

## 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/2024/002
Title	Assessments for Durable Solutions
Project/Programme Focal Point(s)	Mohammad Pervez Jalili, Assistant Programme Officer Mildred Watchipa, Senior Programme Officer, CO Kabul
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)	OA 3 – Policy and Law /Durable Solutions
Area(s) of Specialization	Durable Solutions Assessment
Issued by	UNHCR
Project background:	
Processing of personal data <sup>1</sup> (if required within the partnership)	C2C arrangement
Direct contact with forcibly displaced and stateless persons	YES
<p>Afghanistan continues to grapple with the consequences of four decades of conflict, entrenched poverty, climate-induced crises, and barriers to women's equality and participation in public life. The economic downturn following the political transition in August 2021 – which coincided with a suspension of large-scale bilateral development cooperation on which the Republic depended – has exacerbated underlying fragilities, including limited livelihood opportunities for both urban and rural populations alike. Despite the significant reduction in active hostilities, Afghanistan remains primarily a protection emergency characterized by high-levels of protracted displacement, mine and explosive ordnance contamination, restrictions to freedom of movement, increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV), child labour, early marriage and increased needs for mental health and psychosocial support.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Please see below for arrangement definitions for processing of personal data.



In 2024, an estimated 23.7 million<sup>2</sup> people—more than half of Afghanistan's population—are projected to require humanitarian assistance. The fragile Afghan economy, heavily reliant on humanitarian aid and remittances, faces challenges exacerbated by the exclusion of women from economic activities. Restrictive policies continue to hinder women's ability to access assistance and services, as well as negatively impact international community engagement and donor contributions. Bureaucratic hurdles and efforts to influence humanitarian programming, including restrictions on the participation of Afghan women staff, have contributed to delays in project registration and implementation, requiring time-consuming negotiations and workarounds to overcome.

Economic collapse has been driven by sanctions, a cessation of international development assistance for public expenditures, freezing of foreign financial reserves, inflation, and global commodity shocks, and exacerbated by challenges in governance. Women and girls have seen restrictions in their engagement in public life and directives from the *de facto* authorities in December 2022 issued further bans against women's higher education and employment opportunities with humanitarian organizations.<sup>3</sup> Population growth, international displacement, and migration, and continued high rates of cross-border return continue to strain resources, livelihood opportunities, and basic services, and increase protection risks for specific groups. Many people, but particularly those in displaced groups, lack land and housing rights because of an uncertain formal legal landscape and face threats of eviction or challenges to ownership.

In order to address increasing needs, particularly for returnee and other vulnerable displaced groups, UNHCR has been supporting sustainable reintegration and durable solutions through its community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER) programme in Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARR) since 2017. The PARR is a key component of UNHCR's work as it seeks to improve key services and infrastructure facilities in areas where Afghan refugees and IDPs are returning, through an area-based, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder nexus (humanitarian-development-peace) approach to create the conditions conducive for long-term, sustainable reintegration and durable solutions.<sup>4</sup> In August 2022, UNHCR expanded the PARR caseload to 75 Districts and 5 Municipalities; current efforts target 22 million people that UNHCR serves, including 2.4 million<sup>5</sup> Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and 0.70 million<sup>6</sup> Refugee Returnees from all countries and other returnees from Pakistan since September 2023.

The latter part of 2023 witnessed the return of hundreds of thousands of undocumented Afghans and refugees from Pakistan, triggered by a new policy affecting an estimated 1.3 million Afghans. This returnee crisis has strained border points and posed additional demands on limited resources among host communities, necessitating increased humanitarian assistance. A surge in returns is expected to continue, with projections indicating over 1.46 million<sup>7</sup> Afghans from Pakistan and Iran will return in 2024.

Whole of Afghanistan Assessment findings indicated that the needs situation of this population deteriorated between 2021 and 2022 in several sectors, with needs including a lack of shelter, job opportunities, land, and documentation, as well as high debt burden. Support for addressing these needs is critical to ensuring that at-risk populations are able to return to conducive conditions and sustainably reintegrate into broader society.

The project will address this gap by developing a full understanding of each PARR location and its population. This will be done through identifying the vulnerabilities and needs of households,

<sup>2</sup> Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2024

<sup>3</sup> [Taliban ban women from working for domestic, foreign NGOs \(cnbc.com\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR Afghanistan, the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration, February 2024

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR Afghanistan, Population Figures Snapshot ([Population Figures Snapshot - Power BI](#))

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR Afghanistan, Operational Data Portal ([Country - Afghanistan \(Islamic Republic of\) \(unhcr.org\)](#))

<sup>7</sup> 2025-2027 UNHCR Protection and Solutions Strategy, May 2024



key stakeholders, and key components of infrastructure in order to inform longer term programming for resilience and sustainable response. This will both make for more effective programming for Co-PROSPER interventions and provide a baseline understanding of the population in each PARR for comparison in impact evaluations. Assessing vulnerable populations will help to inform further PARR programming related to implementation of durable solutions, particularly durable solutions Pillar III on integration in areas of displacement and areas of origin and return.

#### Expected results:

Reference to the UNHCR Afghanistan Operation's multi-year results framework, this project will focus on outcome area 3, where the protection of IDPs, returnees and refugees is coordinated effectively and efficiently. It is linked to the durable solutions agenda in the country and UNHCR plays a critical role as the core member of the National Durable Solutions Working Group at national and regional levels (NDSWG).

This project will provide multiple UNHCR teams and partners with evidence-based research outputs to inform programming in 2025 – 2027. This will include support to the Solutions Unit for the Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER), which will significantly contribute to achieving durable solutions for internally displaced and returnee population.

The expected results of the project will be.

#### **1. Socio-Economic Vulnerability Assessment (SEVA) in 20 PARRs:**

The project aims to understand the current status of reintegration for displaced groups prior to Co-PROSPER implementation in selected PARR districts.

- Conduct an area-based assessment identifying the PARR locations in each of the 20 PARRs identified by UNHCR and reassessing some of the previously assessed locations to provide up to date program data.
- Map neighbourhoods and key infrastructure of each district and establish a household baseline Socio-Economic Vulnerability Assessment (SEVA) for to identify the short-, mid-, and long-term interventions needed to guide investments in support of populations in each PARR.
- Quantify levels of reintegration in areas of programming through use of the Reintegration Index (REIN).
- The target is to conduct the Socio-Economic Vulnerability Assessment (SEVA) in 20 PARR districts.

#### **2. Evidenced-based Recovery Support to Returnees and IDPs (Spatial Profiling) in selected PARRs (Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif):**

The project aims to pursue common community-based protection goals for the benefit of displaced, returnee populations as well as affected host communities in the target Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs) in Afghanistan. The project activities are part of strategy for creating conducive conditions for the sustainable reintegration through strengthened essential services and facilities in Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs) while fostering social cohesion.

- Create an enabling protection environment by settlements 'spatial profiling' of Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif cities for devising evidence-based humanitarian response planning. The spatial profiling entailed mapping of city resources and services, mapping of UNHCR's PwS settlement areas, analysis of the data collected through the profiling and providing the area response plans.



- Develop new settlement plans for selected settlements in cities. The proposed project developed new spatial plans for upgrading the settlements of IDPs in target areas to facilitate durable solutions for the settlements' inhabitants.
- The target to conduct Spatial Profiling assessment in Kabul (x1) and Mazar-e-Sharif (x1) cities in the IDP populated areas within the city.

### 3. Participatory Forums Partnership in urban PARRs (Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif):

This research is valuable for evidence-based solution programming and aligns with the SGs Action Agenda on internal displacement. In SGs AA 2.5, it is stated: *"IDPs are increasingly settling in urban areas. Response strategies must consider the urban ecosystem and engage city Governments while responding to the specific needs of individuals displaced from and to rural areas. Local authorities should be recognized as core partners in all settings"*. In addition, the forum considers the right and agency of IDPs and the host community and informs active participation in decision-making processes.

The project will engage municipal stakeholders, who will come together to co-produce solutions to displacement in their city through a participatory forum that will meet, on a regular basis, to develop a city plan for integration. The participatory forum will bring together the following representatives: city planners, urban communities (displaced and host), civil society, private sector actors, and aid organisations and donors to share perspectives and goals to inform solutions planning and implementation. The project puts cities in the lead and encourages both top-down and bottom-up engagement, to balance coordination with both authorities and grass-roots stakeholders, including the displaced themselves.

- Facilitate Participatory Forums (PFs) in each selected cities addressing urban displacement challenges.
- Co-production that involves displaced groups to lead to inclusive processes of local development and urbanisation.
- Creating a space where displaced groups can identify basic service needs and objectives and collaborate with broader stakeholders.
- Designing services that reflect local needs, with planning exercises requiring appropriate funding.
- The target is to establish and facilitate PFs in Kabul (x1), Kandahar (x1), Herat (x1) and Mazar-e-Sharif (x1) cities.

To ensure the adequate protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR requires partners to adhere to applicable sector standards outlined within [UNHCR's areas of specialization](#).

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 the **Controller to Controller (C2C)**. 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 at the country level and submitted with the concept note."

*When implementing Controller to Controller (C2C) projects: partners are expected to have the capacity to implement data protection standards. If this is likely to be the case for this partnership, insert the following statement and elaborate as needed based on the nature of the project:*

"As a data controller, the partner is accountable for the implementation of data protection standards. The concept note should describe the measures ensuring adherence to the data



protection principles, procedures and mechanisms envisaged for providing information to the data subjects, receiving and processing data subject rights request, complaints and independent redress.”

***Controller-to-Controller (C2C):*** is a relationship between UNHCR and a partner for processing the data of forcibly displaced and stateless persons where UNHCR and the partner act as data controllers. It includes a transfer of personal data between two data controllers. Both Controllers determine the purposes and essential means of the personal data processing that is required for the project/service, and thus they are separately accountable for the personal data processing they control, including the responsibility for addressing requests by data subjects relating to their data subject rights.

**Other information (optional):** Interested National and International Non-Government Organizations in Afghanistan are invited to submit concept 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 areas, 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 table or be submitted separately as an attachment.

All applicant NGOs in Afghanistan are required to register their organizations, if not yet done, on 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**.

UNHCR is committed in undertaking adequate due diligence and conduct the process of selection of partners in an objective, consistent, transparent and timely manner. All applicant organizations will receive written notification on the outcome of the selection process.

**Call for Expression of Interest timeline**

Request for clarification deadline	Application deadline	Notification of results	Estimated start date	Estimated end date
23 October 2024 <a href="mailto:AFGKAEOI@unhcr.org">AFGKAEOI@unhcr.org</a>	24 October 2024	15 November 2024	01 January 2025	31 December 2025

**Selection Criteria**

Criteria Description	Assigned Weighting
<b>Sector expertise and experience:</b> 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).	30%

	Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's <a href="#">Strategic Framework for Climate Action</a> .	
	<b>Project management:</b> 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).	25%
	<b>Local experience and presence:</b> 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; 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.	20%
	<b>Cost effective:</b> 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%
	<b>Access/ Security Considerations:</b> 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.	5%

Issuing UNHCR Office

Contact Address

Signature, Head of Office

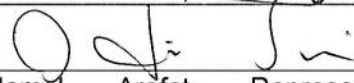
Full name and title, Head of Office

Name of UNHCR Office

Date

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 pp. Jamal Arafat, Representative UNHCR  
 Afghanistan

UNHCR Country Office Kabul

26- September- 2024