

## **Bid Bulletin**

RFP Reference No.: UNDP/RFP/04/2020 - To formulate a concept note on formulation of National Solar Mini-Grid Programme for Low Carbon Economic Development

### **Project: Green Climate Fund Readiness & Preparatory Support Programme (GCFRPS)**

1. The Terms of Reference mentions that the Request for Proposal is for Consultancy Firm (National). In this regard we would like to enquire if an India based Consultancy Firm can submit a proposal with a team that includes a mix of India and Nepal based team members. Also is there any minimum number of team members that need to be based in Nepal.

Yes, international firms can apply. However, international expert proposed need to showcase their expertise and experience on working on similar assignments in Nepal. While there are no minimum national experts, it is required for the expert(s) to work closely with AEPC team in-person during this assignment.

2. Have the stakeholders for the Solar Mini-Grid Programmed been identified? Is there an estimate of the number of consultations that will need to be carried out with them by the Consultancy Firm?

As this assignment pertains to concept note preparation, the stakeholders have not been identified. Two sharing workshops/consultations workshop i.e. one national level and a provincial level are required. The proposer must accommodate individual consultations during the formulation process based on discussion with AEPC.

3. Has a Technical Feasibility Report for the Solar Mini-Grid Programmed been developed by AEPC? Will this be made available to the Consultancy Firm?

There is no existing technical feasibility report. The assignment will need to prepare a pre-feasibility report (Output 2).

4. Is there a possibility of extension of the project timeline of 3 months as the current COVID-19 situation is likely to pose travel restrictions for the Consultancy Firm.

The proposer will need to incorporate the current risk in their proposal and it is recommended that the proposer outline mitigating actions particularly on travel and consultations. The extension will be reviewed only once the assignment has commenced.

5. Your advertisement says that the firm applying for this can be either national or international; however, your RFP says all the consultants should be national. Are you saying that an international firm can apply but must take national consultants for the project or can international firms/ consultants apply for this bid?

Yes, international firms can apply. However, international experts proposed need to showcase their experience on working on similar assignments in Nepal in the specific sector. The firm/consultant is required to work closely with AEPC team in-person during this assignment and thus, needs to be accommodated in the proposal.

6. In the documents linked there, it says that the experts must be "Nationals". Is this a mandatory requirement meaning that all experts listed in the RFP with that indicated must be citizens of Nepal?

The proposed international experts with experience on working on similar assignments in Nepal are highly recommended. The expert is also required to work closely with AEPC team in-person during this assignment.

7. The RFP is unclear on output 2. Do you expect the pre-feasibility assessment for a real life project (mini hydro) or a project concept?  
The RFP requests for a pre-feasibility study of a solar-mini grid system. This study report will provide initial data/information required to supplement the preparation of the concept note.
8. Given the current situation, it seems unlikely that the travel restrictions will be lifted during the course of the project timeline. How will the information that would have been gathered during the consultations in the field be obtained? Would a digital survey/ telephone interview be acceptable?  
We encourage proposers to propose innovative approaches for consultations and interactions if in case the situation does not change. However, this should be proposed as mitigation action while, we still expect the proposal of normal modality of consultations and interactions.
9. The TOR mentions “The Int’l Finance/Economics Expert will mobilized to lead Output 2 and provide technical guidance on the economic and financial analysis to assess efficiency and effectiveness of the concept note.”, Kindly confirm the status and role of the International Finance/Economics Expert under this assignment?  
An additional Int’l Finance/Economics Expert will be procured directly by UNDP to provide technical guidance to the ‘national economist or investment expert’ for the financial and investment analysis (Output 2) and will also review the investment assessment prepared by the national expert. The expert will be on board with once the firm commences work.