# Invitation to Tender

| **Tender Name:** Study of the Economics of Water Conservation under the Jordan Water Innovation Technologies Program | | **Tender No: HQ229** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Location: Remote | Correspondence Language(s): English | |
| Brief Summary Description of Project: A study of the costs, benefits, and incentives experienced by public (USAID and Mercy Corps) and private actors (suppliers, farmers and households) in incentivizing and implementing the range of water conservation activities completed through the Jordan Water Innovation Technologies program. | | |

| **Tender Package Available from:**  **31 / August / 2021** | **Tender Package Pickup Location:**  **www.mercycorps.org** |
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| **Deadline for Offer Submission:**  **13 / September / 2021 at 3 pm EDT** | **Submit Offers to:**  **cmericle@mercycorps.org** |

*Mercy Corps reserves the right to accept or reject any late offers*

| **Questions and Answers (Q&A)** | |
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| If any, Submit Questions in writing to: Chris Mericle at cmericle@mercycorps.org | |
| Last Day for Questions:  6 / September / 2021 at 3 pm EDT | Questions will be answered by:  8 / September / 2021 at 3pm EDT |
| Questions will be answered through: Posting on website and/or reply email | |

| **Documentation Checklist** | |
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| These documents are contained within this tender package: | * Invitation to Tender * General Conditions for Tender * Criteria and Submittals * Price Offer Sheet * Supplier Information Form * Scope of Work * Sample Contract |

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# General Conditions for Tender

Mercy Corps invites proposals for the goods, services and/or works described and summarized in these documents, and in accordance with procedures, conditions and contract terms presented herein. Mercy Corps reserves the right to vary the quantity of work/materials specified in the Tender Package without any changes in unit price or other terms and conditions and to accept or reject any, all, or part of submitted offers.

**2.1 Mercy Corps’ Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Statement**

**Mercy Corps strictly prohibits**:

* *Any form of bribe or kickback in relation to its activities*

This prohibition includes any *request* from any Mercy Corps employee, consultant or agent for anything of value from any company or individual in exchange for the employee, consultant or agents taking or not taking any action related to the award of a contract or the contract once awarded.  It also applies to any *offer* from any company or individual to provide anything of value to any Mercy Corps employee, consultant or agent in exchange for that person taking or not taking any action related to the award of the contract or the contract.

* *Conflicts of interests in the awarding or management of contracts*

If a company is owned by, whether directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, any Mercy Corps employee or any person who is related to a Mercy Corps employee, the company must ensure that it and the employee disclose the relationship as part of or prior to submitting the offer.

* *The sharing or obtaining of confidential information*

Mercy Corps prohibits its employees from sharing, and any offerors from obtaining, confidential information related to this solicitation, including information regarding Mercy Corps’ price estimates, competing offerors or competing offers, etc.  Any information provided to one offeror must be provided to all other offerors.

* *Collusion between/among offerors*

Mercy Corps requires fair and open competition for this solicitation.  No two (or more) companies submitting proposals can be owned or controlled by the same individual(s). Companies submitting offers cannot share prices or other offer information or take any other action intended to pre-determine which company will win the solicitation and what price will be paid.

Violations of these prohibitions, along with all evidence of such violations, should be reported to:

[**http://mercycorps.org/integrityhotline**](http://mercycorps.org/integrityhotline)

Mercy Corps will investigate allegations fully and will take appropriate action.  Any company, or individual that participates in any of the above prohibited conduct, will have its actions reported to the appropriate authorities, will be investigated fully, will have its offer rejected and/or contract terminated, and will not be eligible for future contracts with Mercy Corps. Employees participating in such conduct will have his/her employment terminated.

Violations will also be reported to Mercy Corps’ donors, who may also choose to investigate and debar or suspend companies and their owners from receiving any contract that is funded in part by the donor, whether the contract is with Mercy Corps or any other entity.

**2.2 Tender Basis:**

* All offers shall be made in accordance with these instructions, and all documents requested should be furnished, including any required (but not limited to) supplier-specific information, technical specifications, drawings, bill of quantities, and/or delivery schedule. If any requested document is not furnished, a reason should be given for its omission in an exception sheet.
* No respondent should add, omit or change any item, term or condition herein.
* If suppliers have any additional requests and conditions, these shall be stipulated in an exception sheet.
* Each offeror may make one response only.
* Each offer shall be valid for the period of 180 days from its date of submission.
* All offers should indicate whether they include taxes, compulsory payments, levies and/or duties, including VAT, if applicable.
* Suppliers should ensure that financial offers are devoid of calculation errors. If errors are identified during the evaluation process, the unit price will prevail. If there is ambiguity on the unit price, the Selection Committee may decide to disqualify the offer.
* Any requests for clarifications regarding the project that are not addressed in written documents must be presented to Mercy Corps in writing. The answer to any question raised in writing by any offeror will be issued to that offeror. In some cases Mercy Corps may choose to issue clarifications to all offerors. It is a condition of this tender that no clarification shall be deemed to supersede, contradict, add to or detract from the conditions hereof, unless made in writing as an Addendum to Tender and signed by Mercy Corps or its designated representative.
* This Tender does not obligate Mercy Corps to execute a contract nor does it commit Mercy Corps to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Furthermore, Mercy Corps reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of Mercy Corps.

**2.3 Supplier Eligibility**

Suppliers may not apply, and will be rejected as ineligible, if they:

* Are not registered companies
* Are bankrupt or in the process of going bankrupt
* Have been convicted of illegal/corrupt activities, and/or unprofessional conduct
* Have been guilty of grave professional misconduct
* Have not fulfilled obligations related to payment of social security and taxes
* Are guilty of serious misinterpretation in supplying information
* Are in violation of the policies outlined in Mercy Corps Anti Bribery or Anti Corruption Statement
* Supplier (or supplier’s principals) are on any list of sanctioned parties issued by; or are presently excluded or disqualified from participation in this transaction by: the United States Government or United Nations by the United States Government, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United Nations, other national governments, or public international organizations.

Additional eligibility criteria, if applicable, are stated in section 3.2 of this tender package.

**2.4 Response Documents**

Offerors can either utilize the response documents contained in this tender package to submit their offer or they can submit an offer in their own format as long as it contains all the required documents and information specified by this tender.

**2.5 Acceptance of Successful Response**

Documentation submitted by offerors will be verified by Mercy Corps. The winning offeror will be required to sign a contract for the stated, agreed upon amount.

**2.6 Certification Regarding Terrorism**

It is Mercy Corps’ policy to comply with humanitarian principles and the laws and regulations of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, the United Kingdom, host nations, and other applicable donors concerning transactions with or support to individuals or entities that have engaged in fraud, waste, abuse, human trafficking, corruption, or terrorist activity. These laws and regulations prohibit Mercy Corps from transacting with or providing support to any individuals or entities that are the subject of government sanctions, donor rules, or laws prohibiting transactions or support to such parties.

# Criteria & Submittals

| **3.1 Contract Terms**  Mercy Corps intends to issue a **Fixed Price** contract to one or several company(ies) or organization(s). The successful offeror(s) shall be required to adhere to the statement of work and terms and conditions of the resulting contract. The anticipated contract is incorporated in Section 6 herein. By submitting an offer, offerors certify that they understand and agree to all of the terms and clauses contained in Section 6. |
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| **3.2 Specific Eligibility Criteria**  Eligibility criteria must be met and the corresponding supporting documents listed below under “Tender Submittals” **must** be submitted with offers. Offerors who do not submit these documents may be **disqualified** from any further technical or financial evaluation.  Eligibility Criteria:   * The offeror must be legally registered * The offeror must be in good standing with its governing tax authority * The offeror must have a satisfactory record of performance and business ethics |
| **3.3 Tender Submittals**  Documents and required information listed in tender submittals are necessary in order to support the eligibility criteria and to conduct technical evaluations of received offers (and due diligence). While absence of these documents and/or information does not denote mandatory disqualification of suppliers, the lack of these items has the potential to severely and negatively impact the technical evaluation of an offer.  **Documents supporting the Eligibility Criteria:**   * Legal Business Registration * Latest Tax Registration Certificate or IRS EIN Number (US Companies)   **Documents to conduct the Technical Evaluation and additional Due Diligence:**   * Technical Proposal (3 pages maximum) containing:   + Proposed technical approach, including major activity categories and tasks under these activities and the principal methods and data that will be used (acknowledging that applicants are not aware of the data that will be available, applicants may simply specify the data that would be needed in their approach)   + Deliverables (as provided plus any others that the applicant would suggest)   + Timeline for the study showing when major activities are expected to take place   + Activity-based budget showing estimated hours of personnel by position for each major activity category, and total expected cost of each activity, and the study as a whole.   + Billable rates for project staff * Qualifications (subject to page lengths below)   + Company profile, biographies of key personnel, list of similar assignments and/or other qualifications (5 pages maximum)   + Key Personnel Resumes or CVs (3 pages maximum per personnel)   + References (at least three) from previous work projects (including contact information, 1 page maximum)   **Price Offer:**  The Price offer is used to determine which offer represents the best value and serves as a basis of negotiation before award of a contract. As a Fixed-Price contract, the price of the contract to be awarded will be an all-inclusive fixed price basis, in the form of a total fixed price. No profit, fees, taxes, or additional costs can be added after contract signing. Offerors must show unit prices, quantities, and total price, as displayed in the Offer Sheet in Section 4. All items must be clearly labeled and included in the total offered price.  Offerors must not include VAT and customs duties in their offer. |
| **3.4 Currency**  Offers should be submitted in: US Dollars  Payments will be made in: US Dollars |

| **3.5 Tender Evaluation (Trade-Off Selection Method)**  Based on the above submittals, a Mercy Corps Tender Committee will conduct a tender evaluation process. Mercy Corps reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, and to accept the offer(s) deemed to be in the best interest of Mercy Corps. MC will not be responsible for or pay for any expenses or losses which may be incurred by any Offeror in the preparation of their tender.  Evaluations will be conducted as described in the following subsections: |
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| **3.5.1 Scoring Evaluation**  ***Trade-Off Method***  Mercy Corps Tender Committee will conduct a technical evaluation which will grade technical criteria on a weighted basis (each criteria is given a percentage, all together equaling 100%). Offeror's proposals should consist of all required technical submittals so a Mercy Corps committee can thoroughly evaluate the technical criteria listed herein and assign points based on the strength of a technical submission.  Award criteria shall be based on the proposal’s overall “value for money” (quality, cost, delivery time, etc.) while taking into consideration donor and internal requirements and regulations. Each individual criteria has been assigned a weighting prior to the release of this tender based on its importance to Mercy Corps in this process.  Offeror(s) with the best score will be accepted as the winning offeror(s), assuming the price is deemed fair and reasonable and subject to the additional due diligence in section 3.5.2.  When performing the Scoring Evaluation, the Mercy Corps tender committee will assign points for each criteria based on the following scale:   | **Point** | **Rationale** | | --- | --- | | 0 | Not acceptable; has not met any part of the specified criteria | | 1-4 | Has met only some minimum requirements and may not be acceptable | | 5 | Acceptable | | 6-9 | Acceptable; has met all requirements and exceeds some | | 10 | Acceptable; has exceeded all requirements |  | **Evaluation Criteria** | **Weight**  **(%)** | **Possible Points**  **(1 to 10)** | **Weighted Score** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **(A)** | **(B)** | **(A\*B)** | | Technical Approach: Quality, completeness and responsiveness to the requirements | 20% | 10 | 3 | | Price/Cost | 20% | 10 | 2 | | Qualifications of Key Personnel: Requirements for the Principal Investigator:   * Master’s Degree (Ph.D. preferable) in agricultural, water and/or natural resource economics * 10-15 years relevant experience in applied economic analysis in these fields * Expertise in survey/question design and analysis of qualitative/quantitative data * Expertise in application of cost-effectiveness, ROI and cost-benefit analysis to water resources and, preferably, water conservation * Expertise in working with large datasets and developing economic models and dashboards * Prior experience with program evaluation desirable | 40% | 10 | 3 | | Corporate Capabilities –Extent of experience conducting similar or related types of economic analysis and program evaluations of water resources | 20% | 10 | 2 | | **TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE:** | **100%** | **40** | **10** | |
| **3.5.2 Additional Due Diligence**  Upon completion of both the technical and financial evaluations Mercy Corps may choose to engage in additional due diligence processes with a particular supplier or supplier(s). The purpose of these processes is to ensure that Mercy Corps engages with reputable, ethical, responsible Suppliers with solid financials and the ability to fulfill the contract. Additional due diligence may take the form of the following processes (though it is not limited to):   * Reference Checks |

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# Offer Form

| **Offerors must submit their own independent offer including at least (but not limited to):**   * All documents requested in the “Eligibility Criteria” section of this Tender Package * All documents requested in the “Tender Submittals” section of this Tender Package * All information listed in the “Documents Comprising the Proposal” section below   **All offers must be duly signed (including position and full name of the signer) and stamped, with the date of completion.** |
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***Documents Comprising the Proposal***

The following information must be included in the offer of any potential offeror:

* **Cover Letter** explaining interest to be a contracted vendor or supplier, and the details of the Proposal. The content of the cover letter shall include the following information:
* A detailed specification of the offered goods, services and/or works (Proposal)
* Warranty (if necessary and appropriate)
* Delivery time
* Price validity date (for this purpose and as stated on the advertisement, quote given shall remain unchanged for 180 working days)
* A Price Offer detailing the unit price only, using the **Price Offer Sheet** template provided in section 7
* Completed and signed Mercy Corps **Supplier Information Form** (template provided in section 7)
* Other important documents offeror feels need to be attached to support their proposal

The original proposal shall be signed by the offeror or a person or persons duly authorized to bind the offeror to the contract. Financial offer pages of the proposal shall be initialed by the person or persons signing the proposal and stamped with the company seal.

Any interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are initialed by the person or persons signing the proposal.

# 5. Scope of Work/Technical Specifications

**5.1 Background**

The Water Innovation Technologies Program is a USAID-funded $32 million program carried out by Mercy Corps in Jordan. The goal of the five-year program is to save 18.5 million cubic meters of water. WIT has worked with market actors (equipment suppliers, financial intermediaries, etc.) and water users (households and famers) to improve the efficiency of markets for water saving technologies (WST) through market systems strengthening activities, incentive packages to equipment suppliers, loan programs for households, media campaigns, and other interventions. In addition, WIT has sponsored a number of communal water harvesting and storage infrastructure projects, adding to the number of such projects that the MC Jordan engineering team has designed and implemented over the last fifteen years. With achievement of its MEL indicators on target for the completion of the program in March 2022, WIT is seeking to learn lessons about the costs, benefits and incentives of the program and its various activities. In particular, the project represents USAID and Mercy Corps’ first effort to apply Market Systems Development approaches to the challenges of water conservation. Throughout the project, WIT has carried out a series of research and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) activities, with various partners, including its primary research partner, the International Water Management Institute.

**5.2 Scope of Work**

**Purpose / Project Description:**

The purpose of the study is to assess the costs, benefits and incentives experienced by public (USAID and Mercy Corps) and private actors (suppliers, farmers and households) in incentivizing and implementing the range of water conservation activities completed through the WIT program. The study will provide important information on the costs and benefits of water conservation in the Jordanian context, as efforts to improve water productivity in the country continue. The study will also examine the incentives for adoption of water savings technologies (WST) faced by different actors, thereby informing similar programs in other contexts and complementing other ongoing evaluation efforts under the WIT program. The contractor will have access to the relevant suite of data, information and studies carried out by Mercy Corps in the conduct of the WIT program, including baseline and endline studies of knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP), monitoring of water saved under the Program, etc. The purpose of this study to draw all this information together in one place, analyze it using the tools of economic analysis and report out to the global community on the lessons learned, in this respect, through this innovative project.

**Objectives:**

Research objectives under the study include:

1. Complete an activity-based cost analysis of the various WIT program activities.
2. Review and prepare household and farmer water savings data collected by Mercy Corps for inclusion in the economic analysis.
3. Assess the cost-effectiveness of the various Mercy Corps investments in promoting the adoption of WST by households or farmers and completing the construction of communal projects.
4. Estimate the return on investment (ROI) analysis for project participants (by relevant group) and evaluate the incentives faced by participants in adopting WST and engaging in the WIT program.
5. Estimate the net economic costs (or benefits) of the various activities and technologies applied by WIT and program participants, taking into account the amounts of water saved by each activity.
6. Compare, evaluate and draw lessons from a comparison of WIT results with other such results in Jordan or in other countries, and what these results imply for the future of water conservation efforts in Jordan.
7. Provide lessons drawn from the process of the study and make recommendations on additional monitoring or research that should be undertaken in the future on such projects.

**Deliverables:**

1. An Inception Report that lays out the objectives, conceptual framework, research questions, methodology, activities, and timeline.
2. Summary Report on the cost analysis, water saved and cost-effectiveness of WIT activities, along with the requisite data and analysis in a single Excel File, as feasible.
3. (a) Draft and (b) Final full Report on the Economics of Water Conservation under the Jordan Water Innovation Technologies Program (of 50+pp).
4. A debrief session, along with a presentation (in MS PowerPoint format) for sharing high level results for team members.
5. All data, calculations, tables and charts used in the Report in Excel File format (as few as feasible) as well as any other graphics in their native file format.

**Timeframe / Schedule:**

Tentative deliverable schedule is as follows:

| **Deliverable** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | November 8, 2022 |
| 2 | December 3, 2022 |
| 3a | December 20, 2022 |
| 3b | January 7, 2022 |
| 4 | January 15, 2022 |
| 5 | January 15, 2022 |

The tender process timeline is as follows:

| Process | Elapsed Time |
| --- | --- |
| 1.Tender Open |  |
| 2. Tender Closes | + 2 weeks |
| 3. Tender Review | + 1-2 week |
| 4. Tender Interviews (if needed) | + 1-2 weeks |
| 5. Contractor Selection | + 1 week |
| 8. Contracting | + 2-3 weeks |
| 9. Commence project | in 7 to 10 weeks |

# 6. Sample Contract

This is the anticipated contract. However, if required, additional terms and conditions may be added by Mercy Corps in the final contract.

**[Attached]**

# 7. Attachments to the Tender Package

**Attachment 1 -Supplier Information Form template**

**Attachment 2 -Price Offer Sheet template**

**Attachment 3 - Service Agreement**

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