



To : Offerors
From : Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)/
United Nations Foundation (UNF)
Subject : Project Lead – Strengthening Political Support for Agricultural Statistics

RFP Issue Date : 9 December 2019
RFP Closing Date : Open until filled
RFP Closing Time : 17:00 hours U.S. Eastern Time.
Performance Period : February 2020 – October 2021
Performance location: : Rome, Italy

GPSDD is seeking a consultant with considerable experience of the political dynamics around Rome-based international agencies and understanding of the challenges and gaps related to agriculture data to lead a project on *Strengthening Political Support for Agricultural Statistics*. The Contract resulting from this award will be a **Consultant Agreement**.

Offerors are encouraged to read this RFP in its entirety, paying specific attention to the scope of services, instructions, and requirements. Issuance of this solicitation does not, in any way, obligate UNF to award a contract, nor will UNF pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal. The agreement resulting from this RFP will be provided to the most responsive Offeror whose offer will be the most advantageous to GPSDD/UNF in terms of cost, functionality, and other factors as specified in this RFP.

Section 1: Background and Purpose

Background: United Nations Foundation

The United Nations Foundation links the UN's work with others around the world, mobilizing the energy and expertise of business and non-governmental organizations to help the UN tackle issues including climate change, data, global health, peace and security, women's empowerment, poverty eradication, energy access, and U.S.-UN relations. The United Nations Foundation hosts and provides administrative, financial and contractual services for GPSDD. For more information, visit www.unfoundation.org.

Background: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is a fast-growing, dynamic international partnership bringing together over 200 different organizations including governments, UN agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, and many others. GPSDD convenes, connects and catalyzes action to address the problems of poor data use, access, quality and production, and to work with stakeholders to fully harness the new opportunities of the data revolution in the service of sustainable development. GPSDD aims to link and align action, capacities and resources across geographies, sectors and data communities. For more information, please visit <http://www.data4sdgs.org>.

Background: Project to Strengthen Political Support for Agricultural Statistics

Each year nearly \$239B is invested in agriculture in low and middle-income countries.¹ These investments and critical policy decisions are often made without the benefit of recent, comparable or accurate agricultural statistics. To begin to bridge this gap in agriculture data and statistics, high-level policymakers need to understand the scale of the problem and be convinced of the value of investing in data. Alongside this, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other Rome-based international agencies need to be supported to prioritize agriculture data and statistics. Without increased political and financial commitment to data amongst high-level agriculture stakeholders the gap in agriculture data will intensify, hindering progress towards the SDGs.

This project will work across member states, GPSDD country partners, the FAO and other Rome-based agencies, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and key global stakeholders to help build a geographically diverse coalition in support of increased funding and human resources for agriculture data and statistics. This will ultimately contribute to more effective country-level support for data production, access and use in the agricultural sector.

A key aim of the project is to increase awareness and support from member states on the urgent need for investment in agricultural statistics. The project will engage closely with Rome-based member state representatives to increase awareness on the data gap and the value of investing in data. This will be done through a series of seminars, meetings and knowledge products. As understanding of the data gap improves, we will encourage member states to make data a political priority by supporting proposals that can create the conditions for sustained financial commitment for agricultural data. These proposals will be shaped by changemakers within the Rome-based agencies and their understanding of the best ways to strengthen the data and statistics functions of the food and agriculture institutions of the United Nations.

In support of these goals, the project will create an enabling environment for increased investment and political support for agriculture data by supporting a data-related workstream within the Committee on World Food Security and by leveraging complementary policy actions that advance the financing for data agenda beyond Rome.

Section 2: Scope of Services

The Project Lead will be based in Rome full time and will have full responsibility for the Rome-based activities of the project. S/he will bring a deep understanding of the member state dynamics around the Rome-based agencies and the levers of influence. S/he will develop and maintain strong trusted relationships with member state representatives from all regions and key officials within the Rome-based agencies. The Project Lead will also develop and contribute to knowledge products that aim to shape key stakeholders' view of the importance of data, the need to strengthen data systems and capacities, and how to achieve that.

¹ The total of \$239 billion (constant 2015 USD) is based on data from Brookings Institute's Ending Rural Hunger report and represents public funds from donors, multilaterals, and host country governments (including public spending on R&D) and foreign direct investment in agriculture (defined as crops, livestock, aquaculture and agroforestry)

Key tasks include:

- Assess the political landscape, identify key players and potential member state champions and develop the strategy for stakeholder engagement and influence.
- Build strong relationships with member state representatives and other stakeholders in Rome through regular one-on-one meetings and by regularly engaging with regional and other groups such as the G77.
- Develop and organize various meetings, seminars, events and roundtables that aim to discuss the gap in agriculture data and what can be done to address it. (Event costs will be paid for directly by UNF.)
- Assess current Rome-based institutional structures and budgeting processes and make recommendations that would facilitate greater support for data and statistics within the organizations. Design and build support for a strategy that will advance these recommendations.
- Develop strong relationships with key players within the Rome-based agencies to understand the changes they wish to see and how the broader Rome-based community can help implement these changes.
- Develop and contribute to various knowledge products that make the case for investing in agriculture data and statistics, leverage concrete country examples, and link to related global policy processes.
- Collaborate with GPSDD team members to leverage country examples and partners in support of project goals.
- Develop a strong understanding of the dynamics and key issues on data for development and identify how these may affect or help strengthen agricultural data.
- Produce a monthly management report detailing progress toward project deliverables.

Qualifications**Essential**

- Masters' degree in international development, public policy, agricultural development or related field or commensurate years of experience;
- At least five years' experience working on agriculture issues with at least 2 years exposure to the member state dynamics around the Rome-based agencies of the United Nations;
- Knowledge of data-related issues in the agriculture sector;
- Understanding of Rome-based agencies' governance and budgeting processes;
- Excellent engagement and relationship-building skills;
- Ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written forms with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Project management experience and strong organizational skills;
- Ability to deliver high-quality, concise, and timely results;
- Ability to work with a remote team and carry out activities independently;
- Fluency in English and ability to work in an environment of diverse languages and cultures.

Desirable

- Diplomatic experience;
- Experience in data for development and understanding of the issues surrounding financing for data.

Section 3: RFP Conditions

UNF reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all offers and discontinue this RFP process without obligation or liability to any potential Offeror or other party.
- Accept other than the lowest price offered.
- Award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions or requests for best and final offers.
- Award more than one contract.

Nothing in this RFP is, or should be relied on by Offeror as a promise or representation by UNF. UNF does not make any representation or warranty as to the completeness of this RFP or have any liability for any representations (express or implied) contained in, or omissions from, this RFP. This RFP and any replies to any written notifications are transmitted to the Offeror solely for the purposes of the Offeror preparing and submitting a Proposal. Each Offeror shall keep the RFP and its contents confidential.

Any information or materials submitted in response to this RFP and/or as a proposal (whether successful or unsuccessful) shall become the property of UNF and will not be returned. In submitting a proposal, the Offeror must agree that the offer shall remain firm for a period of no less than **120** days from the RFP closing date. Failure to follow the specifications and requirements provided in this RFP may result in disqualification.

Section 4: Proposal Preparation Instructions

Proposals are expected to be comprehensive and include the information set forth below. Elaborate or unnecessarily voluminous proposals are not desired. Proposals must be submitted in English.

1. Coverletter (no more than 3 pages)

The coverletter will include:

- A brief description of the Offeror's experience and expertise in the field that illustrates overall qualifications and capabilities to meet the terms of the RFP
- A brief description of the Offeror's understanding of the scope of services and proposed approach for the work

2. Resume or CV of the Offeror.

3. Writing sample

Provide a writing sample of no more than 5 pages that demonstrates the Offeror's ability to convey information clearly and persuasively. The sample can be an excerpt from a longer document.

4. Cost Requirements

The Offeror should include his/her daily rate. Travel and expenses should not be included as these will be managed separately.

Proposal Submission: Proposals, including any attachments (limited to 6MB), should be sent electronically in PDF format to: proposals@data4sdgs.org. Be sure to include in the subject line: **Project Lead – Strengthening Political Support for Agricultural Statistics**. UNF will not accept proposals received by fax or mail.

All proposals are due by the date and time stated above. Any proposal received after the required time and date specified for receipt shall be considered late and non-responsive. Late proposals will not be evaluated.

Section 5: Selection

GPSDD will review proposals with the goal of selecting the Offeror most advantageous to GPSDD, based on the qualifications listed above, as demonstrated by the proposal materials. GPSDD will consider the Offeror's capability to deliver the scope of services, and the feasibility of the approach. GPSDD intends to enter into a contract that provides the best value and benefit, not necessarily the lowest price. GPSDD may meet with one or more Offerors prior to selection.

Section 6: Terms of Payment

Payment terms for the award shall be based on the negotiated daily rate. No advance payments will be provided. Payment is dependent upon receipt of valid invoice, and contingent upon successful completion of tasks, at the sole discretion of UNF. Payment shall be made in U.S. dollars by the UNF via check or electronic funds transfer/bank wire. The final payment terms in the contract will control, not this RFP.