

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Political Economy Analysis Support

The USAID funded Local Health System Sustainability (LHSS) DRC Activity is seeking a contractor to provide Political Economy Analysis (PEA) technical assistance support.

RFP Release: November 21, 2024

Responses Due: November 29, 2024

Send proposals electronically to:

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A. Background

Overview of LHSS:

The LHSS project is USAID's flagship initiative in strengthening integrated health systems, with the goal of helping low- and middle-income countries move to sustainable, self-funded health systems to support universal health coverage. Led by Abt Global, this six-year project works with partner countries and local stakeholders to reduce financial barriers to care and treatment, ensure equitable access to essential health services for all, and improve the quality of health services.

Overview of LHSS DRC Activity:

The LHSS DRC Activity is supporting USAID/DRC to conduct a PEA of DRC's central level Human Resources for Health (HRH) Management. The analysis aims to examine the political, economic, social, and cultural forces that contribute to understanding the political dynamics for driving reforms, and how HRH is managed by the Ministry of Health, and to identify the root causes that underly the ostensible lack of action on recommendations coming out of the 2023/2024 World Bank report on HRH. Based on these root causes, the applied PEA will provide recommendations for potential intervention strategies, which should include recommendations for advocacy that could be implemented and tested as part of USAID's support to the MOH. The PEA will support USAID, DRC's MOH, and other in-country partners and stakeholders in their efforts to think and work politically, by understanding the root causes of challenges and proposing politically informed options for improving HRH management. LHSS will compile its findings from its analyses into a final report, which will provide actionable recommendations that will help inform the DRC government, local stakeholders, and USAID's efforts to appropriately allocate resources in support HRH management.

Objectives:

LHSS is seeking an experienced PEA contractor to support the PEA of HRH management in DRC. The contractor must have an extensive background in PEA methodologies and would ideally be

familiar with the health sector, public health supply chains, the public service provision landscape, and the West/Central Africa context.

The contractor will be expected to familiarize themselves with HRH management in country and the MOH’s performance challenges and lead the PEA. This will include: 1) conducting a desk review analysis of existing PEAs in DRC and research on the structural and institutional factors affecting HRH management 2) co-developing tools and lines of inquiry with the Activity’s technical team 3) guiding/liasing with an in-country local HRH consultant to oversee interviews with influential actors at the MOH, other DRC ministries, and other organizations involved in HRH management, as appropriate; 4) conducting synthesis of findings with inputs from the local HRH consultant; and 5) developing the final report with key findings and recommendations. The period of performance for this activity will go through March 2025.

B. Subcontractor’s Key Tasks:

The subcontractor will have the following duties and responsibilities in relation to the PEA:

- Conduct a desk-based review of HRH management in DRC ongoing challenges existing PEAs of the health sector in DRC, and other relevant documents provided by Abt Global (e.g., World Bank Report and national health sector strategies, etc.).
- Contribute to the co-development of tools and lines of inquiry with the Activity technical team to ensure a greater level of creative control and ownership of the direction of the PEA.
- Travel to Kinshasa to oversee and aid in the continuous analysis and triangulation of stakeholder interviews in collaboration with a local HRH consultant.
- Analyze findings of the PEA and produce a final report with actionable recommendations.

C. Expected Deliverables Schedule

| Deliverables | Anticipated Due date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Summary of the desk-based review highlighting key issues related to HRH Management and ongoing challenges. The content can be presented in bullet points. The document should be no more than five pages (excluding the list of references). | <u>12/18/24</u> |
| 2. Interview guide, including lines of inquiry, for the PEA. This will be co-developed with the LHSS team | <u>12/28/24</u> |
| 3. Notes and completed tools used for analysis | <u>1/20/25</u> |
| 4. Draft report synthesizing findings and offering recommendations. | <u>2/1/25</u> |
| 5. Final report synthesizing findings and offering recommendations. | <u>2/20/25</u> |

D. Qualifications:

- Technical expertise with the following requirements:
 - At least 15 years of relevant professional experience in leading complex public financial PEAs, preferably in the health or public administration sector. Experience in working with USAID programs is preferred (but not required).
 - Recognized expertise in PEA, with demonstrated success in strengthening public management systems, preferably in the health sector.
 - Proven track record of working effectively with government counterparts at various levels, ideally in Africa. Experience in DRC is preferred.
 - Substantial low-and middle-income country experience, combining health systems strengthening and broad competencies in PEA, capacity strengthening, and other functions (preferred).
 - Demonstrated leadership and management skills and ability to lead and motivate multidisciplinary, multicultural teams.
 - Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with USAID, ministry officials, and other development partners and a proven track record of interacting with other projects, high-level host country governments and international agencies.

Proposals will be evaluated on a trade-off source selection process. Award will be made to the bidder whose final offer represents the best value using a combination of cost/price and technical or non-cost/price factors described below.

E. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on a trade-off source selection process. Award will be made to the bidder whose final offer represents the best value using a combination of cost/price and technical or non-cost/price factors described below

| Criteria | Points |
|---|---------------|
| 1. CVs of Personnel Proposed | 20 |
| 2. Organization or Individual’s Background, Experience and References | 20 |
| 3. Technical proposal | 40 |
| 4. Cost proposal | 20 |
| Total | 100 |

F. RFP and Proposed Project Timeline Details

| Event | Date and Time |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| RFP Issued | November 21, 2024 |
| Proposals Due | November 29, 2024 |
| Winner Selected and Contacted | December 2, 2024 |
| Contract Award | December 6, 2024 |
| Project Kick Off | December 9, 2024 |

G. General Conditions

1. Abt Global reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or portions of them, to waive irregularities, informalities, and technicalities, to re-issue or to proceed to obtain the service(s) desired otherwise, at any time or in any manner considered in Abt Global best interests.
2. Abt Global may, at its sole discretion, modify or amend any provision of this RFP.
3. Issuance of this RFP in no way obligates Abt Global to make an award. Bidders will not be reimbursed for any costs associated with the preparation of their proposal.
4. All sales, supporting materials, and other documentation submitted with the proposal will become the property of Abt unless otherwise requested by the bidder in writing at the time of submission.
5. All offers shall remain valid for ninety (90) calendar days after the required submittal date stated above and must be submitted with a signed letter of transmittal. The letter must be signed by a person authorized to contractually bind the solicitant to the scope, terms and conditions, specifications, and pricing contained in their proposal

Thank you for your interest in the organizational capacity assessment solicitation. We look forward to receiving your proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Fenn – melinda.fenn@abtglobal.com