



# Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)

## PROJECT FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN RURAL AREAS (PROFIRA)

### NATIONAL REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

#### For the recruitment of SERVICE PROVIDER FOR STRENGTHENING, INNOVATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR MATURE COMMUNITY SAVINGS AND CREDIT GROUPS (CSCGs)

The Government of Uganda and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have jointly designed the Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas (PROFIRA). The project is funded through an IFAD loan of approximately USD 30 million. The overall goal of PROFIRA is to increase income, improve food security and reduce vulnerability in rural areas. The development objective is to substantially increase access to and use of financial services by the rural poor population. PROFIRA aims to achieve its goal and objective through the implementation of three operational components: (a) SACCO Strengthening and Sustainability, (b) Community Based Financial Services and (c) Policy and Institutional Support.

There is evidence that systematically organized Community Savings and Credit Groups (CSCGs), often called in Uganda the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) have been effective in providing financial services to financially excluded and un-banked segments of the rural population. More than 90% of the established CSCGs sustain themselves well beyond the initial support period, and their resilience provides opportunities for engaging these groups into more advanced financial operations.

#### Objective of assignment and general scope of work

The objective of the assignment for which this EOI is launched is to provide opportunities to more mature and dynamic CSCGs with established sound and stable membership, to develop ways to expand their operations, both as groups and as individuals. This will be achieved through; **1)** Business skills training **2)** Focused and pro-active partnerships and linkages with formal financial institutions, including IT based solutions, **3)** Promoting partnerships between the CSCGs and their members and other economic operators in the rural communities, **4)** Development of models that encourage the accumulation / carry-over of group savings to higher levels in order to grow larger and longer term loans from the CSCGs own funds and **5)** Facilitate the registration of the mature CSCGs into recognized associations.

PROFIRA will therefore support the strengthening of the already established CSCGs and provide support to further development of the CSCG methodology in an innovative manner and with active linkages to formal financial institutions and other support organizations. The selected Service Provider will support 300 mature CSCGs (approximately 7500 members) during the 3-year contract period. The assignment will be limited to the following districts: Luuka, Namutumba, Bugiri, Namayingo, Iganga, Kayunga, Buyende, Kamuli, Masindi, Luweero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Kiryandongo, Masaka, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, Mpigi, Ssembabule, Lyantonde, Hoima, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi.

The specific duties of the Service Provider who will be contracted under this assignment would include the following.

- Train CSCG members in Business Development, Financial Literacy, Linkage Banking and other innovative approaches, based on the findings of the needs assessment.
- Provide focused and pro-active linkage support (to mature CSCGs) with formal financial institutions including IT based solutions.
- Develop innovative approaches to enable mature CSCGs grow their savings and acquire bigger loans.

Further details on the duties of the Service Provider will be provided in the Request for Proposals to the shortlisted bidders.

PROFIRA now invites well-established International and National consulting private firms, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and multilateral or bilateral development organizations to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Each interested institution or in partnership will provide a statement of capability and experience indicating that they are qualified to perform the services for this assignment (brochures, status of the institution, description of similar assignments, experience in working in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, financial reliability, human resources capacity, etc.). In addition a jointly signed

declaration of the partners will have to demonstrate the reasons of their association and the crucial importance of the complementarities of their services in the proposed partnership. Please note that a "sub-contractor" can be associated with not more than THREE Lead Service Providers for this assignment. The Lead Service Provider (LSP) has the responsibility for this arrangement. A sub-contractor having signed with more than three LSPs will be disqualified.

Upon written request (by post, email, or personal delivery) to the address below, the recommended formats for application to EOI will be availed to each prospective interested applicant

A short list of prospective bidders will be compiled in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Guidelines, the International Procurement Standards and the PPDA Act of Uganda and will be invited to respond to the request for a technical and financial proposal which is subject to a Quality Based Selection method.

Written expressions of interest shall be delivered to the address below by **14th June, 2016 at 11:30am** Local Ugandan time.

#### The Project Manager PROFIRA:

**Crusader House 2nd Floor Annex Plot 3,  
Portal Avenue P.O Box 27733 Kampala, Tel: 0414-250651  
Email: profira@profiraug.org**

#### Planned Schedule for Evaluation of EOI

Display of Expression of Interest	19.05.2016
Submission of Expression of Interest/ Closing of Expression of Interest	14.06.2016
Shortlisting of Consultants	08.07.2016
Notification of Successful Consultants	08.07.2016