UNITED NATIONS
FOUNDATION

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Global Partnership
for Sustainable Development Data

To	Offerors
From	Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership)/ United Nations Foundation (UNF)
Subject	Effective Data Sharing: Beyond Platforms
RFP Issue Date	10 January 2022
RFP Closing Date	28 January 2022
RFP Closing Time	17:00 hours U.S. Eastern Time.
Performance Period	February 2022-January 2023
Performance location	Remote

The Global Partnershipis seeking a consultant/consulting firm with experience in carrying out **landscape analysis of data sharing initiatives at the global level**. 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 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: Effective Data Sharing: Beyond Platforms

Securely and easily sharing data from multiple providers in the public and private sectors remains a key barrier to the effective use of data across the development sector. Data sharing initiatives are emerging as an increasingly widespread solution to provide data discoverability, common standards, and frictionless data sharing. Use cases center around rapid and critical decision-making, for example crisis response and poverty alleviation for the most marginalized. Most data sharing initiatives seek to improve the access and availability of data, while simultaneously addressing technical, legal and commercial barriers to data sharing and use.

In many instances, these data sharing initiatives host or facilitate access to pivotal datasets and also provide other assets and solutions supporting data sharing, including: interoperability standards; technical tools; legal clauses; knowledge products and others. They are generally characterized by varying degrees of success, scalability and sustainability. Recent examples include data sharing initiatives that support monitoring real-time situations at the global level such as Global Forest Watch and Global Fishing Watch; platforms that combine different data sources such as the UN Humanitarian Data Exchange; and data initiatives that aim to be the go-to data sharing environment for the development sector, including the Development Data Partnership.

Most recently, the **Global Data Access Initiative (GDAI)** is being developed to support data sharing through an ecosystem of data and products. GDAI aims to unlock sustainable and responsible access to data and artificial intelligence (AI) for social good by creating a connected and cohesive ecosystem of data and AI products and services. With a pilot focusing on data sharing to support disaster resilience, it will then expand into an ecosystem solution for all SDGs. With this increased investment, there is a need for us to ensure that data sharing initiatives, services and tools are designed well, are complementary, and drive synergy. **A rigorous understanding of the landscape of data sharing initiatives and other related initiatives—what they aim to do and why they succeed or fail—is needed to drive a vibrant global data ecosystem.** The piloting of GDAI presents a critical opportunity to reflect upon what it takes to build a relevant and successful data sharing initiative within the development sector.

The goal of this project is to improve the relevance and sustainability of data sharing initiatives and other related initiatives by providing producers and funders with evidence-based guidance on how to assess and improve the relevance and sustainability of their platforms, services and tools towards the common aim of secure and frictionless data sharing at scale.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Increase understanding of the factors that make data platforms and other data sharing initiatives successful,
- Increase space for continued knowledge sharing and collaboration on scalable and sustainable solutions for data sharing,
- Support the application of findings to strengthen the GDAI initiative and others.

Section 2: Scope of services

To achieve the objectives above and particularly the first objective (increase understanding of the factors that make data platforms and other data sharing initiatives successful), the Global Partnership will recruit a consultant/consulting firm to carry out a rigorous landscape analysis of data sharing initiatives within the development sector.

The consultant/consulting firm will be asked to identify a sample of data platforms and other relevant initiatives to evaluate, ensuring diversity in data platforms in terms of theme, regional spread and audience type. All will have had a certain longevity to be able to assess success.

Through desk based research, key informant interviews, and workshops with a Reference Group (which will be established and managed by the Global Partnership), the consultant/consulting firm will work through three phases, each addressing a specific question and producing a specific outcome:

- **Phase 1: What are they trying to achieve?**
    - o   An assessment of the aims of different data sharing platform approaches
    - o   Output: Typology based on how they define the problem they are trying to solve
- **Phase 2: What does 'good' look like?**
    - o   An evaluation of the extent to which the platforms are meeting their defined aims.
    - o   Output: Intrinsic and extrinsic metrics of success
- **Phase 3: What is contributing to that success?**
    - o   An assessment of the drivers of success and failure, potential for scale and sustainability, and user engagement approaches. This will include an investigation of the experiences of the users of the platforms.
    - o   Output: Analysis of case studies and ingredients for success

Key tasks include:
- Adoption of a methodology for the landscape analysis and for the selection of the data sharing platform falling within the scope of the exercise;
- Development of a typology of data sharing platforms based on the data sharing obstacles they are trying to address, their approaches and objectives;
- Establishment of metrics for analyzing the success of the different data sharing initiatives considered;
- Collection of primary data and evidence for assessing the success of the initiatives based on the agreed metrics. Data collection tools might include desk research, interviews, focus groups, etc.
- Assessment of the key success and failure factors for the data sharing initiatives in scope of the analysis;
- Development of case studies for each data sharing initiative considered and triangulation of the findings to define the key ingredients for success;
- Revising as required to improve the deliverables and provide a final analysis covering all above mentioned aspects.

Deliverables
- Methodological approach for the landscape analysis

- Typology of data sharing initiatives
- Case studies for the data sharing initiatives in scope
- Final analysis of success and failure factors

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

Essential
- Masters' degree in economics, management, international development, public policy or related field or commensurate years of experience
- Good understanding of data-sharing initiatives, especially at the international level and within the development sector
- Good understanding of the barriers to data sharing and the types of solutions which are provided by data sharing initiatives (i.e. technical and legal solutions, interoperability solutions, others).
- Experience in carrying out landscape analysis and conducting similar assignments involving primary data collection and analysis
- Experience working with technical experts and people from diverse cultures and professional backgrounds
- Excellent research and analytical skills
- Fluency in written and spoken English and ability to work in an environment of diverse languages and cultures

Desirable
- Direct experience with establishment or maintenance of data sharing platforms
- Experience or knowledge of the data sharing challenges within the development sector
- Experience or knowledge of the development sector
- 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 of individual or principals, in the case of consulting firm.**

3. **List of past and current clients**

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, as travel will not 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: **Effective Data Sharing 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 GPSDD, 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.