

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

COUNTRY:	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
Project:	Access to Finance Project
Assignment Title:	Targeting the Ultra Poor Program End-line Assessment in Balkh Province
Method of Procurement:	Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications (CQS)
Project ID:	P128048
Grant No:	IDA H894
Reference No:	CS-13
Issue Date:	September 11, 2017
Closing Date:	September 27, 2017

The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Access to Finance Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include development and implementation of two-phase activity for the Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) Impact Evaluation in Afghanistan. The first phase corresponds to the first round of follow-up data collection for the TUP Impact Evaluation in Afghanistan, planned to begin in November/December 2017 in the districts of Dawlatabad, Dehdadi, Nahr-e-Shahi, and Khulm of Balkh Province, and last for approximately three months. The second phase corresponds to a periodical collection of household consumption data over the course of 12 months, starting immediately after the end of the follow up survey in phase 1, and is conditional on compliance of quality standards on the first phase of work.

TUP program has been designed with the objective of lifting households out of extreme poverty by targeting the ultra-poor, usually female-headed households, who are able to manage an enterprise but have no productive assets in the household or access to credit. The program provides a comprehensive package to extreme poor households, including productive assets, training, and consumption transfers under the premise that the extreme poor can be trapped in persistent poverty when they face multiple constraints such as limited skills, social and economic discrimination, malnutrition and excessive exposure to shocks that hinder their ability to improve their livelihood and standard of living.

MISFA 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.

The short listing criteria are:

The survey firm must possess the following qualifications:

- Legal status recognized by the Government of Afghanistan enabling the firm to undertake a survey in the country.
- Demonstrated prior experience in large household surveys in Afghanistan. The survey firm must have knowledge of local formalities and customs in the implementation of firm

- surveys. Experience to be demonstrated through examples of recently completed surveys in Afghanistan.
- Demonstrated capacity and experience in planning and organizing large-scale survey logistics.
  - The survey firm must have access to a good network of experienced enumerators, supervisors and data managers.
  - Demonstrated capacity for implementing electronic data collection using a SurveyCTO or Open Data Kit (ODK) programming template. This includes capacity to adapt an already developed template from English to Dari and Pashto, capacity to troubleshoot problems as necessary, and capacity to manage data collected from the field using a server subscribed from SurveyCTO / ODK.
  - Strong system for data quality control checks that can be accessible by the Evaluation Team without restriction.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011, revised July 2014* ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the CQS (Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00AM to 5:00PM from Sunday to Thursday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by September 27, 2017.

Address:

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