

Title	International Consultant for a corruption vulnerability assessment for Afghanistan's procurement system
Organization	Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)
Duty Station	Kabul
Duration	100 – 120 days (approximately six months)
No. of Jobs	1
Nationality	This is an International position
Salary Range	According to Organization salary scale
Announcing Date	March 26 -2018
Closing Date	April 09 -2018
Shift	Full time
Experience	Substantial experience in modern procurement systems, their development and analysis in politicized environments

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.

The MEC is an independent agency funded by international donors, and is not subject to direction from either the Afghan government or from the international community. 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.

Job Summary:

The primary responsibility of the International Consultant will be as a senior member of MEC's wide-ranging analysis of the corruption vulnerability of the Afghan National Procurement Authority (NPA) operations in Kabul and selected provinces. This is an exciting, ground-breaking study on a difficult but crucial topic, which is hugely affecting government spending across the country. The analysis is being conducted with the full support of the NPA.

The analysis will be the first comprehensive analysis of the corruption vulnerabilities across the entire Procurement system of Afghanistan, including an assessment of the corruption vulnerabilities in the provision of Procurement laws & policies, services, legal and institutional frameworks, key functions, interaction with the main stakeholders of the Procurement sector, human-resources systems, awarding contracts, internal oversight and audit regime, information-management systems, and management and leadership – all with a focus on corruption and practical measures to mitigate such corruption. The MVCA will also look at ways to improve government large procurement by getting value for money via reduced corruption, enhance integrity in the procurement authorities and enable external stakeholders to more effectively fight corruption. The work will mostly proceed via semi-structured interviews, but will also involve analysis of the institutional, policy and legal arrangements of the NPA, investigating the experiences of donors, and desk research on the many corruption issues that have happened in the procurement process, and analysis.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The Consultant will work closely with a team of supporting consultants and MEC Secretariat staff.
- The project will take place between January and June 2018 (expected completion date). The Consultant will be required to be present in Kabul for much of that time, though some work will be able to be done from home.
- Upon arrival to Kabul, the Consultant will review assembled documentation and conduct an initial analysis – in conjunction with the NPA and MEC – to determine the scope, detailed methodology, required resources and work plan of the project, within the first three weeks.
- The consultant will act as the domain expert supporting the team in doing the work – much of which will be interviews and focus groups – collating the results, analyzing their meaning and developing the findings. He/she will lead the research team.
- The consultant will regularly coordinate with the designated Committee lead on the project progress and challenges.
- Over the final months, the Consultant will finalize – as the primary author – the Report (in English, and with accompanying recommendations) that MEC will issue, entitled, “Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment in the Afghan National Procurement Authority.
- 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 100 - 120, depending on the agreed-upon timeframe and schedule of the Consultant, supporting consultants, and MEC Team.
- The format, content, and length of the Report can be changed at any time with the approval of the MEC Executive Director and lead committee member.
- Refining the scope of the project by designing a research methodology that will accurately assess Afghanistan Procurement system and NPA’s vulnerabilities to corruption.
- Assigning data-collection, report-writing, and any other tasks to the MEC Officers working on this project.
- Designing tools (questionnaires) to collect information from the NPA staff via interviews, document analysis, and the review of quantitative data.
- Writing the final In-Depth Report (in English) and proposing recommendations to address problems identified therein.

Project outline

A detailed project outline is available on request

Deliverables:

- 1) Project scoping, Methodology and detailed work plan
- 2) Interim Report at the end of the interview phase
- 3) Final Report, with recommendations
- 4) Follow up plan to explain the report and the findings within the Afghanistan procurement system & NPA

Qualifications:

The Consultant must have the following qualifications:

- University degree in Procurement, Finance, Economics, Business Administration or a related field;
- Substantial experience with large procurement function, either government or corporate
- Experience of modern procurement systems and/or their development, preferably in highly politicized environments
- Research and report writing experience focusing on large sectors or ministries, prior record of professional publications preferred
- 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 and integrity in the procurement sector
- Experience of leading a major procurement function and/or chairing Tender Boards would be an advantage, but is not essential
- 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 a highly sensitive topic
- Native-level oral and written English required, including the ability to write sophisticated reports in English

The Consultant will report to the MEC 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 Consultant for NPA MVCA" by April 09, 2018