

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Opening Date: February 28th, 2024

Closing Date: March 23rd, 2024

Subject: Service Consultancy – Conducting Impact Study of CBED Project

The Organization:

Afghanaid is a British humanitarian and development organization operating in Afghanistan. For close to forty years, we have worked with millions of deprived, excluded, and vulnerable families in some of the poorest and most remote communities in Afghanistan. We build basic services, improve livelihoods, and strengthen the rights of women and children, help communities protect against natural disasters, adapt to climate change, and respond to humanitarian emergencies.

Our community-led approach gives ordinary Afghans a voice in their own development, making them active participants in shaping the future of their country. With our years of experience, the majority of the Afghan team, and our deep understanding of local, cultural, and ethnic issues, we have earned great trust and respect among the communities we work alongside. This has allowed us access to some of the most underserved areas of the country.

Project Background:

Afghanistan is located in the Himalayan Hindukush Mountain range, and its ecosystem is classified as Mountain Ecosystem. Ecosystem plays a critical role in the lives of people whose livelihoods depend on their ecosystem. However, most parts of Afghanistan's mountain ecosystem are highly degraded and unable to provide the best ecosystem services to the people and communities dependent on them.

Afghanistan Resilience Consortium (ARC) launched the Community Based Eco-DRR (CBED) project in 2018 with support from SIDA. The project aimed to reduce flood risk in the target communities using the principle of nature-based solutions. The main interventions used in the field were Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) and cleaning of Flood Canals. These interventions yielded very good results in reducing flood risk in the target provinces and communities. IWM has been widely used for a long time in many countries around the world. However, what was unique about the CBED project is that ARC used IWM and canal cleaning for flood risk reduction, while in other places, they are mainly used for soil and water conservation. In addition, in some places, ARC also improved the canal irrigation infrastructure that existed in the community.

While the project focused on its primary objective of reducing flood risk, ARC is keen to find out if these interventions also improved water resources, as Afghanistan's communities are facing water shortages for irrigation and drinking due to climate change.

The Consultancy Assignment:

This consultancy assignment is open to competent individual consultants, groups of consultants or consultancy firms aimed at undertaking a detailed technical study of water resources in CBED project areas in 6 provinces: Takhar (Chahab), Badakhshan (Argo and Kishem), Samangan (Aybak and Hazrat-e-Sultan), Jawzjan (Shebergan), Sar-e-pul (Sar-e-pul center) and Bamyan (Bamyan center and Yakawlang). The assignment will study the

following types of community-level infrastructures implemented by the project that may have effects on the situation of water:

- Integrated watershed development (Trenches, Terraces, Gully plugs, and Check dams)
- Flood canal cleaning and widening
- Canal improvement, including canal lining, water intake, super passage, and aqueduct

A list of the infrastructures and their locations is provided in **Annex-1**.

The overall objective of the consultancy:

To understand the effect of CBED project interventions on the status of water (both ground and surface water) in the project communities. The study will focus on the following:

Specific areas of study focus

1. Assessment of current water availability:
 - Determine the current levels and volume of groundwater in the target locations
 - Study the current availability of surface water in the target locations
 - Map the distribution of water resources, identifying key areas of abundance and scarcity
2. Impact of Project Interventions on Groundwater:
 - Undertake a detailed and scientific study of the impacts of infrastructures constructed or developed for watershed management (Trenches, Terraces, Gully plugs and/or Check-dam) and flood canal cleaning by the CBED project
 - Scientifically calculate/estimate the quantity of rain-water and snow-water being conserved in the ground annually through these constructed community-level infrastructures.
 - Determine the level of groundwater in command areas of developed watersheds and cleaned flood canals and compare them with neighbouring areas.
 - Check the impact of water conservation on springs or stream levels, if any, in the community.
3. Impact of Project Interventions on Surface Water:
 - Identify the different sources of surface water for irrigation in the project locations, such as springs, streams, rivers, reservoirs etc.
 - Study the impacts of interventions (canal lining, water intake, super passage, and aqueduct etc.) that have been undertaken to reap the benefit of available surface water.
4. Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction:
 - Analyse how climate variability and change influence water availability in the target areas.
 - Identify water-related vulnerabilities and risks in the context of natural disasters, especially focusing on flood risks in the target areas.
5. Sustainability of Water Resources for Agriculture:
 - Assess the sustainability of the current water usage patterns for agriculture in the target locations.
 - Assess how much area can be sustainably irrigated and how many households/pumps can be used from the increased groundwater with the conserved rain water.
 - Assess how much area can be irrigated and how many households/pumps can sustainably be used from the surface water.
 - Identify potential areas for improving water use efficiency and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

6. Sustainability of Water Resources for other uses:

- Assess the sustainability of the current water usage patterns for livestock consumption in the target locations.
- Assess the sustainability of the current water usage patterns for human consumption and domestic use in the target locations.

The Overall Responsibilities:

Consultant:

- Organize logistics and conduct the study independently, including flight tickets, hotels, in-country transport, per-diem, etc.
- Coordinate with the field teams.
- Follow partners' policies and security protocols.
- Engage high-quality consultants and surveyors
- Manage time and complete the study on time

Afghanaid:

- Establish contact with the field teams
- Introduce the communities to the consultant teams

Payment:

- 40% on signing of contract
- 40% on submission of the draft report
- 20% on submission of the final report

Working days and Hours/study timeframe:

The study will take three (3) months and is expected to start as soon as possible

Deliverables:

1. Inception Report
2. Draft Water Study report
3. Final Water Study Report
4. Summary report
5. Powerpoint presentation
6. Pictures (original format) taken during the study

Methodology:

It is a Technical study. The consultant will develop a comprehensive study methodology, including the technical instruments they will use, which will be reviewed by the Afghanaid Evaluation Review Team (ERT) during the inception phase. A mixed study design is preferred for this study, with clear methods, techniques, data collection processes, analysis, and reporting.

The consultant should develop a methodology considering the information outlined in the ToR and the annexes to ensure accuracy and rigor. The choice of methods and techniques must adhere to the measurement of variables under the study scope and should answer all the study questions.

Reporting Line:

The consultant will work closely with the ARC Deputy Director, the MEAL Specialist, and the ARC Secretariat team.

EXPERTISE REQUIRED

The firm or consulting team engaged in the Groundwater study must provide evidence of the following qualifications and competencies:

- Past projects or studies conducted in groundwater assessment produce very high-quality reports (share two recent consultancy reports).
- Credentials and certificates of team members/lead consultant in hydrology or water resources engineering, water resources development
- Details of the equipment and software going to be used in the study
- Availability of scientific instruments required for groundwater measurement.
- Evidence of team members' proficiency in relevant local languages and understanding of cultural dynamics in the regions where they have previously worked, particularly in Afghanistan.
- Excellent writing skills (English)
- Full-time commitment of the lead consultant
- Should have qualified technical specialists and are available in Afghanistan.
- Produce high-quality reports with excellent analysis.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSAL:

1) Contact Information

Provide a Primary Contact Person, Company Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail Address.

2) Background and Experience

- Describe your organization's expertise and experience related to assignments with other NGOs by providing your clients' names, project details, location, total contract value, and other relevant information.
- Detailed background and qualifications of your team experts who will execute the assignment.
- Attach recent related work samples from at least two recent organizations where the services of the consultant/ team or firm have been utilized.

Ability to travel (to Afghanistan and/or working area of Afghanaid)

- Provide COVID-19 vaccination certificate and observe COVID-19 SOPs whenever required during the assignment in Afghanistan
- Aware of the security situation in Afghanistan and acquiring necessary permission from the De-facto Authority (DFA)
- Organize your own travel logistics, including travel, transport, hotel, etc.
- Undertake the assignment simultaneously in multiple locations
- Follow the security protocols of Afghanaid
- Abide by the policies and procedures of Afghanaid
- Cooperate and behave cordially with field colleagues

3) Key Staff/Lead Consultant

- Identify key staff that will be dedicated to providing this consultancy.
- Describe the education and experience of key staff relevant to the requested services.
- Team composition and time allocation

4) Consultancy Cost

- Provide a detailed budget for the consultancy services and a breakdown of consultancy costs for the overall assignment in USD.

CONTACT DETAILS & SUBMISSIONS

National/International firms/individuals that meet the above requirements should submit their application to jobs@afghanaid.org.uk by **4:30 pm (Kabul time) on 23rd March 2024**, including the following as the subject line: **“RFP No. AAD-03-2024 Proposal for Consultancy Services for Conducting CBED Project Groundwater Study”**. Applications without the proper subject line or submitted after the deadline will not be considered

The application should include the following:

- A letter of interest including complete contact details, previous relevant experience, and references
- CV or company profile
- A detailed Technical proposal, including methodology and instruments to be used for the study
- An outline of the report, including table of contents, tables, and maps
- An all-inclusive Financial proposal including fees, airfare, in-country transport, hotel and per diem

If you have any questions regarding this request for proposal, please email jobs@afghanaid.org.uk no later than **4:30 pm (Kabul Time) on 9th March 2024** so that we have time to respond to your request before the deadline for applications.

Electronic copies of the Proposals/Quotations in response to this request are to be submitted by **4:30 pm (Kabul Time) on 23rd March 2024**.

Only qualified applications meeting the above criteria will be shortlisted. Due to the high volume of applications we receive, we are unable to respond to every application. If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks of the deadline, then you have not been successful for shortlisting.

Ground and Surface water Study for CBED Project

Annex-1: CBED Communities

S.N.	Province	District	S.N.	Communities	Locations				
					Integrated Watershed Development (Trenches/ Terraces/ Gully plugs/ Checkdam/ Reservoir)	Flood Canal Cleaning and widening	Irrigation canal/ Aqueduct/ Water intake/ Super passage/ Canal protection wall		
1	Samangan	Hazrat-e-Sultan	1	Hazrat-e-Sultan	Y				
			2	Solokot	Y				
		Aybak	3	Dalkhaki	Y				
			4	Chaghat	Y				
			5	Hazrat-e-Khalid	Y				
			6	Wahdat	Y				
2	Takhar	Chahab	7	Nawabad Khalian	Y				
			8	Khairabad	Y	Y	Y		
			9	Colan	Y		Y		
			10	Safakan Bala & Payen	Y		Y		
			11	Kharsangan	Y				
3	Badakshan	Kesham	12	Kiznakan	Y		Y		
			13	Wakshi Bala	Y				
			14	Nayaba-e-gharbi			Y		
		Argo	15	Samadi	Y				
			16	Petwan	Y				
			17	Ganda Chasma Bala	Y				
			18	Boinaqara			Y		
		Bamyan Center	19	Deh Norak	Y				
			20	Deh Hazara	Y		Y		
			21	Dasht-e- sayed			Y		
					22	Samadi	Y		
					23	Raqol	Y		
					24	Gawhargin	Y		
					25	Mayandayak	Y		
					26	Chel Gawe			Y
					27	feroz Bahar			Y
					28	Gorgak			Y
					29	Hawz Sha			Y
					30	Joy Now			Y
					31	Kata Qala			Y

S.N.	Province	District	S.N.	Communities	Integrated Watershed Development (Trenches/ Terraces/ Gully plugs/ Checkdam/ Reservoir)	Flood Canal Cleaning and widening	Irrigation canal/ Aqueduct/ Water intake/ Super passage/ Canal protection wall
4	Bamyan	Yakawlang	32	Monara			Y
			33	Namadak			Y
			34	Dow borja			Y
			35	Sang Surakh			Y
			36	Seh Pakhsa			Y
			37	Rashakl Petab			Y
			38	Qala Miana			Y
			39	Now Joy			Y
			40	Feroz Bahar Bala			Y
			41	Boghundak Choshma			Y
			42	Nashir			Y
			43	Qala shnahang			Y
			44	Safed rah			Y
			45	Char dewari			Y
			46	Kapkan			Y
			47	Zurab			Y
5	Jawzjan	Shebergan	48	Khatoon Qala	Y	Y	
			49	Eraghli	Y		
			50	Mongotia Arabia	Y		
			51	Nawabad Arabia	Y		Y
			52	Yangi Arigh Payen		Y	
			53	Hassan Abad		Y	Y
			54	Jalalabad Bala		Y	
			55	Sofi Qala		Y	
			56	Islam Joy		Y	
			57	Noker Abad		Y	
			58	Oramast		Y	
			59	Qomsoy		Y	
			60	Yangi Arigh Bala		Y	
			61	Yangi Arigh Wasat		Y	
			62	Qanjogha Payeen		Y	Y
			63	Jalalabad Payeen		Y	

S.N.	Province	District	S.N.	Communities	Integrated Watershed Development (Trenches/ Terraces/ Gully plugs/ Checkdam/ Reservoir)	Flood Canal Cleaning and widening	Irrigation canal/ Aqueduct/ Water intake/ Super passage/ Canal protection wall
			64	Yateemak Qala		Y	
			65	Shobai Afghania			Y
			66	Qazankol		Y	
			67	Afshar Khana		Y	
			68	Kenara		Y	
			69	Dida Mosh		Y	
			70	Ghajari		Y	
			71	Tonukeay Afghanea	Y		
			72	Char Paykal			Y
			73	Mangotai Arabia			Y
			74	Qanjogha Bala		Y	
6	Sar-e-pul	Sar-e-pul center	75	Choqor Gozar Olqani Kalan	Y	Y	
			76	Nawroz Tepas	Y		
			77	Nawabad Toghani	Y		
			78	Toghani Hazara	Y		
			79	Aferdi	Y	Y	
			80	Arab-e-Qadem	Y	Y	
			81	Arab-e Jadid	Y	Y	
			82	Korak Uzbekia	Y	Y	
			83	Imam-e Khord	Y		
			84	Khairabad	Y		
			85	Behsood		Y	
			86	Beshbagh	Y	Y	
			87	Asyabad		Y	
			88	Olqani kalan		Y	
			89	Selbor kocha		Y	
			90	Nawabad Imam kalan	Y	Y	
			91	Kharaba	Y	Y	