The Global Partnership is seeking a consultant to support the National Statistics Office of Colombia (DANE) with the statistical design of a survey project. The consultant should have broad experience in web surveys, statistical sampling strategies and/or model based sampling design. 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.

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 is a fast-growing, dynamic international partnership bringing together hundreds of different organizations including governments, UN agencies, private companies, civil society
organizations, and many others. 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. The Global Partnership aims to link and align action, capacities and resources across geographies, sectors and data communities. For more information, please visit http://www.data4sdgs.org.

**Project background: Development and distribution of web applications as an alternative method for data collection for official statistics**

Data collection by surveys continues to be a challenge for national statistical offices. Information needs require greater frequency, granularity, timeliness and accuracy than the current data produced, and responding to these needs using traditional methods is increasingly difficult due to changes in the dynamics and structures of data sources. For example, changes in the practices of households and individuals, can make it difficult to contact people and convince them to participate in surveys by traditional methods such as direct interviews.

To respond to these increasing needs, various initiatives have been started by the official statistics sector for standardization, promotion, and execution of projects for the use of data from non-traditional sources. Such initiatives include those of The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics and the Machine Learning Group of the High Level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics, among others. DANE, in coordination with the initiative *Data For Now* is carrying out a project to extract data from social media to measure SDG indicators from the Goal 16.

User-generated data is an important source of value generation in the private sector. Most of this data is collected through applications, because of the interaction of users in search of value or services offered by the apps. This operating logic can be adopted in the context of the production of official statistics to obtain information from people, while immediately repaying them through a service based on the value generated by users of data.

The use of web apps for official statistics, requires overcoming ethical, legal and technical challenges, such as the possible impairment of the autonomy of users derived from the adoption of behavioral design mechanisms, risks of unlawful effects in the definition of the terms of use and data use policy, and the possibility of making statistical inference without acceptable levels of precision and accuracy.

In 2021, DANE developed a beta version of a web app to carry out the data collection process for the measurement of the SDG indicator 16.b.1 / 10.3.1. As result, a web app was developed with the free plan of the Bubble.io platform and a draft design document was written, in which behavioral and user experience proposals identified some ethical and legal risks.

The objective of this project is to validate the development of web applications and their distribution ethically, legally and technically through social networks, as an alternative method of data collection to produce official statistical information.
The activities to be undertaken of the overall project are:

- Deliver a training course for DANE to increase staff’s technical knowledge and practical capacities to design a data production process that incorporates the design of a web app as the data collection method.
- Design and develop a behavioral, normative, and technical framework for the web app and its terms of use to ensure the legality of the data collection processes through web apps in Colombia.
- Design a web app to collect information for producing the indicator SDG indicator 16.b.1, as a pilot exercise.
- Support the strategy to deploy and distribute the web application for calculating the SDG indicator 16.b.1 through a social network.
- Design a statistical quality framework to analyze the collected data for SDG indicator 16.b.1.
- Identify the ethical, legal and technical risks of the development and distribution of web applications in the context of a data production process, and the mechanisms for their elimination, reduction and mitigation.
- Provide recommendations on the viability of the development and distribution of web applications as an alternative method of data collection for official statistics.

Three consultants will be hired to undertake all of the activities described above. The scope of services below describes the work of one of the three consultants.

**Section 2: Scope of Services**

The Global Partnership is seeking a consultant to support DANE with capacity development and the statistical design of the web application.

**Key tasks for this consultant include:**

- Design training materials and deliver a 15-hour training course to approximately 10-20 DANE staff members to increase their technical knowledge and practical capacities in the design of sampling strategies for web surveys, including analysis of potential biases and the methods for avoiding it. Topics should include sampling strategies (sampling design and estimation) for web surveys, sources and types of bias in web surveys and social network data, methods to prevent and mitigate bias, technical and practical challenges in use web surveys and social network data, and practical considerations (e.g., available software tools and libraries, evaluation of results, etc.), and other topics that the consultant considers necessary.
  - Liaise with DANE’s team to gather key internal information about the previous technical knowledge, methodology, and software preferred for effective delivery of training and advisory services under the project.
  - Upload all course materials, including presentations and tutorials, to a shared folder for distribution to participants one week before the training course.
- Design and deploy a sampling strategy and statistical design to measure the **SDG indicator 16.b.1** *Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international*
human rights law, using a web app as the data collection method and distribution on a social network platform as the web app dissemination strategy.

- Provide support to the technical team, led by DANE, on the design and deployment of components of the web app related to sampling strategy, statistical design and quality assessment design.
- Work closely with the other consultants of the project to integrate the statistical framework with the legal and behavioral components of the project for the design of a web app to collect information for producing the indicator SDG indicator 16.b.1.
- Be in frequent communication with the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Manager, other Global Partnership team members and consultants, and DANE’s team to provide and receive guidance, technical advice, and feedback.
- Make recommendations on the feasibility of scaling the method to other data collection projects, considering the quality statistical framework in Colombia.
- Prepare a final document describing the learned lessons, conclusions, recommendations and analysis on the feasibility of the proposed method of alternative data collection method for other projects.

**Deliverables**

**By 8 April 2022:**
- Prepare and facilitate one or more online meetings with the DANE staff to assess the specific needs for the training sessions, identify different factors, such as number and duration of sessions, dates and times, content, number and background of participants and IT resources to choose the most appropriate techniques for the team and agree on the tools and software needed during the training course.

**By 15 April 2022:**
- Prepare a detailed document with the chosen methodology, schedule, contents of each module and tools that will be used during the training course.

**Between 15 May and 15 July 2022:**
- Prepare, facilitate, and provide a comprehensive training course and materials, with a 20-hour curriculum, which includes the design of the sampling strategy for the 16.b.1 SDG indicator as an exercise within the course.

**By 3 June 2022:**
- Draft a sampling strategy design document (sample selection and parameter estimation) containing a description of the possible design approaches, along with justifications for the approaches proposed.

**By 19 July 2022:**
- Write scripts or source code of the sample size and selection calculation processes, calculation of weights, estimators and population parameter estimation processes.
By 19 July 2022:
- Complete the final database, with expanded values and estimated parameters.

By 26 July 2022:
- Write a final report on the training course with (1) feedback to training participants on their installed capacities and (2) recommendations for continuous implementation.

By 26 July 2022:
- Submit minutes of socialization and feedback sessions with other team members.

By 26 July 2022:
- Submit intermediate output data from the sampling and inference processes.

By 28 July 2022:
- Submit final document describing the sample design and sample quality assessment processes with conclusions, recommendations and possible improvements in other application cases.

Qualifications

**Essential**
- Advanced university degree in statistics, mathematics, data science, or related field.
- Proven experience designing and implementing sampling strategies in web surveys or identifying and reducing bias in social media data or web data in at least three different projects.
- Proven skills in implementing, monitoring, and reporting on training initiatives.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in conducting need assessments and developing training modules/curriculum, training materials, etc. Excellent communication and presentation skills, analytical and interpersonal abilities
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Spanish
- Experience working with technical experts and people from diverse cultures and professional backgrounds

**Desirable**
- Experience or knowledge of data production processes in national statistical offices
- Familiarity with the 2030 Agenda and the SDG indicator framework.
- Experience with projects involving UN agencies and other multilateral organizations

**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. Proposal narrative, no more than five pages

   The proposal narrative 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 methodology for the work

2. Resume or CV

3. List of past and current clients/references

4. Cost requirements

   The Offeror should include a detailed budget, which at a minimum includes the daily rate and level of effort for each person who will work on the services described above. All budgets must be in U.S. dollars. Do not include costs for travel in the budget; should any travel be approved it will be reimbursed at cost.

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: Web Applications 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 5: Selection

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

Section 6: Terms of payment

Payment terms for the award shall be on a fixed fee basis. Payment is dependent upon receipt of valid invoice, and contingent upon successful completion of deliverables and related activities, 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. No advance payments will be provided.