

Request for Proposal (RFP)

PIBD-DHK-RFP-FY21-23 QUESTION AND ANSWERS

1. Is there any specific template from your end for preparing the proposal?

Pathfinder International Response: No. Please use your own templates for preparing your proposal.

2. Will there be any conflict of interest if we design the study involving DGHS and private sector providers in addition to DGFP?

Pathfinder International Response: Any potential conflict of interest must be disclosed. Collaborating with DGHS and DGFP may not have any conflict of interest. However, the major intervention strategy should be based on the existing systems considering the sustainability and a clear guideline should be preferred in the design of implementation.

3. Is there any limit about total budget of the study?

Pathfinder International Response: The estimated range for funding is \$200,000-\$250,000 (using current Bangladesh Bank exchange rate). The budget should be in BDT. Offeror is requested to budget for reasonable, allowable, and allocable costs as applicable to perform the Scope of Work and provide the deliverables.

4. Our organization is an international not-for-profit NGO registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh and we are not liable to pay organizational income taxes in Bangladesh per our agreement with the NGOAB. Given this, and given that the RFA notes the following: *“All applicable TAX be included in the rates and VAT must be identified in the financial proposal. Regardless of offeror proposal, Pathfinder shall/must deduct applicable TAX and pay VAT using USAID VAT Coupons”*, how do we address this issue of tax payment as a non-tax-paying entity? Please advise. We do however deduct income taxes from vendors/payees at applicable rates during procurement and payment and our budgets will reflect this.

Pathfinder International Response: All applicable TAX will be deducted and VAT will be paid by USAID VAT Coupons. If Offeror can provide acceptable TAX exemptions and/or non-requirement of TAX payment documents issued by GOB authority, then TAX may not be deducted. Further consultation with TAX Lawyer may be required.

5. If taxes are to be included within rates in budgets as advised in the RFA, are they to be embedded in the budget at the applicable rate so that they can be recovered? Please advise.

Pathfinder International Response: All applicable taxes must be included in the rates and Pathfinder International will deduct applicable taxes and pay to GOB following the rules.

6. Could you clarify what the “CSI check” means in the applicants bid eligibility criteria (Page 8). What procedures would we need to follow to clear it?

Pathfinder International Response: The purpose of the CSI check is to ensure that Pathfinder International does not knowingly or intentionally provide material support or resources (including employment) to individuals or entities associated with any of the following:

- Individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts
 - Excluded parties by the US government
 - Prohibited by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
 - Sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council
 - Prohibited by USAID
7. Could it be possible to clarify a tentative or approximate or viable maximum range of the fixed price or the ceiling price that ought to be utilized for budgeting?

Pathfinder International Response: See response in no. 3 above.

8. For understanding the fixed price element, could the type of FAR(s) might be followed and disclosed, other than given at Part-B of the RFP?

Pathfinder International Response: Applicable FAR and AIDAR clauses are included on page 20 and 21 of the RFP.