



AICS CALL FOR PROPOSALS ref. 04/EUTFRSSD2/2022
*Basic Services sub-component in the areas of education, WASH, and sustainable
energy*

Info Session minutes, Tunis 21/07/2022, AICS Regional Office in Tunis

DATE	21/07/2022
TIME	10:00 - 12:00 (Tunis time)
VENUE	AICS Regional Office in Tunis
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AICS Regional Representative for Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Programme Officer- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Compliance Officer- Representative of INGO ACF, Action contre la Faim- Representative of INGO AVSI, People for Development- Representative of INGO CEFA, European Committee for Training and Agriculture- Representative of INGO COOPI, Cooperazione Internazionale, Foundation- Representative of INGO Help Code- Representative of INGO IRC, International Rescue Committee- Representative of INGO PUI, Premiere Urgence Internationale- Representative of INGO TdH, Terre des hommes- Representative of INGO WeWorld-GVC
AGENDA ITEMS	<p>Info Session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome from AICS Regional Representative for Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco (Chair)2. Introduction on Baladiyati Programme3. Presentation of AICS Call for Proposals ref. 04/EUTFRSSD2/2022 Basic Services sub-component in the areas of education, WASH, and sustainable energy4. Open discussion5. AOB and closing remarks: Chair

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**Welcome and
presentation
on Baladiyati
Programme**

AICS Regional Representative: Opened the Info Session meeting, welcoming all the participants, explaining the main reasons of the discussion. He thanked the attendees for their participation to the Info Session as well as for their interest in the initiatives of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Libya. He highlighted the importance of this type of meetings as the INGOs have played a key role in successfully implementing AICS interventions, thanks to their ability to operate in critical contexts and to access difficult areas, but also to their strong expertise and commitment. Then he gave an overview of Baladiyati Programme, funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF – NOA), an Action that builds on the ongoing phase 1. The implementation of Baladiyati would have not been possible, indeed, without the strong commitment of the Libyan authorities at both central and local level. They have embraced the values of the Baladiyati programme, and they are working with us to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs and migrants. With a total budget of 26.2 million euros, Baladiyati Phase 2 has started in June 2021 and will be implemented over a period of 36 months. Its overall objective is *to foster inclusive social and economic environment and stability in 14 Libyan municipalities in the South of the country*. Implementing partners of the programme are AICS – with a total budget of 16 million euros- and two international organisations, UNDP - with a total budget of approximately 6 million euros- and UNICEF - with a total budget of approximately 4 million euros. Baladiyati Phase 2 intends to contribute to three main outcomes:

1. the improvement of the basic services delivery (notably education, WASH, sustainable energy, as well as conflict prevention/mitigation and community dialogue);
2. the creation of alternative livelihoods opportunities for the most vulnerable communities;
3. the prevention and mitigation of conflicts towards encouraging reconciliation and strengthening community dialogue and social cohesion.

A preliminary identification of the interventions to be implemented under the first outcome of the programme has been already carried out by AICS in close collaboration and coordination with Libyan national and local authorities, and then validated by the Governance bodies of the Programme.

The list of interventions has been included in the Guidelines of the Call for Proposals, but it may be subjected to slight variations on the basis of emerging needs, which is possible due to the volatility of the Libyan context. For this reason, he kindly invited all the applicants to coordinate with both central and local authorities before submitting their own proposal. Finally, he left the floor to the Programme Officer of Baladiyati Programme, for further details concerning the Call for Proposals.

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**Presentation
of AICS Call for
Proposals ref.
04/EUTFRSSD2
/2022**

The Programme Officer for Baladiyati Programme started with greeting the attendees and began to present Objectives and Priorities of the mentioned Call for Proposals.

The **overall objective** is to contribute to improving basic services delivery (notably in education, WASH and sustainable energy sectors) in the 14 targeted municipalities in Southern Libya, in line with the Programme Outcome 1.

The **specific objectives** are:

- To strengthen technical and managerial capacities of relevant basic services providers' personnel;
- To upgrade basic service facilities through supply of equipment and rehabilitation/maintenance works;
- To raise awareness among the target population on inclusive access to basic services.

AICS committed to focus on a **list of priority interventions** including basic service facilities rehabilitation works and provision of equipment – mainly, small-scale solar energy installations; school building maintenance and rehabilitation works; provision of water, sanitation and hygiene equipment.

He highlighted the available overall budget of **EUR 5,340,000** and the division in 3 Lots according to the geographical scope and the duration with minimum 12 months implementation and maximum 14months.

Lot 1: Municipalities: Darj, Shwerif, Algorda, Brak Alshati

- minimum amount: **EUR 1,631,152**
- maximum amount: **EUR 1,781,152**

Lot 2: Municipalities: Ubari, Sebha, Shargya, Murzuq, Bent Baya, Algarefa

- minimum amount: **EUR 1,766,852**
- maximum amount: **EUR 1,916,852**

Lot 3: Municipalities: Ghat, Algatron, Ribyana, Alkufra

- minimum amount: **EUR 1,491,996**
- maximum amount: **EUR 1,641,996**

Then he gave an overview on the procedural aspects of the Call, which is an **Open Procedure** according with PRAG (Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions), where all documents are submitted together (**concept note and full application**). As the rules for crisis situations are applicable to this Programme, AICS in accordance with the point 6.5.5 of PRAG, set

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a shortened deadline (67 days) in derogation to the minimum terms for submission of the application forms. In the first instance, only the concept notes will be evaluated. Thereafter, for the lead applicants who have been pre-selected, the full applications will be evaluated. After the evaluation of the full applications, an **eligibility check** will be performed for those which have been provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the contracting authority and the signed ‘declaration by the lead applicant’ sent together with the full application. Finally, AICS will proceed with the contracting phase. Ideally, grant contracts will be signed by the end of November 2022.

Furthermore, the Indicative Timeline has been presented: the deadline for requesting any clarifications from AICS is the **26 of August 2022**. AICS will issue clarifications by the **5 September**. Questions and answers will be published by AICS using official channels (AICS website mainly). The deadline for submission of applications is the **16 September**. Indicatively the evaluation process may be finalized in mid-November and the contracting phase by the end of **November**, allowing grant beneficiaries to kick-off activities on the ground from **December 2022**. INGOs Consortia must conduct a **rapid assessment** after the contract signature in order to reassess needs on the ground, verify that pre-identified priorities are still valid and that the interventions are still feasible in terms of access. Updated needs assessment is required including community consultations (migrants, IDPs, returnees etc.).

Moreover, some **tips and suggestions** have been shared according to lessons learned of phase 1:

- **Need assessment:** rapid assessment during the inception phase needed. Municipalities technical departments ready to facilitate information and coordination on the ground. AICS staff and municipal focal points ready to facilitate the interaction with the local authorities.
- **Partnership:** partnerships among international NGOs and local partners are highly valued. Given the complexity of the Call, a small number of partners is preferable in order to simplify grant management & contain costs.
- **Flexibility:** given the volatile environment prevailing in Libya, **flexible planning** and **adaptive management** are key to delivering the expected results and ensure the effectiveness of the Programme.
- **Logframe:** the **Logical framework** (logframe) matrix is in line with AICS Logframe and it will be revised in the coming months. **Results chain** and **relevant indicators** must be maintained in the Applicant’s logframe, they cannot be changed, replaced or removed. Further indicators at Outcome and/or Output level may be added if needed.
- **Communication and visibility:** the applicants must ensure adequate information and promotion of the Action, highlighting the role of the EU as the funding institution and of AICS as the implementing agency in all **internal and external communications**. Applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee proper visibility of the EU financing.

Finally, some **administrative requirements** have been shared:

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**Open
discussion/
Q&A**

- **Pre-financing guarantee:** 30% of first instalment released at contract completion. Bank/financial guarantee costs eligible as direct costs.
- **Instalments:** tentative initial pre-financing instalment equal to 80% of the total budget; tentative balance of the final amount of the grant equal to 20% after the approval of the final report no later than three months after the implementation period.

A Q&A session followed, which is resumed here below:

Q1. The capacity building component should be delivered in direct management or could it be outsourced?

A1. Capacity building activities can be conducted by NGOs directly or outsourced. NGOs are expected to implement a needs assessment to identify training needs, in consultation with MoLG, local authorities and AICS.

Q2. The needs assessment conducted by AICS during the inception phase is available and can be shared?

A2. No, this is an internal document, but awarded NGOs are encouraged to get in touch with the external consultants who conducted the needs assessment for AICS in order to gain more insights/clarification/details, after the completion of the selection phase.

Q3. Is it possible that the list of interventions included in the Guidelines for Applicants will be changed before the deadline for submission of proposals?

A3. Yes, it is possible that MoLG will propose some light modifications in the list of target facilities. In such case, AICS will promptly publish an updated list on its website.

Q4. Are small partnerships for each lot encouraged?

A4. Yes, AICS believes that it would be more cost-effective to have small partnerships, possibly including local NGOs. This will reduce management operation costs and ensure continuity in the implementation also in case of reduced access to the target areas for international organizations.

Q5. What kind of registration/authorization is required for applicants?

A5. As specified in the Guidelines for Applicants, NGOs should be registered and/or authorized to implement activities in Libya or in the process of being registered/authorized. NGOs are required to attach a supporting document to prove it.

Q6. Is AICS encouraging NGOs to propose one big consortium covering the three lots?

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A6. AICS expects to award one grant per lot, however if one big consortium is proposed for the three lots, the Applicants must demonstrate in the proposal the comparative advantages and economic scale of this option.

Q7. Supporting letters from central and local authorities must be provided as part of documents of the Applications?

A7. The Guidelines for Applicants list all the documents required for the applications. Supporting letters are not required at this stage but will be requested to awarded NGOs prior to the implementation phase.

Q8. What kind of flexibility is allowed in the implementation of the activities?

A8. It may be possible that security will deteriorate in the upcoming months, so NGOs are expected to be able to adapt to the changing context. Partnering with local CSOs can mitigate the risk of delay in the project implementation due to security issues. Having local staff based in the target municipalities could also be a mitigation measure. AICS expects the EU to extend the crisis declaration for Libya, and the consequent authorization to apply flexible procedures; AICS will share updates on this topic with the awarded NGOs.

Q9. If during the assessment conducted by the NGOs, the MoLG or the municipalities request an action that is not included in the list of priority interventions already provided by AICS, the NGOs could consider it?

A9. Yes, after consulting with AICS.

Q10. Education is mentioned in the Call for Proposals among the target sectors. Activities must focus only on rehabilitation of schools or are there other activities eligible?

A10. The focus is on rehabilitation/maintenance, but trainings and awareness campaigns on inclusive access to basic services are eligible too.

Q11. Is it possible for Applicants to propose a partnership with the private sector?

A11. Yes, through service contracts in compliance with PRAG.

Q12. Is it possible to have activities focusing on conflict mitigation?

A12. Yes, through trainings and awareness campaigns.

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***AOB, and
closing
remarks: Chair***

No other business was discussed. The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all the participants.

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