Q&A for UNCDF RFP - Digital Finance Framework diagnostics for MSMEs and farmers

Questions:
1. Could you please share the budget cap or budget range for this study?
2. Which country(ies) (among the first set of Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso) do you consider to be the priority for in-depth research, in case we need to prioritize the level of research depth during the study?
3. What is the desired balance between in-community field research and understanding the supply side while considering the relative emphasis on different aspects of the Scope of Work (SoW)?
   - Would UNCDF like the fieldwork to focus primarily on exploring community dynamics and local economic activity, or do you expect significant allocation of time/ resources to investigate the supply side and potential digital financial service solutions?
4. Please could you confirm, based on the scope of work outline in the RFP, that UNCDF’s expectations is to focus on qualitative behavioural research (i.e., interviews, focus group discussions) with limited quantitative research during this study?
5. What other MAP diagnostic or programmatic activities are completed or ongoing in the focus countries? How do you envisage this research will integrate into the overall MAP process?
6. We just learned about the tender mentioned in the subject line and would consider collaborating with a local partner in the selected countries to meet your eligibility requirements. We have a strong presence in the entrepreneurship sector in the region, and we look forward to supporting your activity. Please confirm if we are eligible to proceed.

Responses:
1. We apologize that we cannot disclose the budget for this contract. The procurement policy of the UN prohibits us from giving this information. All bidders are expected to provide their best price offer, based on the knowledge that price proposals shall be evaluated and compared across all bidders.
2. Proposals should not emphasise particular countries for more in-depth research than others. It is expected that thorough in-depth research will be conducted for each country.
3. The emphasis of the study is expected to be demand side fieldwork. However, limited supply side consultations/information should inform the study to contextualise demand side findings.
4. This is correct, limited quantitative research, based on data availability, can be conducted to contextualise the qualitative demand side research and target focus.
5. MAP generally conducts financial inclusion diagnostics, utilising nationally representative demand side livelihoods data, to inform Government policy decision making. This is complimented by thematic research in particular areas of interest – informed by stakeholder demand, and synthesis type outputs are produced periodically based on a body of relevant work. This work links to an emerging core pillar for MAP’s technical work, and may inform work with agricultural cooperatives, among others, in the short term.
6. To answer your question on your eligibility, we encourage you to read Section 2 & 4 of the RFP which lists down the eligibility requirements. Based on them, we believe that you will be much more in a position to determine how you, with your other partner entities, meet all the requirements. Since you mentioned that you will be partnering with another entity, kindly note also the RFP Section 2 & 4 that refers to our rules on joint venture, and note as well Form C.