

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

SELECTION OF FIRM

IMPACT EVALUATION OF BISP'S SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), established under the BISP Act 2010 (No. XVIII of 2010), is the largest Social Safety Net Programme in the country, catering to the needs of most vulnerable families. BISP's short-term objective is to cushion negative effects of food price crisis' and inflation on the poor. This is achieved through provision of Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) to the eligible families. The long-term objective, however, is to enable eligible beneficiaries to access a wide range of social and productive services. This is addressed through provision of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) to the eligible beneficiaries' to help them climb out of poverty. Moreover, to improve efficiency and transparency of payments to the beneficiaries, BISP introduced numerous payment transfer mechanisms overtime by constantly striving to build further on the experiences derived from the previous mechanisms.

BISP adopted the Poverty Scorecard based Proxy Means Test (PMT) to first identify and then enroll beneficiaries that had scores below the pre-determined cut-off point. Socioeconomic data of the households collected using poverty scorecard provided basis for the establishment of first National Socio Economic Registry (NSER) in 2010/11. However, the demographic characteristics of an individual, family or household change significantly over a duration of five years, therefore, this necessitated updating of the NSER – 2010/11. This national rollout of the NSER update will entail data collection using android based technology.

In the year 2011, BISP conducted a baseline survey (nationally representative) and subsequently carried out three (03) follow-up evaluations (building on the baseline) as part of a panel design to evaluate the impact of BISP's UCT and CCT programmes. However, since the rollout of BISP's social protection programmes did not support a randomized control-treatment design, therefore, BISP chose to employ non-experimental methods in its evaluations. These included Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), Difference in Differences (DID), and Propensity Score Matching (PSM).

Since it has been almost two years since the last evaluation was completed, therefore, BISP now intends to conduct another evaluation to understand the cause and effect relationship i.e. the impact of its social protection programmes on the beneficiaries' wellbeing. The current evaluation forms part of a panel study, therefore, it will be a repeat or continuation of the evaluations that have been carried out previously, but with improvements based on learning from earlier evaluations. This panel design will entail study of overtime changes using a constant set of variables and comparison of results at different intervals to determine net attributable impact. In consideration of this, this evaluation will refer to, and draw on the design and results of previous evaluations to do overtime analysis between past and current results. This evaluation will employ a quasi-experimental design. The results of this evaluation should be generalizable at the sub-national level i.e. each of the four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jamu & Kashmir. In order to achieve this, BISP is looking at an overall sample of 17,000 maximum.

Towards this end, BISP now hereby invites eligible national and international Firms/Joint Ventures, duly registered with the Government, Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments, to indicate their interest for providing the required services. Proofs of said registrations are required to be provided/ established in EOI Responses/Applications. The Firms/Joint Ventures who are registered with provincial Sales Tax Department can also apply in the selection process, however, upon award of contract if selected, those Firms/Joint Ventures shall be required to get themselves registered with Federal Board of Revenue/ ICT Sales Tax Department for seeking their claims.

The eligible consulting firms are required to demonstrate/provide following requisite information to prove their qualification/eligibility to perform the assignment. In this regard, there are prescribed standards which have been mentioned in the **Instructions for the Consultancy Firms** which may be downloaded

from the websites www.ppra.org.pk or www.bisp.gov.pk/tenders where this REOI is also available. Consultancy firms are encouraged to provide materials/ information that would be specific to the proposed services only by giving all the relevant details as required in the Instructions, and to avoid submitting generic promotional material. The unrelated or incomplete materials/information shall not be considered. The parameters for evaluating the EOI responses, are given against each requisite as under: -

- a) Complete historical profile of the organization/firm with the information i.e. incorporation certificate, experience, corporate profile indicating years of operations, core competencies, management structure & systems etc. Information related to the provincial/regional/field offices, permanent/intermittent staff, panel of experts etc. shall be a pre-requisite. **[Max. Score = 25]**
- b) Details of completed projects of similar nature, size and scale including the methodologies employed such as RDD, DID, PSM and RCTs at national, provincial or regional level studies with requisite information i.e. project description, cost of the project, client, duration, number of field staff hired/mobilized & managed, type & scale of field mobilization, and type of association/JV if any. **[Max. Score = 45]**
- c) Demonstrated capacity/experience of conducting large scale Households based demographic surveys, field studies, assessments, research, etc. at national, provincial or regional level. **[Max. Score = 10]**
- d) Demonstrated experience of studying/reviewing automated (technology driven) payment disbursement systems. **[Max. Score = 10]**
- e) Financial Soundness. For the said information, requirements & prescribed format have been given in the Instructions whose compliance is a must. **[Max. Score = 10]**

Firms interested to participate in a Joint Venture should submit all the required information as per above parameters in respect of each partner, which shall be assessed independently regardless of capacity/experience of the other partner. For firms who shall be in an arrangement of sub-consultant association, only the experience and capacity of lead firm, shall be assessed. However, such arrangement should be clearly mentioned in Expressions of Interest Response. The firms participating as sub-consultant association formation, the registration documents as required above, are required to be provided in respect of all partner firms confirming their eligibility.

A consultancy firm, will be selected through **“Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method”** in accordance with the procedures set out in the Procurement of Consultancy Services Regulations 2010 issued by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, (as amended from time to time) which can be perused at the website: www.ppra.org.pk/legal_documents/regulations.

Expressions of Interest response, carefully prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the REOI & instructions to Consultants, must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by or before **1500 hours** on **27th October, 2017**, which shall be opened on same day at **1530 hours** in the presence of representatives of consulting firms who may choose to be present.

The assignment title of the consultancy, should be clearly written on the front of the envelope or in the subject line.

Director (Procurement)
BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME (BISP)
Procurement Wing,
BISP HQ Secretariat, F-Block, Pak Secretariat,
Islamabad, Pakistan. Postal Code: 44000
Tel: +92-51-9246420, Fax: +92-51-9246319