

Request for Information in preparation of the tender Evaluations International Programmes

Organisation: Netherlands Enterprise Agency, part of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate

Reference: 202311014

Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (in Dutch: Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, RVO) supports private and public organisations with funding, international business partners, knowledge, and regulations.

More information about RVO can be found on: www.rvo.nl and <http://english.rvo.nl/>.>>

Department of International Development

The beneficial owner of this contract is the department for International Development of RVO. This department mostly executes programs in and with entrepreneurs and institutions in developing countries. The majority of these International Development programs are commissioned by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These programs and the project portfolio of these programs aim to contribute to the SDG's and cover a wide variety of sectors, i.e. private sector development, public private partnerships, food security, land rights, water, infrastructure, energy, responsible business conduct, and justice & culture, in different countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Currently, about 34 international development programs are executed in about 100 countries by this department, which vary in size (number of projects) and budget. Please visit RVO's website for more information on these programs at: <http://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programs>. More information on the projects supported by these programs can be found on RVO's open data website www.aiddata.rvo.nl which provides information on the sectors, countries, budgets and participating organisations.

Purpose of this request for information

The purpose of this request for information is:

- To find out which parties potentially are interested in the tendering procedure and the contract;
- To optimise the distinctiveness of the tendering procedure;
- To ensure that the tender is well aligned with the interests of the tenderers;
- To collect suggestions from potentially interested parties on possible adjustments for the tendering procedure and the contract.

Reason for the tendering procedure

RVO needs independent evaluators for two main categories of evaluations:

1. Mandatory external outcome and impact evaluations - The Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does regular policy evaluation of aspects of the Dutch development cooperation policy. In order for IOB to do a proper evaluation of RVO's programs in accordance with the Order on Periodic Evaluations (<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0040754/2018-03-27>), RVO is obliged to conduct external impact evaluations of the development programs that spend over € 10 million per year.
2. Non/mandatory programme or project evaluation – Programmes or projects falling outside the above category because of their value, but due to the content of the programme relevant to evaluate externally.

In order to continuously improve effectiveness and to account for the results of RVO International Development programs, our monitoring and evaluation strongly focuses on learning and fostering adaptive programming. The feedback provided by evaluations is used to improve the quality of programmes, policymaking and policy implementation.

The purpose of the tendering procedure is to select suitable evaluators for the abovementioned evaluations.

Description and objective of the contract

RVO considers evaluation not only important for accountability purposes, but also for policy learning and adjusting program or project activities. Therefore, the scope of the framework agreement includes impact, outcome¹ and formative evaluations. The contracting authority is looking for parties that can do monitoring activities, performance management, process evaluations, thematic evaluations, outcome, cost-benefit, and impact evaluations. These parties should be evaluators that are able to evaluate the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of RVO's programs and projects. Furthermore, they should be experienced with the use of qualitative and quantitative complexity aware evaluation methodologies suitable for demonstrating a plausible contribution claim. We are searching for evaluators with a high level of thematic expertise and who are experienced with and willing to collaborate closely with local experts from programme countries.

Type of evaluations

Examples of assignments within the framework agreement include: baseline studies, process evaluations, mid-term reviews, end evaluations and ex post evaluations. The types of methods to be used include: quasi-experimental approaches, comparative case-studies, contribution analysis, cost-benefit analyses, and systems analysis.

Annex 1 gives an overview of evaluations that are expected under this framework agreement. Please do note that these give a more detailed idea of the thematic expertise required but that these are subject to change.

Out-of-scope

Country specific evaluations are out of scope for the contract. This means that studies or evaluations focusing exclusively on one country are outside the scope of the contract and will be tendered separately when desired.

Duration of the assignment

RVO intends to conclude a framework agreement for an initial contract period of 24 months, including two unilateral options for the contracting authority to extend the framework agreement by 12 months. The maximum duration of the framework agreement will be 48 months.

Budget indication

Although it is not yet clear what the budget for the framework agreement will be, RVO currently estimates it will be EUR 5,000,000, excluding Dutch VAT and including any other costs and/or local VAT.

Quality award criteria

The tendering authority intends to assess the quality of the tenders on the basis of the following award criteria:

1. Quality of the evaluation report and (executive) summary (for this criterion you must provide a sample report). The quality will be assessed on the basis of:
 - a. Clear summary;
 - b. Appropriate methodology;
 - c. Transparency and reliability of data sources, collection, and analysis;
 - d. Solid foundation of conclusions and recommendations;
 - e. Representativeness of sample or selection of case studies /interviewees;
 - f. Independence of the information sources from stakeholders;
 - g. Contribution to the contracting party's learning;
 - h. Contribution of effects to the intervention;
2. Level of expertise¹ on the following core themes:
 - a. Water: integrated water resource management, climate adaptation (river basin management, land subsidence), safer deltas and improved water management, emergency response to water disaster, and WASH;
 - b. Private sector development: stable business environment and solid entrepreneurship, sustainable value chains, employment opportunities, digitalization, sustainable trade, and investment by Dutch companies in international markets;
 - c. Food security: resilience of local food systems, sustainable management of land and water, local value chains, and land rights;
 - d. Energy and climate: access to renewable energy, clean cooking solutions, just energy transition, climate mitigation, and climate diplomacy;
 - e. Responsible Business Conduct (as impact): combating child labour, sustainable value chains, improving working conditions, and due diligence);
3. Level of experience in analysing on following cross-cutting themes in evaluations:
 - a. Systems and transitions thinking;
 - b. Gender and social inclusion;
 - c. Greening and biodiversity;
 - d. Climate;
 - e. Responsible Business Conduct (as prerequisite/standard);
4. Local network in our programme countries and level of involvement of local expertise;
5. Knowledge of and experience with relevant evaluation approaches ([Evaluation Approaches | Better Evaluation](#));
6. Knowledge of and experience with integrating 'learning' in evaluation studies.

Questions

Please answer the following questions:

1. Would you be interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned assignment considering the description and planning of the assignment?
2. Do you have any suggestions to improve the distinctiveness of the quality award criteria?
3. What would in your opinion be the best way to assess quality criteria 2 (expertise on core themes), 3 (experience cross-cutting themes), 4 (local network and expertise), and 5 (evaluation approaches)? I.e. what would be a good response to a criterion and what would be a less good response?
4. The current framework agreement has a large number of contractors per lot. The new framework agreement will not be divided into lots. With this in mind, we would like you to tell us which of the two scenarios below you prefer and why:
 1. RVO concludes a framework agreement with a greater number of tenderers which, for each tenderer, creates a greater chance of winning the framework agreement.

¹ Please note that we expect the tenderer to have expertise on a limited set of themes only, and to collaborate with other thematic experts – preferably from the programme countries of the specific evaluations.

The downside of this scenario is that contractors have a smaller chance of being awarded a further agreement under the framework agreement.

2. RVO concludes a framework agreement with a smaller number of tenderers which, for each contractor, creates a greater chance of winning a further agreement under the framework agreement. The downside of this scenario is that tenderers have a smaller chance of being awarded the framework agreement.
5. Do you have any comments or suggestions for improvement of the tendering procedure or the contract? If so, please list them accordingly.

Application

Interested companies are invited to send an expression of interest to the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, by sending an e-mail to thomas.vanoudheusden@rvo.nl and gulce.yigit@rvo.nl. Please state the name of the contact person of your company and his or her e-mail address.

Follow-up

After processing the information collected with this RfI Netherlands Enterprise Agency will start an European open tender procedure. Interested parties will be invited to participate in this procedure via TenderNed (www.tenderned.nl).

Netherlands Enterprise Agency can use the information collected as a result of this request for information when revising the assignment. Candidates should note that information they provide in the context of this request for information may be made public (albeit in anonymised form).

In the follow-up process, no distinction will be made between parties that have or have not participated in this RfI-procedure.

Time schedule follow-up

At this moment it is not yet clear what the time schedule for the tendering procedure will be but the contracting authority aims to publish the tender in April.

Deadline

The deadline for responding to this request for information is set at **22 March 2024, at 17:00h CET**

Yours sincerely,

Thomas van Oudheusden
Senior procurement consultant

Procurement Office
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Annex 1. Preliminary overview of planned programme evaluations 2024 – 2028

Policy theme	Programme	Year	Type of evaluation
Energy and Climate	African Biodigester Component (ABC)	2026	End-evaluation
	Higher Tier Cooking Component (HTCC)	2025	End-evaluation
	Energising Development (EnDev)	2024-2026	Real-time evaluation
	SDG7 Results (access to energy)	2026	Mid-term evaluation
Water	Dutch Disaster Risk Reduction (DRRS)	?	Mid-term evaluation
	Partners voor Water (PvW5)	?	Mid-term evaluation
	Reversing the Flow	2028	Mid-term evaluation
Responsible Business Conduct	Social Sustainability Fund	2026	Mid-term evaluation
	Fund for Responsible Business (FVO)	2024-2027	Mid-term and impact evaluation
	Sectoral Partnerships	2026-2028	Mid-term and impact evaluation
	CSR helpdesk	2025	Mid-term evaluation
Private sector development	Centre for the promotion of imports from developing countries (CBI)	2026-2028	Process and outcome evaluation
	Private Sector Development Toolkit	2026	Mid-term evaluation and end- evaluation
Food security	SDG2 Initiative	?	Mid-term evaluation
Other:			
Health	Fonds Product Development Partnerships (PDP IV)	2025	Mid-term evaluation
Innovation	SBIR for developing markets	2024	Mid-term evaluation
Justice	Makandra	2025	End-evaluation
	Matra	?	Mid-term evaluation
	Shiraka	?	Mid-term evaluation

NB: This overview is subject to change in terms of programmes, but also in terms of year and type of evaluation.