

Expression of Interest for Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa (BGFA)

BGFA - Consulting services for organisation and provision of training services in Uganda

Helsinki, 13 January 2022

Q1	Is there a template or an example that can be used as a format for the Expression of Interest?
A1	<i>No, the format for the Expression of Interest is free.</i>
Q2	How important is it that the training will continue beyond the project period (24 months)?
A2	<i>All training activities under this assignment should be completed within the maximum 24-month project period.</i>
Q3	Will it be given priority if digital training is integrated into the program to extend the scope and reach of the training?
A3	<i>Training modalities will be tailor-made based on the assessment of participating ESPs' needs, and may include digital training.</i>
Q4	In regards to the "particular women's participation within the off-grid energy sector": does this mean training and jobs specially designed for women?
A4	<i>It refers to women's overall participation in the off-grid energy sector and to support this, training curricula/modalities need to consider the gender dimensions of participating ESPs' training needs.</i>
Q5	We understand, that valid project references must have a minimum budget of 300,000€. Please confirm.
A5	<i>Each project reference should have a minimum EUR 300,000 <u>annual</u> budget.</i>
Q6	We kindly ask you to provide the evaluation grid/criteria on which basis you will select the 5 bidders.
A6	<i>The selection will be based on the Consultant's profile and prior experience as described in the Consultant Profile Section of the Invitation, the suggested approach and the qualifications and competence of the consultant's team.</i>
Q7	In case of Covid19 restrictions, would you agree to virtual trainings via zoom as an alternative?

A7	<i>Yes but these will be assessed case by case also based on the assessment of participating ESPs' training needs. Hybrid approaches including a mix of in-person and remote learning are preferable.</i>
Q8	We assume, that the EuropeAid format for CVs and the EU project reference template are accepted for the Eol. Please confirm.
A8	<i>Yes, we confirm.</i>
Q9	Should sub-contractors be mentioned at EOI stage?
A9	<i>Yes, please include information on all sub-contractors.</i>
Q10	Do we need to submit a Consortium agreements at Eol stage?
A10	<i>No.</i>
Q11	Do we need to submit financial statements at Eol stage?
A11	<i>No.</i>
Q12	Please send a list of admin documents to submit at Eol stage.
A12	<i>There is no such list available, all information required to be submitted during the Eol stage is listed in the Invitation.</i>
Q13	Would a bidder be excluded if they do not have Uganda networks and knowledge/experience but do exhibit strong experience and knowledge in neighbouring countries?
A13	<i>No, it would not be excluded</i>
Q14	Will a bidder be excluded if the trainers are from different territories in Africa other than Uganda?
A14	<i>No, it would not be excluded.</i>
Q15	Can one company bid multiple times with different consortiums as partners and if so, what is the limit?
A15	<i>No. A contract will not be awarded to a consultant who has participated in more than one expression of interest/proposal for each contract. Kindly note that a sub-consultant is however not considered to be participating in expression of interest/proposal.</i>
Q16	Whether contracts of a similar value related to off-grid financing that include training but where training is not the main service provided would qualify as "previous experience" for the purposes of evaluating the EOI?
A16	<i>It would most likely not qualify since an acceptable project reference of similar nature should have the training component as prevalent activity in order to be acceptable.</i>
Q17	Whether contracts of a similar value related to on-grid renewable energy project development, financing and technical training in solar PV & battery storage technology

	delivered in Uganda would qualify as “previous experience” for the purposes of evaluating the EOI?
A17	<i>An acceptable project reference of similar nature should be related to training in the off-grid energy space in order to be acceptable.</i>
Q18	Would the programmes need to be accredited in anyway?
A18	<i>No, accreditation or certification of training courses is not foreseen at this stage.</i>
Q19	If the training needs to be face to face, what areas in Uganda will the training needs to be done in?
A19	<i>Practical training arrangements, including the locations depend on the participating ESPs’ their location and needs. Service providers will need to be responsive to ESPs’ needs and the regions served.</i>
Q20	Do a majority of the participants speak English or Swahili?
A20	<i>This will depend on the participating ESPs. Service providers will need to be responsive to ESPs’ needs and the regions served.</i>
Q21	What percent of the training will need to be on mini grids versus solar home systems?
A21	<i>The split between solar home system and mini-grid training will be confirmed once the BGFA3 is completed. It is expected that BGFA3 will contract up to 6 SHS projects and up to 5 mini-grid projects.</i>
Q22	Can the budget be utilized for buying equipment (solar panels, inverters, etc....) to be utilized during the technical training sessions?
A22	<i>No.</i>
Q23	Are all the costs for the trainings - including transport refund for participants, catering, venue hall, lodging - to be included in the overall budget of 600,000 euros?
A23	<i>Yes.</i>
Q24	Is there a specific format we should use for the EOI?
A24	<i>No.</i>
Q25	Who will be selecting the 300 trainees?
A25	<i>In the first instance, the participating ESPs. If there are places available after this, then the Service Provider may be required to recruit trainees, on a transparent and equitable basis.</i>
Q26	A minimum of 2 contracts of similar annual value, nature and complexity implemented in the last three years - > Could you be more precise about what is the minimum value those references should reach?
A26	<i>Please see answer to Q5 above.</i>