

## Terms of Reference

### AGORA SENIOR ASSESSMENT OFFICER

Ref: 23|AFG|SAO02

#### BACKGROUND ON IMPACT AND AGORA

IMPACT Initiatives is a leading Geneva-based think-and-do tank which aims to improve the impact of humanitarian, stabilisation and development action through data, partnerships and capacity building programmes. The IMPACT team comprises specialists in coordination, data collection, management and analysis, GIS and remote-sensing.

The organisation manages several initiatives, including the AGORA Initiative. AGORA is an exciting, joint initiative of [ACTED](#) and [IMPACT Initiatives](#) founded in 2016 to promote more local planning around aid response. As part of AGORA, IMPACT maps and profiles communities through local territorial entry points, then works with communities to develop response plans based on what the community wants. ACTED is then able to respond outside of the typical sectoral, siloed response to help communities get the assistance that they have identified they need for their area. AGORA is a bottom-up, holistic, area-based approach to aid delivery.

**IMPACT Afghanistan is looking for Senior Assessment Officer to lead on AGORA research, as of May 2023.**

<b>Department:</b>	AGORA
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Assessment Officer
<b>Contract Duration:</b>	1 year
<b>Location:</b>	Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan with frequent travels to Kabul and Faryab provinces
<b>Start date:</b>	May 2023

#### COUNTRY PROFILE

Forty years of war, recurrent natural disasters, chronic poverty, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic have devastated the people of Afghanistan. At the same time, the recent economic upheaval and ruptures in basic services, financial systems and civil service are transpiring and exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. Even prior to the events of 15 August, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan was one of the worst in the world. By the mid-year mark, nearly half of the population – some 18.4 million people – were already in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2021; more than 22 million are projected to be in need in 2022.

IMPACT has been present in Afghanistan since 2016, providing a growing evidence base for humanitarian response planning through sectoral, multi-sectoral and area-based assessments as well as information management services across the entire country, with bases in all regions of Afghanistan. The mission is structured around three units, each with key objectives to support different aspects of the response. This includes (1) supporting strategic planning and prioritization through the Inter-Sectoral Research Unit (ISRU), (2) emphasizing localization agendas through area-based early recovery and development through the Resilience and Recovery Unit (RRRU), and (3) providing programmatic and operational support to key actors and partners in the aid response to ensure effective, appropriate, transparent, and accountable delivery of assistance to the people of Afghanistan through the Sustainable Programming Research Unit (PARU).

## POSITION PROFILE

IMPACT is seeking an established professional to lead an exciting portfolio of area-based research; working with communities to identify priorities that directly inform the programming of implementing NGOs.

The ideal candidate will be eager to work in a dynamic organization with opportunities to build coordination skills whilst overseeing multi-sector assessments which inform a multi-year development project aimed at improving local governance, particularly around socio-economic development, access to public services, and government inclusivity.

AGORA activities have been implemented in Afghanistan since September 2018, providing an evidence base for local community leadership boundaries, stakeholders, and resource management in rural Afghanistan to inform a large, multi-year development project funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NoMFA). The project aims to identify and map local communities, understand how they are structured and led, and catalogue the available shared resources and economic activities, in order to provide an evidence base for locally-led development initiatives and facilitate peaceful and prosperous early recovery following decades of conflict. Resource and stakeholder mapping, detailed secondary data reviews, and multisector assessments are all activities conducted as part of AGORA to improve socioeconomic development, public service access, and local government inclusivity in communities in rural Afghanistan. The portfolio also includes small, proof-of-concept research projects related to local resource management in the face of climate change.

Under the supervision of the Country Coordinator in Afghanistan and IMPACT HQ in Geneva, the AGORA Senior Assessment Officer is responsible for the coordination and implementation of all assessments in Afghanistan falling under the AGORA project portfolio. He/she is also responsible for related coordination of logistics, partner engagement, information product drafting and project reporting.

The AGORA Senior Assessment Officer will be responsible, with the support of the IMPACT team in-country, for:

### 1. Research Cycle Implementation and Management

- Oversight and implementation of all stages of the research cycle, including:
  - Research design: indicator drafting and review, assessment methodology and sampling strategy review, data collection tool development, Terms of Reference drafting
  - Planning and coordination of data collection activities, in close collaboration with the in-country operations team
  - Oversight of data processing, including development of data cleaning and analysis plans, and conducting analysis, in close collaboration with the in-country data team
  - Output production and development, and presentation of findings
  - Conducting lessons learned workshops and compiling best practices for future assessments
- Regular communication and collaboration with IMPACT HQ Data and Reporting Units to ensure implementation of global standards, guidelines, and best practices, for AGORA and other Area-Based Assessment Approaches and of REACH and IMPACT more generally
- Ensuring regular reporting on assessment progress and participating in internal coordination meetings

### 2. Team, Project, and Grants Management

- Managing staff dedicated to the portfolio across assessment, data, and project/operations teams.
- Supporting the Senior Management Team (SMT) with grants management, including donor reporting, proposal drafting, and project monitoring and evaluation.

### 3. External Engagement

- Close coordination with all relevant external stakeholders within the humanitarian coordination structure, throughout the research cycle, and supporting the incorporation of findings into strategic planning, programmatic, and operational documents as relevant
- Representing IMPACT as part of the AGORA relationship with ACTED in Afghanistan; including externally to partners and donors

#### 4. Support to the SMT on Strategy Development and Implementation

- Under the guidance of the Country Coordinator, contribute to the development of the Area-Based country strategy, engagement and involvement with various technical and coordination forums, particularly as relates to Area-Based programming
- Liaise with key clusters and partner organizations and working groups to understand the various relevant information gaps within Afghanistan and identify how the ABR/AGORA team can fill these gaps.
- Coordinating with IMPACT HQ, ACTED HQ, and ACTED Afghanistan on global and in country approaches to improving area-based programming

The Senior Assessment Officer will maintain the strictest confidentiality on all data collected and related processes. He/she will actively take measures to prevent the unauthorized sharing of any information and data belonging to or collected during his/her assignment.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- Excellent academic qualifications, including a master's degree in development economics, anthropology, political science or another relevant discipline
- At least 3 years of relevant working experience in development or transitional settings, through either research, evaluation, assessments, or programmes
- Good experience with quantitative and qualitative research and tool design, data collection, and data analysis required
- Excellent analytical skills; skills with a statistical program such as STATA or R an asset
- Excellent communication and drafting skills for effective reporting
- Excellent team management skills
- Ability to operate in a cross-cultural environment requiring flexibility
- Understanding of area based approaches an asset
- Fluency in English required, Persian/Dari language skills is an advantage
- Ability to operation Microsoft Word, Excel and Project Management Software
- Knowledge of qualitative assessments, methodologies, and analysis and related analytical software (e.g. NVivo) an asset
- Experience with GIS software is an asset.
- Ability to multitask with tight deadlines, on numerous research cycles
- Ability to operate in a complex and challenging security environment

#### CONDITIONS

- Salary defined by the IMPACT salary grid; educational level, expertise, hardship, security, and performance are considered for pay bonus
- Additional monthly living allowance
- Free food and lodging provided at the organisation's guesthouse/or housing allowance (depending on contract length and country of assignment)

- Transportation costs covered, including additional return ticket + luggage allowance
- Provision of medical, life, and repatriation insurance + retirement package
- Past experience in managing large scale quantitative assessments desirable