

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Germany

EMERGe

Project No.: P504220

Assignment Title: Islamic Finance FMFB (Pool Management & Profit Distribution)

Reference No. ACGF/EMERGE/C-3

ACGF has received from the World Bank toward the cost of the EMERGe and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include reviewing already developed policies and system(s) for pool management and profit distribution management at First Micro Finance Bank (FMFB) in Afghanistan and based on the results and FMFB’s needs, develop a Pool Management Framework to be integrated in FMFB’s business operations. Implementing a Pool Management Framework that ensures Sharia-compliant profit distribution management is a requirement by Da Afghanistan Bank (the Central Bank) to adhere to Islamic banking principles. The Pool Management Framework will include policies and procedures covering Pool Management and Profit Distribution Management. The Consultant shall assess the possibility of the implementation of such framework into FMFB’s Core Banking System (CBS). In addition, the Consultant will ensure that the developed Pool Management Framework is in full compliance with Da Afghanistan Bank regulations and Shariah principles. Furthermore, relevant FMFB staff will be trained in utilizing the Pool Management Framework. The Consultant will coordinate closely with FMFB’s relevant departments, including the finance and IT department. The project scope includes post-implementation guidance on the Pool Management Framework and additional advisory in case that FMFB’s business activities expand, as per the project workplan. The estimated Level of Efforts (professional staff-days) for the project is 71 days, with implementation period that expands over four and a half months. The assignment is expected to start on the 2nd of September 2024.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *are attached to this request for expressions of interest.*

ACGF now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- a) The Consultant should be a registered legal entity and should have been in business for the last 5 years in providing Consultancy Services. (The consultant is required to provide the Copy Certificate of Incorporation issued by the relevant authority in the country of establishment).
- b) The consultant shall provide proven experience for completing a minimum of 2 contracts with the value of USD 65,320 having executed during the last 5 years of a similar nature indicating the duration, value and years of performance, which should showcase the expertise/ strength of the consultant for undertaking such assignments.

Guidance Note for Joint Venture and Sub-Consultants:

- c) The requirements for Consultants who intend to associate with other firm(s) in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or Consortium or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications are indicated as under:
 - i. The lead partner is required to be identified clearly and state the composition and nature of their association (JV/ sub-consultant) in their EOI.
 - ii. In case of consultant who intends to associate with other firm(s) in the form of a sub-consultancy, the lead partner **shall provide a valid reason for proposing a sub-consultant.**

Note: The Consultant should explain the exact role played by the Consultant in the assignment if the assignment was carried out in association with other firms as JV.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", Fourth Edition, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. The World Bank requires that firms or individuals involved in Bank IPF procurement shall not have a conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours: Monday to Friday between 09:00 – 17:00.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, by fax, or by e-mail) **by 21.07.2024.**

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