Details of the project procurement activities published under GPN.

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE (GPN)

Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Eshteghal Zaiee – Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar)

Project ID No.: P166127

Implementing Agencies:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
2. Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)
3. Kabul Municipality (KM)
4. Ministry of Economy (MoEc)

Procurement of Goods, Works, Consultancy and Non-Consultancy Services for the EZ-Kar Project

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) has been provided with a grant (US$ 50 million) from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) and a grant (approximately US$ 150 million) from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group, thus totaling grants of US$ 200 million, towards the cost of the Eshteghal Zaiee- Karmondena Project (EZ-Kar), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these grants to payments for goods, works, related non-consulting and consulting services to be procured under this project.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Since 2016, there have been a significant number of Afghan refugees returning to the country. The number of internally displaced within Afghanistan due to conflicts, droughts and mounting insecurity has also risen significantly. Together the returnees and IDPs have concentrated in some provinces and especially in some cities. The high influx of displaced populations in some areas has also added to the pressures on the host communities on limited resources, public infrastructure and economic and employment opportunities. The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the EZ-Kar is to strengthen the enabling environment for economic opportunities in cities where there is a high influx of displaced people.

The EZ-Kar duration is from 2019 to 2023 (5 years), and includes a coverage/target area of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and the cities of Kabul City (Kabul Province), Jalalabad (Nangarhar), Kandahar City (Kandahar Province), Herat City (Herat Province), Puli Khumri (Baghlan), Maimana (Faryab), Ferozkoh/Chaghcheran (Ghor), Khost Matun (Khost province), Asadabad (Kunar), Kunduz City (Kunduz Province), Mehtarlam (Laghman), Parun (Nuristan), and Taloqan (Takhar). The EZ-Kar essentially includes the following core components:

Component #1: Regional and National Integration of Displaced Persons, to be implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). It provides technical assistance, institutional support and training, necessary equipment, and operational assistance to MoFA to: (a) enhance its capacity to provide consular services (such as issuance of passports and verification of certificates); (b) develop and implement a joint communication strategy for MoFA and MoRR to disseminate information to Afghan refugees in Pakistan in order to facilitate their access to economic opportunities and social services through information centers at MoFA missions in selected cities of Pakistan, in collaboration with MoRR; and (c) support day-to-day implementation of this Component. Total budget = US$ 4.5 million.

Component #2: Short Term Employment Opportunities, Reforms and Market-Based Infrastructure, to be implemented by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), via its urban Citizens’ Charter Afghanistan Project’s Project Implementation Unit (CCAP PIU). This component includes essentially a labor intensive, cash-for-work program (Maintenance and Construction Cash Grants) that targets poor households as beneficiaries, providing enough labor and payments to sustain the poor households through one lean season. Around 1,100 urban communities will be targeted with these MCCG grants of
US$ 27,000 each. This Component also includes the establishment of urban Gozar Assemblies (GAs) and parallel Business Gozars (BGAs), each of which will receive a sum of US$ 200,000 for prioritized market-based infrastructure development/support. This Component will cover 12 of the 13 prioritized cities, except Kabul. Municipal-level regulatory reforms also fall under this Component. Total budget = US$ 120.5 million.

**Component #3:** Prioritized Urban Investments in Four Provincial Capital Cities (PCCs), to be implemented by the IDLG, via its City Investment Project's Project Implementation Unit (CIP PIU). This component will cover the cities of Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Khost Matun. Performance grant allocations for prioritized urban investments will be awarded against achievement of specific performance criteria in three cycles. Four participating PCCs will receive 5 percent of the formula-based allocation investment financing amount following the submittal of a “Municipal Investment Platform” (Cycle-1). The remaining financing for investments will be distributed in two subsequent budgetary cycles awarded based on the level of compliance by the municipality with the public financial management triggers. Total budget = US$ 25 million.

**Component #4:** Market Based Infrastructure and Regulatory Reforms, to be implemented by the Kabul Municipality (KM) for within its own coverage area. The KM will develop and implement several regulatory reforms with the immediate focus on simplification of construction permits. Other reforms relevant to Doing Business (DB) indicators will also be supported. The KM will identify “Priority Project” investments through consultations with businesses. The funding for these investments will be released in three tranches and will be conditional on meeting the regulatory reform triggers for this component. Total budget = US$ 40 million.

**Component #5:** Red Carpet and Program Coordination, to be implemented by the Ministry of Economy (MoEc). The first of its sub-components seeks to move the government from providing “red tape” (bureaucratic/difficult processes) to providing a “red carpet” (an investor friendly way of operating) through the provision of technical and operational assistance to MoEC for supporting national regulatory reforms and feasibility assessment of business service centers in selected cities. Its second sub-component mandates MoEC as responsible for inter-ministerial coordination within GoIRA for overall management and project oversight across the IAs, for all aspects of the EZ-Kar. Total budget = US$ 10 million.

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

This General Procurement Notice (GPN) is being issued by the MoEc (on behalf of all Implementing Agencies) of the EZ-Kar, with regard to all procurement that will be undertaken under the EZ-Kar Project.

All goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the IDA/ARTF Grant(s) for EZ-Kar shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” dated July 2016, revised November 2017 (“Procurement Regulations”), and the provisions of the Recipient’s procurement plan for the Project (“Procurement Plan”) dated November 18, 2018 and the same may be updated from time to time in agreement with the World Bank.

Specific procurement notices will be announced, as they become available, in the following websites: UN Development Business, dgMarket, NPA website www.ppu.gov.af and in the local Newspapers. These specific procurement notices will also be available in the website for the EZ-Kar that is expected to be set-up shortly, and the websites of the relevant implementation agency:


At the time of publication of this GPN, the planned and approved major procurement activities for the EZ-Kar include the following:

**Consultancy Services:**

1. Firm: Feasibility Assessment for Business Service Support Centers in Select EZ-Kar Cities – MoEc
2. Firm: Preparation of Communication/ Media Products for the EZ-Kar Visibility and Branding – MoEc
3. Firm: Design, set-up, pilot and training of staff in a Project specific Management Information System (MIS) – MoEc
4. Firm: Development of a National Regulatory Reform Plan
5. Firm: Phased Impact Evaluation (baseline, mid-term, post-project completion) for select sub-components
6. Firm: Independent Monitoring and Approving Agents
7. Firm(s): NGOs to serve as Facilitating Partners (FPs) for EZ-Kar’s Component 2; total 5 packages proposed for 13 cities – IDLG
8. Firm: Developing web-based GRM system – MoFA
9. Firm: Developing and implementing a communication strategy targeting Afghan refugees in Pakistan – MoFA
10. Firm: Managing helpline and manual development for the same – MoFA
11. Firm: Development and training in municipal level construction permit reform plan – IDLG
12. Firm: Identification, selection and screening of Component 3 projects – IDLG
13. Firm: Feasibility and design of Component 3 projects – IDLG
14. Firm: Construction supervision – IDLG
15. _____________________________

Goods:
1. Office furniture: Varying packages by all IAs
2. IT and Office Equipment and Accessories: Varying packages by all IAs
3. Passport production equipment: MoFA
4. Fuel (vehicles and generators): Varying packages by all IAs
5. _____________________________

Works:
1. Market based infrastructure for gozar assemblies (GAs) and business gozar assemblies (BGAs) in 12 cities– to be procured by the GAs and BGAs themselves using community based procurement method or by the IDLG if larger subprojects.
2. Priority city investment infrastructure projects in 4 cities – IDLG
3. Priority Kabul-based infrastructure projects – Kabul Municipality
4. _____________________________

Non-Consulting Services
1. Internet services: Varying packages by all IAs
2. Website-hosting: MoEC
3. Vehicle rentals: Varying packages by all IAs
4. Office space rentals: IDLG
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