



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

**RFP Issue Date** : May 6, 2021  
**RFP Closing Date** : Open until filled  
**Performance Period** : Start as soon as possible to April 30, 2022  
**Location** : Rome, Italy preferred; other European locations will be considered

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 contribute to 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](http://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**

Every year governments in low and lower middle-income countries invest millions of dollars in agriculture without accurate and reliable information. This leads to losses in productivity and income, perpetuates hunger and poor nutrition, particularly among the most vulnerable, and contributes to environmental degradation.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for better data on both the health and socio-economic impacts, it has also exposed the shortcomings of national data and statistical systems and the chronic underinvestment in agricultural data and statistics. Timely, accurate and reliable data to inform decision-making will be a critical driver for more equitable, inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation and achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Innovations in digital technology and the use of new and alternative data sources, such as satellite or citizen-generated data, are helping to fill data gaps and enabling decision makers target their policies and resources more effectively to support vulnerable communities. Harnessing this potential requires increased investment and a more coordinated and collaborative approach which strengthens national data and statistics systems and supports local knowledge and capacity development.

The [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#) (GPSDD) is working with diverse stakeholders to build support for more effective financing and collaboration on agricultural data and statistics in the lead up to [42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Conference](#), [2021 Food Systems Summit](#) and the Committee on World Food Security's HLPE Report on [Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition](#). Since early 2020, GPSDD's Project on Strengthening Political Support for Agricultural Data and Statistics has been engaging Rome-based member state representatives in order to increase their awareness of the urgent need for investment in agricultural data and statistics and build their support for this agenda in Rome-based discussions and processes. In the coming year, this project will step up member state engagement toward these major upcoming moments in food and agriculture governance.

## **Section 2: Scope of Services**

The Project Advisor will be based in Rome and will lead the Rome-based member state engagement for 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 Advisor will also contribute to written 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.

### **Key tasks include:**

- Assess the political landscape, identify key players and potential member state champions and contribute to 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, events and roundtables that aim to discuss the gap in agriculture data and what can be done to address it.
- 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.
- Contribute to various written 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.
- 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 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. Cover letter, no more than 2 pages**

The cover letter 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 explaining how they would apply their qualifications and capabilities to meet the terms of the RFP

### **2. Writing sample, no more than 5 pages (can be an excerpt of a longer document)**

The writing sample should demonstrate the Offeror's ability to convey information clearly and persuasively.

### **3. Resume or CV of Individual**

### **4. List of Three References, with Contact Details**

### **5. 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](mailto:proposals@data4sdgs.org). Be sure to include in the subject line: **Project Advisor – 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 candidates with the goal of selecting a consultant most advantageous to GPSDD, based on the qualifications listed above, as demonstrated by the resume or CV, proposal narrative, and additional material, if applicable. GPSDD will consider the Offeror's capability to deliver the scope of services, and the feasibility of the approach. GPSDD will also consider the overall costs to ensure that they are reasonable to deliver the services. 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 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 by the UNF via check or electronic funds transfer/bank wire. The final payment terms in the contract will control, not this RFP.