



**Global
Partnership**
for Sustainable
Development Data

Request for Proposals

Podcast Production

Consultancy

Deadline: June 16, 2025

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

To : Offerors

From : Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data /
United Nations Foundation

Subject : Podcast Production Consultancy

RFP Issue Date : May 15, 2025

RFP Closing Date : June 16, 2025

RFP Closing Time : 17:00 hours U.S. Eastern Time

Performance Period : Approximately three to four (3-4) months

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership) is seeking a qualified vendor to produce a three (3) episode podcast series that highlights the climate and health data landscape in Africa as well as the Capacity Accelerator Network ("CAN") initiative's impact on climate and health data capacity. The Global Partnership invites qualified individuals, firms, and organizations ("Offerors") to submit a proposal for the requested services. The Contract resulting from this award will be a Services 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 the Global Partnership / United Nations Foundation (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 the Global Partnership/UNF in terms of cost, functionality, and other factors as specified in this RFP.

The Global Partnership is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees and consultants.

Section 1: Background and purpose

Background: United Nations Foundation

The United Nations Foundation (UNF) 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 the Global Partnership. For more information, visit www.unfoundation.org.

Background: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (Global Partnership) is a dynamic global network of governments, UN agencies, private companies and civil society organizations. The Global Partnership 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. For more information, visit www.data4sdgs.org.

Background: Capacity Accelerator Network (CAN) – Podcast Series “Data in Action”

The Capacity Accelerator Network (CAN), implemented in collaboration with data.org, is a flagship program designed to enhance climate and health data capacity across various African countries. The initiative supports national statistics systems and social impact organizations by embedding data science fellows within institutions to work on pressing challenges.

For more information about CAN, visit: [CAN Initiative](#).

The Data in Action podcast series will explore the role of data in addressing real-world problems. The pilot series will focus on the role of data in solving climate and health challenges in Africa. It will feature expert insights, real-world applications, and local success stories and showcase how data-driven interventions are shaping a more resilient future. Though centered around the CAN initiative as a key thread, it is about the bigger picture of using data to drive impact in issues at the intersection of health and climate in Africa. This podcast will serve as an advocacy tool to push the conversation forward, showcase innovative solutions, and position the Global Partnership as a thought leader in development data.

With this podcast series, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Foster a connected, collaborative data-for-development community, uniting researchers, governments, NSOs, funders, and civil society actors around shared challenges and innovations. The podcast will serve as a hub for peer learning, inclusive dialogue, and relationship-building that drives real-world collaboration.
2. Amplify thought leadership and elevate diverse voices through insightful, relevant conversations, strengthening the Global Partnership’s position as a relevant convener in the development data space. By curating diverse voices, especially from

underrepresented regions and sectors, the series will illuminate the role of data in tackling global challenges, inspire new thinking, and offer perspectives that remain valuable well beyond the moment.

3. Encourage investment in resilient, inclusive data ecosystems and making a compelling case for long-term, systemic support of data capacity, from skills to infrastructure. Through real stories and expert insights, the podcast series will demonstrate how better data leads to better decisions, policies, and outcomes in addressing challenges to a better world.

We will kick-off the podcast series with an edition focused on climate and health data, using the CAN initiative as a case study on what has been done, what is possible and what we can do. Each episode will be approximately twenty (20) minutes in length, balancing depth and engagement while ensuring accessibility for a professional audience. We anticipate the three (3) episodes of this pilot podcast series to focus on the following thematic areas:

Episode 1: Climate & Health – The Data Gap

- Data is vital for tackling Africa’s climate and health crises, but systemic barriers like silos and limited capacity slow progress. Still, targeted support shows data can drive real change.

Episode 2: From Learning to Impact

- CAN fellows apply data skills to local challenges like land degradation and disease. Their stories show how investing in people leads to practical, lasting solutions.

Episode 3: The Ecosystem of Change

- Solving climate and health issues requires bold, cross-sector collaboration. Real progress happens when institutions align and commit to shared goals.

The Data in Action podcast will follow a documentary-style narrative, with a single anchor or narrator guiding each episode. Guest insights will be woven throughout the narration to build a cohesive and compelling storyline. The final list of guests to be interviewed may include CAN fellows, government representatives, policymakers, technical experts and institutional partners. Each episode should feature approximately eight (8) guests, totaling twenty-four (24) guests across all three (3) episodes. Guests will be based in various countries across Africa, including but not limited to Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and all interviews will be conducted virtually.

Section 2: Scope of services

Expected Services:

- Providing pre-production and scripting for the three (3) episode podcast pilot series, Data in Action, including:
 - Developing three (3) podcast scripts and interview structures, including developing interview questions and agendas, in a documentary-style narrative format.
 - Co-develop a final list of guests (e.g., CAN fellows, training providers, stakeholders) in consultation with the Global Partnership based on a preliminary list provided by the Global Partnership, to be interviewed virtually for the podcast episodes as well as coordinating and scheduling the interviews, with support from the Global Partnership.
- Conducting podcast production, including:
 - Conducting professional interviews with the identified guests, ensuring high-quality audio capture.
 - Editing, stitching, and refining captured audio for clarity, engagement, and storytelling impact.
- Providing podcast post-production and promotion support, including:
 - Finalizing the development of **the final mastered three (3) podcast episodes** (20 minutes each) in **MP3 format** alongside their transcripts.
 - Developing a copy and content kit for the Global Partnership's website and social media, including (5) social media captions and corresponding media, such as video and/or audio for social media.

Expected Deliverables:

- Three (3) podcast scripts and interview structures.
- List of identified guests to interview for the Global Partnership's approval (e.g., CAN fellows, training providers, stakeholders).
- Final mastered versions of the three (3) podcast episodes (20 minutes each) in MP3 format.
- Copy and content kit for the website and social media, including webpage copy, five social media captions, and their corresponding media.
- Notes, raw audio/video captured, and related documentation from the interviews conducted.

Desirable experience/qualifications

(If a consulting firm or organization is bidding, the Global Partnership would look for these qualifications from the lead individual and others likely to be significantly engaged in the work.)

- Proven experience in podcast production and storytelling (e.g., documentary-style podcasts, interview-based podcasts, etc.).
- Familiarity with climate, health, and development issues, especially in Africa, is a plus.
- Strong track record in audio production, sound editing, and distribution strategies.
- Experience working with international organizations or social impact projects.

Section 3: Proposal Preparation Instructions

Proposals are expected to be comprehensive and include the information set forth below. Elaborate or unnecessarily voluminous proposals are not desired. The font used should be easy to read and generally no smaller than 11 points. (Smaller font can be used for short footnotes.) Proposals must be submitted in **English**.

1. Technical Proposal, no more than two pages, to include:

- a. The primary contact person for the Offeror: the individual's name, address, phone number and email address.
- b. A statement confirming the Offeror does not have a conflict of interest with this RFP, real or perceived.
- c. A summary of the Offeror's understanding of the scope of services, along with a positive commitment to perform the work in a timely manner.
- d. 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, and years of relevant experience.

2. Resume or CV of Key Personnel**3. List of References**

The Offeror must include a list of three references, including phone number, e-mail address and a short description of work done for the referee.

4. Cost Requirements

The Offeror should include a budget for the services described above. All prices must be quoted in **U.S. dollars**.

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: Podcast Production Consultancy. The Global Partnership / 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 4: Selection

The Global Partnership will review candidates with the goal of selecting one or more consultant(s) which is/are most advantageous to the Global Partnership, based on the qualifications listed above, as demonstrated by the resume or CV, cover letter, and additional material, if applicable. The Global Partnership will consider the Offeror's capability to deliver the scope of services, and the feasibility of the approach. The Global Partnership will also consider the overall costs to ensure that they are reasonable to deliver the services. The Global Partnership may meet with one or more Offerors prior to selection.

Section 5: RFP Conditions

The Global Partnership/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 6: Terms of payment

Payment terms for the award shall be on a deliverable basis and will be made following the submission of each deliverable. Payment is dependent upon receipt of valid invoice, and contingent upon successful completion of deliverables, at the sole discretion of UNF. Payment shall be made in U.S. dollars by UNF via check or bank wire. The final payment terms in the contract will control, not this RFP. No advanced payment will be made.