



Economic Empowerment in Strategic Regions

Concept

- New inter-agency USG initiative led by the U.S. Department of State with its main partners USAID, DOD, Commerce and OPIC, to assist private sector job-creation in regions where lack of economic opportunity fuels extremism.
- EESR provides "business development advocacy" and customized matchmaking to help local entrepreneurs find partners and resources. Using a web-based platform, EESR actively solicits business proposals from entrepreneurs in the target regions, and matches them with partners and resources from the U.S. private sector, USG agencies, NGOs, foundations and multilateral institutions to fulfill identified needs.
- Initial pilot region is the Afghanistan/Pakistan border area but proposals from other strategic regions (e.g., Iraq, West Bank) are being considered as received.
- A key role of EESR is to facilitate and coordinate requests for U.S. government financial and technical support (subject to agency-specific program requirements).
- Proposals may be submitted by any person who is located in or has ties to the target region. While there is no mandatory format for proposals, principals are encouraged to follow the Suggested Guidelines posted at the EESR website: <http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/tpp/eesr/>.
- The requirements for proposals are: (1) reasonable prospects for sustainable, private sector job creation; (2) no conflicts with USG policies; and (3) project principal has email access and communicates in English. All proposals meeting these requirements will be posted and marketed through EESR.

Process

- After initial review by the Department, draft proposals are sent to a team of volunteer MBA students for analysis and comment. The MBA teams work directly with project principals to refine their proposals, address fundamental business and market issues, and develop financial models.
- Once the MBA review is complete, proposals are posted on the EESR website. The projects are then actively marketed to prospects in the public and private sectors who may be suitable partners or investors. The EESR team remains involved, as requested, to assist with addressing or resolving project issues.

Further information can be found at our website: <http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/tpp/eesr/>.

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