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Afghanistan

Afghanistan Agricultural Inputs Project

**Redacted Report to
the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

June, 2020

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Executive Summary

This report provides the findings of an administrative inquiry by the World Bank Group Integrity Vice Presidency into allegations of misconduct in connection with the Afghanistan Agricultural Inputs Project (the “Project”) in Afghanistan.

In 2017, Individual A applied for the position of Senior Procurement Specialist under the Project, submitting Individual A’s Curriculum Vitae (“CV”). Individual A was hired for the position.

However, evidence indicates that Individual A claimed false work experience on the CV. Applicants were required to have seven years work experience. Individual A’s CV listed the necessary seven years, including three as a Procurement Specialist at Company X in Kabul, Afghanistan. Evidence indicates that Individual A has never worked for Company X.

Individual A was removed from the position of Senior Procurement Specialist under the Project. Furthermore, Individual A has been debarred for a period of three years by the World Bank Group’s Sanctions Board.

Background

In June 2013, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the International Development Association (“IDA” or the “World Bank”)¹, acting as administrator of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, entered into a US\$74.75 million Grant Agreement for the Afghanistan Agricultural Inputs Project (the “Project”) in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In June 2017, the amount of the Grant Agreement was amended to US\$67.25 million. The Project became effective in June 2013 and closed in June 2019.

The Project’s objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity for safety and reliability of agricultural inputs and sustainable production of certified wheat seed in Afghanistan. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (the “MAIL”).

The MAIL issued the Terms of Reference (the “TOR”) for the position of Senior Procurement Specialist under the Project. The TOR required that candidates have at least seven years of past work experience in public procurement with international donor-funded projects. The TOR stipulated that out of the seven years of experience, a minimum of four years was required in the capacity of Procurement Specialist or Senior Procurement Officer.

In November 2017, Individual A applied for the position of Senior Procurement Specialist and submitted the Curriculum Vitae (“CV”). In February 2018, the MAIL and Individual A signed an Employment Contract for the position of Senior Procurement Specialist (the “Contract”) for a total amount of approximately Afghan Afghani (“AFN”) 1.7 million (approximately US\$24,000).² The Contract did not require the Bank to provide a No Objection Letter. In January 2019, the contract was extended to June 30, 2019. The total amount of the contract extension was AFN 1,129,434 (US\$16,430). The Contract is financed with Project funds and is subject to the Bank’s Consultant Guidelines.

Allegations

The World Bank received allegations that Individual A had submitted false work experience in the CV. INT reviewed Project documents and conducted third party verification by contacting Individual A’s stated former employer.

Findings

Evidence indicates that Individual A claimed false work experience on Individual A’s CV.

The TOR for the Contract required that candidates have at least seven years of work experience in public procurement. Individual A’s CV included work experience as a Procurement Specialist at Company X in Kabul, Afghanistan, from January 2013 until January 2016.

¹ IDA is one of the five institutions comprising the World Bank Group. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“IBRD”) and IDA constitute the World Bank. Therefore, IDA and the World Bank are used interchangeably throughout this Report.

² This currency conversion is based on the exchange rate as of February 10, 2018 (1 USD = 68.74 AFN).

INT sought verification from Company X of Individual A's work experience. Company X confirmed to INT that Individual A has never worked for Company X.

According to the remaining information in Individual A's CV, Individual A otherwise has a total of four years of work experience in public procurement—three years less than that required in the TOR.

Corrective Actions

INT sought World Bank Group administrative sanctions against Individual A as the Contract is financed with Project funds and subject to the Bank's Consultant Guidelines. As a result, Individual A has been debarred for a period of 3 years by the World Bank Group's Sanctions Board and therefore will be ineligible to participate in World Bank financed projects during that period.

Individual A has also been removed from the position of Senior Procurement Specialist under the Project.