

Vaccancy Announcement

Position	Deputy Country Director – Programs & External Relations	Starting date	ASAP
Location	Kabul, Afghanistan	Type of contract	Fixed term
Contract duration	12 months (renewable)	Security risk level	Very Risky (4/4)

About Acted

For the past 30 years, international NGO Acted has been going the last mile to save lives. Currently, Acted supports 20 million people across 43 countries to meet their needs in hard-to-reach areas - and pursues a triple mandate as a humanitarian, environmental and development aid actor. Acted relies on an in-depth knowledge of local territories and contexts to develop and implement relevant long-term actions, with a wide range of local and international partners, building together a "3ZERO" world: Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty.

Position's context and key challenges

In Afghanistan, Acted's strategy combines emergency aid and development programming aiming at providing holistic assistance and at addressing the various challenges faced by the country, with the overall goal of alleviating poverty and building resilience. For 23 years, Acted has remained committed to supporting Afghans through diverse programming such as good governance, building the capacity of civil society, rural development, and emergency humanitarian response. Acted continues to strengthen stock piling, contingency planning and preparedness, in order to provide timely assistance for those affected by natural or man-made disasters.

Providing emergency and recovery assistance for communities hit by conflict and natural disasters

Natural disasters affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year. In addition, the past years have seen an influx in military operations and offensives lead by armed opposition groups, resulting in the displacement of 197,000 individuals in 2015. Acted responds to emergency needs by providing conflict and natural disasters-affected populations with emergency assistance in the forms of food and non-food items, vouchers or cash distribution. Acted's interventions also aimed at supporting recovery, through participatory approaches to building back shelters and water infrastructure damaged by natural disasters, as well as disaster risk reduction through training.

Supporting the development of economic, education and livelihood opportunities for marginalised populations

To support marginalized groups such as farmers, youth, and women, Acted works with cooperatives and farmers to enhance governance, production, access to agricultural inputs and training in order to support the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Vocational training, literacy classes, and support to small business development are also provided to hundreds of women and youth, and Self Help Groups every year, providing over women with safe and supportive space to develop business activities. Acted is supporting education through the construction of Youth Development Centres, and formal and informal education opportunities to approximately 14,000 girls.

Investing in governance and local civil society to improve service delivery and inclusive development

Acted vision for development is of an inclusive, vibrant civil society, and accountable government. Focus in Afghanistan is placed on empowering youth and women, through providing training on human rights, promoting volunteerism, facilitating sports and cultural events and the creation of grass-root organisations such as youth councils, aligned with government strategies and development plans. Acted is a major facilitating partner of the National Solidarity Program, the flagship program of Afghanistan, that supports governance at the village level, and has established and empowered close to 3,000 Community Development Councils across the country. Acted also works closely with local civil society organisations, building their capacity and developing joint projects to reach vulnerable communities.

In 2019, Acted Afghanistan developed further its programming to respond to both emergency and development needs across the country.

In particular, across the north and east of Afghanistan, Acted continued to build on its access and presence at the closest of communities, built over decades, to implement a wide range of programmes to address the acute emergency needs of vulnerable conflict and disaster-affected and displaced households: food security, livelihoods, shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation infrastructure, hygiene promotion, education, and multi-purpose cash assistance have been provided to over 4.5 million beneficiaries. Acted also continued to support communities with longer-term recovery and development efforts, through strengthening local governance, the construction of local infrastructure, vocational training, and agricultural, livelihoods and market support, including through its flagship AGORA programme.

Key roles and responsibilities

The Deputy Country Director – Programs & External Relations is a key member of the Senior Management Team at a country level, who will support and assist the Country Director (CD) in the overall management and leadership of the country programme. The Deputy Country – Programs & External Relations ensures the proper representation of Acted in the country vis-à-vis government authorities, donors, clusters/sectoral working groups, UN agencies and other NGOs. He/she develops and builds the programme profile in line with the country, regional and global Acted strategy and ensures the funding of its roll-out. He/she ensures an efficient, progressive, cost-effective and responsible growth of Acted in the country through strategic positioning and the quality implementation of projects.

1. Positioning and Fundraising

1.1. Context analysis: Ensure Acted has an up-to-date understanding of the country's socio-economic situation, (donor) trends, needs and gaps, and who does what and where (3W)

1.2. Strategy development and roll out: Take a lead role in developing and reviewing programme strategies and identifying strategic opportunities for expanding Acted's work in the country, and in particular

- a) Identify new opportunities and new sectors of intervention;
- b) Consolidate and stabilize programming;
- c) Review the geographic and thematic footprint;
- d) Ensure activities are relevant and meeting country/beneficiary needs;
- e) Identify Acted added-value;
- f) Ensure humanitarian principals are adhered to;
- g) Identify new donors, private sector partners, national and international NGOs, think tanks, academia, etc. to work with based on complementarity and added value;
- h) Formalize a country strategy in alignment with global/regional strategy.

1.3. Networking, positioning and general representation:

- a) Establish, maintain and improve active relationships with donors
- b) Establish, maintain and improve active and regular working relationships with other NGOs, UN agencies, clusters, working groups, Alliance2015, consortia and academia
- c) Establish, maintain, and improve active and regular working relationships with host government authorities and where necessary non-state actors
- d) Ensure Acted is represented in key clusters, working groups, HCT and (I)NGO coordination bodies

1.4. Donor relationship and proposal development

- a) Decide on and trigger the necessary assessment(s) by the MEAL Department to ensure proposals are relevant;
- b) Identify new donors for diversifying Acted donors' portfolio including private companies and private foundations;
- c) Identify potential relevant international and/or local partners (private sector partners, national and international NGOs, think tanks, academia, etc.) to be included in proposals and ensure that every partnership is formed based on an assessment of complementarity and added value and is designed and managed so that the partnership furthers achievement of Acted's country, regional and global strategy
- d) Oversee project proposal conceptualisation (problem statement, logframe) within the framework of the country, regional and global strategy and ensure inputs from Technical

Coordinators (for example technical specifications, methodologies, approaches and tools) and MEAL (SMART indicators, lessons learnt and best practices from previous projects) into the proposal writing process;

- e) Validate proposals before submission to HQ Grant Management Unit
- f) Advise Project Development Department on specific donor approach/regulations;
- g) Assist the Country Director in negotiate proposal and/or contracts with donors.

1.5. Grant Management

- a) Ensure that contractual obligations (including visibility requirements) and reporting deadlines are known and met by Programme, MEALU and FLATS team;
- b) Ensure project kick-off and close out meetings are conducted for each project;
- c) Ensure the development of quality narrative reports, reflecting the progress and status of projects in a transparent, timely and professional manner
- d) Ensure ad hoc requests from donors are addressed immediately

2. Program Technical Support and Coordination

2.1. Technical Support

- a) Ensure sector specific project implementation modalities, methodologies and tools are designed (including, but not limited to technical specifications, identification and registration of beneficiaries, distribution and sensitization);
- b) Ensure Technical Coordinators liaise with Project Managers on a regular basis and provide technical assistance to the projects whenever needed;
- c) Ensure the dissemination of tools, research, best practices and lessons learned internally and externally through publications, networks, working groups, events, and conferences.

2.2. Coordination

- a) Ensure the development and maintenance of coherent sector strategies (i.e. WASH, food security, protection) across Acted's areas of intervention
- b) Promote harmonization of approaches and methodologies across the different projects within the same sector by overseeing the development and use of common tools, as well as creating opportunities for experience sharing and learning;
- a) Ensure Technical Coordinators provide technical inputs into proposal design.

3. Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation

3.1. MEAL Systems

- a) Review and approve the country MEAL strategy;
- b) Review and approve consolidated MEAL work plan covering all ongoing projects and planned assessments of the mission;
- c) Ensure a clear MEAL framework for each ongoing project is developed based on project proposals, implementation plans, and donor reporting requirements;
- d) Ensure that MEAL findings are reflected and their recommendations are incorporated in future concept notes, proposals and implementation plans;
- e) Ensure MEAL policies and procedures are implemented as described in the Acted MEAL standard guidelines;
- f) Ensure electronic and/or paper-based MIS systems are maintained for tracking and reporting all quantitative and qualitative data and information including reporting on Acted's 16 global strategic program indicators;
- g) Ensure the effective functioning of the beneficiary CRM and that beneficiary complaints/feedback is adequately captured, analyzed, addressed and responded to in a timely manner and utilized by the program and coordination teams;

3.2. MEAL Implementation and Management

- a) Trigger the necessary needs assessment(s) to ensure proposals are relevant;
- b) Review and approve mission plans for any assessments, monitoring and evaluations (baselines, mid-terms, endlines) for each of the projects;

- c) Ensure the implementation of appropriate data collection and analysis instruments, methodologies (e.g. survey questionnaires, focus group discussions, key-informant interviews) and data/information dissemination/utilization plans;
- d) Ensure the MEAL team provides data to the Project Development Team for use in preparation of reports to donors and other stakeholders, as required;
- e) Ensure the MEAL team contributes to donor proposals and fundraising efforts (particularly logical-framework designs and formulation of SMART indicators)

4. External Communication

- a) Ensure the country PDD contributes to Acted's external communication strategy by feeding regularly Acted HQ Communication Department with informal updates on projects, a flash news, pictures, articles on projects progress and/or specific events for Acted communication tools, including, but not limited to, Acted Newsletter, websites and Acted Annual Report;
- b) Ensure the continuum of PR activities, including formal presentations, engaging media for coverage on success stories, updating project-specific and regional fact sheets, and documenting publications featuring Acted in the media;
- c) Oversee Acted's in country communication activities including media visits, photographer's mission, videos, etc.;
- d) Ensure the update and design of in country communication and visibility tools and publications, their dissemination and availability to Acted teams, as well as the capitalization of media and pictures of the mission;
- e) Follow, contribute to, draft and disseminate position papers, statements, reports and releases on Acted's engagements and humanitarian advocacy, in line with Acted's in country and global strategy as well as positioning, in close collaboration with the country director as well as HQ communication and programme departments.

5. Management and Internal Coordination

5.1. Staff Management

- a) Manage a team of MEAL Manager, Project Development Manager and Technical Coordinators delineating their responsibilities and follow-up the work plans and day-to-day activities;
- b) Ensure a positive working environment and good team dynamics;
- c) Manage interpersonal conflicts between departmental staff members;
- d) Undertake regular appraisals of staff and follow career management in link with CD.
- e) Review internal and external training needs of team members

5.2. Internal Coordination and Communication

- a) Ensure interdepartmental communication and information sharing from the Base, to the Area, Capital, and even up to the regional and HQ offices by implementing Acted coordination mechanisms (WAM, MCM)
- b) Ensure regular and clear communication with Acted HQ Program Department and finance to keep it updated about latest development, so that the Program Department can best advise you ahead of a task.

5.3. Filing

- a) Ensure the implementation of a filing system for contractual project documents both in hard and soft copies;
- b) Oversee the Resource Centre and ensure it is regularly updated with appropriate and relevant external and internal resources.

Required qualifications and technical competencies

- At least 4 to 5 years of working experience in insecure environments; preferably in Africa, Asia, or the Middle East;
- Demonstrated communication and organizational skills;
- Ability to train, mobilize, and manage both international and national staff;
- Flexibility and ability to multi-task under pressure;



- Ability to work well in unstable and frequently changing security environments;
- Willingness to work and live in often remote areas under basic conditions;
- Proven ability to work creatively and independently both in the field and in the office.

Conditions

- Salary between 4400 and 4500€ monthly (before income tax), depending on the level of education, security level, etc. as well as a monthly living allowance of \$300
- Accommodation and food provided in Acted guesthouse
- Pension, health insurance, life insurance and repatriation assistance (& unemployment insurance for EU citizens)
- Flight tickets every 6 months & visa fees covered
- Contribution to the luggage transportation: up to 100 kgs, depending on the length of the contract
- R&R every 3 months, flight tickets covered up to \$500 and allowance of \$200
- Annual leave of 25 to 43 days per year
- One week pre-departure training in Acted HQ, including a 4-days in situ security training
- Tax advice (free 30-minute call with a tax consultant)
- Psychological assistance

How to Apply

Please send your application (cover letter + resume) to jobs@acted.org under **Ref: DCD Prog/AFG**