

Q&A MAR-UA23-003 RTE Kits

1. Approximately how many kits do you plan to order under this framework agreement? Up to 6560. Orders will be done in batches, based on our need.
2. What kind of packaging should be used for each kit #1 (carton box or plastic bag or other)? How many meal packets should be in one package? 3 packs for 1 day or 21 packs for 7 days? The meal kits should be in retort pouches, able to be heated chemically. Each day (3 meals + snacks) can be packaged in separate plastic bags. No preference on how the entire 7 day kit.
3. What kind of packaging should be used for each kit #2 (carton box or plastic bag or other)? How many meal packets should be in one package? 4 packs for 1 day or 28 packs for 7 days? Type 2 kits are for one day only. 4 meals + snacks (2900+ kcal) for the one day. Packaging can be in bag or box.
4. Should we add heat packs to each set #2? Yes, all meal pouches should come with chemical heating packs.
5. How should food parcels be stacked on pallets for shipment? Method of shipment is determined by the vendor. Please specify as part of your bid.
6. Should we put your company logo on the packaging? If yes, where exactly? Company logo & branding should not be included. Inscriptions should only include the name of the meal (in English and Ukrainian, if possible). Information on each 1 day package (3 meals + snacks) noting the contents of the 1 day bag can also be included.
7. Is the approximate total amount of the purchase planned? How many sets 1 and sets 2 per month/year? See the previous question. The amount of the master agreement is up to 6560. Each individual order will be based on program need.
8. What is the volume of meals we need to create? We understand 21 meals per week, but for how many people? Each kit is for one person. 3 meals per day, 7 days in a week. 21 total meals.
9. What is the difference on Kit 1 (program Kit) and Kit 2 (Mercy Corps Kit)? This is listed in the specifications. Type 1 kit is 3 meals/day for 7 days, 21 total meals + snacks. Each day should have minimum 2100 kcal. Type 2 kit is 4 meals/day for only 1 day, 4 total meals + snacks. Total should be minimum 2900 kcal.
10. Are we bidding on 3 meals per day on Kit 1 and 4 meals per day on Kit 2? Yes
11. Please explain in more detail which documents must be submitted in response to this request: "Certificates of analyzes (CoAS) from the source (place of purchase)". Please include the analyzes required by Ukrainian legislation regarding nutrition, etc.
12. Appendix 3 (Technical specification) contains two types of sets: Set 1 and Set 2. Please provide an answer whether the supplier must submit an offer for both types of sets, or it is possible to submit an offer for one of them. And will such a participant who submits an offer for only one type of set be disqualified. Preference will be given to vendors who can provide both types of kits.
13. Is the requirement for the caloric content of set 1 correctly specified, since the indicator is specified in calories, not kilocalories. The minimum total for Type 1 kits is 2100 kcal, for Type 2 2900 kcal.

14. Is it a mistake that the total caloric content of Set 2 is not established. If so, please indicate the requirement for the total caloric content of Set 2 and in which units of measurement - cal or kcal. After all, the number of calories in a product affects its cost. **The minimum total for Type 1 kits is 2100 kcal, for Type 2 2900 kcal.**

15. Is it mandatory to fulfill the requirement regarding the minimum calorie content of dishes #1-3 in Set 1, or is it necessary to fulfill the requirement regarding the total calorie content of the set at a level of at least 2107 kcal. For example, we work with six producers of the first and second dishes, but none of them produces borscht with a calorie content of 500 kcal. Isn't this requirement such that it leads to a narrowing of the circle of producers of these dishes. It is possible to set the caloric range of such dishes from and to certain values. **The meal types are listed as examples. Other types of meals will be considered. The total for the day should be 2100 kcal, reasonably split among the three meals.**

16. In Set 1, the requirement "Food for 7 days per kit (total of 21 food packages)" is set. Does this requirement for a different menu for 7 days also apply to Set 2. Is it possible to offer any one type of menu in Set 2. **The meal types are listed as examples. Other types of meals will be considered. For Type 1 kits, variation between the 7 days of meals is encouraged. For the Type 2 kits, each kit is only for 1 day. Uniform 1 day kits or varied kits will both be considered.**

17. Questions regarding incoming control when receiving goods and replacing one product with another. Ukraine is currently at war with the Russian aggressor, and a number of factories producing the first and second dishes are located in cities that suffer almost daily from sieges and rocket attacks. Therefore, there are failures in the work of such enterprises, which in some places lead to a complete stop of production processes. Therefore, the question I asked becomes very relevant from the point of view of replacing the products of one manufacturer with another. Since it is impossible to predict such situations in advance, I ask you to consider the possibility of automatic replacement of products with a similar or better one from another manufacturer, and therefore I ask once again in the technical requirements to provide for the calorie interval of the first and second dishes, since this indicator is different for different manufacturers of the same borscht. **Replacements may be considered, but they must be approved in writing by Mercy Corps and in accordance with the terms of the contract.**

19. By what final date must the samples of the sets be delivered. Before the deadline for submission of proposals? **Samples will be requested from bidders within 5 days after receiving the bid.**

20. Sample Quality: Bidders must meet Mercy Corps specifications and quality assurance criteria. Samples must not contain any bidding vendor branding. (The specifications of the goods will be checked against the catalog or the images provided.) Does this requirement mean that the sets must be presented for consideration in their packaging without any inscriptions indicating their name or other. **Branding should not be included. Inscriptions with the name of each meal and the contents of each day / kit are allowable.**

21. Is this tender open for international suppliers? **Yes**

22. You stated that the payment will be done in UAH, would you be able to transfer the payment in dollar, in case of award? **This is possible, depending on the terms in the contract.**

23. What volume is planned for purchase? **The master agreement is for up to 5000 type 1 kits and 1560 type 2 kits.**

24. What is the total budget for the purchase? **We can't share budget figures for planned procurement according to our internal policy.**

25. Technical specifications indicate kcal for each type of product. Can there be +/- deviations from the calorie content? **For kit type 1, the total caloric content should be 2100 kcal. The exact ratio between meals is flexible.**

26. What is the total number of RTE food kits in 1 year and 2 years? This order is for a maximum of 5000 type 1 kits and 1560 type 2 kits.

27. In what batches is it supposed to be delivered to different locations? Each batch will be done through a Purchase Order, according to the terms of the contract. The size of each order will be determined by need.

28. Are there any approximate quantities that can be used as a starting point: is it 100 units or 100,000 units? Each batch will be done through a Purchase Order, according to the terms of the contract. The size of each order will be determined by need., however it will not be less than 500 kits per batch.

29. Is the dollar exchange rate converted at the NBU exchange rate? – Yes, the payment will be in UAH according to the National Bank of Ukraine US Dollar exchange rate.

30. Should these kits be in the form of dry rations or should they be in a box? Items should be provided as a kit, in a box.

31. Lot 1 Program kits

Dish 1 - should be in a retort package or in a plastic jar Retort pouch, able to be chemically heated.

Dish 2 - should be in a retort package or in a plastic jar Retort pouch, able to be chemically heated.

Dish 3 - Borscht with meat - should it be a dish in a retort package - or in a dry form that can be poured with hot water? Borscht is only an example; other meal options are acceptable. It should be in a Retort pouch, able to be chemically heated.

Do you need to separately pack a portion per day in a zip bag? This is not clear.

Do you need additional labeling on packages? Labeling should be in English and Ukrainian with the name of meal(s). Each day (3 meals + snacks) should be clearly labeled (e.g. Day 1, Day 2, etc).

Pack a set for 7 days in a box? The type 1 kits are for 7 days, the type 2 are per day.

32. Lot 2 Mercy Corps kits

- cookies - how many calories?

- sugar - how many calories?

- coffee/tea - how many grams?

- jam

Minimum calories for the type 2 kits should be 2900 kcal. This should include 4 meals for a day + snacks. The specifics snacks and sizes are flexible and can be proposed by the potential vendor.

- napkins

- wet wipes

- plastic spoons

Minimum cutlery to eat the 4 meal packs provided.

Do you need a heating pad in the set? Chemical heating packs should be included.

33. Can you please list the address(es) of where kits need to be shipped to? Warehouse will be in Dnipro, Ukraine.

