



## **Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC)**

Project Title: (NNL) Afghan Women's Educational Center

Women & Adolescent Girls Empowerment Project

Announcement Date: 07/ 10 /2024

Closing date: 14/10/2024

RFP Reference number: AWEC-KBL-RFP-2024#006

## **Organization Background**

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC) is a Non-Governmental Organization founded in (1991) by Afghan women in exile, and was registered as an active local NGO with the Ministry of Economic in Afghanistan in 2006. Since its inception in 1991 AWEC has worked for women's educational and social uplift and empowerment and children development and protection. AWEC has implemented different projects and created different platforms to support Afghanistan's vulnerable people including women and girls since the organization was inaugurated, activities include but not limited to the Afghan Women Network (AWN) in 2004. ALP accelerated learning programs in different provinces, CBE programs, Peacebuilding programs, livelihood programs, Humanitarian support, Education programs, Protection women business support, small grants to NGOs and CSOs, and NGOs capacity building programs. Access to justice, and Wash. used innovations such as exposure visits and exchanges between women from different provinces and interactions between women of different ethnicities to allow sharing of their experience of peace and conflict and strategies to build peaceful societies. Besides that, AWEC pioneered many other visionary projects including women and children peace-building program,

Currently, AWEC is working in in more than 10 provinces as an expert organization in women empowerment, equality, and opportunity building for women and children through educational and social interventions. AWEC is committed to professional capacity development and organization development and has evolved from a community center in 1991 to a full-fledged national NGO in 2015.

AWEC acknowledges and addresses the cultural, social, and economic barriers that hinder women's access to justice and legal assistance. The organization's commitment to overcoming these barriers and promoting women's rights is reflected in its comprehensive programs and initiatives. AWEC focuses on women's empowerment and provides various services to uplift vulnerable women and communities. These services include educational programs, skills training initiatives, income generation activities, legal aid, and protection services. AWEC strives to empower women, break barriers, and foster gender equality and social inclusion.

## **ANNEX:01 Quotation Submission Documents**

**Vendor Information Form:** The VIF must conform to the format in Appendix A, be on the attached document, be filled and signed by an authorized representative of the Vendor, and be stamped on each page with the organization's seal. The VIF must state the period of validity of the quotation; however, the period must not be less than **30 days**.

**Bill of Quantities:** The Vendor shall submit its quotation in the format provided in Appendix B. All prices shall be quoted in **Afghani (AFN)**. Quoted prices shall be all-inclusive, in that all offered pricing will be fully burdened with all ancillary, associated costs (e.g., delivery, installation, taxes and duties, training, warranty, etc.) unless such costs are shown as separate, stand-alone line items in the BOQ as prepared by AWEC (e.g., a separate line item for delivery or training or installation). In case of a price discrepancy between a unit price and the total price, the unit price shall prevail. Note: AWEC is exempt from import duties into Afghanistan.

**Summary of Relevant Work Experience:** Using the format provided in Appendix C, the Bidder must list no **more than five clients** that received goods and/or services of a nature similar to the requirements of this RFP within the last year. The Bidder must also provide copies of reference letters or certificates of completion from listed clients, if available. AWEC reserves the right to verify all submitted letters and certificates independently.

**Copy of Business License:** AWEC will not award a Purchase Order to an organization that fails to provide a current, valid copy of its AISA or Ministry of Commerce Business license. A Vendor's current, valid AISA or Ministry of Commerce Business License must be attached to Appendix D.

### **Specifications for or Services**

Please refer to Appendix B – Bill of Quantities for a listing of all goods and/or services being solicited, plus applicable item/service descriptions, specifications, standards of performance, and units required.

Completion Schedule – AWEC's desired schedule for the completion of all work required by this RFP is 15 calendar days from the effective date of a finalized Purchase Order/ Contract

### **Purchase Order Terms & Conditions**

The negotiated Purchase Order will specify the Terms and conditions of the agreement with the bidder and will include but not be limited to, the topics of Delivery and Payment; Tax Withholding; Certifications; Inspection and acceptance; Warranty; Termination; Incorporated Provisions, etc. At the time of award negotiation, the Bidder will be provided with a copy of the Purchase Order and AWEC will be available to address all questions and comments.

### **Basis of Selection:**

Selection will be made on the **lowest price, Comparable Quality, technically acceptable**. A technical score of 60 points or above is technically acceptable; quotations will not be ranked for non-cost/price factors. AWEC will select the lowest offered priced quotation achieving a technical score of 60 points or better. If no offered technical quotation scores at 60 points or higher, at the discretion of the AWEC Chief of Party, or his designee, the technical acceptance threshold may be lowered, but under no circumstances will it go below 60 points. Technical selection criteria for this RFP are as follows:

<b>Technical Selection Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Awarded Points</b>
Past Experience Similar, (Similar Safety Audit and pre-Market Assessment)	<b>30</b>	
Financially evaluation (related to Budget limit)	<b>45</b>	
Eligibility Documents, Valid BL, NID, bank A/C, Bank Statement FY-2023, CV	<b>15</b>	
Payment Term and Bid Validity	<b>10</b>	
<b>Possible Total Score =</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Taxes:** AWEC, a not-for-profit organization, shall pay and be responsible for all taxes that are measured directly by the Purchase Price payments made by AWEC to the Supplier for the Goods hereunder and which the Supplier is legally required to collect and pay over to the applicable tax authorities.

**Bid Validity:** The bids should be valid at least for 30 calendar days.

**Payment Term:** Payment will be made through Bank transfer.

AWEC- may or may not decide to negotiate with one or more Bidders. Before award, AWEC reserves the right to one or more on-site inspections of similar work that the Vendor has recently completed, and access to the applicable client(s) for whom the work was performed.

**Submission of bid:** Your quotation must be in English and comprised of 1 hard copy indicating the RFP number, title, and the above-listed closing date. The quotation shall be placed in a sealed envelope (signed and stamped) and marked “Quotation for AWEC RFP Number and Title” (as shown above) and marked “To be received only by Admin/Logistic Department.” The quotation must be delivered to the address below by no later than Oct 14, 2024(03:30 PM, Kabul, Afghanistan Local Time) to:

**AWEC Kabul Main Office**  
**House # 12 Wakil Samad, 2nd Street, Kart e Chahar from Pol Surkh Square.**  
**Kabul- Afghanistan**  
**Attention: Logistics Department**  
**Contact: 0705649787**

AWEC reserves the right to not evaluate non-compliant quotations (i.e., ones that do not substantively comply with all RFP instructions). All proposals submitted by Vendors must remain valid for acceptance by AWEC for a period of not less than 30 calendar days from the above-specified closing date.

**Confirmation of Receipt of RFP:** Please confirm receipt of this RFP by reply email (**logistic@awec.info**) before the closing date for questions as shown above. Failure to confirm receipt will exclude the Vendor from receiving the Q&A List discussed below. Vendors must insert in the subject line of their email the full RFP Number and Title (shown above).

Note: The Contracting Authority reserves the right to accept all or part of your quotation, whichever is in its best financial interest.

## **ANNEX 2 DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUIRED** **(SAFETY AUDIT)**

With the increasing emphasis on patient safety and regulatory compliance, it is crucial for clinics to regularly evaluate their safety practices and standards. This safety audit aims to identify potential hazards, assess risk management practices, and ensure adherence to safety regulations and best practices in order to protect both patients and staff.

### **A consultancy firm is required to**

#### **1. Scope and Objectives**

##### 1.1 Scope:

- Areas for audit (Government Clinics in Laghman (Alingar, Alishang, Mehtarlam), Nuristan (Paroon, Wama, Waygal) and Nangrahar (Behsud, Batikot)).

##### 1.2 Objectives:

- Assess the clinic's compliance with safety standards and regulations.
- Identify potential safety hazards and risks within the clinic.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of current safety procedures and protocols.
- Provide recommendations for improving safety practices and ensuring a safe environment for patients and staff.

#### **2. Audit Team**

##### 2.1 Training:

- Ensure team members are trained in safety auditing techniques and understand the audit scope.

#### **3. Audit Plan**

##### 3.1 Schedule:

- Set dates for the audit and allocate time for each phase.

##### 3.2 Checklist:

- Create or review an audit checklist based on regulations, standards, and clinic policies.

## 4. Conduct Audit

### 4.1 Opening Meeting

- **Purpose:** Brief all relevant stakeholders on the audit scope, objectives, and schedule.
- **Checklist & Questionnaires:** Design checklist and questionnaires for safety audit.

### 4.2 Site Inspection

- **Safety Walk:** Inspect the work environment, equipment, and safety features.
- **Observation:** Look for potential hazards, unsafe practices, and compliance with safety protocols.

### 4.3 Patient Interviews

- **Engagement:** Speak with patients to understand their awareness of safety practices and any concerns they might have.
- **Feedback:** Collect insights on practical challenges and effectiveness of safety procedures.

## 5. Identifying Findings

### 5.1 Non-Compliance Issues

- **Regulations:** Identify any areas where the organization does not meet legal or regulatory requirements.
- **Policies:** Note deviations from clinic safety policies and procedures.

### 5.2 Hazards

- **Assessment:** Recognize potential hazards that could lead to accidents or health issues.
- **Risk Evaluation:** Evaluate the risk associated with identified hazards.

### 5.3 Opportunities for Improvement

- **Enhancements:** Suggest areas where safety practices can be improved, even if they are not critical issues.

## 6. Reporting

### 6.1 Recommendations

- **Actions:** Provide clear, actionable recommendations for addressing identified issues.
- **Prioritization:** Prioritize recommendations based on risk and impact.

### 6.3 Final Report

- **Review:** Have the report reviewed by the audit team and awec program department.
- **Submission:** Submit final report to awec program department.

## **ANNEX 2 DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUIRED** **(MARKET ASSESSMENT)**

A market assessment involves analyzing the dynamics and potential of a particular market to inform business decisions. Conducting a market assessment for making soap for personal use in the provinces of Laghman, Nuristan, and Nangarhar in Afghanistan involves understanding the local demand, market dynamics, and competitive landscape.

### **A consultancy firm is required to**

#### **1. Define the Market**

- **Geographic Scope:** Focus on Laghman, Nuristan, and Nangarhar provinces. These areas are relatively rural, and market dynamics might differ from urban centers.
- **Product Focus:** Since the soap is for personal use, consider different types such as bar soap, liquid soap, or specialty soaps (e.g., herbal, organic).

#### **2. Conduct Market Research**

- **Secondary Research:**
  - **Local Data:** Gather information on the local economy, consumer behavior, and purchasing power. Sources could include local government reports, NGOs, and international organizations operating in the region.
  - **Industry Reports:** Look for reports on the personal care industry in Afghanistan, if available, to understand broader trends.
- **Primary Research:**
  - **Surveys and Interviews:** Conduct surveys or interviews with local residents to gauge interest in personal care products. Explore their preferences, buying habits, and price sensitivity.
  - **Focus Groups:** Organize focus groups to get detailed insights into consumer needs and preferences for soap.

### 3. Analyze Market Size and Growth

- **Current Market Size:** Estimate the potential market size by assessing the population in each province and understanding the percentage likely to use or buy soap.
- **Growth Potential:** Evaluate factors that might influence market growth, such as increasing awareness of hygiene, potential urbanization, or changes in income levels.

### 4. Evaluate Market Trends

- **Hygiene Awareness:** Assess the level of awareness and demand for personal hygiene products. Increased awareness due to health campaigns can drive demand.
- **Local Preferences:** Identify any local preferences or trends, such as a preference for natural or herbal ingredients, which could influence your product offering.

### 5. Assess the Competitive Landscape

- **Local Competitors:** Identify existing soap producers in the region. Analyze their product offerings, pricing, distribution methods, and market share.
- **Unique Selling Proposition:** Determine how your soap can stand out. Consider factors like quality, ingredients, packaging, and pricing.

### 6. Identify Opportunities and Threats

- **Opportunities:**
  - **Unmet Needs:** Identify gaps in the market. For example, if there's a demand for natural or herbal soaps that's not being met, this could be an opportunity.
  - **Partnerships:** Explore potential partnerships with local vendors, cooperatives, or NGOs to enhance distribution and reach.
- **Threats:**
  - **Economic Factors:** Consider economic instability or low purchasing power, which might affect consumer spending on personal care products.
  - **Supply Chain Issues:** Assess potential challenges in sourcing raw materials or distributing products in these regions.

### 7. Understand Customer Needs and Preferences

- **Consumer Insights:** Collect detailed information on what consumers in these provinces want from a soap product. Consider preferences for fragrance, skin type suitability, and packaging.
- **Pricing:** Determine what price range is acceptable to your target market while ensuring that you cover costs and achieve profitability.



## 8. Develop a Market Strategy

- **Product Strategy:** Decide on the types of soap you will produce, considering local preferences and needs (e.g., herbal soaps for sensitive skin).
- **Pricing Strategy:** Set a competitive price that aligns with local purchasing power.
- **Distribution:** Develop a distribution plan that could include local markets, shops, or direct sales. Consider partnerships with local distributors or retailers.
- **Promotion:** Create a marketing plan that educates consumers about the benefits of your soap and highlights any unique aspects of your product.

## 9. Monitor and Update

- **Market Feedback:** Continuously gather feedback from customers to refine your product and strategy.
- **Market Changes:** Stay informed about changes in the local market environment, consumer preferences, and economic conditions to adapt your approach as needed.

### Timeframe:

### Safety Audit:

An eligible consultancy firm is expected to conduct two safety audit each after 3 months in three provinces. The project is started on 25 July 2024 and first safety audit report expected date is October 27- 2024.

### Market Assessment:

An eligible consultancy firm is expected to conduct market assessment in making soap for personal use in three provinces. The project is started on 25 July 2024 market assessment report expected date is October 27- 2024.

Following the market assessment, the consultancy will introduce a trainer to AWEC to conduct practical soap-making sessions in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces. The consultancy will cover all fees and materials required for the soap-making process.

### Eligibility criteria

<b>Competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant experience in conducting safety audits and market assessment.</li><li>• High quality assurance.</li><li>• Ability to adhere to AWEC standards and accepted practices.</li><li>• Qualified team for safety audit &amp; market assessment.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The consultant must have relevant experience in areas of consultancy, questionnaires</li></ul>

<b>Work Experience</b>	checklist, market assessment and conducting safety audits.
<b>Professionalism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two endorsement letters to show the level of client satisfaction.</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultancy firm should have at least 3 years of working background with national or international organizations or constitutions.</li> </ul>

**Required Documents**

Consultant firm must send the below documents with their RFP for the Application:

- Organization Profile
- Methodology outline (How the organization conducts safety audits)
- Financial Information (cost of conducting safety audit)
- Company Registered License
- 2 References for recognized consultancy firms.
- Qualifications and experience of the consultants (CV)
- The attached Quotation Submission Form is signed and stamped
- Experience in similar supplies in the past preferably two contracts with the value equivalent to the tenderer’s offer with I/NGOS with references.
- Bank information form/Details
- Bank Statement showing at least 50% amount of the bid price.

**Annex 3 General Terms and Conditions**

**Abnormal Bids**

An Abnormally Low Bid is one in which the bid price, in combination with other elements of the Bid, appears so low that it raises material concerns as to the capability of the bidder to perform the contract at the offered price.

The evaluation committee can take the Consideration on bids in which they have over 30% Difference in their prices for more clarifications.

**Subcontracting**

The contractor may subcontract up to twenty percent (20%) of the performance of the procurement contract with the written consent of the procuring party.

Consent to a subcontract may be granted on condition that it does not affect any other responsibility of the contractor under the procurement contract, and the sub-contractor shall be qualified to carry out the same duties as the contractor.

**Cancellation of the Bids**

The Employer should only reject all bids and cancel a bid if:  
There is evidence of collusion;

There has been unsatisfactory competition;  
Bid prices substantially exceed the cost estimates or available funds;  
The specifications or other conditions inadvertently failed to reflect the client's requirements, reduced competition, and generated substantially non-responsive bids or very high prices.  
Before canceling a bid, the Employee should consult the senior management and agree on the cancellation and procedures for procuring the contract.  
Once the approval is received from the executive director and senior management the procurement department can share the bid cancellation with its result with the bidder.

### **Bidders' Appeals and Complaints**

- The bidder has full right to show his/her concerns regarding transparency of the bidding process if they are not satisfied with the procedures.
- The bidder can write a written complaint about the observations they have when the notification of award/cancellation is submitted to the bidders.
- In the notification document complaint email and Phone shall be mentioned in case the bidder does not agree with the decision if they have any observations.
- The Complaint shall be forwarded to the complaint committee for review and the result shall be shared with the bidder after evaluation of the complaint by the committee.

### **Penalty for Delay and Bonus Award**

- (1) The agreed sum to be paid per time-unit (day, week, or month) of delay; b. The maximum penalty amounts.

Penalty delay consists as follows:

- One-day delay of 0.05% of the total contract amount
- One-week delay of 0.5% of the total contract amount
- Over ten days' delay 1% of the total contract amount
- Over 25 days' delay contract termination (Termination of the contract will be subjected to the approval of the Executive director and provided justification of supplier)

### **Environmental Protection**

The entity and contractor are obliged to take necessary actions to protect the environment in procurement proceedings and the implementation of contracts in accordance with relevant legal documents.

### **Safeguarding & SEA Preventions**

The Supplier shall ensure compliance with AWEC safeguarding policies, which include not hiring underage children, trafficking in Persons, emotional and physical abuse to both men and women, Grooming, and Online grooming. The contractor/Supplier has to make sure to promote the welfare of people (especially children and vulnerable adults) in the communities where we work and not expose them to the risk of harm, including sexual exploitation and abuse. Safeguarding measures seek to prevent situations where individuals can use their position of power, to abuse or exploit

another person. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the provisions hereof constitute an essential term of the Contract and that any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle AWEC to terminate the Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind.

### **Force Majors**

A force majeure clause states that if an extreme, unforeseeable event occurs that prevents or delays a party from performing their contractual obligations, which party will not be in breach of contract as a result of the delay/non-performance. Neither party shall be in breach of this agreement or otherwise liable for any failure to fulfill its obligations if such failure results from events, circumstances or causes beyond its reasonable control. In the case of contractor or suppliers, the key obligations that they may fail to perform due to a force majeure event could be:

- a) Failure to pay invoices within the agreed payment terms; or
- b) Failure to perform the services or deliver goods within the agreed timescale.

## Appendix-A



### Afghan Women's Educational Center

### Vendor Information Form فرم معلومات فروشنده

The information provided will be used to evaluate the Company before contracting with AWEC.

Please complete all fields.

Fields marked (\*) are mandatory.

#### Vendor Information

*Company\Organization Name نام کمپنی یا سازمان	
*For individual vendors, provide legal first and last name	
*Any other names company is operating under (Acronyms, Abbreviations, Aliases) if any مخففات که کمپنی به آن یاد میشود	
*Address آدرس	
*Phone/Fax Numbers نمبر تیلیفون/فکس	Phone: تیلیفون Fax: فکس
*Primary Contact تماس اصلی	First Name: Last Name: Phone Number: Email Address:
*Number of Staff تعداد کارمندان	
Number of Locations تعداد موقیعت	

Avg. \$ Value of Stock on Hand آرزش پولی ستاک	
*Name(s) of Company Owner(s) or Board of Directors or CEO نام ریس و معاونین	
Bid Validity مدار اعتبار قیمت 15-30 Days	
Stock Availability % فیصد موجودیت جنس در گدام	

### **Financial Information**

*Bank Name and Address نام و آدرس بانک	
*Specify Standard Payment Terms (Net, 15, 30 days etc.) زمان تادیات	
*Payment Method (select all that applies) میتود تادیات	Payment By: <u>Check</u> <u>Wire Transfer</u> <u>Cash</u>
*Bank account number نمبر حساب بانکی	
Swift code (if applicable)	

### **Product/Service Information**

List Range of Products/Services Offered انتخاب تولیدات/خدمات	
Basis For Pricing (Catalog, List, etc.) اساس برای قیمت	

### **Documentations as applicable:**

*Registration Valid business License,	Provided _____
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*NID# president and deputy of the company	Provided ____
TIN# Tax identification Number	Provided ____
Past Experience: PO or Contracts	Provided ____

**References (optional)**

Client Name:	<u>Contact Name, Phone, Email Address:</u>
Client Name:	<u>Contact Name, Phone, Email Address:</u>
Client Name:	<u>Contact Name, Phone, Email Address:</u>

**AWEC Conflict of Interest and Vendor Code of Conduct**

Vendor hereby agrees that Vendor and Vendor’s employees and subcontractors, if any, shall abide by and follow all established written policies of AWEC related to work conduct, including, but not limited to.

The AWEC Way provides three (3) core values - Integrity, Service, and Accountability.

**Integrity - At AWEC we are open, honest, and trustworthy in dealing with beneficiaries, partners, co-workers, donors, funders, and the communities we affect.**

- We work to build the trust of the communities in which we work and sustain the trust earned by our reputation in serving our beneficiaries.
- We recognize that our talented and dedicated staff are our greatest asset, and we conduct ourselves in ways that reflect the highest standards of organizational and individual conduct.
- Throughout our work, AWEC respects the dignity, values, history, religion, and culture of those we serve.
- We respect equally the rights of women and men and we do not support practices that undermine the human rights of anyone.

**Accountability - At AWEC, we are accountable – individually and collectively – for our behaviors, actions, and results.**

- We are accountable and transparent in our dealings with colleagues, beneficiaries, partners, donors, and the communities we affect.
- We strive to comply with the laws of the governing institutions where we work.
- We maintain and disseminate accurate financial information and information on our goals and activities to interested parties.

- We are responsible stewards of funds entrusted to our use.
- We integrate individual accountability of staff using performance evaluations.

**Vendor hereby agrees to maintain high ethical and social standards:**

- Working conditions and social rights: Avoidance of child labor, bondage, or forced labor; assurance of safe and reasonable working conditions; freedom of association; freedom from exploitation, abuse, and discrimination; protection of basic social rights of its employees and AWEC beneficiaries; prohibition of trafficking in persons.
- Environmental aspects: Provision of goods and services with the least negative impact on the environment.
- Transport and cargo: Not engaged in the illegal manufacture, supply, or transportation of weapons; not engaged in smuggling of drugs or people.

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Vendor Name: اسم فروشنده:
Signature: امضاً:
Title: تخلص:
Print Name: نام كمپنى ياسازمان:
Date: تاريخ:







## Appendix-C Summary of Relevant Work Experience

Vendor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Name, Representative, Contact Information (Email & Telephone)	Description of Goods or Services Delivered/Performed.	Location Start and End Dates Value of Works in AFN/USD	Was the contract or purchase order completed successfully?	Remarks

Signature & Stump \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix-D Copy of Business License Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan License**

As a legally registered organization with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, attached to this Appendix please find a current, valid copy(s) of our organizations:

[    ] Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) Certificate (for-profit organizations):

AISA No.            \_\_\_\_\_

Issued on:            \_\_\_\_\_

Valid until:            \_\_\_\_\_

[    ] Ministry of the Economy, NGO Certificate of Registration (for NGOs):

Issued on:            \_\_\_\_\_

Valid until:            \_\_\_\_\_

[    ] Ministry of the Economy Tax Exemption Certificate (for NGOs):

Issued on:            \_\_\_\_\_