

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST [TO BE ISSUED BY UNHCR]

Note: The purpose of the Call for Expression of Interest (CfEol) is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to collaborate with UNHCR to achieve common outcomes.

UNHCR Offices are required to provide context for the partnership and selection criteria. A sample template for a Call for Expression of Interest (CfEol) is below.

Please note that the following template mirrors the structure of the information required on the UNPP for the CfEol. Any supplementary information should be attached as an additional document.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CfEol)

Project Details	
CfEol ID	HCR/AFG/2024/006
Title	Shelter implementation/ NFIs and Enhance Evidence-Based Programming Through Independent Assessments and Evaluations of Shelter Cluster Responses.
Project/Programme Focal Point(s)	Ajay Vikram Singh - Shelter officer Mildred Watchipa - Snr Prog Officer Irene Mutevu- Senior Shelter Cluster Coordinator Officer
Project location	20 PARRs with limited interventions in other areas subject to assessment findings. Focus will be on refugee returnees as main target population. Interventions outside the 20 PARR areas will be very limited as it will depend on the number of refugee returnees to these non-PARR areas. <i>Please refer Annex A2 - 2025-2027 PARRs</i>
Sector(s) and Area(s) of Specialization	
Sector(s)	Shelter/ NFIs Cluster
<u>Area(s) of Specialization</u>	Shelter, construction and reconstruction Housing land and property
Issued by	UNHCR
Processing of personal data ¹ (if required within the partnership)	C2P arrangement
Direct contact with forcibly displaced and stateless persons	YES
Country Context <p>Security Situation: Afghanistan's security landscape remains volatile with ongoing conflict involving various factions, including the Taliban and ISIS. The resurgence of the Taliban in 2021 significantly altered the power dynamics and exacerbated instability in many regions. This ongoing conflict contributes to widespread displacement and impacts the delivery of humanitarian aid.</p>	

¹ Please see below for arrangement definitions for processing of personal data.

Economic and Infrastructure Challenges: Afghanistan faces severe economic difficulties, compounded by high levels of poverty and unemployment. The infrastructure, including housing, healthcare, and education systems, is inadequate and often damaged or destroyed by conflict. This limits the capacity for effective shelter implementation and exacerbates the vulnerabilities of displaced populations.

Climate and Natural Disasters: Afghanistan is prone to natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and droughts. These environmental challenges further strain the already fragile housing situation and exacerbate the need for resilient and sustainable shelter solutions.

Protection and Solutions Situation: Protection Concerns: The protection environment in Afghanistan is challenging. Displaced populations face numerous risks, including violence, exploitation, and limited access to justice and essential services. Women, children, and marginalized groups are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. The lack of legal protection and secure housing contributes to these risks.

Solutions: The UNHCR's solutions framework includes durable solutions such as:

Local Integration: Efforts to integrate displaced populations into host communities, which involves improving living conditions and access to services.

Return and Reintegration: Supporting the safe and dignified return of refugees and IDPs, with assistance for reintegration into their communities of origin.

Resettlement: For those unable to return home or integrate locally, resettlement in third countries may be considered, though this is less common and depends on international support and cooperation.

Priority Problems to Address: Shelter and housing, the primary issue is the lack of adequate and safe shelter for displaced persons. Many live in makeshift or inadequate structures that do not offer protection from the elements or security against violence and as well as there is no dignity and privacy factors in their makeshift shelters and even majority of displaced families live in open areas, and crowded accommodation where is no livelihood opportunities available.

Safety and Security: Addressing the heightened protection risks for vulnerable groups is crucial. This includes ensuring physical safety, combating gender-based violence, and providing legal and psychosocial support.

Infrastructure and Services: Improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water in displaced and host communities is critical. This also involves repairing and constructing infrastructure to support both displaced and host populations.

Sustainable Solutions: Developing and implementing sustainable solutions for shelter that can withstand Afghanistan's environmental and security challenges is vital. This includes using local materials, engaging communities in construction, and ensuring that solutions are adaptable to the evolving context.

Coordination and Access: Enhancing coordination among humanitarian actors and ensuring safe and efficient access to affected areas is necessary to maximize the impact of shelter interventions and address the needs effectively.

Addressing these priority problems requires a multi-faceted approach that incorporates emergency relief, long-term development, and protection strategies. Collaborative efforts with local and international partners are essential to respond effectively to the needs of displaced populations in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is grappling with the enduring effects of decades of conflict, poverty, climate crises, and significant barriers to women's participation in public life. The economic decline following the political transition in August 2021, coupled with the suspension of bilateral development support, has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, severely limiting livelihood opportunities for both urban and rural populations.

Shelter needs in Afghanistan are complex and influenced by ongoing small-scale emergencies within a broader, long-term crisis. The combination of new and residual needs from natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, along with the returns from Pakistan, internally displaced persons (IDPs) at risk of evictions in informal settlements, has intensified the demand for adequate shelter and non-food items. According to the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA)², nearly a third of households across the country live in inadequate shelter.

Severe and unpredictable weather events and natural disasters continue across the country, with severe knock-on effects on infrastructure and homes, heightening the risks of displacement to urban areas. Afghanistan faces concerning climate signals, notably a significant 1.8° Celsius increase in mean annual temperature from 1951 to 2010—double the global average. The increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and droughts destroy homes and displace thousands, creating urgent shelter needs. Similarly, the country's vulnerability to earthquakes, highlighted by recent seismic events, such as those in Herat province in 2023 and in Khost and Paktika in 2022, which caused widespread destruction and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. 8 months after the multiple earthquake events in the Western region, more than 24,000 families remain in makeshift shelters or damaged homes, living in precarious conditions that offer little protection against the elements, lack privacy and dignity. Long-term displacement affects approximately 6.3 million people, who often live in precarious conditions in informal settlements with limited access to basic services. In 2024, 6.6 million people are estimated in need of shelter and non-food items (NFI) support across the country with a plan to reach 1.7 million Afghan people in need, and with a budget requirement of USD 227 million.

Given the growing needs, it is essential to ensure evidence-based coordination of Shelter Cluster responses. The emphasis is on enhancing data management and emergency response capabilities to target vulnerable households and gain a comprehensive understanding of protracted situations more effectively. By focusing on these improvements, the Shelter Cluster aims to strengthen information management and adopt data-driven approaches in shelter programming, thereby guiding the strategic, programmatic, and operational priorities of Shelter Cluster partners in Afghanistan.

The partner is expected to strengthen evidence-based programming within the Shelter Cluster by conducting independent assessments and evaluations of Cluster responses. The objectives include:

1. Facilitating the Implementation of the Rapid Assessment Mechanism.
2. Evaluating the shelter cluster mechanisms for enhancing the nexus with basic needs actors – in line with UNSF-A and ACG frameworks.
3. Conducting a shelter rapid gender analysis.
4. Evaluating Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in shelter programs.

Expected results:

Impact statement:

- By 2027, more forcibly displaced, returnees, stateless people and vulnerable host communities, especially women and girls can increasingly meet their basic needs in safety and dignity.

Outcome statement:

- More IDPs, asylum-seekers and refugees and returnees have access to services that meet their basic needs.

Output statement:

- Refugees' returnees and IDP returnees receive sustainable shelter.
- Shelter cluster delivers strategic and coordinated services to in-need populations, including IDPs.
- Number of returnees who benefitted from climate-resilient enhancement of their shelter.
- IDPs receive sustainable shelter.

Activity 1: Facilitate the Rollout of the Rapid Assessment Mechanism

The Shelter Cluster intends to continue the deployment of the Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM) across priority sites. This mechanism is designed to conduct thorough nationwide assessments of sites prioritized by ES/NFI cluster partners, informed by findings from the WoAA 2024 and HSM. The primary objective is to gather detailed shelter-related information to guide transitional shelter responses and to advocate for direct funding allocations.

Leveraging the past expertise and experience of the ES/NFI cluster and its partners in coordinating and conducting these assessments, the partner will play a pivotal role in supporting subnational clusters during the RAM rollout at identified sites. This support includes assisting the ES-NFI Cluster with data collection, data cleaning, and analysis, as well as preparing preliminary findings and relevant factsheets. Furthermore, the partner will facilitate the delivery of refresher training for partner staff serving as enumerators and provide incentives such as daily subsistence allowances (DSA) and refreshments during the data collection phase.

The RAM is anticipated to yield critical findings across four main themes—Shelter Conditions, NFIs and Services, Economic Factors, and Risks—which will be instrumental in supporting strategic decision-making.

Activity 2: Evaluation on Shelter Cluster Mechanism to Advance the Nexus -with Basic Needs Actors

The Shelter Cluster seeks to understand and advance its engagement with BN framework and engagement with UNSF-A and the ACG. This assessment is foreseen to assess the effectiveness of the Shelter Cluster in advancing the nexus with Basic Needs actors, identify challenges and opportunities in the coordination between Shelter and Basic Needs actors, evaluate the impact of integrated approaches on vulnerable populations and provide recommendations for enhancing the collaboration and effectiveness of the Shelter Cluster in the nexus approach. The response to the earthquakes events in Herat will be utilized as pilot or case study for the evaluation.

Throughout the evaluation, the selected partner should engage with key stakeholders from both the Shelter Cluster and Basic Needs actors and the local authorities to gather diverse perspectives.

Activity 3: Shelter Rapid Gender Analysis

The Shelter Cluster also seeks to conduct Shelter Rapid Gender Analysis aimed at understanding distinct shelter needs of different gender groups, including privacy, safety, and access to basic services and the specific shelter-related vulnerabilities faced by women, girls, boys, men, and gender minorities. This rapid assessment will be conducted at the onset of any sudden events anticipated in 2025. Should there be no notable emergencies, the assessment will be conducted in sites prioritized for RAM and triangulated further from the results of the WoAA, the HSM.

It will aim to ensure that shelter interventions are designed and implemented in a way that is sensitive to the distinct needs, roles, and vulnerabilities of different gender groups, particularly women, men, boys, girls, and gender minorities. This assessment will be conducted in collaboration with GIHA with an objective to assess gender-specific shelter needs, examine how gender roles influence the construction, maintenance, and allocation of shelter, identify risks of gender-based violence (GBV) associated with shelter conditions, including overcrowding, lack of privacy, and insecure locations and offer partners practical recommendations for designing and implementing shelter interventions that are inclusive and address the needs of all gender groups.

Activity 4: Evaluate Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Measures in Shelter Programs.

The Shelter Cluster will also seek to conduct an evaluation aimed at assessing how effectively AAP principles have been integrated into shelter programs, identify areas for improvement, and provide recommendations for enhancing accountability in future interventions. While most of the shelter partners have successfully integrated AAP principles, particularly in terms of transparency and community participation, challenges remain in ensuring effective feedback mechanisms, and full responsiveness to community needs.

Thus, this evaluation will build on tools and a similar initiative conducted by the Health Cluster. The evaluation methodology will include a mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches presented on an interactive power BI focused on the following AAP areas: transparency, participation, feedback mechanisms, responsiveness, and protection. A representative sample of shelter projects across different regions and contexts was selected to provide a comprehensive view of AAP implementation.

Indicative budget (optional):

N/A

Processing of personal data (if required within the partnership):

The partner will process and use some of the data for persons we serve through Controller-to-Processor (C2P). Hence, the Partner will require to conduct Partner Data Protection and Information Security Self-Assessment using this link "[Partner Data Protection and Information Security Self-Assessment](#)" and should be completed by the partner at the country level and submitted with the concept note."

Controller-to-Processor (C2P) is a relationship between UNHCR and a partner for processing the data of forcibly displaced and statelessness persons. UNHCR is the data controller, defining the purposes and essential means of the personnel data processing. The partner processes the persona data on behalf of UNHCR and under unhcr instructions. UNHCR is accountable for the personal data processing including the responsibility for addressing requests by data subjects relating to their data subject rights.

Other information (optional): Interested National and International Non-Governmental Organizations in Afghanistan are invited to submit notes and other required documents to UNHCR, as specified below

Concept note:

The concept note should be concise and contain clear information on proposed activities specifying outcome area, outcome statement and specific activities that partner is able to implement, indicating location of implementation. Concept notes should not exceed six pages and should not be a fully developed project proposal, should make clear reference to guidelines and other similar approved interagency tools and must be submitted in a template attached to

this call for EoI as Annex A1. Budget should be included in the concept note as a table or submitted separately as an attachment.

Important Notes: Registered NGOs in Afghanistan are required to register the organization, if not yet done, on the UN Partner Portal- <https://unpartnerportal.org>; upload all required documents, including Concept Notes, budget and other supporting documents in response to this call for Expression of Interest by **24 October 2024 midnight Afghanistan time**.

CfEoI timeline				
Request for clarification deadline	Application deadline	Notification of results	Estimated start date	Estimated end date
23 October 2024 AFGKAEoI@unhcr.org	24 October 2024	15 November 2024	01 January 2025	31 December 2025
Selection Criteria				
	Criteria Description			Assigned Weighting
	<p>Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, performance, knowledge, material and human resources. Knowledge of relevant protection, humanitarian principles and the approach to Age, Gender, Diversity (AGDM). Approach to the participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the Programme Cycle. Partner's PSEA capacity self-assessment and data protection and information security self-assessment have been completed and submitted (where relevant to the partnership).</p> <p>Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action.</p>			40
	<p>Project management: ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes, and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management; adequate control over procurement, of assets and inventory (if applicable).</p>			20
	<p>Local experience and presence: ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; participation in inter-agency coordination fora, engaging forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the programme cycle; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations;</p>			15

	feedback and complaint mechanisms for affected communities; self-organized groups of forcibly displaced and stateless persons; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the affected communities and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	
	Cost effective: Evidence of a methodology for allocation of shared costs to project activities. Evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes while also ensuring that resources are also directed to activities that ensure project risks are being appropriately managed.	20
	Access/ Security Considerations: ability to operate in security conditions of the Project site(s) or country as well as existence and functionality of partner's organizational policies, procedures and practices related to security risk management.	10

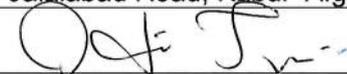
Issuing UNHCR Office

UNHCR Country Office Kabul

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Signature, Head of Office



Full name and title, Head of Office

 pp Jamal Arafat, Representative UNHCR
 Afghanistan

Name of UNHCR Office

UNHCR Country Office Kabul

Date

26- September- 2024

