TRANSPARENCY MALDIVES
A Coalition for Integrity

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Consultant to Conduct Nationwide Research on Sexual Corruption in the Maldives

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| Announcement No. | TM/RFP/2026/003 |
| Project: | Strong, Transparent, Responsive & Open Networks for Good Governance (STRONGG) |
| Published on: | 07 May 2026 |
| Information Session | 13 May 2026 by 02:00 pm |
| Deadline due: | 17 May 2026, by 4:00 pm (Maldives time) |
| Point of contact: | procurement@transparency.mv |

### 1. Organizational Background

Transparency Maldives (TM) is a non-partisan organization that endeavors to be a constructive force in society by promoting collaboration and discussion on corruption, transparency and accountability. TM seeks to engage with stakeholders from all sectors (government, business, political and civil society, among others) to raise awareness of corruption's detrimental effects on development and society, improve transparency and accountability in governance, and eliminate corruption from the daily lives of people. TM received formal government registration in 2007 and is the National Chapter of Transparency International (TI) in the Maldives.

### 2. Eligibility: Local Organizations / Firms / Individuals

### 3. Period of Performance: 6 months

### 4. Scope of Work and Guidelines:

#### 4.1 Background

Sexual corruption, defined as the abuse of entrusted power to demand or obtain sexual acts in exchange for services or benefits is an emerging area of concern within global anti-corruption efforts. Recent international developments, including the recognition of sexual corruption under UNCAC Conference of States Parties Resolution 10/10, highlight the need for countries to better understand and address this form of corruption.

While global research indicates that sexual corruption occurs across sectors such as public service delivery, education, health, law enforcement, and migration systems, there is **limited empirical evidence in the Maldivian context**. Existing data globally also highlights significant underreporting due to stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of awareness, and weak reporting mechanisms.

In the Maldives, where discussions around gender, and corruption, harassment and abuse of authority remain sensitive, there is a critical need for **context-specific, evidence-based research** to:

- Understand prevalence and perceptions
- Identify high-risk sectors and institutional vulnerabilities
- Examine legal and policy gaps
- Inform prevention, reporting, and response mechanisms

Transparency Maldives seeks to commission a **nationwide research study** to generate robust evidence on sexual corruption to inform policy advocacy, awareness initiatives, and institutional reform, under the project Strong, Transparent, Responsive, Open Networks for Good Governance (STRONGG Phase II).

### 4.2 Objectives, Scope and Description of Activities

**Objective of the Consultancy:**

The objective of the consultancy is to design and conduct a **national-level research study** that:

- Defines and contextualizes sexual corruption within the Maldivian socio-legal and cultural setting;
- Assesses public awareness, perceptions, and experiences of sexual corruption;
- Identifies sectors, institutions, and contexts most vulnerable to sexual corruption;
- Examines gendered and intersectional dimensions, including impacts on women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups;
- Reviews existing legal, policy, and institutional frameworks and identifies gaps; and
- Develops actionable, locally grounded recommendations for prevention, reporting, and response.

### 4.3 Scope of Work

The consultant will:

- Develop a detailed research design, methodology, and tools in consultation with TM.
- Conduct a comprehensive desk review of global, regional, and national literature on sexual corruption with the information in the policy paper on sexual corruption that will be provided by TM.
- Map relevant legal, policy, and institutional frameworks in the Maldives
- Design and implement a **mixed-methods research approach**, including:

- Quantitative surveys
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

**** The consultancy does not include travel to islands for data collection. To minimize overall research costs, it is preferred that the consultant propose digital methods for data collection and conducting interviews.**

- Ensure inclusion of diverse stakeholder groups (e.g. public officials, service users, civil society, vulnerable populations)
- Ensure strict ethical safeguards, including confidentiality, informed consent, and risk mitigation for participants
- Analyze data and identify key findings, trends, and sectoral risks
- Prepare a draft research report with findings and recommendations
- Present findings at a stakeholder validation workshop
- Finalize the research report
- Translate the finalized report to Dhivehi

**Expected Outputs:**

- Inception Report (including detailed methodology, research tools, ethical framework, and workplan)
- Draft Research Report ((presenting preliminary quantitative and qualitative findings, analysis from KIIs and FGDs, and draft recommendations)
- Validation Workshop Report (summary of stakeholder feedback and key revisions agreed)
- Final Research Report (comprehensive report incorporating validation feedback)
- Dhivehi Translated Final Report (final approved version translated into Dhivehi)

**4.4 Deliverables and Timeline (tentative)**

| **Deliverable** | **Timeline (tentative)** |
|---|---|
| Inception Report (methodology, tools, workplan) – including detailed research design, data collection tools, ethical considerations, and implementation plan | Day 1- Day 21 |
| Draft Research Report – presenting preliminary findings from KIIs, FGDs, and other data sources, with initial analysis and draft recommendations | By day 90 |

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| Validation Workshop – presentation of key findings to stakeholders and collection of feedback for refinement and submission of validation workshop report | Between day 110-120 |
| Final Research Report – revised and finalized report incorporating validation feedback and strengthened analysis and recommendations | By Day 160 |
| Dhivehi Translated Final Report – final approved report translated into Dhivehi | By Day 175 |

## 5. Qualifications of Consultant

- Master's degree in law, gender studies, public policy, social sciences, or related field
- Proven experience in conducting complex research, particularly on governance, corruption, gender, or human rights
- Strong understanding of Maldivian legal, governance, and social context
- Demonstrated experience in conducting sensitive research (e.g. gender-based violence, corruption, or human rights issues)
- Experience with mixed-methods, research, design and implementation
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills
- Ability to ensure ethical, safe, and inclusive research practices

## 6. Documents to be submitted

### 6.1 Technical Proposal

The technical proposal should include the following information:

Statement of Experience: This section should outline a statement of the Service Provider's or team members' capabilities and include any relevant experience. Any similar previous assignments of similar complexity and subject matter can be included. Please include examples of similar research/publications and contact details of two professional references. Links to publication will suffice.

Statement of Qualifications: This section should describe the Service Provider's or team members' professional qualifications and any other relevant qualifications. Please include Curriculum Vitae CV/resume and certificates, providing evidence of how the Service Provider or team members meet the knowledge and skills that are required for the assignment.

Proposed Methodology: This section should demonstrate the Service Provider's or the team's methodological approach for meeting the specifications set out in this RFP. This should include a work plan according to the timeline set in the RFP.

### 6.2 Financial Proposal

Please see Annex 1 of this RFP

### 6.3 Conflict of Interest Statement

All Service Providers must sign the conflict-of-interest statement given in Annex 2 of this RFP and submit it along with their application. Applications without the conflict-of-interest statement will be considered incomplete and TM reserves the right to reject such applications.

## 7. Evaluation of applications

The applications will be evaluated based on their merit and experience in undertaking this assignment.

The following criteria will be used to award scores for applications:

| TM will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:<br>**Selection Criteria** | **%** | |
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| 1. **Technical Proposal** | **60%** | |
| **1.1 Proposed methodology and approach**<br>• Methodology to achieve the outcome as per the scope of work<br>• Proposed work plan and timeline | 10%<br>5% | 15% |
| **1.2 Service Provider's Experience**<br>• Competency and reliability of firm and staff/team members – this will be scored after reviewing relevant references. Please provide reference letters to support.<br>• Experience from previous similar projects, and any other relevant projects. Please provide a list of projects/portfolio. | 15%<br>15% | 30% |
| 3. **Service Provider's Qualification**<br>• Qualifications, skills and experience in areas of research or a relevant field of education<br>• Relevant short-term training or workshop undertaken by team members.<br>Service Providers are requested to submit Curriculum Vitae (CV) and certificates for educational qualifications and training or workshops to support their merit. | 10%<br>5% | 15% |
| 2. **Financial Proposal** | **40%** | |

## 8. Additional Terms and Conditions

### a. Coverage & Participation

TM reserves the right not to enter into any contract, to add and/or delete elements, or to change any element of the coverage and participation prior to the award without prior notification at any time without any liability or obligation of any kind or amount.

### b. Service Providers' Understanding of the RFP

In responding to this RFP, service providers accept full responsibility to understand the RFP in its entirety, and in detail, including making any inquiries to TM as necessary to gain such an understanding. TM reserves the right to disqualify any Service Provider who demonstrates less than such understanding. Further, TM reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether Service Providers have demonstrated such understanding. Under such disqualification TM shall not bear any liability, fault or cost.

### c. Good Faith Statement

All information provided by TM in the RFP is offered in good faith. Individual items are subject to change at any time. TM makes no certification that any item is without error. TM is not responsible or liable for any use of the information or for any claims asserted there from.

### d. Communication

Verbal communication shall not be effective unless formally confirmed in writing by a TM staff in charge of managing this RFP process. In no case shall verbal communication govern over written communication. Formal Communications shall include, but are not limited to:

- Questions and inquiries concerning this RFP must be submitted in writing to procurement@transparency.mv
- Service providers shall recommend to TM any discrepancies, errors or omissions that may exist within this RFP. With respect to this RFP, service providers shall recommend to TM any enhancements, which might be in TM's best interests.

### e. Non-Disclosure Agreement

TM reserves the right to require any respondent to enter into a non-disclosure agreement.

### f. Costs

The RFP does not obligate TM to pay for any costs, of any kind whatsoever, which may be incurred by a Service Provider or any third parties, in connection with the proposal.

### g. Intellectual Property

Service Providers shall not use any intellectual property of TM including, but not limited to, all logos, registered trademarks or trade names of TM, at any time without the prior approval of TM, as appropriate.

**h. Service Provider's Proposals**

All proposals and supporting documentation shall become the property of TM, subject to claims of confidentiality in respect of the proposal and supporting documentation.

**i. Partial Awarding**

TM reserves the right to accept all or part of the quotation when awarding the contract.

**j. No Liability**

TM reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or stop the procurement process at any time, without assigning any reason or liability.

TM shall not be liable to any service provider, person or entity for any losses, expenses, costs, claims or damages of any kind; or

Arising out of, by reason of, or attributable to, the Service Provider responding to this RFP;

As a result of the use of information, error or omission contained in this RFP document or provided during the RFP process.

**9. Entire RFP**

This RFP, any addenda to it, and any attached schedules, constitute the entire RFP.

**10. Submission Instructions**

This RFP, along with all the mandatory documents stated in section 6, must be emailed to procurement@transparency.mv or submitted via our website before 17 May 2026, 4 pm.

Applications received after the deadline or do not include mandatory documents stated in section 6, will be rejected.

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**ANNEX 1: COST PROPOSAL**

Service Providers are required to fill out the following cost breakdown. Unit prices are required in the case of discrepancies between unit price and total price, the unit price will be taken as a reference basis in the evaluation.

Pricing must be in **USD or MVR** (please select as appropriate).

**Bid Title:**

**RFP No.:**

**Applicant:**

**Date:**

**Cost Breakdown by Deliverables**

| **Deliverable** | **%** | **Value** |
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**Cost Breakdown by Component**

| No. | Activities | Quantity | Rate | No. of Days | Total Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | Key Human Resources | | | | |
| 1 | Eg: Budget analyst | | | | |
| Subtotal A | | | | | |
| B | Administrative Costs | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Subtotal B | | | | | |
| C | Total A+B | | | | |
| D | GST (6%) if applicable | | | | |
| E | Grand Total (C+D) | | | | |

*N. B. Administrative and other associated costs, if any, should be built into the above headings proportionately.*

Name:

Designation:

Signature:

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## ANNEX 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Transparency Maldives (TM) is committed to integrity in procurement, and only selects suppliers based on objective business criteria such as price and technical capacity. TM does not tolerate fraud, collusion among bidders, falsified proposals/bids, bribery, or kickbacks. Any entity or individual violating these standards will be disqualified from this procurement and barred from future procurement opportunities.

TM employees and agents are strictly prohibited from asking for or accepting any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, object of value or compensation from current or potential vendors or suppliers in exchange for or as a reward for business.

By signing this certification, the bidder agrees to:

- Disclose as part of the proposal submission any close, familial, or financial relationships with TM staff and members. For example, the bidder must disclose if a bidder's mother conducts volunteer trainings for TM.
- Disclose as part of the proposal submission any family or financial relationship with other bidders submitting proposals. For example, if the bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the bidder must state this.
- Certify that the prices in the bid/proposal/application/quote have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
- Certify that all information in the proposal and all supporting documentation are authentic and accurate.
- Certify understanding and agreement to TM's prohibitions against fraud and bribery.

Please contact procurement@transparency.mv for any questions or concerns regarding the above information or to report any potential violations.

Signature:

Date:

Name:

Title/ Position:

Entity name (for firms/organizations only):

Address:

***End of RFP***