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BI-Bujumbura: EDF — technical assistance contract for the implementation of the support project for health sector policy in Burundi — 'Amagara Meza'

2011/S 97-158100

Location: Central Africa; please note that Burundi has joined the East African Community — Burundi

Service procurement notice

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):

Main object:

71356200 Technical assistance services

1. **Publication reference:**
EuropeAid/131179/D/SER/BI.
Internet address(es):
general address of the contracting authority: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1302516430127&do=publi.welcome>
2. **Procedure:**
Restricted.
3. **Programme:**
9th or 10th EDF.
4. **Financing:**
Financing agreement.
5. **Contracting authority:**
National Authorising Officer, Bujumbura, BURUNDI.
6. **Nature of contract:**
Fee-based.
7. **Contract description:**
Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the European Union and Burundi 2008-2013 (10th EDF), support for the development of the health sector is one of the priorities of bilateral aid. This includes a support project for health sector policy in Burundi ('Amagara Meza'), with a duration of 4 years. Its total budget is 25 000 000 EUR. It consists of 3 main sections:
 - i) universal coverage;
 - ii) improvement in the quality of health service provision;
 - iii) institutional development.It will follow on from the 'Santé Plus' project (9th EDF), which was launched in April 2008 and will end in June 2011. 'Santé Plus' has been implemented in 6 of the country's 17 provinces (Bururi, Cankuzo, Karusi, Makamba, Rutana, Ruyigi). 'Amagara Meza' will cover 2 additional provinces (Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza) and will consolidate and capitalise on what 'Santé Plus' has achieved while working on new developments. Nearly 50 % of the population will be involved, as well as 300 health facilities.
This invitation to tender covers a sizeable long-term technical assistance section consisting of 5 technical assistants divided up as follows:
 1. at central level: 3 experts (public health, health financing including PBF, and medicines), and

2. at decentralised level: 2 experts on putting health districts into operation: district approach and implementation of primary healthcare for one and hospital management for the other.

This invitation to tender also includes a short-term assistance section (public finance, auditing, cost accounting, architecture, biomedical engineering, medication regulation, communication).

NB: PBF is a system to encourage quality in health services associated with the system of free treatment introduced in 2006 for the benefit of children under 5 and pregnant women.

8. **Numbers and titles of lots:**

The contract is divided into lots: no, 1 lot only.

9. **Budget:**

Maximum budget: 5 000 000 EUR.

10. **Scope for additional services:**

The contracting authority may, at its own discretion, extend the project in duration and/or scope, subject to the availability of funding, up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor.

Conditions of participation

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation in tendering is open on equal terms to natural and legal persons participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers which are established in 1 of the Member States of the European Union, ACP States or in a country or territory authorised by the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement under which the contract is financed (see also heading 29 below). Participation is also open to international organisations.

12. **Candidature:**

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 11 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may apply. A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation of an ineligible natural or legal person (as per item 11) will result in the automatic exclusion of that person. In particular, if that ineligible person belongs to a consortium, the whole consortium will be excluded.

13. **Number of applications:**

No more than 1 application can be submitted by a natural or legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or member of a consortium submitting an application). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than 1 application, all applications in which that person has participated will be excluded.

14. **Shortlist alliances prohibited:**

Any tenders received from tenderers having a different composition than the ones on the application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure, unless prior approval from the contracting authority has been obtained (see PRAG 2.4.3). Shortlisted candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

15. **Grounds for exclusion:**

As part of the application form, candidates must submit a signed declaration, included in the standard application form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is not allowed.

17. **Number of candidates to be shortlisted:**

On the basis of the applications received, at least 4 and at most 8 candidates will be invited to submit detailed tenders for this contract. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite the candidates who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender.

Provisional timetable

18. **Provisional date of invitation to tender:**

8.7.2011.

19. **Provisional commencement date of the contract:**

3.10.2011.

20. **Initial period of implementation of tasks:**

Duration in months: 46 (from the award of the contract).

Selection and award criteria

21. **Selection criteria:**

Same criteria for legal and natural person.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. In the case of applications submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole.

1) Economic and financial capacity of candidate:

in case of applicant being a public body equivalent information should be provided:

1. the average annual turnover of the candidate must exceed the annualised maximum budget of the contract (i.e. the maximum budget stated in the procurement notice divided by the initial contract duration in years, where this exceeds 1 year);
2. the averages of cash and cash equivalents at the beginning and end of year are positive.

2) Professional capacity of candidate:

1. at least 40 % of staff currently work for the applicant in fields related to this contract (public health and health economics);
2. at least 20 % of people working in fields related to this contract (public health and health economics) must be employed on a permanent basis by the candidate.

3) Technical capacity of candidate:

1. the candidate has worked successfully (final reports and final evaluation approved) over the past 5 years in sub-Saharan Africa on at least 3 projects with budgets equivalent to at least 50 % of the budget of this contract and in fields relevant to this contract (public health and health economics);
2. the candidate has proven experience in the field of formalising contracts and Results-Based Financing/ Performance-Based Financing (RBF/PBF), which must have been an element of at least 2 projects carried out by the candidate over the past 5 years.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. Some examples of when it may not be considered appropriate by the contracting authority are when the tenderers rely in majority on the capacities of other entities or when they rely on key criteria. If the candidate relies on other entities it must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility, and notably that of nationality, as the economic operator. Furthermore, the data for these third entities for the relevant selection criterion should be included in the tender in a separate document. Proof of the capacity will also have to be furnished when requested by the contracting authority.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the applications of these candidates must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications for the tender procedure. The only factors which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination are:

1. the number of projects with a budget equivalent to at least 50 % of the budget of this contract and in fields relevant to this contract (public health and health economics, including performance-based payment) successfully completed (evidenced by final reports and external evaluations) by the candidate over the past 3 years;
2. the number of projects carried out over the past 5 years in the field of health, including on the one hand a sectoral approach and/or on the other hand support for decentralisation of the health system, strategic planning or structuring the pharmaceutical life cycle;
3. the number of projects carried out over the past 3 years in the field of public health and health economics in Central and East Africa.

22. **Award criteria:**

Best value for money.

Application

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**

20.6.2011 (12:00), local time.

Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.

24. **Applications format and details to be provided:**

Applications must be submitted using the standard application form, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The application form is available at the following Internet address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_fr.htm

Any additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with an application will not be taken into consideration.

25. **How applications may be submitted:**

Applications must be submitted exclusively to the contracting authority in French:

— either by recorded delivery (official postal service) to: National Authorising Officer Support Unit, PO Box 462, Bujumbura, BURUNDI,

— or hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to the above-mentioned address.

The contract title and the publication reference (see item 1 above) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the application and must always be mentioned in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority.

Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered.

26. **Alteration or withdrawal of applications:**

Candidates may alter or withdraw their applications by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of applications. No applications may be altered after this deadline.

Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with item 25.

The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Modification' (alteration) or 'Retrait' (withdrawal) as appropriate.

27. **Operational language:**

All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in French.

28. **Date of publication of contract forecast notice:**

25.3.2011.

29. **Legal basis:**

9th or 10th EDF: ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23.6.2000, as amended.

30. **Additional information:**

Please note that the awarding of the contract is subject to the condition of the prior conclusion of a financing agreement.

This condition does not modify the elements of the procurement procedure (this will be the case, for instance, if the budgetary envelope initially foreseen is different or if the time frame, the nature or the condition of the implementation are altered).

If the precedent condition is not met, the contracting authority will either abandon the procurement or cancel the award procedure without the candidates or tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation.

31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

12.5.2011.