

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A SOCIAL AUDIT METHODOLOGY

Announcement No	TM-RFP-2022-014
Project	SANCUS
Published On:	31 July 2022
Inquiry Submission:	10 August 2022
Deadline due:	11 August 2022 / 23 59 Hrs.
Point of contact:	procurement@transparency.mv
General FAQ	Inquiries to be sent to 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 in the Maldives.

2. Eligibility

Organizations/Firms/Individuals

3. Period of Performance:

August 2022 for a period of eight weeks

4. Scope of work

State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) are often concentrated in critical areas of the economy and plays a central role in providing basic goods and services. Therefore, it is crucial for these Enterprises to strike a balance between profitability and social responsibility in their operations. While control of SOEs is often with the government, their transparency and accountability are important to ensure that they are being well managed and run for the societal benefit.

The Strengthening Accountability Networks among Civil Society Project (SANCUS), which TM is currently implementing, aims to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for the

operation and functionality of SOEs, as well as improve the governance, functions, and operations of SOEs.

Towards this end, TM is looking for a consultant to develop a social audit methodology to collect information on government projects awarded, loans and financing availed, and sovereign guarantees given to SOEs. The information collected will be used by TM to raise awareness and advocate for the performance governance, accountability and oversight of SOEs. The methodology should be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, oversight and regulatory agencies and community actors such as civil society organizations.

The methodology should be accompanied by a toolkit, which can be used to train community-based youth groups who will monitor the projects being carried out by SOEs. The toolkit can be in the form of a comprehensive questionnaire that can be used to periodically assess SOE related programs and projects in local communities and should provide meaningful insight into the operations and impact of SOEs in these communities.

The scope of the social audit should encompass all information regarding government projects awarded, loans and financing availed, and sovereign guarantees given to SOEs, including but not restricted to the procurement and awarding of projects, costs, durations/timelines, locations, project deliverables and targeted beneficiaries.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Preliminary meeting with the project team to understand the scope of work and timeline.
- Review of various social audit methodologies, international best practices, and principles.
- Consultation with relevant stakeholders such as intended beneficiaries, SOEs, oversight and regulatory agencies and community actors such as civil society and youth groups.
- A social audit methodology which is based on the Maldivian context including updates and discussion with TM project staff at regular intervals for feedback.
- Prepare and submit a report and prepare a toolkit based on the social audit methodology.
- Develop a training package with guidance and guidelines to use the social audit toolkit.
- Conduct training for TM staff and monitors on the usage of the toolkit to build a pool of qualified trainers to ensure successful implementation of the program.
- Ensure the work is completed and delivered according to the agreed timeline.

Deliverables	Timeline
Inception report after review	2 weeks
Draft social audit methodology and toolkit	2 weeks
Toolkit validation	1 week
Finalization of toolkit	2 weeks
Training for TM staff and monitors	1 week

5. Submission of application

Applicants must email the following documents in pdf format to procurement@transparency.mv before the stipulated deadline in this RFP:

- Bid submission form (refer to Annex 1 of this RFP)
- CV/ Biodata of applicants (for firms, CV of all team members allocated for this assignment should be submitted and team leader should be clearly identified)
- Copies of relevant educational qualifications
- Reference letters to illustrate past work done in this field or in similar portfolios (If reference letters are unavailable, service providers may submit portfolios of their previous work)
- Conflict of Interest statement (refer to section 6 of this RFP)
- Financial proposal (refer to Annex 2 of this RFP) – the financial proposal should clearly state the daily professional rate of the service provider.

6. Conflict-of-Interest Statement

All applicants must sign the conflict-of-interest statement given in Annex 3 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:

1. Technical Proposal		70%
a. Qualifications		30%
Minimum bachelor’s degree in a field related to public policy, law, economics, politics, or public administration.	15%	
Relevant short-term trainings or professional qualifications.	15%	
b. Experience		30%
Previous experience in conducting similar research/audit, research papers, reports, and policy briefs.	15%	
Demonstrable evidence of the service provider’s ability to undertake the assignment.	15%	
c. Proposed methodology and work plan		10%
Methodology to achieve the outcome as per the scope of work	5%	
Proposed work plan and timeline	5%	

2. Cost Proposal		30%
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Additional Notes:

- Service Provider is requested to provide references to support their previous work undertaken.
- For a firm/team of individuals, experience will be assessed based on the individual team members and those of the firm.
- For a firm/team of individuals, qualification will be assessed based on the combination of the proposed team's expertise in relevant fields.
- In addition to educational qualification, short-term trainings in relevant areas will also be considered.
- Service Providers are requested to submit detailed CVs, educational certificates (with transcripts, if desired) to support their merit and list relevant short-term training undertaken.

8. Payment modality

Payments will be made subject to the completion of the work as per the work plan within the subscribed time. No advance payment is allowed for this service and service providers must submit an invoice for their work.

9. Additional Terms and Conditions

A) Coverage and Participation

TM reserves the right not to enter 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 Request for Proposal (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. Such disqualification shall be at not fault, cost, or liability whatsoever to TM.

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 therefrom.

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 concerning this RFP, submitted in writing to procurement@transparency.mv
- Service providers' recommendations to TM on any discrepancies, errors or omissions that may exist within this RFP. Service providers may also recommend any enhancements to this RFP, which might be of TM's best interests.
- Inquiries about technical interpretations must be submitted in writing.

E) Non-Disclosure Agreement

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

F) Costs

This RFP does not obligate TM to pay for any cost of any kind whatsoever, which may be incurred by a Service Provider or any third party, 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, 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) Modification and Withdrawal of RFP

TM reserves the right to modify by written notice the terms of this RFP at any time in its sole discretion. TM also reserves the right to withdraw this RFP at any time—with or without statement of cause—prior to actual award.

K) 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:

- Arising out of, by reason of, or attributable to, the Service Provider responding to this RFP; or
- As a result of the use of information, error or omission contained in this RFP document or provided during the RFP process.

L) Entire RFP

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

ANNEX 1: BID PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMAT (CONSULTANCY/RESEARCH)

1. RFP Title:

2. Date of submission:

3. Lead Organization/ Team leader:

- Name:
- Designation:
- Organization (please leave blank for individual applicants):
- Address:
- Contact no:
- Email:

4. Collaborators/ co-partners/ project team:

Name	Organization	Capacity	Specialty area

5. Bidder's profile/ organization profile

(Please write a brief profile of the bidder/ organization, including how the bidder is suited for this assignment. For organizations, please include a brief history of the organization, including date of operation and areas of operation. Please keep the profile short and do not exceed more than 1 A4 page).

6. Outline of the project scope/ research or consultancy proposal summary

(A brief description of your proposal, scope of work, boundaries, and limitations. Please do not exceed more than 2 A4 pages).

7. Deliverables of the project

(Please outline specific deliverables that you will be focusing on in this assignment, based on our RFP requirements).

8. Proposed Methodology/ Approach taken

(Provide a brief description of how the bidder will undertake the assignment specified in the RFP, including an overview of the activities envisaged to deliver the project. For

research proposals, include the research methodology and its suitability for the project. Please do not exceed this section more than 2 A4 pages).

9. Timeline and deliverables

(Provide the project target activities and clear timelines in table format or format given below)

Activity/ deliverable	Timeframe			
	Day/ Week 1	Day/ Week 2	Day/ Week 3	Day/ Week 4

10. Any other information relevant to the project proposal/ scope outlined above

(Include any other information that you feel is relevant to support your application, including profiles, leaflets, brochures or samples/portfolio of past work or other similar areas of work, and references. For research and consultancy proposals, include past research, publications or similar research or consultancies undertaken.)

11. Other supporting documents submitted with this application (please tick where appropriate):

	CV/Biodata of team leader
	CV/Biodata of collaborators/ co-partners/ project team
	Organization profile/portfolio (not applicable for individuals)
	Experience supporting documents (this includes reference letters, referee contacts, active web links to previous works undertaken etc.)
	Proof of relevant educational qualification (if required by RFP)
	For organizations, registration certificate
	For organizations, GST certificate (if applicable)
	For organizations and individuals, relevant professional license (if applicable)
	Financial proposal (refer to Annex 2 of RFP)
	Conflict of Interest Form (refer to Annex 3 of RFP)

ANNEX 2: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Service Providers are required to prepare a Financial Proposal following the below format and submit as a separate document from the Technical Proposal (see Section 3, 3.4 of the RFP for submission guidelines). TM reserves the right to disqualify proposals that do not follow the given Financial Proposal template. Pricing must be in Maldivian Rufiyaa.

Bid Title:

Date:

A: Cost Breakdown per Deliverable

Deliverables (as per RFP)	Price (Lump Sum, All Inclusive)
Desk Review	
Stakeholder Consultations and Data Collection	
Social Audit Methodology	
Report on Social Audit Methodology	
Toolkit	
Training	
Total	

**This shall be the basis of the payment tranches.*

B: Cost Breakdown by Component

No.	Activities	Quantity	Rate	No. of Days	Total Amount
A	Key Human Resources				
1	E.g.: Budget analyst				
	Subtotal A				
B	Administrative Costs				
1	E.g.: Interviews				
	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:

ANNEX 3: 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 identified to be 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 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 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