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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Consultancy Services for Evaluation of a Norad/NMFA Funded Program in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces

Date: February 11, 2025

DACAAR RFP 01 PRF-86/NMFA/2214-NMFA/NFJ1.15/02.2025

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DACAAR invites interested individual consultants, consultancy firms and NGOs to submit their sealed proposals inside country (Afghanistan) and via email from abroad for conducting evaluation of a Norad/NMFA funded program in Faryab and Jawzjan Provinces. details are given below:

The deadline for offer/proposal submission is February 23, 2025 before 04:00 pm local time.

The Bid Opening Session will be held on February 24, 2025 at 10:00 am in DACAAR Main Office, Kabul Province - Afghanistan and the bid winner will be notified after the opening session.

Norwegian MFA/DACAAR

TOR for Final Evaluation

Project 2214-NMFA – Rural Development in Faryab and Jawzjan Provinces 1st July 2022 to 31st December 2025

1. Background and rationale

DACAAR is a Danish non-political, non-governmental, non-profit humanitarian and developmental organization working to improve the lives of the Afghan people since 1984. DACAAR addresses the acute needs of the most vulnerable and support early recovery and sustainable development for all Afghans. For more information about DACAAR, please visit our website www.dacaar.org DACAAR has been working in partnership with Norad/NMFA since 2006 in Faryab. The current programme “*Rural Development in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces*” started on 1 July 2022 and will end on 31 December 2025.

The program's expected societal impact is the sustainable improvement of livelihoods, health, and quality of life.

The program comprises four thematic areas, each with an associated project outcome:

- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Targeted communities use safe drinking water and have improved hygiene and sanitation behavior and practices.
- **Natural Resource Management (NRM):** Targeted farmers and producers have increased environmentally sustainable agricultural productivity and production.
- **Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED):** Sustainable income-generating and livelihood opportunities for unemployed and unskilled youth and farmers are created.
- **Women's Empowerment (WE):** Vulnerable women's social and economic engagement is increased.

The target group are those most at risk, vulnerable, marginalized people and host communities living in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces. While the programme will equally target all gender and age groups, including men, women, boys and girls, it is particularly designed to target the need and priorities of most at-risk groups such as IDPs, recent returnees, farmers with little or no land, women and youth-headed households, persons with disability, the elderly and other marginalized by society.

An external evaluation is part of the grant agreement with Norad/NMFA. The rationale for the evaluation is to harvest learning from the project that can be used for a new three-year programme in the same provinces. Hence, the evaluation will need to take place in March/April 2025 so that there will be sufficient time for the learning to be part of the next project design phase 2026-2028. An internal mid-term review was conducted in December 2023 by DACAAR.

In December 2022, shortly after the program commenced, women were banned from working in NGOs, impacting DACAAR's implementation of project activities. Despite this, DACAAR's longstanding presence in Faryab since 2005 and its strong rapport with communities and stakeholders have facilitated effective program implementation.

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall Objective

To evaluate the performance, impact, and sustainability of the Norad/NMFA-funded program in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces from 2022 to 2025, in line with the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria. The evaluation will provide actionable insights and recommendations for enhancing the design and implementation of future programs, ensuring alignment with community needs and organizational priorities.

2.2. Specific Objectives

- **Relevance:** Assess the alignment of the program's objectives and design with the needs and priorities of the target communities, particularly marginalized groups such as women, youth, and internally displaced persons.
- **Coherence:** Evaluate the extent to which the program complements and aligns with other ongoing initiatives and strategies at local, national, and international levels.
- **Effectiveness:** Determine the extent to which the program has achieved its intended outcomes, particularly in the thematic areas of WASH, natural resource management, small-scale enterprise development, and women's empowerment.
- **Efficiency:** Analyse how effectively resources (time, funding, and human capital) have been utilized to achieve the program's objectives, with an emphasis on value for money.
- **Impact:** Assess the broader and long-term effects of the program on livelihoods, health, and quality of life in Faryab and Jawzjan, particularly for women and girls.
- **Sustainability:** Evaluate the potential for the program's benefits to persist after its conclusion, focusing on the ability of institutions and communities to maintain these achievements. The assessment should particularly highlight access to water and other critical outcomes from 2022 to 2025, while also considering the historical impact and sustainability of DACAAR's activities in Faryab, where feasible

3. Methodology

The evaluation will employ a participatory and collaborative approach to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the program's implementation and outcomes. The methodology will include the following components:

3.1. Engagement with Stakeholders

The consultant (s) will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to gather diverse perspectives and ensure the evaluation reflects the realities of the program's implementation. Key stakeholders include:

- DACAAR staff and decision-makers, both at headquarters and in the field.
- Relevant district authorities and local government representatives in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces.
- Representatives from the Norwegian Embassy, Norad, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This engagement will involve structured discussions and feedback sessions to capture insights on program relevance, coherence, and sustainability.

3.2. Desk Review

The consultant (s) will conduct a detailed desk review of:

- Available program documents, including proposals, progress reports, monitoring and evaluation data, and past evaluations.
- Relevant policies and strategies at local, provincial, and national levels.
- Historical data on interventions dating back to 2006, where applicable, to provide a broader context for assessing long-term impact and sustainability.

The desk review will identify gaps in information, key trends, and areas requiring further exploration during fieldwork.

3.3. Mixed-Method Data Collection

For field visits to project areas, the consultant (s) will use a **mixed-method approach**, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to ensure a holistic analysis:

3.3.1. Qualitative Methods:

- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** Conducted with community members, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, to understand their experiences, perceptions, and challenges related to the program.
- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):** Held with local leaders, program staff, and beneficiaries to gain insights into program implementation, achievements, and challenges.
- **Direct Observation:** On-site visits to assess the physical infrastructure, such as water supply systems, and observe practices in hygiene, sanitation, agriculture, and enterprise development.

3.3.2. Quantitative Methods:

- Analysis of program monitoring data and relevant secondary data from official sources.
- Surveys or structured questionnaires with a representative sample of beneficiaries to capture measurable outcomes and impacts.

3.4. Integration of Hard Data

The consultant (s) will combine qualitative insights with quantitative data to ensure findings are robust and evidence-based. This integration will help establish causality, assess trends, and validate community feedback.

3.5. Collaboration with DACAAR Staff

Relevant DACAAR field staff, technical experts, and selected members of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team will assist the consultant(s) by:

- Facilitating access to program documentation and historical records.
- Supporting logistics for field visits and stakeholder engagement.
- Providing contextual insights and technical guidance on thematic areas such as WASH, natural resource management, and women's empowerment.

This collaborative approach ensures that the evaluation leverages local expertise and builds on existing knowledge.

3.6. Ethical Considerations

The consultant (s) will adhere to ethical research principles, including:

- Obtaining informed consent from participants.
- Ensuring confidentiality and anonymity of respondents.
- Avoiding any form of harm or exploitation during the data collection process.

By employing this comprehensive methodology, it is envisioned that the evaluation will generate actionable insights and evidence to guide the design and implementation of future programs.

4. Deliverables and timeline

The period for the evaluation is 5 weeks in March/April 2025. The evaluation will look at all thematic areas but with a specific focus on women.

The reporting requirement expected are as follows:

Task	Timeline
Start of the evaluation	1 st Week of March 2025
Submission of draft inception report evaluation methodology determining the exact focus and scope, including the evaluation questions, the sampling strategy, a critical analysis of the quality of provided documents and the data collection instruments	2 nd Week of March 2025
Briefing and primary data collection in Faryab, Jawzjan and Kabul	4 th Week of March 2025
Presentation of preliminary findings and validation workshop with DACAAR senior managers	2 nd Week of April 2025
One-day learning workshop with DACAAR key staff	3 rd Week of April 2025
Submission of draft evaluation Report for comments by DACAAR senior management team.	4 th Week of April 2025
Submission of final evaluation Report	2 nd Week of May 2025

The final evaluation report should be no more than 15 pages and written in English. It should contain an executive summary, a presentation of findings inclusive of analysis, as well as recommendations. It is expected that the report will refer to the OECD/DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluations.

5. Qualifications and Experience

The lead consultant must have

- At least 10-years' experience in gender, WASH, agriculture-based natural resource management, and small-scale enterprise development/vocational skills training
- Experience in conducting gender-sensitive analysis and report writing
- At least five years of experience and demonstrated skills in the evaluation of development projects.
- Excellent report writing skills (English).
- Experience, knowledge and clear understanding of the Afghanistan context.
- Access to local interpreters (if lead consultant is unfamiliar with local languages)
- Willingness to travel to Faryab and Jawzjan.

5. Budget

All costs associated with travel to the field as well as accommodation, food, local transportation and other logistical costs while in the field will be fully covered by DACAAR, in line with the organization's policies. The budget should include consultancy fees, insurance and other necessary costs. Taxes will be levied on the contract in line with the tax Laws of Afghanistan. DACAAR will not provide insurance coverage in Afghanistan. DACAAR will be responsible for arranging transportation and accommodation during field visits.

6. Submission requirements

Interested consultants are requested to submit:

- A detailed technical proposal outlining their approach to the scope of work. The technical proposal must also include a work plan and detailed timeline for the process.
- A financial proposal with a breakdown of consultancy fees and any other relevant costs.
- CV of the consultant(s) highlighting relevant experience.
- References from similar work in fragile or conflict-affected environments.

Please submit your application via email to Sayed Jamal, Logistics Manager at jamal@dacaar.org till 23rd February 2025 at 1600hrs (Afghanistan time - UTC +4.30).

For questions and clarifications, please contact Faridullah Salarzai, Grants & Communications Manager, Kabul, Afghanistan. Email: faridullah@dacaar.org

Consultancy/Firm inside country (Afghanistan), are required to submit the sealed (hard copy) of their bids/proposals to DACAAR Main Office located at Lane No 03, Rd No 12, Qala e Fathullah, Kabul, Afghanistan.

The deadline for offer/proposal submission is February 23, 2025 before 04:00 pm local time.

Please note that the subject line of your emails must be (DACAAR RFP 01 PRF-86/NMFA/2214-NMFA /NFJ1.15/02.2025).

For more details, please contact on below Email Address jamal@dacaar.org or asad.zarmalwal@dacaar.org

Sincerely Yours,
Manager – Logistics
Date: February 11, 2025

