



**Reference NO: UNDPAFG-2011-0014**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSAL (CFP)**

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (ACT) PROJECT  
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY GRANTS FACILITY (ACT-GF) Round II**

**February 01, 2011**

## Introduction and Objectives

### General

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with national counterparts on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

The UNDP Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project, designed to support the Government of Afghanistan in the development of its critical areas in the fight against corruption. The ACT project, signed and commenced in January 2007, was reformulated in March 2009 and activities were expanded and extended until March 2012. An important aspect of the project has been support to civil society and media to play an active role in promoting accountability and transparency and to facilitate broad public awareness and education initiatives on the complex issues of corruption and to engage more civil society actors and local think tanks in this process.

### Background

Corruption, both petty and grand, constitutes a serious problem in Afghanistan. Decades of war and repression, weak state authority, the omnipresent threat of violence, the high discretionary powers of public officials, low civil service salaries and the weakness of the judiciary and legal enforcement system has led to a culture of corruption and impunity, and there is lack of consideration for transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

Corruption, both petty and grand, constitutes a serious problem in Afghanistan. The commitment to fight corruption was stated publicly by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and the international community during the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan, held in Paris on 12 June 2008. Several key steps have been taken by GIROA in the fight against corruption including the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on 25 August 2008, the finalization of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), and the establishment of the High Office of Oversight for the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategy (HOO). While steps have been taken in the right direction however it is critical that rhetoric is transformed into concrete action and the complex set of institutions involved in the fight against corruption are coordinated to ensure a comprehensive and effective response to corruption that "Anti-corruption programmes cannot succeed unless the public is behind them...People generally understand the seriousness of the corruption problem; they only need to be convinced that something can be done about it. Various civil society groups (religious leaders, business organizations, professional associations and ad hoc groups) have roles to perform in assessing, monitoring and public awareness raising, thus enabling active public participation and oversight."

In view of this, UNDP's Accountability and Transparency Grants Facility (ACT-GF) was established in 2008 and provided grants to three Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The provision of grants was aimed to complement the anti-corruption activities undertaken by the Afghan public sector through strengthening the engagement of civil society in pro-transparency and integrity activities. Through ACT-GF (Round II), the project will provide civil society networks with small and medium-sized grants to support anti-corruption measures of the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Ministry of Interior (MOI) through independent monitoring and reporting.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the Grants Facility are two-fold: (1) to assist the government with independent monitoring of service through CSOs network; and (2) to support civil society through capacity building and financial assistance to undertake initiatives in the areas of accountability, transparency and anti-corruption.

Additional objectives of the Grants Facility also include to:

- Support creation of networks that will work as government-public interface including receiving and follow up of complaints and carrying out technical assessment of government institutions.
- Support the formation of a critical mass of civil society organizations able to advocate on behalf of their constituents (the people of Afghanistan) for change and reform from a citizens' or clients' perspective, in particular in those areas where the government has made a commitment to reform;
- Support the gradual establishment of an independent voice, information or assessments about the current situation in the area of accountability, transparency and corruption/anti-corruption as well as progress achieved;
- Support the gradual creation of trust between citizens and the public sector by bringing them closer together; and
- Strengthening of CSOs to participate meaningfully in public affairs at different levels of the Afghan administrative system (central and local).

## Cost of proposal

The Applicant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the Proposal, the UNDP will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the solicitation.

### **A. Eligibility Information**

#### Eligibility Criteria:

The ACT-GF will provide grants to CSOs which will work as a network of civil society in government institutions at national and sub-national level including MOE, MOF, MOI and departments in provinces. The proposals must fully comply with the requirements for grant application as outlined below. To meet the eligibility criteria of the ACT-GF CSOs must also meet minimum standards of management and organizational capacity.

The minimum eligibility criteria for CSOs are as follows:

- Establish and work in a network with other CSOs in any of the ministries (MOE, MOF, MOI)
- CSOs are in existence for at least 2 years
- CSOs are duly registered with the Afghanistan Government
- CSOs have governing board
- Board regularly meets (at least twice a year), and approves programme, budgets etc.
- CSOs have non-profit objective
- CSOs do not have strong affiliation with any political party

The Proposals prepared by the Applicant and all correspondence and documents relating to the Proposal exchanged by the Applicant and the UNDP ACT Project shall be preferred to be written in the English language. However, proposals written in Pashto and Dari languages shall also be entertained.

## **B. Duration**

### Deadline for submission of proposals

Proposals must be received by the UNDP ACT Project at the address specified below no later than **Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 16:00 hrs, local time**. The UNDP ACT Project may, at its own discretion extend this deadline for the submission of Proposals.

Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project  
Elect Compound, Wazir Akbar Khan  
Kabul, Afghanistan

### Duration of the grant projects

The grants will be flexible to some extent in terms of duration of the grant projects as it may vary in nature and outputs produced. However, proposals should not exceed initial project duration beyond one year.

## **C. Budget**

UNDP will provide the micro grants to the CSOs network within the limits of its financial rules and regulation. A CSOs network proposal shall not exceed US\$ 150,000. The substance and budget of the proposals may be modified by the applicant in discussion with the Technical Assessment Committee and through the various review processes. Once the final selection has been made by the Grants Committee and the full project proposal has been agreed, a grant agreement will be prepared by the ACT-GF to be signed by authorized representatives of the CSOs network and UNDP. The final project proposal will be an integral part of the grant agreement.

## **D. Evaluation of Applications**

UNDP has established a Grants Committee to carry out the evaluation of the proposals from the shortlisted CSOs network, and recommend the CSOs network for the grants. The Grants Committee will review the overall process in compliance with UNDP standards, select the CSOs network based on their proposal and presentation and arrange for the award of grants to selected CSOs network. The Grants Committee will

- (i) Review the overall process in compliance with UNDP standards
- (ii) Select the CSOs network based on their proposal and presentation
- (iii) Arrange for the award of grants to selected CSOs network.

Key criteria to observe in their presentation include

- (i) Conceptual understanding of CSOs about the proposed tasks
- (ii) Clarity in implementation strategy including vision
- (iii) Transparency in implementation

- (iv) Reporting mechanism /frequency
- (v) Cost efficiency

### **E. Submission of Proposals**

All CSOs are invited to develop a full project proposal according to the guidelines given in this Call for Proposal. The interested organizations should submit their final proposals no later than Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 16:00 hrs, local time at the address specified below. A project formulation workshop will be organized after the proposals have been selected for funding. Details of the workshop will be communicated to you if your proposal is selected for funding.

ACT Project Mailing Address:

Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project  
Elect Compound, Wazir Akbar Khan  
Kabul, Afghanistan

For more information, please contact us through telephone or email:

0793101011

ahmad.wali.qaderi@undp.org

## CSOs Network Brief proposal - Template

Name of the Organizations part of the network	
Project Title	
Contact Details (Tel., address, fax)	
Duration of the Project	
Target Groups/beneficiaries	
Geographical Focus	

### **Part I- BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION (max 1000 words)**

This section will provide general overview of the proposed project in relation to the objectives of the call for proposal. Briefly state how your civil society network will be involved in monitoring of service delivery and reporting on experiences of corruption by the public in relevant ministries. Your proposal should cover any one of the ministries supported by ACT project including Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Finance (MOF) or Ministry of Interior (MOI). Activities of the network should include:

- Receiving of complaints and follow up on complaints.
- Data gathering and reporting on corruption experiences of people in specific departments of relevant ministries.
- Awareness raisings of relevant population on their role in the fight against corruption by using available channels of complaints including the CSOs networks.
- Monitoring the implementation of public policies aimed at improving transparency and accountability in service delivery.
- Proposing mechanisms through written monthly reports focused on improving service delivery.

### **Part II- SITUATION ANALYSIS (max 1 page)**

Describe the situation by referring to relevant reviews as well as figures and explain the problem or opportunity to be addressed. Focus on key services by departments of a ministry (MOE, MOF or MOI) the intended beneficiaries.

### **Part III- INTENDED RESULTS and STRATEGY (max 2 pages)**

This section should detail how the project will achieve its intended result and what approaches will be used to maximize the impact as well as ensure sustainability. Please also indicate any potential risks and issues related to your project implementation and how you plan to address them