Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme

Potential Applicant Briefing

14 May 2013

Afghanistan Branch

AACRS Objective

> The *Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme* (AACRS) is a new AusAID program of support to Afghanistan's agricultural and rural development

- the AACRS objective is: *Improved resilience and livelihoods for Afghan rural communities.*

> In line with AusAID's approach to agriculture and rural development in Afghanistan, **food security and economic livelihoods are central to the notion of community resilience envisaged under the AACRS.**

> The AACRS also requires NGOs to include capacity building of Afghan civil society organisations (CSOs) within their projects.

The Scheme

> Through the Request for Submissions process, AusAID will select up to five (5) NGOs to work with Afghan CSOs to deliver agreed projects under the AACRS.

> It is not assumed the budget will be divided evenly between each NGO, or that five (5) NGOs will necessarily be selected and/or funded. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount that NGOs can apply for.

> Implementation of the AACRS will be over four (4) years, with up to AUD30 million allocated to projects (of which AUD500,000 will be set aside in an Innovations Fund).

Organisation Eligibility

> The AACRS is open to Australian and international NGOs, and is <u>not</u> limited to organisations that have AusAID accreditation through the AusAID–NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

- AusAID will undertake due diligence assessments of non-AusAID accredited NGOs before grant agreements are finalised.

> To be eligible to apply for AACRS detailed design and project funding, NGOs must:

- be registered to work in Afghanistan;
- have effectively implemented development projects in Afghanistan in the past five (5) years, and for more than five (5) years in total; and,
- be signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, or an international equivalent.

Consortia Bids

> AusAID also invites Submissions involving consortia of NGOs.

> The lead applicant NGO will be accountable for all funds. The Funding Agreement shall be signed with the lead applicant NGO, who will be responsible for the performance of the consortia.

> Applicant NGOs are eligible to provide only one Submission for consideration, however, in the case of consortia, an NGO can be involved in several consortia and applications, but can only be the lead applicant NGO in one consortium.

AACRS Detailed Design Phase

> After selection of AACRS NGOs, the AACRS will have 2 phases:

  i.   a **Detailed Design Phase**, during which the selected NGOs will be supported to produce high quality detailed designs;

  ii. a four–year **Implementation Phase**, during which projects will be implemented.

> As part of their Submission, applicant NGOs must provide a one page plan and one page budget outlining how they intend to undertake the Detailed Design Phase.

AACRS Detailed Design Phase

> Once NGOs have been selected, AusAID will support the development of detailed designs through:

- grant agreements of up to AUD50,000;
- assistance though the AACRS Technical Reference Group; and
- support for attendance at the AACRS Partnership and Design Workshop.

> The detailed designs will be subject to AusAID's quality and peer review processes.

- NGOs whose detailed design documents are approved by AusAID will be invited to enter into full grant agreements with AusAID.

Scheme Management & Support

> <u>AusAID Canberra</u>: leads on overall management.

> <u>Scheme Governance Committee</u>: will provide leadership and oversight of the AACRS.

> <u>Scheme Manager</u>: will provide day to day management and coordination between the NGOs relating to overall program level activity, event and M&E requirements.

> <u>Technical Reference Group</u>: containing design, M&E, gender and rural development expertise, will support the development of detailed designs and provide advice over the life of the AACRS (at AusAID's discretion).

Further Details

> AusAID website includes:

- AACRS Competitive Grant Guidelines

- AACRS Program Design Document and annexes

- FAQ will go up after today's briefing, and continue to be updated.

> Please contact aacrs@ausaid.gov.au with further enquires.