

Responses to queries raised on Tender No.

MCK/NBO/005/2021



Tender No: MCK/NBO/005/2021	Responses to Queries raised by prospective tenderers
Tender Name: CONSULTANCY SERVICES TOWARDS HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN SUPPORT	Date Issued: 11th February 2021

This provides answers to queries raised by bidders as at 16th February 2021, which was the deadline for sending queries. The responses are posted on website for the benefit of all prospective bidders and does not disclose the source of the query.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
I am writing with a number of questions regarding the tender for consultancy services for Human-Centred Design Support for the Nawiri Project.	Thank you for your email. Your queries have been well received and actioned. Timestamp: 0815HRS, 21/2/2021
I realise that this request is past the stated due date of Feb 16 and ask for your flexibility in responding. The tender was published on DevEx on Feb 15 which has not afforded sufficient time to review the tender in advance of the due date.	The deadline for submission is 1700HRS March 1, 2021. This deadline is unlikely to change.
Our impression of the requirement is twofold; <u>It is a fundamentally important component</u> of the three research studies which will drive the testing and scaling of initiatives vital to the project's aims, and; <u>It is a highly technical undertaking</u> , requiring deep expertise in design processes, informed by strong contextual experience in Samburu and Turkana, and sectoral knowledge of sectors relating to poverty graduation, nutrition, food security etc.	This digest of the Nawiri HCD tender ask is correct.
The importance and sophistication of your requirement leads us to our questions: <u>Is there any flexibility on the due date for submission of the proposal?</u> In our experience, two weeks is an extremely ambitious timeframe for the design which will do justice to the complexity of your requirements.	There will be no extension for submission beyond the stipulated deadline, i.e. 1700 HRS, March 1, 2020.
<u>Is there any flexibility in your expected start date?</u> You have set out a timeframe which requires submission on March 1, and start up one week later. In our experience, this is insufficient to conclude contracting and mobilisation of the team.	The timelines for starting the assignment are expected to vary due to several reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tender evaluation is an intense activity and depending on the number of submission, could take several days. ○ Mercy Corps must carry out due diligence and background checks on any prospective candidates.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to the intricate nature of the contracting process and the certainty for negotiations, the expected start date(s) may be slightly delayed.
<p><u>Do you have any additional guidance on the balance of technical expertise required?</u> Our interpretation is that you are essentially looking for expertise in designing and facilitating HCD related processes, and that sectoral expertise (for example in nutrition or graduation) would be provided by existing consortium members. Is this assumption correct?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offeror’s experience and competence in specific Nawiri thematic areas (MIYCN, REAP, Adolescent RH) is an added advantage. ○ Although Nawiri consortium partners are expected to provide top level guidance on particular sectoral/thematic areas, it is assumed that the offeror has the relevant in-house capacity to carry out the assignment without any extra input from Nawiri staffer and/or county government officials.
<p><u>Are you able to share your expectations of the budget for these services?</u> It is always extremely helpful to know the resource constraints so that our design should work within.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are industry standards for computing consultancy-related expenses. Use the any acceptable logical method at your disposal. In order to ensure a level playground, Nawiri will not share the requested financial information at this point. ○ Remember, Nawiri will facilitate field travel and cater for workshop/meeting expenses for all the HCD teams as guided by policy. Your budget should include only core items like: Consultancy Fee, Taxes, etc.
<p>Our assumption is that your timeframe on both these points is fixed. Assuming this is correct, we would respectfully highlight the risk of sub-optimal bid design, mobilisation and inception processes, which risks undermining the quality of service provided to the programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deadline for submissions is fixed. ○ Successful firms will get an opportunity to recalibrate the timelines for execution of the assignment based on emerging realities and/or other contextual dynamics that may impact the said timelines.
<p>Ordinarily, we feel we would be well placed for a distinct and compelling proposal to support all three strands of research. However, given the time constraints, we are likely to focus our efforts on supporting a single research process. As such, and if it was of interest to Mercy Corps and the wider consortium, we would be open to further discussion around the merit of collaborating with another design partner to maximise the value to be generated across all three strands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You are allowed to respond to a single track, two or even the complete ask for HCD services covering the three thematic areas of MIYCN, REAP & Adolescent RH. ○ It is the prerogative of Nawiri to select the best suited HCD Design Firm for each track and craft the most effective formula for discharging the assignment. ○ Any evidence of pre-contract negotiation or collusion between vendors will lead to automatic disqualification of all the submission(s) by the colluding parties.

All other terms and conditions in the tender remain unchanged.
