017; with the subject-line “Review of Progress of the Microfinance program in Afghanistan and Strategic Outlook for future” in their email.