SOLICITATION NUMBER: 72030620R10033

ISSUANCE DATE: June 18, 2020
CLOSING DATE/TIME: July 02, 2020 (4:30 PM Kabul Time)

SUBJECT: Solicitation for a Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCNPSC) Project Management Specialist (Health) FSN-11 – (Multiple Vacancies)

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified persons to provide personal services under contract as described in this solicitation.

Offers must be in accordance with Attachment 1 of this solicitation. Incomplete offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offers.

Any questions must be directed in writing to the Point of Contact specified in the Attached 1.

Sincerely,

David Smale
Contracting Officer
Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. SOLICITATION NO.: 72030620R10033

2. ISSUANCE DATE: June 18, 2020

3. CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS: July 02, 2020 no later than 4:30 PM Kabul time.

4. POINT OF CONTACT: E-mail at kblaidfsnjobs@usaid.gov.

5. POSITION TITLE: Project Management Specialist (Health) FSN-11

6. MARKET VALUE: Equivalent to FSN-11 (Step 1 – 13)
   In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of U.S. Embassy Afghanistan. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.

7. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: Five (5) years, estimated to start one (1) month following receipt of Security Clearance. Employment contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts.

8. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE: Kabul, Afghanistan with possible travel as stated in the Statement of Duties.

9. ELIGIBLE OFFERORS: Cooperating Country National (CCN), meaning an individual who is a cooperating country (Afghanistan) citizen, or a non-cooperating country citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the cooperating country.


11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

   1. General Statement of Purpose of the Contract

   The USAID/Afghanistan Office of Health and Nutrition (OHN) manages a $120 million health and population portfolio with 14 active awards, serving as the primary health and population development liaison between the U.S. Government (USG) and the Government of Afghanistan (GoA). The OHN team liaises with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, such as the Canadian Embassy, the European Union (EU), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japanese Embassy, the World Bank (WB), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In addition, OHN has less intensive liaison activities with other ministries, such as Education, Higher Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Planning, Women’s Affairs, and Finance.
Under the supervision of the OHN Director or his/her designee, the incumbent serves as a team leader for the health service delivery or health systems teams. In this capacity the incumbent leads, manages, mentors and coaches a technical team (health service delivery or health systems) comprised of Cooperating Country National (CCN) staff. The incumbent provides expert technical, administrative, financial, and management assistance to OHN. The incumbent also serves as program specialist, assisting USAID/Afghanistan to implement the Agency’s sector-wide health activities in Afghanistan. The incumbent has daily responsibility for managing and coordinating project activities with officials in the MoPH as well as with other ministries and international agencies associated with the implementation of health, population and nutrition development projects.

The incumbent must analyze and use data for decision-making, and advise others on data findings and implications for program decisions and activities. The incumbent will also work closely and collegially with colleagues on program and project designs, proposal reviews, work plans, and strategies, and will coordinate meetings or visits to USAID and the U.S. Embassy with counterparts in the U.S. Mission and with external counterparts in the health sector.

This is a professional management position that requires leadership, technical skills and program experience – particularly with regard to primary health care, maternal, newborn and child health, family planning/reproductive health, nutrition development, infectious disease, and health systems strengthening. The position requires well-developed interpersonal and managerial skills, sound judgment and the ability to develop professional relationships within USG agencies and organizations, USAID, GoA counterparts, U.S., international, and Afghan technical organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The incumbent maintains contact with MoPH officials, other organizations already named and service delivery personnel at all levels in Afghanistan, and represents USAID in numerous high level technical, program and donor consultations and working groups related to health programs in Afghanistan. The incumbent assists in the coordination of USAID health, population and nutrition development project activities with other departments within USAID as well as with donors and other organizations named above.

2. Statement of Duties to be Performed

The incumbent serves as a team leader for CCN staff on either the OHN health service delivery or health systems team. The incumbent leads the team in programmatic planning and goal setting. The incumbent is responsible for assisting team members to set appropriate performance and professional development objectives. The incumbent monitors team members’ performance to ensure USAID and the OHN reach overarching health and population development goals for Afghanistan.

The incumbent serves as an expert technical officer who advises on and in consultation with colleagues and the OHN Director, manages corrective actions with counterparts to ensure USAID and OHN policies, strategies, programs, projects supported by U.S. health assistance are of the greatest possible impact on health. The incumbent therefore is expected to convey clearly and logically, internationally-accepted public health concepts and cost-effective
primary and secondary level service delivery interventions and approaches, best practices and lessons learned, in relation to the status of health in general and in particular, to that of women and children in Afghanistan. The incumbent also serves as an OHN point of contact with the MoPH, other donors, implementing partners and other USG counterparts for the projects, activities or thematic areas in health that s/he is assigned.

The incumbent serves as Certified Agreement/Contracting Officer’s Representative (A/COR), On-Budget Monitor (OBM), or alternate for any of these positions as designated by the Mission’s Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA). The incumbent is responsible for management actions relating to agreements, grants, or contracts, for implementation in the health portfolio. In the AOR/COR/OBM capacity, the incumbent is responsible for monitoring contractors’ and grantees’ performance and for regularly engaging with project staff (USAID’s “implementing partners”) and local beneficiaries. The incumbent exercises considerable initiative and independent judgment in planning and managing project activities.

**Technical Leadership, Program Representation, and Stakeholder Engagement**

- Provides expert technical guidance and leadership related to primary health care, maternal, newborn and child health, as well as family planning/reproductive health, infectious disease, nutrition development and health systems strengthening across USAID/Afghanistan, OHN, and interagency.

- Provides strategic technical direction and preparation of strategy updates, program area analysis, presentations, and briefing materials.

- Maintains contacts with high and mid-level host government officials and represents USAID in policy, strategy, program, technical and coordination meetings, and in working committees/groups. Assists in organization of and attends events related to public health in Afghanistan, takes notes and reports back to the OHN senior management and other relevant offices within USAID/Afghanistan.

- Establishes and maintains cordial and effective contacts and relationships with representatives of donor and international and national technical organizations, and representatives of the private sector, NGOs, and other USAID implementing partners.

- Develops and supports the dissemination and discussion of information concerning the Mission’s health programs and participates in seminars, workshops, and conferences.

- Assists in the coordination of OHN strategies and program/project activities with other technical offices within USAID/Afghanistan.

- Represents USAID and the OHN in various committee meetings constituted for review and to provide technical inputs on issues concerned with a policy, strategy, and/or project or program.
Project Management

Develops and manages health programs undertaking detailed information analysis, project design, monitoring, evaluation, budget management and general oversight. The incumbent exercises initiative and independent judgment in strategic activity planning and identifies problems that require follow-up actions. The incumbent interacts with program/project managers of several implementing partners, technical and management advisors and host country counterparts. Specific responsibilities include:

- Reviews proposals from host country counterparts and other sources that are submitted for assistance to determine their suitability for project financing. Assists in the analysis of needs, conceptual design of activities, and the preparation of program descriptions, amendments, and related statements of work.

- Prepares detailed scopes of work for technical assistance and training services for project components, and explores various procurement options. Holds detailed discussions with host country counterparts on procurement and takes necessary action for services and/or commodities procurement.

- Participates in Mission Technical Evaluation Committees (TEC) to evaluate and select contractors and grantees. Provides technical review of project performance in terms of achieving physical and financial targets and attainment of the project’s goal and purpose.

- Oversees, evaluates, and monitors contractors’/grantees’ performance, project budgets, including costs, and progress by making on site-visits, as permitted; also assists other OHN colleagues in portfolio administration.

- Has significant and primary responsibility for designing, managing and monitoring of OHN program funding for health projects. Liaises closely with USAID’s Office of Financial Management (OFM), Office of Program and Project Development (OPPD), OAA and various Mission committees, such as the on-budget committee that oversees budget-related issues concerning direct USAID assistance to the GoA, and maintains proper records pertaining to program/project decisions and budgets.

- Exercises considerable initiative and independent judgment in planning and implementing program/project activities. Monitors and intervenes as necessary to ensure that the program/project activities are responsive to terms and conditions of relevant USAID grants/contracts/agreements, as well as that they meet the expectations of project beneficiaries.

- Manages performance of financial reviews and of analyses of a project’s financial parameters, and prepares project-related financial and budget projections. Ensures that all audit and evaluation requirements are fulfilled.
Reviews grants/contracts/agreements in consultation with the Acquisition and Assistance Specialist in the USAID/Afghanistan/ OAA assigned to work with OHN, and provide guidance to and oversight of implementing partner actions concerning project procurement and the use of project-funded assets.

As AOR/COR/OBM, maintains accurate and complete project files in conformance with OAA compliance requirements. Reviews financial reports from implementing partners, monitors expenditures, processes contractor invoices, prepares financial pipeline reports, accruals reports, and project modification requests. Tracks commitments, obligations and de-obligation actions. Completes closeout activities for projects that are completed or terminated.

Program Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Reporting

- Provides leadership and works closely with OHN Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team specialist and AORs/CORs/OBMs to ensure that outputs and impact of activities are analyzed periodically and data is used to guide partner performance management.

- Tracks program/project achievements or shortfalls against targets and deliverables in periodic program/project reporting, and requests corrective actions if needed. Drafts and updates informative documents such as project briefing memoranda and papers, project amendments, project procurement documents, fact sheets, and other outreach and communication products.

- Defines and reports on the results from USAID/Afghanistan’s investment in the public health sector through annual reports, studies etc., and drafts summaries, briefing memoranda and press releases.

- Develops information tracking systems, coordinates M&E, and analyzes data. Maintains project and program files, including databases on project performance, implementation progress, disbursement of funds, and achievement of objectives.

- Applies data analysis findings to future program/project designs, strategy, and activities.

- Drafts official USAID documentation such as letters to host governments, embassies, and partners; annual reports; implementation letters; assistance and acquisition documents; action memoranda and other documents related to public health.

Staff Supervision

- Assists supervised employees to establish appropriate Work and Development Plans (WDP) that set appropriate performance objectives and criteria in support of project and OHN team goals. Assists employee to plan and schedule training needed to achieve AOR/COR certification.
• Mentors and supports employee as needed in performance of their duties, identifying potential resources and opportunities for professional development.

• Monitors employee performance, providing needed support and direction to facilitate successful achievement of performance objectives.

• Prepares annual Employee Performance Reports (EPRs) for review by the OHN Director.

The contractor is eligible for temporary duty (TDY) travel to the U.S., or to other Missions abroad, to participate in the "Foreign Service National" Fellowship Program, in accordance with USAID policy.

3. Supervisory Relationship

The incumbent works under the general supervision of the OHN Director or his/her designee. The incumbent will be empowered by the OHN Director to act independently in selecting and prioritizing some tasks and to carry out other assigned tasks. Priority assignments (“Taskers”) may also be assigned by the Deputy Mission Director or by staff from other offices, as relevant.

4. Supervisory Controls

The incumbent supervises three (3) FSN-10 Project Specialists. In that capacity, the incumbent must mentor junior staff to develop skills and performance objectives.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

a) Education: A master’s degree in public health, nursing, health policy and/or health sciences is required. (Education requirement must be met at the time of application for the subject position).

b) Work Experience: Minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible administrative and management experience within Afghanistan’s health sector with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) structure, or Afghanistan’s private health sector or non-governmental, donor organizations is required. (Work experience requirement must be met at the time of application for the subject position).

c) Language: Level IV (Fluent) speaking/reading of English language and Level IV (Fluent) speaking/reading of Dari or Pashto is required. (English language ability will be tested).

d) Knowledge: The incumbent must have excellent knowledge of international health and public health program/project management, including of the design, management and
evaluation of public health projects/programs, is required. A thorough understanding of the MoPH structure and Afghanistan’s private health sector (in particular in primary health care, maternal, newborn and child health, midwifery service improvement and/or family planning/reproductive health, infectious disease, nutrition development and health systems strengthening) is also required. The incumbent is expected to become fully knowledgeable about USAID development and health assistance policies. The incumbent is expected to be highly knowledgeable about and have implemented best program and technical practices in public health in Afghanistan and to be highly knowledgeable about the development and health issues facing the MoPH and GoA. The incumbent is expected to explain USAID policies, procedures and requirements to outside parties, including high-level government officials, donors, contractors and partners.

e) **Skills and Abilities:** The incumbent must have the ability to manage resources, projects, and programs effectively and efficiently; conceptualize, analyze and identify problems and develop solutions; exercise sound judgment; analyze and present information orally and in writing, and draft clear documents. Ability to establish and maintain effective and harmonious counterpart contacts in host-government implementing agencies and related private sector organizations. Ability to effectively communicate and work smoothly with superiors, subordinates, colleagues, and partners, both inside and outside USAID, at a high level of fluency, in English and either Dari or Pashtu. Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to work effectively in a multicultural team environment and achieve consensus on project and administrative matters, is required. Computer literacy in word processing, spreadsheets, presentations including PowerPoint, email and the internet is required. A capacity to draft coherent and grammatically correct papers, correspondence, and analytical materials in both languages is required. The ability to learn workplace-specific software programs or applications for payroll, travel, and project management is also required.

### III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Government may award a contract without discussions with offerors in accordance with FAR 52.215-1. The CO reserves the right at any point in the evaluation process to establish a competitive range of offerors with whom negotiations will be conducted pursuant to FAR 15.306(c). In accordance with FAR 52.215-1, if the CO determines that the number of offers that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the CO may limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated offers. The FAR provisions referenced above are available at https://www.acquisition.gov/browse/index/far.

All applications will be screened for meeting the minimum requirements (Education and Experience). Successful applications will then be ranked by the TEC on Work Experience (100 Points).

Following the ranking by the TEC, successful candidates will be invited for an English and Proficiency Test (EPT) and a Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Test. Successful candidates for these tests will further be invited for an oral interview. Candidates will be selected on
final average scores of the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities and Interview.

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applicants are required to complete and submit a complete application package which must include all required documents (provided below) to AFPAKjobs@usaid.gov with a Subject line Project Management Specialist (Health) FSN-11 (SOL#: 72030620R10033). Offers must be received by the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

a. Complete the mandatory Google form application available on the following link: 
   https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczJsAK3Q6ixNTWg7twhP7wwEFjDEG1qYotB5AHkh3Q7VxxTQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

b. Cover memo/email text that outlines how your qualifications and experience meet the selection criteria.

c. Updated version of Application for Employment as a Locally Employed Staff (DS-174, dated 6/30/2022) https://eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds174.PDF (A copy of the DS-174 form can also be downloaded from ACBAR.org under this link http://www.acbar.org/applicationform. Applicants who are accessing this solicitation through jobs.af can download directly from the website) AND

d. A current resume or curriculum vitae.

IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR APPLICATION CONSIDERED, YOU MUST SUBMIT ALL FOUR ABOVE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. IF YOU OMIT ANY OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, GOOGLE FORM, COVER PAGE, CV OR UPDATED DS-174 FORM, YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), please refer to below link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rkZ_Xgdql4Mq9vroj16fJibBYElRhN0b9PGdldAc-G0/edit?usp=sharing

Note:

Ø Only short-listed candidates will be notified.
Ø This vacancy is open only to Afghan Nationals.
Ø Applications with old DS-174 form will not be considered.
Ø Applications with insufficient, incomplete and inconsistent information to make a determination will not be considered.
Ø No in-person appointments or telephone calls will be entertained.
Ø Applications submitted as .RAR and/or WinZip file will not be considered.
Ø Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. At the time of application, candidates must also meet in full the experience requirement. There is no exception to these requirements.
Ø Short-listed candidates will be requested to provide educational documents such as degrees, diplomas, certificates and other pertinent documents as needed. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in disqualification of their application from further consideration.
Ø The Agency retains the full right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions.
Ø To ensure consideration of offers for the intended position, Offerors must prominently reference the Solicitation number in the offer submission.

V. LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS PRIOR TO AWARD

The Contracting Officer (CO) will provide instructions about how to complete and submit the following forms after an offeror is selected for the contract award:

1. Pre-employment Medical History and Examination Form;
2. U.S. Embassy Kabul Security Certification Request;
3. Appointment Affidavits Standard Form 61.

VI. BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a PSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

1. BENEFITS:
   - Defined Contribution Plan (DCF) 12% of the base salary
   - Premium Pay
   - Leave Benefits (Annual, Sick, Maternity, Nursing, Hajj (Pilgrimage) and Special)
   - Medical Benefits
   - Death and Disability Benefits
   - Retirement and other end of service benefits
   - Travel and Temporary Duty (TDY) Benefits

2. ALLOWANCES (as applicable):
   - 25% Unique Conditions of Work Allowance (UCWA)
   - Transportation Allowance
VII. **TAXES**

Local Employee Staff (CCN) is responsible for paying local income taxes. The U.S Mission does not withhold year end local income tax payments.

VIII. **USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES PERTAINING TO PSCs**

USAID regulations and policies governing CCN PSC awards are available at these sources:


2. **Contract Cover Page form AID 309-1** available at [https://www.usaid.gov/forms](https://www.usaid.gov/forms). Pricing by line item is to be determined upon contract award as described below:

### LINE ITEMS

<table>
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<th>ITEM NO (A)</th>
<th>SUPPLIES/SERVICES (DESCRIPTION) (B)</th>
<th>QUANTITY (C)</th>
<th>UNIT (D)</th>
<th>UNIT PRICE (E)</th>
<th>AMOUNT (F)</th>
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<td>Compensation, Fringe Benefits and Other Direct Costs (ODCs)</td>
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<td>LOT</td>
<td>$ TBD</td>
<td><em>$TBD at Award after negotiations with Contractor</em></td>
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- Award Type: Cost
- Product Service Code: 497
- Accounting Info: Appropriation: 7217/181037
- Fund Code: ES-OCO/2017/2018


4. **Ethical Conduct.** By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual, the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the “ Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch,” available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with General Provision 2 and 5 CFR 2635. See [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations)