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| **1** | **Question:** | Request for the application number?  |
| **Answer:** | The application number is RFA 001. The application should reference “MIHR South Sudan Social Norms Qualitative Study - RFA #001” |

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| **2** | **Question:** | Is it possible to apply for only one location? |
| **Answer:** | No, the applicant research firm must apply to work in all locations noted in the RFA. |

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| **3** | **Question:** | Can you provide more details about the fixed funding amount and budget for this scope of work? |
| **Answer:** | Please provide your best and most realistic proposed cost for this study. The budget should relate to results while also showing a type of cost for each activity, outlining the costs of the proposed activity/project to be realistic and reasonable for the work under the Program Description. For further guidance please refer to section “Budgeting Guidelines” in the RFA.  |

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| **4** | **Question:** | Given that “saturation” is meant to guide the number of IDIs ultimately conducted, is it safe to assume that the numbers of IDIs presented in Table 2 present the upper bound for the purpose of budgeting? |
| **Answer:** | Use Table 2 for budgeting purposes. If there are changes in the sample size once this research begins, this will be discussed at this time. |

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| **5** | **Question:** | There are a few aspects of this study that suggest a semi-structured questionnaire might be optimal. Such a questionnaire would have elements of the survey pre-programmed in a closed-end CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing) format. This structured portion of the survey would include standard demographic and location information. There might also be aspects of the respondents’ responses to vignettes that could be usefully coded by enumerators into a structured format. Audio recordings could then be used later to address the narrative aspects of respondents and facilitate further qualitative coding and exploration. We would like to know: Is this approach of a semi-structured format something that the principal investigators are willing to consider? |
| **Answer:** | Data collection will include structured and semi-structured data, such as demographic data and Likert scales. Please consider formats and software platforms to capture this structured and semi-structured data. However, responses to vignettes will open-ended. We anticipate open-ended responses will be captured and recorded on mobile devices. Please note that MIHR can assist with software selection and programming, but the mobile devices and needed software should be included in the research firm’s budget. |

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| **6** | **Question:** | Is coding in a qualitative coding software (e.g., AtlasTI) the primary intended analysis technique for the vignette data? |
| **Answer:** | We plan to use Dedoose, but if the Research Firm prefers another qualitative analytic software package that does not increase the budget significantly, MIHR is open to this. Also, we expect to include a manual review of the data to capture themes, quotes, and other key elements that may not clearly be identified through the use of the qualitative software. |

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| **7** | **Question:** | Page 13 of the RFP says, “Qualified applicants may be non-governmental organizations, registered as a legal entity, and organized under the local laws, having its principal place of business in South Sudan". Can you clarify if for-profit organizations may apply? |
| **Answer:** | Not-for-profit and for-profit firms may apply. However, governmental organizations are not eligible for these funds, so may not apply. |

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| **8** | **Question:** | Page 4 of the RFP lists "Data transcription, as needed".  Can you elaborate on what this will entail exactly? |
| **Answer:** | Qualitative responses gathered during interviews and in response to the vignettes will need to be transcribed, and non-English transcriptions will need to be translated. For quality assurance purposes, a sample of all translations will need to be translated back to the local language to check the accuracy of translations. |

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| **9** | **Question:** | As the study is going to be conducted in five locations across the county, how would the data collectors be trained, could they be trained in their respective locations or bring all of them to one place. Bringing all of them to one place is the best approach, however, considering the constraint imposed by COVID-19, ~~SSHDO~~ suggested the training to be conducted in the study location, what do you advise. |
| **Answer:** | Research firm should propose how they prefer to implement this training. We want to ensure the same content and quality across all 5 locations if training is split. If the research firm proposes training altogether, please address that the room will be large enough to accommodate social distancing, with adequate air circulation. Training outdoors would be preferred, but MIHR recognizes that this may not be feasible given the need for computers and monitors for slide projections. All training must include COVID-19 precautions, including face mask-wearing, availability of hand sanitizer, and social distancing. |

Applicants are kindly reminded to submit applications/proposals in response to the RFA 001 by **17:00 PM South Sudan Time on February 2, 2021.** *Please note that MIHR & IMA will not accept responsibility for delays with transmission or receipt of application. Applications received after that date and/or time specified may not be considered.*