

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO. HCR/AFG/2022/001

Note: The purpose of the [Call for Expression of Interest](#) is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to participate in a UNHCR operation and contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge, funds, in-kind contributions, supplies and/or equipment) to achieving common objectives as agreed in a [Partnership Agreement](#).

Partners are required to submit their Concept Notes based on the background and activities provided below. For further details on the Concept Note, please turn to the information at the bottom of this document.

Existing and Prospective partners may submit Concept Notes for one Project/ location or several Projects/ locations. The submissions should, however, be guided by ability to access specific locations and demonstrated expertise and capacity for an activity envisaged in a particular location.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST No.	
Project title and Identification:	Project Location:
Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER) in Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs)	All provinces of Afghanistan
Brief Background of the Project:	
<p>Afghanistan is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and an increasing risk of economic collapse. Forty years of armed conflict, recurrent natural disasters – including droughts and floods, increased poverty, food insecurity, failing health systems, and lack of shelters, compounded by COVID-19 – have made most of the people in Afghanistan vulnerable to extreme protection risks.</p> <p>Some 670,000 people were internally displaced by conflict in Afghanistan in 2021, more than 80 per cent of whom are women and children. This brings the total number of IDPs to 3.6 million. 169,000 IDPs are estimated to have returned to their places of origin since August 2021. Some 2.6 million registered Afghan refugees are living in exile, with the majority in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. Nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees voluntarily returned to the country through assisted repatriation programmes since 2002.</p> <p>Events in Afghanistan after August 2021, in addition to the global economic impact of COVID-19, have severely affected the coping mechanisms of vulnerable population groups in the country, particularly internally displaced people, as well as some 72,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan.</p> <p>As prices of main food commodities continue to rise, it is anticipated that 95 per cent of Afghans are now facing food insecurity. Some 23 million people, over half of Afghanistan’s population, are facing acute food insecurity. Increased pressure on shared resources in areas of displacement and return are worsening living conditions and leading people to exhaust nearly all coping mechanisms to survive. In this context, ensuring access to essential services and viable livelihood opportunities is critical to stabilize communities.</p> <p>UNHCR Afghanistan’s multi-year strategy (MYS) for 2022-24 seeks to address these concerns through the following five strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced regional engagements and policy development towards forced displacement, and sustainable return and reintegration. 	

2. Create conducive conditions for sustainable return and reintegration and durable solutions, including for IDPs within Afghanistan, while fostering social cohesion through inclusive HDP partnerships particularly in PARRs.
3. Inclusion of PoCs into national development programmes and plans and strengthening of system capacities to deliver equitable services for all.
4. Improving protection space and reducing vulnerabilities by increasing access to basic, physical, social services and facilities.
5. Enhance self-reliance and achieve solutions for all.

These priorities are reinforced by the UNHCR Afghanistan's Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER) programming in Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs) – UNHCR's area-based solutions approach in Afghanistan. Co-PROSPER aims to sustain lifesaving assistance and improve access to essential services to create a conducive protection environment, mitigate further displacement, and support building resilient communities in line with the UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF).

The PARRs are the key operational priority for Afghanistan in the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and a driver of a regional approach towards seeking durable solutions to the Afghan situation.

Though this Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) UNHCR seeks to expand its pool of potential partners for the period covered under this CEI. This will allow UNHCR to engage with organisations in the roster for potential partnerships, given the context and evolving implementation modalities and operational priorities in Afghanistan.

Please note that positive feedback on the submitted concept will not necessarily result in the conclusion of a project partnership agreement in 2022 but will allow UNHCR and potential NGO partners to discuss implementation modalities at any time during the period 2022-24, subject to operational priorities and needs, and the availability of resources.

The expression of interest should be based on the parameters below and across one or more provinces in Afghanistan, utilising an integrated area-based approach.

All documents and annexes should be submitted in the English language through the Partner portal at partner.unhcr.org. In order to be able to submit the concept note and accompanying documents your organization has to be registered at the Partner portal. During the registration process you will be asked to upload your statutory and registration documents, as well as letters of recommendation. If you encounter any problems during the registration process, please contact UNHCR at epartner@unhcr.org and copy afgkaipm@unhcr.org.

When applying through the portal the Partner should submit:

1. Concept Note (Annex A1)
2. Draft budget (Annex A2)
3. Certificate of registration to operate in Afghanistan

After registration at the Partner portal, you will be able to access UNHCR policies and guidance notes for the Partners, as well as the templates of the partnership agreements documents.

Prospective partners who are not able to access the Partner Portal in time for the submission deadline can also submit to the email address afgkaipm@unhcr.org. The subject of the email should indicate **HCR/AFG/2022/001** followed by your organisation name.

When applying via e-mail the Partner should submit:

1. Concept Note (Annex A1)
2. Draft budget (Annex A2)
4. Certificate of registration to operate in Afghanistan
5. Statute or constitution document
6. Legal registration document
7. Two recommendation letters from other UN Agencies or Donors (ECHO, DFID, USAID etc ...)
8. Partner Declaration (Annex B)

Expected Outputs and Main Activities:

The expected outputs or main activities are expected to be in line with UNHCR's strategic priorities outlined above, and the Co-PROSPER framework. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Multi-sectoral activities related to early recovery and resilience;
- Improving access to livelihoods and working with social enterprises;
- Carrying out socioeconomic empowerment of youth and women;
- Financial inclusion, including access to microfinance;
- Improving access to well-being support and assistance;
- Improving access to basic health services;
- Improving access to clean energy;
- Improving access to adequate dwellings; and
- Improving access for PoCs and members of the host community to a wider range of solutions.

Expressions of interest may include interventions across one or more of the sectors outlined above. Applicants should seek to demonstrate evidence of an integrated area-based approach in the Concept Notes.

Intended Population Coverage:

Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugee Returnees, IDP Returnees, Host Community

Partnership Period [estimated start and end dates of project]:

For interventions during UNHCR Afghanistan's Multi-Year Strategy 2022-24

Submission Deadline:	Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:
22 May 2022	30 June 2022

Selection Criteria

Choose relevant criteria	Criteria Description	Assigned Weighting (optional)
	Sector expertise and experience: the required specific skills, sector specialists, performance, knowledge, material and human resources. Knowledge of relevant protection, humanitarian principles and the approach to Age, Gender, Diversity (AGDM). Knowledge of	35

	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and approach to the participation of POC in the Programme Cycle. Evidence of integrated area-based approach in programming.	
	Project management: ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes, and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management.	20
	Local experience and presence: On-going programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; access; engaging refugees/ returnees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for person of concern; self- organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	20
	Contribution of resources: evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNHCR resources.	5
	Cost effectiveness: Evidence of a methodology for allocation of shared costs to project activities. Evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes while also ensuring that resources are also directed to activities that ensure project risks are being appropriately managed.	10
	Strategic considerations: identification of shared strategic priorities and articulation of strategic value of a potential partnership with UNHCR, and experience working with humanitarian and/or development actors.	10
Other information		
Procurement capacity: capacity and capability for undertaking procurement at the required scale may be required in accordance with the Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 4 (Revision 1) on Procurement by Partners under Partnership Agreement. ¹		
Partner's capacity to mitigate, respond and prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: all potential partners are reminded to submit (via the UN Partner Portal) their PSEA self-assessment, ahead of a concept note submission, unless already assessed by a UN entity ² .		
The Concept Note should be completed per the template provided in Annex A of this Call for Expression of Interest and not be a fully developed project proposal. It should be concise, contain clear information and not exceed five (5) pages. Upon final decisions of IPMC, selected partners will participate in the design and detailed budgeting of the Project and in the conclusion of the Project Partnership Agreement. Concept Notes should clearly indicate in which geographical area(s) the NGO is planning to intervene in.		

¹ See [Guidance Note No. 4 \(Revision 1\) Procurement by Partners](#) (2018).

² See [Factsheet – PSEA Partner Assessments](#)

Issuing UNHCR Office	Country Office Kabul
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Signature, Head of Office	
Full name and title, Head of Office	Leonard Zulu, Representative Afghanistan
Name of UNHCR Office	Country Office Kabul
Date	10 May 2022

