Request for Proposals

PRIVATE SECTOR LEARNING

Consultancy

Deadline: September 7th, 2022
Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
To: Offerors

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

Subject: Private Sector Learning Consultant

RFP Issue Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2022
RFP Closing Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022
RFP Closing Time: 17:00 hours U.S. Eastern Time
Performance Period: Approximately September 14, 2022–December 22, 2022

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership) is seeking a consultant to gather learning from partnerships with private sector companies in the data for development sector.

The Global Partnership invites qualified individuals (“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 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 everyone.

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 the Global Partnership. For more information, visit www.unfoundation.org.

Background: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data 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: Public Private Partnerships

In order to fully harness the benefits of new data technologies, products and services for sustainable development, partnerships need to be developed between public and private sectors to share data, technologies, skills and other resources.

There is a huge range of experience of public private partnerships in the sector. Many have brought significant benefits, e.g. providing access to data and platforms for information sharing during the COVID pandemic. However, there have also been challenges, including with the sustainability of these partnerships, and many have not proved durable over time.

The Global Partnership has created a sub-committee of its Board to advise on strengthening our engagement with the private sector. Our aim is to develop a series of model relationships that can help to streamline the process of brokering public private partnerships and create greater clarity of expectations and obligations on all sides, overcoming some of the barriers to sustainability.

Section 2: Scope of services

We are looking for a consultant to work with the secretariat team and selected partners to review experience in this area and develop a typology of business models for different scenarios. The consultant will produce a report (max 20 pages), outlining the different partnership models and associated challenges, opportunities and trade offs.

It is likely that in the consideration of each type of partnership, the following (non-exhaustive) factors will be relevant:

1. Scale: The variation in the scale of different partnerships in the data sector (e.g. small, one-off agreements with individual entities, to big consortia covering whole countries or sectors might be a relevant source of difference between partnership types.

2. Types of resource transfer involved: The resources involved will affect how business models are structured, given variations in commercial and other incentives underpinning the production and use of different resources. These may include:

   o Data sharing
   o Free licencing of platforms or other data products
Free or discounted provision of technical infrastructure (e.g. hardware, cloud storage)
- Access to learning materials
- Offers of technical assistance from company staff
- Financial resources to support data or AI challenges.

3. Benefits over time: Where it is possible to assess the impact of different partnership arrangements over time, this should form part of the classification of the different models. Distinctions might be made according to agreed criteria including (again, not exhaustive)

- Sustainability of benefits
- Relevance of resource offered to challenge faced
- Benefits to private sector
- Benefits to public sector
- Extent of other resources required to implement partnership within public sector and other entities
- Time taken to agree terms of partnership
- Duration of partnership

The consultant will be expected to work closely with relevant members of the Global Partnership team, Board members and partners to shape the evolving analysis and final product.

Section 3: Proposal Preparation Instructions

Proposals are expected to be comprehensive and include the information set forth below.

1. Letter, no more than two pages

This letter will summarize, in a brief and concise manner, the Offeror’s understanding of the scope of services and make a positive commitment to perform the work in a timely manner. It should include the legal name and registered address of the Offeror, 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 will 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 budget must include the daily rate and level of effort for each person who will work on the services described above. No additional expenses will be approved.

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: Private Sector Learning Consultant. 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

We will review candidates with the goal of selecting several consultants from a diverse range of geographies 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

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 deliverables basis. Payment is dependent upon receipt of a valid invoice, and contingent upon successful completion of the deliverables, at the sole discretion of UNF. Payment shall be made in U.S. dollars by UNF via check or electronic funds transfer/bank wire. The final payment terms in the contract will control, not this RFP.