



AICS CALL FOR PROPOSALS ref. 06/EUTFRSSD2/2022
Agricultural livelihood sub-component
Info Session minutes, Tunis 29/09/2022, AICS Regional Office in Tunis

DATE	29/09/2022
TIME	15:00 - 17:00 (Tunis time)
VENUE	Virtual
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Team Leader- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Programme Officer/Operations- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Programme Officer/M&E- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Programme Officer/Coordination (Technical Secretariat)- AICS RSSD Baladiyati Programme Officer/Administration, Procurement- Representatives of INGO CEFA, European Committee for Training and Agriculture- Representatives of INGO ACTED, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development- Representatives of INGO WeWorld-GVC- Representatives of INGO IRC, International Rescue Committee- Representatives of INGO ICU, Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria- Representatives of INGO Help Code- Representatives of ICARDA, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas- Representatives of INGO COOPI, Cooperazione Internazionale, Foundation- Representatives of INGO Tamat- Representatives of INGO ACF, Action Against Hunger
AGENDA ITEMS	<p>Info Session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome from AICS Baladiyati Team Leader (Chair)2. Introduction on Baladiyati Programme3. Presentation of AICS Call for Proposals ref. 06/EUTFRSSD2/2022 Agricultural livelihood sub-component4. Open discussion5. AOB and closing remarks: Chair

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**Welcome and
presentation
on Baladiyati
Programme**

AICS RSSD Baladiyati Team Leader: Opened the Info Session meeting, welcoming all the participants, explaining the main reasons of the discussion. She thanked the attendees for their participation in the Info Session as well as for their interest in the initiatives of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Libya. She 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 she 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 AICS 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.

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**Presentation
of AICS Call for
Proposals ref.
06/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 **global objective** is to contribute to creating/enhancing livelihoods opportunities in the agro-food sector for Libyan and Non-Libyan communities in Southern Libya.

The **specific objective** is to identify and support income generating activities in the agro-food sector benefiting local communities, migrants, refugees, IDPs and returnees, in Southern Libya.

The Programme Officer explained that in the Guidelines for Application there is a list of priorities identified that the applicants have to cover in their proposals which are the following:

- Rehabilitate/maintain collective infrastructure, including the water networks and markets
- Improve access to crop and animal extension services, equipment and machines for local farmers/breeders
- Enhance technical skills of farmers/breeders and their employees (especially migrants)
- Engage young people in agricultural value-added income generating activities
- Provide support to agricultural associations/cooperatives/CSOs or agribusiness service centers
- Provide training and capacity-building for local authorities, community-based associations and organizations

He highlighted the available overall budget of **EUR 1,400,000** to be awarded in one single Lot (one NGOs Consortium) for the following municipalities:

- Ubari
- Sebha
- Murzuq
- Ribyana

Minimum amount: EUR **1,200,000**

Maximum amount: EUR **1,400,000**

Then he gave an overview on the procedural aspects of the Call, which is an **Open Procedure** according to PRAG (Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions), where all documents are submitted together (**concept note and full application**). 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

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will proceed with the contracting phase. Ideally, grant contracts will be signed by **end-January 2023**.

Furthermore, the Indicative Timeline has been presented: the deadline for requesting any clarifications from AICS is the **26/10/2022**. AICS will issue clarifications by **05/11/2022**. Questions and answers will be published by AICS using official channels (AICS website mainly). The deadline for submission of applications is **16/11/2022**. Indicatively the evaluation process may be finalized in mid-November and the contracting phase by the end of **January 2023**, allowing grant beneficiaries to kick-off activities on the ground from **February 2023**.

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.

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

- **Needs assessment** is required including community consultations (migrants, IDPs etc.)
- **Migrants** should be directly involved in activities and in data collection
- **Multi-stakeholder committees** should be created in each target municipality to ensure continued communication and a feedback loop mechanism
- **Applicants** must demonstrate how **conflict analysis and sensitivity** will be streamlined throughout their actions
- 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
- **The Logical framework (Logframe)** must be aligned to AICS Logframe and may be adjusted in the coming months, at Output level and relevant indicators
- 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, including all information and documentation materials and any other product for external use developed and disseminated during the project lifespan. Applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee proper visibility of the EU financing

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

- **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:

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**Open
discussion/
Q&A**

Q1. Do you expect the proposal to be implemented in all 4 municipalities or is it possible to focus on a n. of them?

A1. About locations, applicants are requested to implement activities in all 4 municipalities under this Call. So, all the 4 locations must be covered.

Q2. The total available budget will be 100% covered by AICS or is some kind of co-financing expected from the applicants?

A2. Concerning the budget, it is possible to present a co-financing and this option will be positively evaluated during the evaluation process.

Q3. Local partners are expected to provide the PADOR registration or is there any kind of derogation?

A3. Partnership with local partners can be performed with different modalities. First of all, as co-applicant or affiliated entity of the Consortium, the PADOR registration must be provided and, in this case, there is no derogation. In the case of a local partner who won't be part of the Consortium, PADOR registration is not requested.

Q4. Regarding the assessment requirement, do all the value chains need to be pre-identified as part of the assessment or is it possible to postpone it on a later stage? Can we perform any assessment now or is it something that needs to be done if we are awarded?

A4. Concerning the value chains, it depends on how the applicant is going to structure the project, but it is possible to postpone the final identification of value chains on a later stage after the finalization of the need assessment conducted during the inception phase. Applicants can use previous assessment conducted in the same area if still valid at the time of the presentation of the proposal, avoiding duplications and reducing costs.

Q5. Can you tell us how many beneficiaries are you expecting to be targeted?

A5. The number of both indirect and direct beneficiaries will depend on the type of activities that the applicant will propose and on the logic behind the project. Of course, it will be much appreciated to have a sufficient number of direct beneficiaries involved in the intervention and this will be evaluated in the selection process.

Q6. Depending on the needs identified during the assessment, do you expect the Consortium to have the same level of interventions in the 4 locations or is it possible to have different levels according to the real needs identified?

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A6. Depending on the different needs identified on the ground, applicants can propose different activities in order to respond to different identified needs. Ideally it will be better to have, as much as possible, an equitable budget allocation per municipality in order to avoid tensions with local authorities, applying the do no harm principle and conducting a conflict sensitivity analysis to mitigate these risks.

Q7. Will AICS be interested in having an in-depth assessment on Labour market or social cohesion dynamics, during the implementation, to be used for other interventions?

A7. AICS will be very much interested in receiving such an in-depth analysis which might be helpful in its programming. Moreover, it will be fundamental to focus on conflict sensitivity to be mainstreamed in all the phasis of the project.

Q8. Could you please confirm that the duration of the interventions is between 10 and 12 months?

A8. The duration shall be a maximum of 12 months and a minimum of 10.

Q9. As regard as the priorities listed in the Call for proposal, is it mandatory to address all of them or is it possible to focus on some of them?

A9. The listed priorities are the ones that AICS identified and they are indicative, so applicants can decide on which ones to focus according to the rapid assessment findings and the logic behind their project proposals.

Q10. Concerning the requested documentation to be presented, all the documents from applicant and co-applicant must be hand signed or is it possible to submit scanned versions?

A10. Yes, it is acceptable to receive scanned version of some of the documents but, when possible, it would be better to provide the original ones.

Q11. As regard as the Logframe which must be aligned with AICS’s since the specific annex is an empty one, we were wondering if indications on indicators will come on a later stage?

A11. In the guidelines for applicants, impact and specific objectives are indicated but they are not included in the specific annex which applicants are requested to fill accordingly. Moreover, Baladiyati programme must be aligned with the EUTF result framework chains. In this Call, AICS did not provide any specific indications on indicators but once AICS will receive applicants logframes, an adjustment phase will be performed jointly in order to align indicators with the EUTF ones.

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Q12. Concerning eligibility, are UN agencies or research centres eligible to apply to this Call or are they eligible to be subcontracted from the Lead applicant?

A12. As regard as eligibility, in order to be eligible the Lead applicant and the Co-applicant must satisfy the eligibility criteria as per art. 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Grant Applicants. Moreover, the Lead applicant can involve international organisations or research centres through a subcontract modality.

Q13. As regard as locations, would it be possible to go slightly outside the 4 selected municipalities?

A13. Concerning locations, interventions must be implemented in the 4 selected municipalities under the Call. As it is specified in guidelines, please note that some municipalities have split in different entities, so interventions must take into account these new entities under the overall budget of the Call.

Q14. Regarding the Registration Certificate in Libya, is it compulsory to submit a legal translation or is it possible to submit only the Arabic version?

A14. Applicants must submit legal translation of such a document in the English language.

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

The Chair closed the session thanking all the participants for attending the meeting.

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