

## Questions from Prospective Bidders and Replies to them

**Q.** Can the team include individuals as consultants in the proposed evaluation team if they are affiliated to organizations that are Stop TB Partners?

**Answer:** Yes, provided such person(s) are not working for the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat and if the organizations they are affiliated to (the partner organization) is not currently receiving any Grant from the Stop TB Partnership Trust Fund at WHO. Attention is drawn to the conflict of interest clause in Section 1 of the RFP; this clause must be adhered to in the submitted proposal.

**Q.** How can GSTBP-WHO expect proposers to reconcile the inherent limitations of a cross-sectional evaluation conducted over a relatively brief six-month time frame, with the interest of GSTBP-WHO to explore outcome-level variables that would require a more experimental or longitudinal design and involve an inherently different evaluation methodology? Can GSTBP-WHO provide clarification regarding the intended scope and formative parameters of the evaluation?

**Answer:** The evaluation will need to principally answer the fundamental questions set out in the RFP. The design of the evaluation and the proposed methodology will need to have elements that will produce defensible results bearing in mind the time constraints. A balance will have to be struck between a Randomized Controlled Study (RCT) and a cross sectional one. It is perhaps worth bearing in mind that proper design and conducting of the evaluation study is more important than only the rigor of the methodology selected. The intended scope and formative parameters have been clearly spelt out in the RFP. The TORs give information for bidders to propose an appropriate design and methodology for the evaluation.

**Q.** Should the price and the period of performance include the final report due in January 2008 and the presentation of key findings to the Coordinating Board at its meeting in Spring 2008?

**Answer:** The period of performance should include the period up-to presentation at the Spring Meeting of the CB. It should of course be borne in mind that after presentation of the final report the only activity would be presentation of the findings of the evaluation at the CB meeting if so requested.

**Q.** Given that the RFP directs the use of "stakeholder views as primary source of information", to what extent does GSTBP-WHO expect the proposer to outline a quantitative data-based evaluation methodology, such as the use of morbidity/mortality statistics as a fundamental consideration in the evaluation?

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**Answer:** To the extent necessary to answer unambiguously two fundamental questions highlighted in the TORs (Section 5: Annex 2).

**Q.** What level and type of quantitative data will GSTBP-WHO provide (such as morbidity/mortality data, or project cost and resource data to address question of efficiency or fundraising) to its contractor for use in the evaluation? Do the data exist electronically?

**Answer:** To the extent this information is available in WHO databases. The nature and extent of data available can be seen from the Annual TB control report (and annexes, both in pdf and xls) of WHO which is available on the WHO/Stop TB Partnership web site (2007 report is the latest available). It has comprehensive epidemiological and financial information. The database underlying this will be accessible to the evaluation team selected.

**Q.** What data is collected by the country programs on their activities? Is the data collection a centralized effort (i.e. coordinated by the Partnership, coordinated data elements, etc.). What data elements are they collecting? Do the data exist electronically?

**Answer:** Country programmes collect this data and it is available in the WHO database. The selected evaluation team will have access to this database. The attached data collection form gives the data elements to be collected.

**Q.** Should we assume that the GSTBP-WHO will facilitate access to all the high-level people we'd need to speak/meet with?

**Answer:** Yes, to the extent practicable.

**Q.** Does GSTBP/WHO provide translators when needed?

**Answer:** No. Though WHO documents are generally available in English, French and Spanish.

**Q.** What is the funding structure model for payment for the evaluation?

**Answer:** Firm fixed price contract will be used with various elements as set out in Section 4 of the RFP. One can quote in US\$ or Euro. The proposers will be paid in either Euro if the proposal is in Euro, or US\$ if the proposal is in US\$. Only one of the two currencies should be used. Fees are to be included in the firm fixed price for the work to be undertaken. Please see Section 1 Part B of the RFP. A detailed budget is expected in the financial part of the proposal.

**Q.** Are visits envisaged to potentially dangerous areas e.g. countries that are war torn?

**Answer:** No