Mercy Corps

and

Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture, Livelihoods and Environment (SCALE)

Responses to Questions

Tender number: **HQ263/2021**

Subject: Request for Proposal Evidence of Impact Research Study - Livelihoods

Date RFP Issued: December 15, 2021

End of Question Period: January 6, 2022

Due Date for Applications: January 21, 2022, 5:00pm

Award Ceiling: $100,000 USD

Issued by: Mercy Corps and SCALE

Disclaimer: This request is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the SCALE Award and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

1. **Are there more specifics about departments or settlements, below each region, where program participants currently reside and where fieldwork/in-person data collection will be conducted?**  
   The IRC currently implements its CVA work primarily in Diffa region, focused in Diffa, Mane Soroa, Chetimari and N’Gourti municipalities. While finalizing the geographical focus will be an important part of inception work with IRC/Niger at study start up, it would be useful for proposal narratives and budgets to provide an estimate of how many sites and respondents can be included in fieldwork/in-person data collection for the stated budget.
2. **The RFP implies that there is monitoring data available for analysis, outside of primary, qualitative data.  What is the extent and nature of these data sets?**  
   The IRC/Niger compiles quarterly donor reports and conducts program evaluations and assessments relevant to its CVA activities. These reports and information will be shared with the selected research partner to complement other secondary data and primary data collection. This will be an important part of the inception work with IRC/Niger at study start up.
3. **Does Mercy Corps expect this to be a mixed-methods evaluation, or is the expectation that primary data collection through interviews, with those stakeholders and participants already acknowledged in the RFP, be the backbone of data for analysis, findings and recommendations?**  
   Please refer to page 7 of the tender document. The exact research methodology chosen will depend on the selected applicant and on the evidence collected, but is expected to include secondary literature review, interviews, and other data collection as needed. This will be an important part of the inception work with IRC/Niger at study start up.
4. **Can Mercy Corps/IRC provide an approximate number of CVA beneficiaries since 2014 and if possible, the number of beneficiaries since 2016 and the switch to digital CVA methods?**A summary of IRC/Niger’s CVA participants is provided in the following summary table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Type of Voucher** | |
| **Year** | **CVA Participants** | **Paper vouchers** | **E-vouchers** |
| 2015 | 4600 | 4600 |  |
| 2016 | 5000 | 5000 |  |
| 2017 | 6500 |  | 6500 |
| 2018 | 4400 |  | 4400 |
| 2019 | 2655 |  | 2655 |
| 2020 | 8270 | 2500 | 5770 |
| 2021 | 9500 | 1160 | 8340 |

1. **Can Mercy Corps provide an approximate number of digital CVA tools/approaches to be evaluated?**  
   IRC/Niger’s use of digital CVA tools thus far has only included electronic vouchers (e-vouchers) and some limited experience with mobile money. However, the scope of secondary literature review and summary of approaches should include other methodologies used in Niger and globally (based upon information that is already readily available in the literature).
2. **Can Mercy Corps provide a list of the livelihood activities with which CVA/ digital CVA has been applied by IRC/Niger since 2014?**  
   IRC/Niger has used CVA (both paper and digital) approaches in support of food assistance, unconditional cash assistance, agriculture and livestock support, and income generating activities.
3. **Is there an overall total budget, or budget range which can be shared for this project?**  
   Please refer to page 6 of the RFP. The research project commissioned via this RFP will be fully funded by SCALE for an estimated $100,000.
4. **Does this project allow for different methodological options which can be priced accordingly?**Please refer to page 7 of the tender document. The exact research methodology chosen will depend on the selected applicant and on the evidence collected, but is expected to include secondary literature review, interviews, and other data collection as needed. Determining the exact research methodology will be an important part of the inception work with IRC/Niger at study start up.
5. **Is Mercy Corps going to provide the contact information of the selected pool of individuals from program participants, community members, public sector regulators, private sector actors and facilitate the logistics of the data collection (including invitation letters and permits)?**Please refer to the considerations listed on page 8 as well as the roles and responsibilities articulated on page 9 of the tender document. Determining roles and responsibilities will be an important part of the inception work with IRC/Niger at study start up. While Mercy Corps and IRC/Niger will support the study start up process as much as possible, the selected research partner should be prepared to take initiative in pursing leads and gathering contacts as well.
6. **Taking into consideration the public health situation, can Mercy Corps confirm that is expected that members of the research team will personally visit government offices, NGO offices, communities, and private sector operators in Niger, and that fieldwork undertaken in Niger will last at least three weeks?**Please refer to the considerations about COVID listed on page 8 of the tender document. The expectation is that in-person data collection be conducted, to the extent possible, and proposal narratives and budgets should reflect measures to be taken to ensure safety of both the team and respondents.