

Call for proposal: ICT Consultancy for development, deployment and maintenance of Buy From Women digital platform

1. SCOPE

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

The UN Women Rwanda Country Office works alongside other UN agencies to support the Government of Rwanda in achieving national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international development aspirations. Rwanda's medium-term national development priorities are set out in its National Strategy for Transformation (NST 2017 – 2024) as well as in the Rwanda Vision 2020 and 2050. Through the implementation of these strategies, Rwanda aims at transitioning to a middle-income status by 2020, while manifesting a strong commitment to achieving the SDGs through a rapid, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Within this framework, and aligned to both the One UN Rwanda program through UNDA2 in support of inclusive economic transformation and UN Women's global flagship program on women's empowerment through Climate-Smart Agriculture, UN Women Rwanda is implementing the Buy from Women program. The Buy from Women program leverages Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to empower women farmers by linking them to information, markets, and finance through a mobile-enabled digital supply chain platform. The project is implemented in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) in Rwanda, Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) and a local NGO partner, the Rwanda Development Organization (RDO). The project aims at increasing women farmers' land tenure security as well as their access to climate smart-information, finance and higher value-added markets. A prototype digital platform was developed through ICT service providers engaged by UN Women Headquarters. The one-year pilot phase of the program saw around 3,000 farmers from 12 cooperatives registered on the digital platform. The cloud-based data is linked to a mobile application allowing offline data collection. Individual farmer and cooperative profiles include farm, aggregation and market information and land size. To fully realize the potential of the platform and visualize the data available on it, as well as to explore an expansion of the platform as recommended by the 12 months pilot phase which ended by 2017, UN Women has undertaken the process of adding new features and linkages to other ICT tools and more users in the interface as well as the restructuring of the backend architecture. In the lead up to a new UN Women Rwanda Strategic Note (2019-2023) which has an objective of increasing the number of registered farmers and active digital platform users to 25000 of which at least 60% are women, UN Women Rwanda and partners are envisioning to set the pace by ensuring completion of the restructuring of the backend, local hosting of the platform, resume testing of the restructured mobile app and web-based platform, redefine user profiles, training and ascertain that all clusters of users including farmers ,

agriculture inputs suppliers, Farmers’ Cooperatives Managers, Buyers and relevant Financial Institutions (FIs) are accessing and regularly interacting with their specific interface as part of the digital platform.

More buyers will be registered and profiled to use the platform and mobile application from only One buyer, Rwanda Grains & Cereals Corporation (RGCC) so far registered to all the current 5. The new buyers expected to join as partners and users of the digital platform include but not limited to:

- Africa Improved Foods (AIF)
- East Africa Exchange (EAX)
- PRODEV
- Sarura Commodities Ltd.

From Financial Institutions side which are also important actors that the programme is targeting to register and profile onto the platform, the platform will start with 3 actors namely Duterimbere IMF Rwanda, CLECAM Ejo Heza and Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) of Rwanda already providing loans to a number of farmers targeted by Buy From Women project.

Other value chain actors to integrate to the platform are the most prominent inputs suppliers like SeedCo; YARA and the Government of Rwanda’s subsidized inputs supply channels.

Within this framework, UN Women Rwanda seeks to recruit an ICT Company specializing in Software development to support the development, deployment and maintenance of the Buy From Women digital platform in line with the features described in this background section. The successful company will work under the direct supervision of the UN Women Rwanda Head of Programme and the overall guidance and direction of the UN Women Representative a.i., as well as in close collaboration with other staff at the Country Office, UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), UN Women Headquarters, other UN agencies, Government, donors and civil society particularly RDO as much as required to achieve the projects’ objectives.

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTION SHEET (PIS)

2. Detailed Instruction governing below listed summary of the “instructions to proposers” are available in the Annex I (“Instruction to Proposers”) accessible from this link:

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/about%20us/procurement/un-women-procurement-rfp-instructions-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3939>

Cross Ref. to Annex I	Instruction to Proposers	Specific Requirements as referenced in Annex I
4.2	Deadline for Submission of Proposals	Date and Time: Wednesday 24 October 2018 5:00 PM at local time [for local time reference, see www.greenwichmeantime.com] City and Country: Kigali, Rwanda

		This is an absolute deadline. Any proposal received after this date and time will be disqualified.
4.1	Manner of Submission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Delivery/ Courier mail/ Registered Mail Or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic submission of Proposal
4.1	Address for Proposal Submission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Delivery/ Courier mail/ Registered Mail: UN Women Address, City, Country: UN Women Office, 4 KN 67 ST, P.O.BOX 445, Kigali, Rwanda “NOT TO BE OPENED BY REGISTRY” <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic submission of Proposal: Technical Proposal: rwanda.offers@unwomen.org Financial Proposal: rwanda.offers@unwomen.org Proposals should be submitted to the designated address by the date and time of the deadline given.
3.1	Language of the Proposal:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (pls. specify) Kinyarwanda
3.4.2	Proposal Currencies	Preferred Currency: <input type="checkbox"/> USD If no, please indicate Currency: <input type="text" value="RWF"/> Proposer may submit proposal in any freely convertible currency but the contract currency will be in RWF
3.5	Proposal Validity Period commencing after the deadline for submission of proposals (see 4.2 above)	<i>Choose an item.</i> If other, please indicate: <input type="text" value="60"/> days.
2.4	Clarifications of solicitation documents	Requests for clarification shall be submitted <input type="text" value="5"/> days before the deadline for submission of proposal. UN Women shall endeavor to provide responses to clarifications in an expeditious manner, but any delay in such response shall not cause an obligation on the part of

		UN Women to extend the deadline date, unless UN Women deems that such an extension is justified and necessary.
	Contact address for requesting clarifications on the solicitation documents	<p>Requests for clarification should be addressed to the e-mail address: victoire.hergesell@unwomen.org</p> <p>Clarification emails should include a subject header in the following format:</p> <p>“UNW RFP Reference #, Request for Clarification, Company/Contractor Name”</p> <p>Proposers must not communicate with any other personnel of UN Women regarding this RFP.</p> <p><u>The e-mail address above is for clarifications ONLY.</u></p> <p><u>IMPORTANT: Do not send or copy the e-mail address above while submitting a proposal. Doing so will disqualify your proposal.</u></p>
2.5	Pre-Proposal/Bid Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Optional:
3.9	Proposal Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Required Amount: _____ Form: See Annex XI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required <p>Proposal Security is not foreseen to be required by UN Women at this stage; however, UN Women reserve the rights to request a Performance Security from the successful bidder at any stage.</p>
7.4	Performance Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required <p>Performance Security is not foreseen to be required by UN Women at this stage; however, UN Women reserve the rights to request a Performance Security from the successful proposer at any stage.</p>

3.2	Waiver & Release of Indemnity (If there is a site visit/inspection)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required No site inspections/visits are necessary and therefore a waiver/release of indemnity is not required. <input type="checkbox"/> Required Return this Waiver to UN Women in advance of the site inspection, to the contact below; email to: _____
-----	--	--

3. The proposer will be selected based on the Evaluation Methodology and Criteria indicated in Annex III.
 4. This letter is not to be construed in any way as an offer to contract with your organization.
- Yours sincerely,

Fatou Lo,

Representative a.i.

