

Section J.3 – Responses to Questions from Offerors

1. Roughly what percentages of level of effort should be spent on Madagascar vs. broad representation of rest of world LMICs in the Rapid Analysis and Report?

It is anticipated that the total cost for work on the Madagascar deep dive will be roughly 20 to 25 percent of the overall budget, although teams are welcome to propose different allocations. Bidders must clearly annotate costs associated with the Madagascar deep dive in their budget.

2. Can the public dialogue be hosted through a USAID or BMZ online property or does the respondent need to recommend the technology tools for these sessions?

The dialogue can be hosted through any freely available or subscription based virtual meeting platform, as proposed by the bidder.

3. Will USAID and BMZ help promote the public dialogue events through their social media channels?

Yes, USAID and BMZ will make efforts to promote the events through their social media channels, as long as the selected bidder provides them with draft content.

4. On page 8 of the RFP under the Activity Tasks section, Task 3 is referred to as “Public dialogue” but is referred to as “Policy dialogue” in F.4 Reports and Deliverables and L.5 Cost Proposal sections below. Should we assume the Task 3 output is a Policy Dialogue that is open to the public? With this distinction, can you please clarify the objective of Task 3 – will edits to the report be needed?

Yes, the public dialogue and policy dialogue are the same thing. The discrepancy is inadvertent. The general public should be open to apply to attend the policy dialogue, although as there will be a limit to the number of people who can participate, participants will be jointly selected based on those most likely to benefit from and act upon the report.

5. The RFP states that all reports and other deliverables must be in English. Will the Madagascar stakeholder feedback session need to be conducted in English as stated or should it be in French?

The language of the policy dialogue in Madagascar will be determined after award in consultation with USAID/Madagascar. It could be in English, French, or Malagasy. It is anticipated that it would be led by the in-country expert, who should be fluent in those languages.

6. Apart from Madagascar, are there any other LMICs or regions that should be specifically highlighted in the global study?

The study should focus broadly on sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. How important is it to focus on marginalized groups in both the global study and the Madagascar deep dive? Should we ensure these groups are prominently represented in stakeholder interviews and focus groups?

It is important that marginalized groups are considered in both the global and Madagascar studies. How that is done, and whether it includes the participation of these groups in interviews or focus groups is up to the bidder to propose.

8. What are the specific evaluation criteria that the Technical Evaluation Committee will use to assess the proposals? Are there any weightings assigned to different sections of the proposal?

Reference Section M of the RFP and Amendment No. 01.

9. Conflict of Interest Clarification, page 1 of 60 of the RFP: Can Cadmus please confirm that any possible Conflict of Interest for potential downstream work/activity that may happen related to this activity will be limited to Madagascar?

Cadmus is not privy to any downstream work that could result in a conflict of interest.

10. L.5 Cost Proposal, page 57 of 60 of the RFP: We suggest for your consideration that, given the proposed contract will be a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) agreement, Cadmus should not require a detailed budget. Instead, Offerors could be allowed to present their budget in the format commonly used for FFP contracts, as shown in the table on page 57 of 60—i.e., Milestones/Deliverables for Amount X, due on Date Y (with Cadmus including the 'Payer' details in the final contract). This approach would provide the successful Offeror with maximum flexibility, as they would assume all financial risks.

Reference the Amendment to the RFP.

11. Section C, Activity Background, page 6: Could you kindly provide the justification behind the choice of the value chain and geographic region - "vanilla and spices value chains with a geographical focus in the Southeast (Vatovavy, Fitovinany and Atsimo Atsinanana) and North (Sava)?

These are the value chains and regions of interest to USAID/Madagascar.

12. Can the Offerer be a consortium of institutions, with one of the partners of the consortium as the lead organisation to the contractor?

Yes.

13. Can an international organisation (not a service provider company) be the applicant or Offerer? (The scope of the study is of interest to several regional development organisations which would like to delve deeper in the subject while we have a local partner in Madagascar which can organise the local field work and study)

Applicants/offerors can come from any non-sanctioned country, although they must partner with local individuals or organizations for the in-country component in Madagascar.

14. The project describes the organisation of different physical meetings for discussion and validation: can you clarify whether the costs of organising these meetings are expected to be covered in the proposal by the Offerer? And, if not, confirmation that you will organise such meetings and the Offerer will advise on the proposed list of participants?

Any costs associated with in-person meetings that the Offeror believes are necessary to successfully implement this scope of work should be budgeted for, unless the Offeror or its partners are making an in-kind contribution.

15. Experience Requirement – 7 Years: We noticed a requirement for 7 years of experience. Since our company was legally registered in 2021. However, our CEO has completed relevant projects as a sole proprietor prior to the company’s formation. Would this experience be considered towards the requirement?

Experience of proposed personnel can be considered towards the requirement.

16. Past Performance: You mentioned 5 recent projects. Should past projects be directly related to digital traceability and agriculture, or could they also include work in adjacent fields, such as renewable energy, societal readiness for technology adoption, compliance systems, or capacity building?

They should be directly related or as relevant as possible to make an informed decision on an organization’s qualifications to implement this activity.

17. Local Lead in Madagascar: Is it acceptable for the Local Lead to be a consultant, as long as they meet the qualifications and experience, or must they be a full-time employee?

Yes, consultants are acceptable.