TERMS OF REFERENCE
Preparation of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Roadmap
Afghanistan Statistical System

BACKGROUND

The sustainable development agenda for Post-2015 and the calls for a Data Revolution usher in renewed and robust attention on the need for better data and statistics to monitor progress and inform policy and development choices. In this context, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) focuses support to least developed countries, particularly fragile states, to prepare strategic statistical plans to incorporate new data requirements. As demand for data increases, the Partnership supports the strengthening of national statistical capacity to improve the provision, availability and use of high quality data; foster dialogue within societies on the use of data for accountability and evidence-based policy making; and promote the well-being of people through contributing to the achievement of national and international development goals.

Afghanistan is one of the PARIS21 priority countries for NSDS support in 2015, following the attendance to the NSDS Regional Training Course of one of the high level official of the Central Statistics Organization, which signified interest for the country to undertake NSDS formulation. The national strategic plan on statistics of Afghanistan will end in 2015. In preparation for a new statistical plan, the Central Statistics Organization (ACSO), with support from the PARIS21 will prepare a roadmap for the design of the new plan.

An NSDS provides a country with a vision of the development of statistics consistent with national development plans. It contains detailed and costed action plan for the production and dissemination of statistics over a period of 5 to 10 years, including capacity development needs, and required institutional and infrastructure improvements.

An international consultant, an expert on NSDS, will be engaged to lead in the preparation of the NSDS roadmap and who shall provide advise and guidance in the review of the national statistical system and recommend strategic directions for statistical development at the country level.

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORK

The objective of the consultancy is to assist the ACSO in the preparation of the NSDS roadmap, orient the NSS stakeholders about NSDS framework and process and provide guidance and on matters related to NSDS formulation.

SCOPE OF WORK/TASKS

The planned duration of the consultancy is approximately 3.5 months from mid-June to September. The consultant shall work closely with the Afghanistan CSO, in particular the President General/Government Statistician and other stakeholders to be specified. The following are the details of the work to be carried out:

1. **Prepare the draft NSDS roadmap** detailing the steps and processes in the NSDS formulation, the governance/decision-making structure and resources needed, and proposed timeline of activities, with inputs/assistance from the national consultant; **finalize the NSDS roadmap** incorporating comments from the ACSO and PARIS21 Secretariat.

2. **Facilitate and organize the conduct of the following NSDS-related activities:**
• **NSDS launching forum** to introduce the concept of NSDS and advocate for high level support for its formulation; and
• **NSDS country training** for ACSO personnel and other NSS stakeholders to orient them on the NSDS framework, process and guidelines.

3. In connection with Item 3 above, prepare:
   - **workshop agenda/topics and presentation materials and documents** prior to the activities, for comments and approval of the ACSO President General and in consultation with PARIS21 Secretariat;
   - forum/training report reflecting issues raised and agreements reached

4. **Review and provide comments and recommendations** on the draft NSS assessment report prepared by the National Consultant. The review should take into consideration:
   - consistency with and responsiveness to national development priorities;
   - Afghanistan’s international and regional commitments that may have implications for statistics, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the regional statistics cooperation among SAARCStat members, and other policy (e.g. economic, social, environmental) commitments;
   - opportunities provided by new technologies, institutional and organisational arrangements within the framework of the data revolution, in particular improvements in data production and dissemination that may result in cost effectiveness, timeliness, reliability and comprehensiveness of data.
   - The fragility of the country and the impact of security situation on statistical operations and data management.

5. **Prepare and submit to PARIS21 an end-of-contract report** to contain:
   - Activities and outputs delivered
   - Issues and challenges encountered
   - Recommendations for improving the NSDS formulation process
   - Lessons and best practices as input in the updating of the NSDS Guidelines

**DELIVERABLES**

The Consultant shall deliver the following outputs:

1. NSDS training materials (PowerPoint, agenda, other documents)
2. Facilitated and organized NSDS launching and country training
3. Country Training report
4. Comments and recommendations on the draft NSS assessment report
5. Draft and final NSDS roadmap

**LOCATION OF WORK**

The consultant will work in part from his/her home base. In addition, he/she will travel on one mission in a neighbouring country of Afghanistan in July (date and venue to be confirmed) to facilitate the NSDS launching and country training.

**EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATION**

- Ph.D. (preferred) or Master’s degree in statistics, economics or related fields or equivalent work experience.
• Extensive knowledge of the NSDS framework and experience in conducting NSDS training
• Experience on NSDS/statistic strategy planning work preferably in Asia, NSDS assessment/evaluation, roadmap preparation; experience in other regions may be considered
• At least 15 years of work experience in official statistics, with knowledge of the work of national statistics offices, strategic planning on statistics, statistical indicator systems, etc.
• Working knowledge of the Afghanistan statistical system or another similar country statistical system in Asia.
• Good analytical, writing, and presentation skills and fluent in reading, writing, and speaking English.

REPORTING & COMMUNICATION

The consultant will closely coordinate with the PARIS21 Secretariat (specifically the Secretariat Manager and his dedicated team) to ensure effective delivery of the outputs. All deliverables, where appropriate, should be in Microsoft Word format, to be submitted in electronic copies to PARIS21 Secretariat, specifically the Task Manager in charge of the project.

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