

Title	International Research and Assessment Consultant
Organization	Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)
Duty Station	Kabul
Duration	11 Months, remuneration based on actual working days
No. of Jobs	1
Nationality	International
Sex	Any
Salary Range	According to competitive salary scale of the Organization
Announcing Date	December 23 rd -2018
Closing Date	January 07 th -2019
Shift	Full time- Saturday through Wednesday, 08:00AM to 04:30 PM
Experience	Minimum of 7 years' experience in leading large research projects, including design of the research/assessment methodology, establishment and management of the research teams to collect data, analyzing data, and writing the final report.

General Overview of MEC

In 2010, the Government of the Islamic Republic Afghanistan (GIROA) invited the international community to form the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), to provide anti-corruption policy advice and monitor and evaluate progress against specific anti-corruption benchmarks. The MEC was established jointly by the GIROA and the international community, following the London and Kabul Conferences in January and July 2010, respectively, and the subsequent Presidential Decree 61, 2010

The MEC is an independent agency, and as such not subject to direction from either the Afghan government or the international community. On September 18, 2016, the Afghan President issued Presidential Decree No. 115. This changed the legal status, duties, scope of activities and authorities of the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee which abrogates all previous Presidential Decrees. The MEC focuses on:

- Developing anti-corruption recommendations;
- Monitoring and evaluating the anti-corruption efforts of the Afghan government and the international community; and
- Reporting on a regular basis to the President, Parliament, and people of Afghanistan, as well as to the international community about the state of the fight against corruption.

In order to fulfill this broad mandate, MEC conducts Vulnerability to Corruption Assessments and other studies in Public Institutions with the aim to identify the susceptible to corruption areas in legislation, policy, institutional structures, processes and functions. Based on the findings of these studies, MEC issues recommendations to fill the identified gaps. Subsequently, MEC monitors the implementation of the recommendations on a regular basis.

Job Summary:

The primary responsibility of the International Research and Assessment Consultant will be leading wide-ranging analysis of the corruption vulnerability in Afghan Public Institutions. MEC plans 3 large studies (Ministry Wide Vulnerability to Corruption Assessments, MVCAs) for 2019, each with the support of the respective Minister. The International Research and Assessment Consultant, under the direct supervision of the Technical Director, will have the lead on developing a scoping study and a research plan, including research methodology for each project. After approval of the research plan, the International Consultant will assign the teams, consisting of researchers from MEC secretariat and external research consultants, to collect the required data. The data collection method will be defined by the International Consultant in close coordination with the Technical Director. The International Consultant will supervise the research teams and

lead the data analyses, including data triangulation verification processes. He/She will have the primary responsibility for writing the 1st draft of the report, including development of SMART-tested recommendations to mitigate the identified corruption vulnerabilities. After collecting internal and external comments on the 1st draft, the International Consultant will have the responsibility to incorporate/address those issues to produce the Final Report.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The International Consultant will work closely with technical teams in MEC.
- The International Consultant will be required to be present in Kabul for at least 80% of the time, though some work will be able to be done from home (by agreement from MEC management).
- As one of the first responsibilities, the International Research and Assessment Consultant, in close coordination with MEC's Technical Director, will revise MEC's template for scoping studies MVCAs and VCAs. Once revised, the template will be used as component of all MEC research projects.
- The International Research and Assessment Consultant, in close coordination with MEC's Technical Director, will refine MEC's Research Guide.
- The Consultant will draft the scope of each the three planned MVCA projects, and upon approval, develop the detailed research plans and methodologies, including project-specific budgets and timeframes.
- The Consultant will act as the lead and support for the research teams in project development and implementation – including assigning the duties and responsibilities to members of the Research teams, developing data collection tools or adapting existing tools, managing data collection and triangulation processes, collating the results, analyzing their meaning and developing the findings. Over the final months, the Consultant will finalize – as the primary author – the VCA or MVCA Final Report (in English, with accompanying SMART-tested recommendations) that MEC will issue under the name of the MEC Commissioners.,
- The Consultant will not be expected to complete, nor be reimbursed for, any tasks performed outside of his or her expected work-days.
- The final number of working days will likely range from 150 - 180, depending on the agreed-upon timeframe and schedule of the International Consultant, supporting officers, and MEC Team.
- Assigning data-collection, report-writing, and any other tasks to the MEC Officers working on this project.
- As an internal resource to the International Consultant, MEC's M&E Team will be directly involved in Recommendation development and SMART-testing proposed recommendations.

Deliverables:

- 1) A revised template for Scoping Studies for MVCAs and VCAs which can be flexibly used for any Studies by MEC.
- 2) A refined MEC Research Guide.
- 3) Leading and supporting MEC's MVCAs in 2019, from the scoping stage until the delivery of the approved Final Report, a detailed list of deliverables and timeframes will be agreed with MEC's Technical Director.

Qualifications:

- The International Consultant for Research and Assessment must have the following qualifications: Professional level English skills are required. Advanced university degree in Public Policy, Economics, Finance, Public Administration, Business Administration, Project Management or a related field;
- A minimum of seven years of experience planning and conducting research in politicized environments;
- Experience drafting and completing research reports and related written materials focusing on large sectors or Ministries, with a prior record of professional publications;
- Prior international experience, preferably in conflict or post-conflict environments, with a preference for experience in Afghanistan;
- Knowledge of internationally accepted norms and standards in anti-corruption;
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision;

- Ability to effectively lead a team in a challenging, multi-cultural and fast-paced environment;
- Ability to work in a politicized environment on highly sensitive topics;
- Native-level oral and written English required, including the ability to write sophisticated reports in English;
- Dari and/or Pashto language skills are not essential, but would be a significant asset.

The Consultant will report to the MEC's Technical Director and Executive Director.

How to Apply

Candidates can apply for the position by sending their cover letter and CV in one PDF or Microsoft Word document, named in the following way: "LAST_NAME_first_name.pdf" or "LAST_NAME_first_name.doc." Supplementary documents - degrees, certificates, etc. - should not be sent at this time. The single PDF or Word file should be emailed to jobs@mec.af with the subject line "International Research and Assessment Consultant" by Jan 07, 2019.

MEC will accept application on rolling bases and interview the applicants as they apply for the job.