**Call for Submission of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Partnership with DRC Afghanistan (Roster)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1. DRC Mission in Afghanistan**

DRC began working in Afghanistan in the 1990s with Humanitarian Mine Action and expanded its scope and reach of programming in 2011 to provide multi-sector and holistic packages of assistance. Activities are currently implemented in four regions of the country. These focus on the most vulnerable populations and their needs, including people who are at risk of being affected by conflict, natural hazards, and disasters, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and returnees.

DRC responds to what remains a protracted humanitarian crisis through a multi-pronged approach. This means that DRC aims at addressing the critical needs of extremely vulnerable and shock-affected populations while also providing medium to longer-term solutions that focus on root causes of the crisis. To do so, DRC in Afghanistan works across all five core sectors:

* Protection
* Economic Recovery (Livelihoods), including Natural Resource Management and Disaster Risk Reduction
* Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding
* Shelter and Settlements
* Camp Coordination and Camp Management

The overall goal of DRC Afghanistan’s multi-sector response is to promote favorable conditions for shock and displacement-affected communities to seek safety, claim their basic rights, and pursue self-reliance. Due to the uncertainty of the current context, DRC maintains the capacity to respond to sudden and large-scale emergencies such as floods and earthquakes, while also promoting the transition to recovery programming. While DRC remains a largely direct-implementing organization, operations in Afghanistan as of 2023 involve strategic partnerships with various CSOs/NGOs, with a view to deliver programming in the most efficient and effective manner while simultaneously fostering local capacities to safeguard the rights of underserved populations and respond to urgent needs.

**1.2. DRC’s Global Mandate**

DRC’s global mandate for working in partnership with civil society is rooted in our rights-based approach to programming. DRC’s aim is to protect refugees and internally displaced people from persecution and to promote durable solutions for refugees on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights. A key role of civil society is to represent the interests of various groups of rights-holders and thereby promote and channel their participation in decision-making and in holding duty-bearers accountable. CSOs/NGOs also play a crucial role in providing services and support in emergencies, reaching durable solutions, and addressing roots causes to displacement. DRC’s purpose in working with civil society is to support both aspects, in pursuit of the highest possible benefit to people affected by displacement.

**1.3. DRC Civil Society Partnerships in Afghanistan**

DRC is committed to embracing strong local partnerships by working with partners to strengthen the sustainability, relevance, and impact of the Afghanistan response, in line with longer-term localization ambitions. In line with the DRC Strategy 2025, which highlights stronger Partnerships and Alliances as strategic priorities and ‘Go Local’ as a key organizational principle, DRC is focusing on strengthening partnerships with civil society actors to increase the sustainability, relevance, and impact of the response. DRC’s country mandate for working in partnership with civil society is rooted in a rights-based approach and encourages rights-holders to claim and realize their rights.

The main purpose of this mapping exercise is to identify and document potential local civil society organizations (CSO), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based groups (CBO), and stakeholders that can play a vital role in achieving the objectives outlined in the Afghanistan Strategy 2025. By this mapping exercise, DRC Afghanistan does not commit to a partnership opportunity, instead, local actors with potential for partnerships will be systematically documented and included in a roster list for prospective future engagements.

**2. SCOPE OF WORK**

DRC Afghanistan is working in Protection, Economic Recovery (Livelihoods), Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding, Shelter, Infrastructure and WASH, Camp Coordination and Camp Management sectors covering 19 provinces: Namely Nuristan, Kunar, Nangarhar, Paktika, Paktya, Logar, Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir, Wardak, Ghazni, Zabul, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimruz, Herat, Farah and Badghis.

As of 2024, DRC maintains implementing partnerships with six local CSOs/NGOs within our core sectors of Protection, Economic Recovery, and Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding in the West, South, and Central Regions, in which our partners are working alongside DRC to achieve a common goal. DRC is also providing intensive organizational capacity development support to a Kabul-based local organization through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ACBAR under the umbrella of an FCDO-funded Twinning Programme.

Partnerships with CSOs/NGOs will be mainstreamed within DRC core sectors and geographies, where possible, but may also extend beyond our areas of intervention both in terms of programmatic expertise and locations of coverage. In addition, partnerships with both established and grassroots CSOs/NGOs will place priority on enhanced access to marginalized populations, where they can claim legitimate representation of such groups.

DRC Afghanistan explores opportunities to increase its number of implementing partnerships with CSOs/NGOs working within our core sectors and geographies, with the aim of working with partners in a complementary way and avoiding competing with local expertise and duplicating efforts – a pursuit that is key to the localization agenda. Therefore, DRC Afghanistan invites and strongly encourages all eligible local civil actors who works working within our core sectors and geographies and possibility beyond that to submit their expression of interest for potential partnership with DRC.

**3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

* **Registration and Affiliation:** All interested organizations must be registered and actively operating within Afghanistan. They should not hold registrations or affiliations with organizations located outside the country.
* **Relevant Working Experience:** Prior experience in DRC's core sectors and geographic areas of operation is a mandatory requirement. Experience extending beyond DRC's core sectors and geographical scope will be considered an advantage.
* **Minimum Duration of Operation:** Interested organizations must have a minimum of four (4) years of operational experience.
* **Collaborative Experience:** Organizations with a track record of working in partnership with other national or international organizations will be viewed favorably.

**4. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

* Certificate of Registration
* Written Expression of Interest
* Organization Profile that can indicate: Full name, short name, years of establishment, main sectors of operation, core activities withing each sector, cluster memberships, partnership with INGOs and DRC, main donors and budget in last three years, geographical presence and coverage, address and focal point contact details.

**5. SUBMISSION PROCESS**

To all interested and eligible applicants:

* We kindly request that you submit a concise expression of interest, not exceeding 700 words in length. In this document, please explain how your organizational capacity, expertise, and geographical presence align with those of DRC in Afghanistan.
* For any inquiries or to seek clarifications, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at hamed.anwari@drc.ngo. We are at your disposal to address your questions and provide any assistance needed.