

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

IATI Data Use Fund – Theme 2: IATI Data Quality

To: Interested Bidders	Date: 2 May 2019
	REFERENCE: RFP/BPPS/2019/1718 – IATI Data Use Fund – Theme 2: IATI Data Quality

Dear Sir / Madam:

We kindly request you to submit your Proposal for RFP/BPPS/2019/1718 – IATI Data Use Fund – Theme 2: IATI Data Quality. Please be guided by the form attached hereto as Annex 2, in preparing your Proposal.

Proposals may be submitted on or before **Tuesday**, **May 21**, **2019** and via email to the address below, indicating the below indicated references in the subject of the emails:

bpps.procurement@undp.org

Your Proposal must be expressed in the English language, and valid for a minimum period of 120 days.

Proposals sent to other UNDP e-mail addresses will not be accepted and the Purchaser will not be responsible for the confidentiality of such offer.

Proposers must take into account the following:

Proposers must indicate the below in the e-mail subject box while submitting the Technical proposal and other documents related to this bid:

<u>Technical Proposal (items A, B and C of Annex 2).</u> RFP/BPPS/2019/1718 – IATI Data Use Fund – Theme 2: IATI Data Quality

Proposers must indicate the below in the e-mail subject box while submitting the Financial proposal:

<u>Financial Proposal (items D and E of Annex 2).</u> RFP/BPPS/2019/1718 – IATI Data Use Fund – Theme 2: IATI Data Quality

(Both financial and technical proposals must be submitted as separate files and clearly marked as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL").

Upon finalizing the technical evaluation, only technically qualified bidders will be requested to provide the password of the financial proposal. The technically qualified proposers will have 24 hours to respond to UNDP's request for the password.

Proposers may send as many e-mails as needed; however, the size of each e-mail should not exceed seven megabytes (7 MB). As an e-mail can take some time to arrive after it is sent, we advise all Proposers to send e-mail submissions well before the deadline. Proposers are solely responsible for ensuring that any and all files sent to UNDP are readable, that is, uncorrupted, in the indicated electronic format, and free from viruses and malware. Failure to provide readable files will result in the proposal being rejected.

In the course of preparing your Proposal, it shall remain your responsibility to ensure that it reaches the address above on or before the deadline. Proposals that are received by UNDP after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation. If you are submitting your Proposal by email, kindly ensure that they are signed and in the .pdf format, and free from any virus or corrupted files.

Services proposed shall be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and compliance of the Proposal and responsiveness with the requirements of the RFP and all other annexes providing details of UNDP requirements.

The Proposal that complies with all of the requirements, meets all the evaluation criteria and offers the best value for money shall be selected and awarded the contract. Any offer that does not meet the requirements shall be rejected.

Any discrepancy between the unit price and the total price shall be re-computed by UNDP, and the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected. If the Service Provider does not accept the final price based on UNDP's re-computation and correction of errors, its Proposal will be rejected.

No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted by UNDP after it has received the Proposal. At the time of Award of Contract or Purchase Order, UNDP reserves the right to vary (increase or decrease) the quantity of services and/or goods, by up to a maximum twenty five per cent (25%) of the total offer, without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions.

Any Contract or Purchase Order that will be issued as a result of this RFP shall be subject to the General Terms and Conditions attached hereto. The mere act of submission of a Proposal implies that the Service Provider accepts without question the General Terms and Conditions of UNDP, herein attached as Annex 3.

Please be advised that UNDP is not bound to accept any Proposal, nor award a contract or Purchase Order, nor be responsible for any costs associated with a Service Providers preparation and submission of a Proposal, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.

UNDP's vendor protest procedure is intended to afford an opportunity to appeal for persons or firms not awarded a Purchase Order or Contract in a competitive procurement process. In the event that you believe you have not been fairly treated, you can find detailed information about vendor protest procedures in the following link: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/

UNDP encourages every prospective Service Provider to prevent and avoid conflicts of interest, by disclosing to UNDP if you, or any of your affiliates or personnel, were involved in the preparation of the requirements, design, cost estimates, and other information used in this RFP.

UNDP implements a zero tolerance on fraud and other proscribed practices, and is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all such acts and practices against UNDP, as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. UNDP expects its Service Providers to adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct found in this link: http://www.un.org/depts/ptd/pdf/conduct_english.pdf

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposal.

Sincerely,

Hanayo Nakano Officer in Charge Effectiveness Group Bureau for Policy and Programme Support 2 May 2019

ANNEX 1

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

	UNDP/IATI is seeking to contract a service provider, who has the capacity to plan, present and implement an innovative and effective small-scale activity that addresses
Context of the Requirement	the key challenge: "From a grass-root perspective there is great added-value in knowing who is directly and indirectly funding specific development and humanitarian activities. The challenge is to investigate and visualize current best practice examples of bottom-up traceability and define practical and clear recommendations on improving traceability for IATI publishers."
Implementing Partner of UNDP	Direct Implementation
Brief Description of the Required Services	The service provider is expected to work with the funding streams provided by the IATI team and develop a concept and visualization model for tracing funding streams, including guidance and recommendations to publishers on how to improve traceability.
List and Description of Expected Outputs to be Delivered	Please refer to the Terms of Reference (Annex 3)
Person to Supervise the Work/Performance of the Service Provider	IATI Secretariat Coordinator
Frequency of Reporting	The proposed contractor is expected to be in regular contact with the IATI secretariat coordinator to provide progress updates as well as discuss and agree on the approach to resolve unforeseen challenges that may arise.
Progress Reporting Requirements	The proposed contractor is expected to be in regular contact through email or conference calls with the IATI secretariat coordinator to provide progress updates as well as discuss and agree on the approach to resolve unforeseen challenges that may arise. Any issues that pose a risk to contract delivery must be submitted in writing.
Location of work	At Contractor's Location
Expected duration of work	5 – 6 weeks
Target start date	1 June 2019
Latest completion date	15 July 2019
Travels Expected	This activity does not include any travel requirements.
Special Security Requirements	Not applicable
Facilities to be Provided by UNDP (i.e., must be excluded from Price Proposal)	Not applicable. Contractor is expected to have access to communication equipment and facilities needed to deliver the assignment. All associated costs shall be reflected in the financial proposal.
Implementation Schedule indicating breakdown and timing of activities/sub-activities	Required and to be part of the technical proposal.
Names and curriculum vitae of individuals who will be involved in completing the services	Required
Currency of Proposal	United States Dollars
Value Added Tax on Price Proposal	Must be exclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes

Validity Period of Proposals (Counting for the last day of submission of quotes)	☑ 120 days In exceptional circumstances, UNDP may request the Proposer to extend the validity of the Proposal beyond what has been initially indicated in this RFP. The Proposal shall then confirm the extension in writing, without any modification whatsoever on the Proposal.			
Partial Quotes	Not permitted			
	Outputs Percent Timing Condition for Payment Release			
Payment Terms	Delivery of the work and outputs as defined in the Terms of Reference (Annex 3) and approval of the IATI Secretarial Coordinator Delivery of the work and outputs of assignment of assignment of assignment with the date of meeting the following conditions: a) UNDP's written acceptance (i.e., not mere receipt) of the quality of the outputs; and b) Receipt of invoice from the Service Provider.			
Person(s) to review/inspect/ approve outputs/completed services and authorize the disbursement of payment	IATI Secretariat Coordinator			
Type of Contract to be Signed	 ☑ Contract for Professional Services ☑ Purchase Order 			
Criteria for Contract Award	 ☒ Highest Combined Score (based on the 70% technical offer and 30% price weight distribution) ☒ Full acceptance of the UNDP Contract General Terms and Conditions (GTC). This is a mandatory criterion and cannot be deleted regardless of the nature of services required. Non acceptance of the GTC may be grounds for the rejection of the Proposal. 			
	Technical Proposal (70%) (Minimum pass score is 49 points out of 70 total obtainable)			
	Proposals will be evaluated separately and based on the below criteria:			
Criteria for the Assessment of Proposal	 Qualifications of Company (25 points): Minimum 3 years of demonstrated experience with data research, analysis, IT-based visualization tools, etc., ideally related to development, and/or transparency/open data (mandatory requirement: 20 points); Demonstrated experience building strong relationships with clients, focuses on impacts and results for clients (5 points). 			
	 Approach and proposed Methodology (25 points): Quality of the methodology (logic and suitability of approach, reflection of critical matters related to IATI data and traceability) (25 points) 			
	 Qualifications of Key Personnel (20 points): The Team Leader should have the following qualifications and experience: Bachelor's degree or higher in Statistics, Data Science, Public Administration, International Development, Communications, IT engineering or related field (5 points). 			

	 At least 3 years' experience with analysing and visualizing financial monitoring systems and/or proven experience with IATI data analytics (10 points).; Proven experience with using IATI or other (open) data from multiple publishers to support decision-makers and accountability actors in their work (5 points).
	Language • Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
	Bidders may offer additional personnel (for research and support work, for example) in their proposal. While UNDP expects that the scope for the assignment can be delivered, bidders may offer more experts in their proposal. Those personnel need to meet the requirements for the assignment.
	Financial Proposal (30%) (Only bidders which get minimum of 49 points on technical evaluation will be technically responsive and considered for financial evaluation)
	To be computed as a ratio of the Proposal's offer to the lowest price among the proposals received by UNDP. FP Rating = (Lowest Priced Offer / Price of the Offer Being Reviewed) x 100
	Total Combined Score: (TP Rating) x (Weight of TP, e.g. 70%) + (FP Rating) x (Weight of FP, e.g. 30%)
	Total Combined and Final Rating of the Proposal
	One company or university.
UNDP will award the	Any proposer can submit an offer, however a proposer cannot submit at the same time its own proposal and be a subcontractor with another proposer. This situation will raise a conflict of interest.
contract to:	However, two or more companies can form an association and submit ONE proposal. In this case the companies have to select a leading company amongst them and with whom will sign the contract with UNDP.
Annexes to this RFP	 ☑ Form for Submission of Proposal (Annex 2) ☑ Detailed TOR (Annex 3) ☑ General Terms and Conditions / Special Conditions (Annex 4)
Contact Person for Inquiries (Written inquiries only)	Focal Person in UNDP: Annelise Parr, IATI Coordinator Email address: annelise.parr@undp.org copying bpps.procurement.team@undp.org
	Last day to submit questions to UNDP is 7 days before the submission date. UNDP will provide responses on a rolling basis for each.
	Any delay in UNDP's response shall not be used as a reason for extending the deadline for submission, unless UNDP determines that such an extension is necessary and communicates a new deadline to the Proposers.

ANNEX 2

FORM FOR SUBMITTING SERVICE PROVIDER'S PROPOSAL

(This Form must be submitted only using the Service Provider's Official Letterhead/Stationery¹)

[insert: Location]. [insert: Date]

To: [insert: Name and Address of UNDP focal point]

Dear Sir/Madam:

We, the undersigned, hereby offer to render the following services to UNDP in conformity with the requirements defined in the RFP dated 5/2/2019, and all of its attachments, as well as the provisions of the UNDP General Contract Terms and Conditions:

A. Qualifications of the Service Provider

The Service Provider must describe and explain how and why they are the best entity that can deliver the requirements of UNDP by indicating the following:

- a) Profile describing the nature of business, field of expertise, licenses, certifications, accreditations;
- b) Business Licenses Details license number, Tax payment certification, etc.
- c) Latest Audited Financial Statement income statement and balance sheet to indicate Its financial stability, liquidity, credit standing, and market reputation, etc.;
- d) Track Record list of at least three clients for similar services as those required by UNDP, indicating description of contract scope, contract duration, contract value, contact references;
- e) Certificates and Accreditation including Quality Certificates, Patent Registrations, Environmental Sustainability Certificates, etc.
- f) Written Self-Declaration that the company is not in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 List, UN Procurement Division List or Other UN Ineligibility List.

B. Proposed Methodology for the Completion of Services

The Service Provider must describe how it will address/deliver the demands of the RFP in form of a brief methodology (max. 2 pages); providing a detailed description of the foreseen scope of work, including the essential performance characteristics, reporting conditions and quality assurance mechanisms that will be put in place, while demonstrating that the proposed methodology will be appropriate to the local conditions and context of the work that the bidder suggests.

The methodology shall clearly outline geographical specifications and the cost breakdown must reflect on all required travels associated with the proposal.

C. Qualifications of Key Personnel

- a) Names and qualifications of the key personnel that will perform the services indicating who is Team Leader, who are supporting, etc. (of applicable);
- b) CVs of all personnel demonstrating qualifications must be submitted; and
- c) Written confirmation from each personnel that they are available for the entire duration of the contract.

 $^{^{1}}$ Official Letterhead/Stationery must indicate contact details – addresses, email, phone and fax numbers – for verification purposes

The Price Schedule Sheet document should be provided as a separate document from the technical offer and to be password protected.

D. Price Schedule Sheet*

Outputs	Percentage	Price Per Output in USD
Full-fledged description of the proposed activity (for approval by UNDP/IATI)	100%	
Implementation of the proposed/approved activity, development of visualization model and drafting of recommendations. Submission of draft recommendations report and visualization tool (for feedback from IATI)		
Submission of final documents (visualization model, recommendations report and draft blog for IATI website)		
Total Price in USD:		

E. Cost Breakdown by Cost Component (please include estimate costs for all travel required for the delivery of the proposed activity)

Description of Activity	Remuneration per Unit of Time	Total Period of Engagement/ Unit price*	No. of Personnel	Total Rate in USD
1. Key Personnel				
1- Team Leader				
2. Other experts (indicate the cost				
for each personnel separately:				
# proposed				
II. Other Costs (As applicable)				
Others (kindly specify)				
Total Price in USD:	_			US\$

The proposed period is an estimation. Bidders at their discretion may suggest the different period as long as it will allow UNDP to meet its project timelines.

[Name and Signature of the Service Provider's Authorized Person]
[Designation]
[Date]

ANNEX 3

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title: IATI Data Use Fund – Theme 2: IMPROVE DATA QUALITY AND USABILITY Innovative small-scale activity to tackle the challenge:

"From a grass-root perspective there is great added-value in knowing who is directly and indirectly funding specific development and humanitarian activities. The challenge is to investigate and visualize current best practice examples of bottom-up traceability and define practical and clear recommendations on improving traceability for IATI publishers."

Project/Institution Name: IATI Secretariat/UNDP

Region/Country: Global

Background:

The <u>International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)</u> is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to increase the transparency of development cooperation and increase its effectiveness in tackling poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IATI was launched at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in 2008 and was designed to support donors in meeting their Accra commitments on transparency and simultaneously serve the information needs of developing countries to enable the planning and management of national budgets based on more accurate and timely information on resource flows.

IATI brings together donor and recipient countries, civil society organizations, and other experts in aid information. At the centre of IATI is the IATI Standard, a format and framework for publishing data on aid and development cooperation activities.

More than 950 organizations are publishing IATI data on a regular level and the numbers are constantly increasing. One of IATI's main priorities is to continually improve the quality of IATI data to respond to the needs of all stakeholders and facilitate access to executive tools. While IATI has been very successful in increasing the amount of data published since its launch, there is still need to increase and diversify the usage of the generated data as publishing is not an end goal but rather the foundation for well informed, coordinated and effective development cooperation.

A 2015 independent evaluation highlighted that strengthening the 'demand side', e.g. the use of IATI data, especially from partner countries should be a strategic priority for IATI programming. In more detail, the following key challenges have been identified in regard to IATI data usage:

- Partner countries are facing technical challenges or issues of other nature when seeking to integrate IATI data into national systems. As a consequence, beyond individual examples, IATI data is not yet routinely or systematically used in support of international development goals, and one of the main objectives is to increase the integration of IATI data in Aid Management Systems (AIMS) and other national systems and there with increase the systematic usage in planning processes on all levels;
- Lack of basic awareness, training and guidance, particularly amongst non-technical audiences on the availability and usage of data;
- Data quality issues affect trust in IATI data and limit the usability of the data in some cases;
- Existing tools, including the <u>IATI website</u>, <u>datastore</u> and <u>d-portal</u> may not be user-friendly enough to non-technical users and do not facilitate easy access to the data in common usable formats;
- Language barriers, especially in non-anglophone countries, connectivity and low levels of data literacy impact accessibility and use in different countries and regions.

In order to address the challenges outlined above and implement the recommendations from the independent evaluation, the IATI Board has adopted a <u>Data Use Strategy</u> that includes the establishment of the IATI Data Use Fund (DUF). The DUF is administered by UNDP on behalf of the IATI Data Use Working Group and aligns to the Data Use Strategy's monitoring and results framework. The five outcomes of the strategy are:

- 1. Raise awareness of IATI as a source of aid data and develop a common understanding of the priority needs of different user groups. (Theme 1: IATI Awareness Raising)
- 2. Improve data quality and usability in order to assure users of its reliability, including through the development of feedback mechanisms. (Theme 2: IATI Data Quality)
- 3. Improve existing tools and develop new, user-friendly tools that help multiple actors access and use IATI data. (Theme 3: User-friendly IATI tools)
- 4. Improve guidance, training and support for specific user groups. (Theme 4: IATI User Guidance Material)
- 5. Promote integration of IATI data into partner country aid systems and processes. (Theme 5: IATI-AIMS Integration)

This request for proposals (RfP) focuses on Theme 2: Improve data quality and usability in order to assure users of its reliability, including through the development of feedback mechanisms. Under this RfP, UNDP is inviting interested service providers to submit innovative proposals aimed at improving usability of IATI data by analyzing and visualizing actual funding traceability and recommend actions to improve this important matter. Ultimately, IATI would like to know how to ensure that from any given position within a funding chain, a data user can determine from where the funds originated and where they are ultimately spent.

Scope of Work

UNDP/IATI is seeking to contract a service provider which has the capacity to independently plan, present and implement an innovative and effective small-scale activity that addresses the challenge:

"From a grass-root perspective there is great added-value in knowing who is directly and indirectly funding specific development and humanitarian activities. The challenge is to investigate and visualise current best practice examples of bottom-up traceability and define practical and clear recommendations on improving traceability for IATI publishers."

UNDP/IATI is looking for a contractor to analyse the actual traceability of selected delivery chains (examples to be provided) in IATI, visualize them and formulate recommendations on how to improve traceability of funding flows. This RfP tackles a critical frontier for IATI, which has made tremendous progress in terms of data quantity and quality over the last decade. With open, standardized data now available from more than 950 publishers, the use of IATI data by different groups of IATI stakeholders (government officials, bureaucrats, parliamentarians, journalists, researchers, development experts, etc.) to meet and monitor sustainable development interventions has great potential. However, the traceability of funding streams is often limited due to "gaps", based on insufficient information being provided throughout the publishing process or funds being distributed to organizations that are not IATI publishers.

This RfP seeks to increase IATI data use - especially in partner countries - due to better traceability. UNDP encourages the bidder to outline and propose an activity that a) assesses the traceability opportunities and challenges based on actual funding streams (that are provided as examples by IATI) through a visualization model; and b) results in practical and clear recommendations on how to improve traceability/tracking in IATI, especially for use by the national and subnational data users and data publishers.

Challenges to be addressed:

A number of specific challenges are already known in this context: long and complex delivery chains are often only partially captured by IATI data sets. Reasons for such gaps include a) an incomplete "funding chain", as not all organizations involved are IATI publishers; or b) publishers not always referencing their upstream funding partner correctly. Furthermore, granularity in terms of location is often missing or limited to the extent that a delivery chain ends without clarity of the geographic location.

More detailed information and discussions around the challenges related to traceability can be found in the IATI Discuss forum: https://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/its-not-possible-to-follow-the-money-via-iati-transactions-discuss/724

An example for a visualization tool developed by the Netherland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs can be found under this link:

<u>https://public.tableau.com/views/METIS2/Menu?amp;:showVizHome=no&:embed=y&:tabs=yes&:render</u> =false

The IATI Data Use Fund has been established to provide funds for IATI stakeholder and community members to address pre-identified needs with innovative and tailor-made solutions at local level. The purpose of this RfP is therefore to encourage innovative approaches that investigate, analyze and visualize actual funding traceability at national and subnational level of a recipient country. Any proposed activity should follow and visualize a set of clearly identified delivery chains (which will be provided by IATI) as far as possible.

Expected Outputs

- The selected (4-6) delivery chains are studied, visualized and documented in detail, including length, obstacles and usefulness for local data use. The results are documented in a report that outlines the activity identifiers and highlights their strength and weaknesses from a traceability perspective. The visualization model should highlight the existing gaps, as well as be a reference model that can be used to demonstrate the traceability of delivery chains to (potential) donors and publishers;
- Clear written recommendations on how the traceability of IATI data can be improved drafted for the purpose of being shared with IATI publishers as guidance and reference material. (The recommendations shall include reference to: a) the technical use of the IATI standard; b) the quality of the content of the publishers data (e.g. is location data available and how reliable is it); c) how to deal with complex delivery chains (e.g. multiple funders); and d) the different publishers' responsibilities and roles depending on the respective publisher's position in the delivery chain.)
- A draft blog for the IATI website (1 2 pages summarizing the activity and the outcomes).

Deliverables

Under the overall guidance of the IATI Secretariat Coordinator, the implementing partner is expected to deliver the following:

- 1. A brief description of how the activity will be designed and implemented (to be approved by UNDP/IATI ahead of implementation) that is clearly outlining a) how the challenge will be tackled; and b) what form of visualization model is envisaged.
- 2. Delivering the activity (e.g. developing a visualization model of the selected and agreed on 4-6 delivery chains; drafting clear recommendations on how to improve traceability) as outlined in the submitted proposal and methodology and approved by the UNDP IATI Coordinator). It is expected that wherever relevant, the activity considers lessons learned and outcomes of discussions in prior efforts developed within the IATI community.
- 3. **Prepare a draft blog for the IATI website** (1 2 pages) that includes not only the key findings of the activities, e.g. which obstacles were identified in regard to the traceability of IATI funds, but also clear recommendations (for different stakeholder groups) on how the traceability of IATI data can be improved.

Actions / Deliverables		Indicative Date	
1.	Full-fledged description of the proposed activity (for approval by UNDP/IATI)	1 week after contract signature	
2.	Implementation of the proposed/approved activity, development of visualization model and drafting of recommendations. Submission of draft recommendations report and visualization tool (for feedback from IATI).	4 weeks after contract signature	

1 week after receiving feedback from IATI on the draft submissions
the diant submissions

Institutional Arrangements

- The service provider will be working under the guidance of the IATI Data Use Task Force, with the UNDP IATI Coordinator as focal point for all matters;
- The service provider is responsible for assuring the reflections on the topic "traceability" made by the IATI community in Discuss are taken into account;
- The service provider will be responsible for providing her/his own laptop and software and other equipment to be used;
- Payments will be made upon submission of the deliverables and a detailed time sheet and certificate of payment form, and approval and confirmation by UNDP.

Competencies

Functional Competencies of the Lead Expert

- Expert knowledge related to IATI (or strong interest and clear plan for engaging relevant IATI expertise if not directly available to applicant), open data/government and transparency initiatives;
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills; ability to work independently against tight deadlines;
- Proficiency in the usage of computers, office software packages and online research tools;
- Excellent writing, editing and oral communication skills essential.

Corporate Competencies

- Demonstrates integrity by modelling the UN's values and ethical standards;
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP, IATI and partner organizations;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;

Required qualifications and experience of lead technical expert

Education

• Bachelor's degree or higher in Statistics, Data Science, Public Administration, International Development, Communications, IT engineering or related field.

Experience

- At least 3 years' experience with analysing and visualizing financial monitoring systems and/or proven experience with IATI data analytics;
- Proven experience with using IATI or other (open) data from multiple publishers to support decision-makers and accountability actors in their work;
- Proven experience with quantitative and qualitative research and data visualization.

Language

• Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.