

Title: Sectoral Evaluation of the Education and Vocational Training Interventions of Canada’s Bilateral Development Program in Mali 2014–2018.

**A. AMENDMENTS TO THE BID SOLICITATION**

**AMENDMENT 1:**

In Section 1: Data Sheet, clause Definition (dd) is amended as follows:

<b>Definitions (dd)</b>	The RFP Closing Date is 2020-10-20 at 14:00 hrs, Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDT)
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**AMENDMENT 2:** In the SUMMARY DESCRIPTION of the REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - First sentence:

Delete: “RFP writer is to provide a brief description of the requirement.”

Replace with:

“Description of the requirement.”

**AMENDMENT 3:** Under 5.3 Data Collection and Validation of Section 4. Terms of Reference, First sentence of second paragraph:

Delete: “The field mission is expected to be no longer than 20 days in duration.”

Replace with:

“One field mission is anticipated and expected to be no longer than 20 days in duration.”

**AMENDMENT 4:** Under 8.1 Deliverables and Milestones of Section 4. Terms of Reference, third sentence of first paragraph:

Delete: “Translation costs for the executive summary of the final evaluation report shall be borne by the Consultant.”

**AMENDMENT 5:** Under 8.1 Deliverables and Milestones of Section 4. Terms of Reference, first sentence of first paragraph:

Delete: “Only the final evaluation report must be submitted in hard copy format.”

**AMENDMENT 6:** Under 10. LEVEL OF EFFORT of Section 4. Terms of Reference:

Delete: “The level of effort will be proposed by the Bidder.”

Replace with:

“The overall level of effort for all positions identified in form TECH-6D is estimated at a maximum of 120 days. The Bidder must propose the level of effort for each position in Form TECH-6D.”

**B. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

<b>Question 1</b>	Given the pandemic situation, my understanding is that the Head of Evaluation would be working remotely from Canada? Or would you like him to travel to Mali anyway?
<b>Answer 1</b>	The location that the Evaluation Team Lead will be working from is at the discretion of the Bidder. However, a field mission is anticipated as per “5.3 Data Collection and Validation of the Terms of Reference “The field mission is expected to be no longer than 20 days in duration.”
<b>Question 2</b>	Does the Head of Evaluation have to be a Canadian citizen?
<b>Answer 2</b>	There is no requirement that the Evaluation Team Leader must be a Canadian citizen. First paragraph of Part "6. TEAM DESCRIPTION" indicates " Given the security situation, it is recommended to have a joint team with international and local staff." Therefore, it is at the discretion of the Consultant.
<b>Question 3</b>	You mention 3 resources “LOCAL SPECIALIST ... ", are you expecting that the specialists would be local resources from Mali, i.e. that Malian specialists based in Mali could be proposed? Or should it be Canadian consultants based in MALI?
<b>Answer 3</b>	It is at the bidder's discretion. However, the “Technical Evaluation Criteria” states that "The bidder should propose at least one (1) local specialist per field..." This does not indicate that it is mandatory. However, the specialists that will be proposed must meet the technical evaluation criteria as defined.
<b>Question 4</b>	You ask to plan a number of days, which is a bit difficult because we don't know specifically each project and its scope, but have you planned how long it will take to complete? And from what date would the project start? Do you have a precise schedule?
<b>Answer 4</b>	The Summary Description of the Request for Proposal (RFP) provides that the services are expected to start in March, 2021 for a period of 7 months. There is no precise schedule. It will be up to the Bidder to manage the project within the provided level of effort (as defined AMENDMENT 6. above) over the estimated 7 month project period.
<b>Question 5</b>	Will our resources have to collect the data or will we work from existing results reports, which we will have to analyze?
<b>Answer 5</b>	See paragraph "1" of Part "5.2 Work Plan" of "Section 4. Terms of Reference"; “The Consultant will: 1. review previous related evaluations (if applicable) to inform the evaluation design.”
<b>Question 6</b>	Is the Evaluation Manager's resource eligible even if he or she would have been involved in carrying out activities or parts of projects that are relevant to the evaluation, i.e., those mentioned in the document on pages 50 to 54 (Section 4. Terms of Reference)? That is to

	say, resources who were not project leader, but who have been involved as consultants in the project, is this resource eligible for the role of evaluation leader?
<b>Answer 6</b>	Yes, the resource would be eligible in such a scenario if the resource has not been directly involved in a monitoring and evaluation activity in carrying out the activities or parts of one or more of the projects mentioned on pages 50 to 54 of “Section 4. Terms of Reference” of the RFP.
<b>Question 7</b>	If the person was a project manager in one of these projects, is this resource eligible for this one?
<b>Answer 7</b>	Yes, the resource would be eligible in such a scenario if the activity did not involve monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of the activities or parts of the same project.
<b>Question 8</b>	Do you have a start and end date for the project?
<b>Answer 8</b>	The Summary Description of the RFP provides that the services are expected to start in March, 2021 for a period of 7 months. The estimated timeline is March 2021 to September 2021.
<b>Question 9</b>	How many days did you plan to complete the project?
<b>Answer 9</b>	The “Summary Description” of the Request for Proposal (RFP) provides that the services are expected to start in March, 2021 for a period of 7 months. It will be up to the Bidder to manage the project within the provided level of effort (as per AMENDMENT 6. above) over the estimated 7 month project period.
<b>Question 10</b>	Given the very unstable situation in Mali and recent comments about Canadian involvement in Mali, do you expect this evaluation to be postponed until the situation stabilizes, and if not, does GAC have a plan to ensure the safety of the local consultants working on this evaluation, or is their safety entirely the responsibility of the bidder?
<b>Answer 10</b>	No postponement of this evaluation is foreseen. Paragraph (ii) of part (a) of the Pricing Basis of the Request for Proposals, provides that the necessary insurance is be included in the Bidders financial proposal fees. DFATD assumes no responsibility for the safety of the Consultants.
<b>Question 11</b>	Can the Evaluation Team Leader carry out these activities here in Canada, or does he or she need to travel to Mali?
<b>Answer 11</b>	The location that the Evaluation Team Leader will be working from is at the discretion of the Bidder. However, a field mission is anticipated as per “5.3 Data Collection and Validation “The field mission is expected to be no longer than 20 days in duration. All travel related to data collection exercise will depend on the regulations and recommendations related to COVID-19 from the Government of Canada and the Government of Mali”
<b>Question 12</b>	Could you please specify the need for the academic level required for the Gender Specialist? Would you accept other degrees to meet this need and if so, could you identify them, taking into account that they are local specialists so they should be in Sahelian universities?

<b>Answer 12</b>	In the section concerning the technical criterion, it is recommended to describe the levels of education approaching the field of gender equality. Social sciences and humanities with gender studies components are relevant examples.
<b>Question 13</b>	Are the projects to be evaluated those presented/listed on pages 50 to 54 (Section 4)?
<b>Answer 13</b>	Yes, the projects to be evaluated are those presented/listed on pages 50 to 54 (Section 4).
<b>Question 14</b>	For the Additional specialty, is it mandatory to bid that one of the Local Specialists be able to demonstrate this?
<b>Answer 14</b>	This is not mandatory. This is at the bidder's discretion.
<b>Question 15</b>	For Local Specialists, it is mentioned that a Specialist could carry out more than one component (Education, or Vocational Training, or Gender Equality), therefore it is not necessary to propose three (3) distinct Specialists, we can propose one Specialist for 2 components? Or even one Specialist for all three components?
<b>Answer 15</b>	Yes, the bidder could propose 1 person for all three components.
<b>Question 16</b>	Since these Specialists are local, i.e. located in Mali, to get them to sign the TECH-6B form, they will be signing by email and the documents will be scanned to put them in the bid? Can you confirm that this will be accepted?
<b>Answer 16</b>	Yes, DFATD will accept documents that are signed scanned and transmitted in PDF format.
<b>Question 17</b>	Is a firm that has been awarded a contract to carry out one of the projects to be evaluated (as cited in the terms of reference) eligible to bid?
<b>Answer 17</b>	Yes, the firm is eligible to bid in such a scenario.
<b>Question 18</b>	Can a company that does not specialize in the evaluation of international projects bid if it is able to provide the resources corresponding to your specifications?
<b>Answer 18</b>	Yes, a company that does not specialize in the evaluation of international projects can bid, but it must meet all the criteria of the request for proposals.
<b>Question 19</b>	It is difficult to determine exactly how much time will be required to complete the evaluation, it would make more sense that with all of DFATD's experience and knowledge of each of these projects, that the department set the time required to complete the evaluation? And it would be on this basis that the FIN-1A form would be completed, so that all bidders could be compared on the same basis? If the Department agrees, can it return the corrected FIN-1A form? If the Department does not agree, should it provide an estimated time range per project or total?
<b>Answer 19</b>	Subject to the above AMENDMENT 6, an overall level of effort has been established and is estimated at a maximum of 120 days to complete the evaluation.
<b>Question 20</b>	By what date does the Department want the project determined?
<b>Answer 20</b>	The Summary Description of the RFP provides that the services are expected to start in March, 2021 for a period of 7 months. The estimated timeline is March 2021 to September 2021.

<b>Question 21</b>	In the FIN-1B form the fees proposed are those for local specialists in Mali? Does this include fees for the Evaluation Team Leader if he or she is conducting the evaluation from Canada? If so, which ones are eligible?
<b>Answer 21</b>	Form FIN-1B is for use with all members of the team composition proposed by the Bidder. As provided for in the “ <i>Guidance to Bidders:</i> ” of form “FIN-1B, The Bidder is requested to include all Reimbursable Expenses related to the project in the table below.”
<b>Question 22</b>	Evaluation and recommendation reports must be provided in French? In electronic or hard copy and if hard copy how many copies? Why is there a translation fee if it is done by French-speaking experts?
<b>Answer 22</b>	Yes, the evaluation report must be provided in French. Subject to “8.1 Deliverables and Milestones” Under “Section 4. Terms of Reference: All deliverables must be prepared in French, and submitted to the manager at DFATD. Only the executive summary of the final evaluation report must be written in both official languages.”
<b>Question 23</b>	Is a resource who has an academic background in Psychoeducation (PhD or Master's degree) considered as a person with education in the field of education? If yes, is this education adequate for an Evaluation Team Leader or only as a Local Education Specialist?
<b>Answer 23</b>	Yes, the field of psychoeducation is adequate. The bidder is responsible for ensuring that its proposed Evaluation Team Leader meets the prescribed evaluation criteria.

**C. ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.**