

USAID Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan Activity (RASS)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Issue date: 25, July 2022

Deadline: 5, August 2022

Request No: RASS-JBA-22-0086

Recruitment of STTA VSLA Expert to develop a robust VSLAs training curriculum that incorporates all the major thematic areas essential for the formation and establishment, organizational and management as well as functionality of VSLAs groups in the context of South Sudan

NOTICE: Prospective Consultants who have received this document from a source other than the RASS Activity should immediately contact rass_procurement@rassactivity.org and provide their name and mailing address so that any amendments to this RFQ or other solicitation-related communications can be sent directly to them. Any prospective Consultants who fail to register their interest with DAI/RASS assumes complete responsibility if they do not receive communications prior to the closing date of this RFQ. Any amendments to this solicitation will be issued via email.

Issuance of this RFQ in no way obligates DAI to award an Independent Consultant Agreement and Consultants will not be reimbursed for any costs associated with the preparation of their application. No

discussions or negotiations are permitted with Consultants under this RFQ. Consultants shall submit their best and final price.

Request for Qualifications – Individual Consultant recruitment

Overview: DAI Global LLC, a legally registered company in South Sudan and implementer of the USAID-funded Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity, hereby invites eligible Individual Consultants to provide Individual Consultant Services to develop VSLA training curriculum. The RASS Activity will improve food security and community household recovery and resilience in 13 target counties, reducing long term reliance on humanitarian assistance (HA).

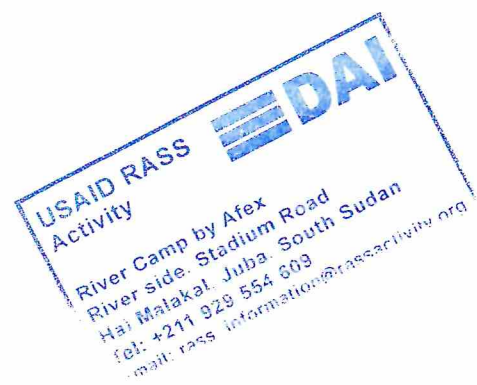
1. RFQ No.	RASS-RFQ-JBA-22-0086
2. Issuance Date	July 25th, 2022
3. Title	Short Term Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum
4. Issuing Office	DAI Global LLC USAID-funded RASS Activity Afex Camp River, Hai Malakal, alongside Nile River, Juba, South Sudan
5. Email Address for Submission of Quotations	All quotes must be submitted by email to rass_submissions@rassactivity.org with "Consultancy Services for development of VSLA training curriculum-Name of consultant" in the email subject line. Any other form of submission will not be accepted.
6. Deadline for Receipt of Quotes	17:00 CAT, 5 th Aug, 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.
7. Submission of Questions / Clarification Requests	Consultants may submit questions and requests for clarifications by email no later than August 3, 2022 at 17:00 CAT. Please only submit questions to: rass_procurement@rassactivity.org . All questions received will be compiled and answered in writing and distributed to all registered Consultants.
8. Anticipated Award Type	DAI anticipates awarding an Independent Consultant Agreement (ICA) for the services
9. Basis for Award	Any application that does not meet the technical minimum score of 70 out of 100 points will be rejected. Any application that does not meet the mandatory criteria set out in Attachment B will be rejected. The candidate who meets the selection criteria will be invited for an interview. The final candidates that successfully pass the interview will be recommended for award upon satisfactory reference checks, document verification for successful candidates and screening requirements. To be considered for award, Consultants must follow the instructions provided in this RFQ, submit a complete application (see section 11), and meet all of the requirements identified in Sections 10, 12 and 13 prior to award.
10. Technical Specifications and Requirements	See Attachment A – Terms of references See Attachment B – Evaluation criteria
11. Complete Applications Response	A complete submission in response to this RFQ includes: 1. Attachment C – Application submission form Form 1. CV with relevant attachments

<p>12. General Instructions to Consultants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum is responsible for reading very carefully and understanding fully the terms and conditions of this RFQ. Failure to do so will be at the Consultant's risk. • All communications regarding this solicitation are to be made solely through the Issuing Office and must be submitted via email. • If this RFQ solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions not modified through the amendment shall remain unchanged • By submitting an application, The Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum fully understand that their quote must be valid for a period of 30 days, which shall be indicated in the cover letter submission. • Consultants shall submit applications
<p>13. Procurement Ethics</p>	<p>By applying, technical assistance for development of VSLA training curriculum consultant certify that they have not/will not attempt to bribe or make any payments to DAI employees in return for preference, nor have any payments with Terrorists, or groups supporting Terrorists, been attempted. Any such practice constitutes an unethical, illegal, and corrupt practice and either the Bidders or the DAI staff may report violations to the Toll-Free Ethics and Compliance Anonymous Hotline at +1 855-603-6987, via the DAI website, or via email to FPI_hotline@dai.com.</p>

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Attachment A

TERMS OF REFERENCES

1) RASS ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

USAID's four-year (2021-2025) Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity will improve food security and community household recovery and resilience in 13 target counties, reducing long term reliance on humanitarian assistance. To achieve this ambitious aim, RASS will employ a resilience pathways approach to improve the effectiveness of local systems and strengthen the capacities of community groups to achieve gender responsive and diversified market-sensitive production; facilitate increased production of diverse nutritious foods by strengthening productivity, reducing food loss, and improving nutrition behaviours; and strengthen and expand household and community opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods. RASS targets graduating communities from high integrated food security phase classifications to low IPC acute food insecurity and support a change from a focus on humanitarian assistance to inclusive development assistance and economic growth.

USAID has designed the RASS Activity as a vital companion to the many humanitarians' relief and recovery efforts. Layering, sequencing, and integrating development activities with these efforts, RASS will strengthen capacities to sustain gender-responsive, diversified, and market-sensitive agricultural production; increase availability of, access to, and utilization of diverse, safe, and affordable diet; and expand opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods, thereby graduating communities from emergency to insecure, per the IPC classification.

2) BACKGROUND

South Sudan's rural areas are generally remote, with poor infrastructure, limited health and education services, weak institutions, lack of opportunity, and a nascent private sector. Largely outside the formal economy, livelihoods are resource-based and often insufficient to enable households to sustain and recover from reoccurring shocks and stresses and break out of poverty. According to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) scale, most of South Sudan is in a state of acute food insecurity (phase 3), or worse, in a food emergency (phase 4), indicating severe levels of acute and chronic malnutrition.

Extended periods of intense conflict for more than 40 years have weakened social cohesion, eroded trust within and between communities, and resulted in significant levels of trauma and gender-based violence (GBV). Women have had less access and agency in economic, political, and social decision making and opportunities due to existing gender inequalities, patriarchal social norms, and an aggressive form of masculinity. Polygyny and early and forced marriage are legal and constitute an impediment toward women's agency, equality, and result in severe negative consequences for girls/women's health. Historic tensions, a "gun culture," increasing competition for natural resources, lack of employment options, inflation of the "bride price," and the combination of weak infrastructure and unpredictable civil insecurity present a challenging operating environment.

3) CONTEXT OF THE Short-Term Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum

GENERAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Key Performance Areas

The VSLAs expert is expected to develop a robust VSLAs training curriculum that incorporates all the major thematic areas essential for the formation and establishment, organizational and management as well as functionality of VSLAs groups in the context of South Sudan. This must emphasize accountable governance, standard procedures and simple accounting that members need to understand and trust. Hence, stimulating upscaling of the VSLAs model of financing household-level enterprises in a sustainable manner. The curriculum should also include linkage training protocol to assist mature VSLAs establish and become active users of formal saving accounts in the banks to be able to access products and providers. The expected output from these processes is an approved training curriculum on VSLAs.

In addition, the expert is expected to review other relevant and already developed documents including, but not limited to training curriculum capturing all components of Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) pathways; Farming as a Family Business (FaaFB) training curriculum; capacity building curriculum for community groups, Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) and cooperatives; and capacity building curriculum to increase availability and access to nutritious food. This aims at ensuring all these curricula are up to standard, intertwined, and communicate to each other and the key underlying factors of gender responsiveness and resilience for impactful capacity building roll-out. All the training curricula should have recommended timeframe to guide implementation of the modules.

4) PERIOD AND PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is expected from 21 days from the date of contract signature.

DAI/RASS will contract the Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum on the following Level of Efforts (LOE):

	County	Estimated Number of Days for Completion
	Juba or homebased	Total 21 days consultancy

5) EXPECTED RESULTS AND SUPPORT

5.1) RASS expectations of the Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum.

Key Performance Areas

- The VSLAs expert is expected to develop a robust VSLAs training curriculum that incorporates all the major thematic areas essential for the formation and establishment, organizational and management as well as functionality of VSLAs groups in the context of South Sudan. This must emphasize accountable governance, standard procedures and simple accounting that members need to understand and trust.
- Hence, stimulating upscaling of the VSLAs model of financing household-level enterprises in a sustainable manner.
- The curriculum should also include linkage training protocol to assist mature VSLAs establish and become active users of formal saving accounts in the banks to be able to access products and providers. The expected output from these processes is an approved training curriculum on VSLAs.
- The expert is expected to review other relevant and already developed documents including, but not limited to: training curriculum capturing all components of Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) pathways; Farming as a Family Business (FaaFB) training curriculum; capacity building curriculum for community groups, Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) and cooperatives; and capacity building curriculum to increase availability and access to nutritious food.
- This aims at ensuring all these curricula are up to standard, intertwined, and communicate to each other and the key underlying factors of gender responsiveness and resilience for impactful capacity building roll-out. All the training curricula should have recommended timeframe to guide implementation of the modules.

7) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE SEEDS PRODUCERS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

The Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum must possess the following skills and experiences:

Education and qualifications

- A master's degree in Business Administration/or Business Studies or Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Agricultural Economics, Development Studies or any another related field.

Professional experience

- In-depth knowledge and experiences in curriculum development are strongly required.
- At least two years of field experience in managing Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Strong background and experience working on setting up VSLAs, including training of VSLAs on methodology and approaches including group dynamics and gender mainstreaming will be an added advantage.

- Experience in capacity building and knowledge on curricula development and training for FFBS, FaaFB, and FBOs
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment to inspire communities to succeed.

DAI Organization and Values: DAI is a global development company with corporate offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, EU, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Palestine and project operations worldwide. We tackle fundamental social and economic development problems caused by inefficient markets, ineffective governance, and instability. DAI works on the frontlines of global development. Transforming ideas into action—action into impact. We are committed to shaping a more livable world.

DAI and its employees are committed to confronting racism and holding ourselves accountable for positive change within the company and in the communities, cultures, and countries in which we live and work. DAI is committed to attracting and retaining the best employees from all races and backgrounds in our continued effort to become a better development partner. DAI upholds the highest ethical standards. We are committed to the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment as well as other ethical breaches. All of our positions are therefore subject to stringent vetting and reference checks.

DAI is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer with a commitment to diversity. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

- Knowledge of English language, both written and spoken
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

ATTACHMENT B EVALUATION CRITERIA

Mandatory criteria

The **Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum** will be eliminated if its application does not demonstrate that it meets the following minimum mandatory criteria:

Evaluation criteria

#	Evaluation criteria	Maximum Points
1	<u>Education and qualifications</u>	20

#	Evaluation criteria	Maximum Points
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A master's degree in Business Administration/or Business Studies or Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Agricultural Economics, Development Studies or any another related field. 	20
2	<u>Professional experiences</u>	80
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth knowledge and experiences in curriculum development are strongly required and should be supported by past similar work documentation 	30
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two years of field experience in international development space working with small and medium enterprises 	10
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong background and experience working on setting up VSLAs, including training of VSLAs on methodology and approaches including group dynamics and gender mainstreaming will be an added advantage Experience in capacity building and knowledge on curricula development and training for FFBS, FaaFB, and FBOs- Supported through past work documentation 	30
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to work independently and in a team environment to inspire communities to succeed 	5
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of English language, both written and spoken Excellent written and oral communication skills. 	5
TOTAL POINTS		100

To be qualified, the VSLA training curriculum development consultant, you must obtain a minimum of 70/100 points.

The final candidates that successfully pass the interview will be recommended for the award upon satisfactory references.

Attachment C
APPLICATION'S SUBMISSION FORM

1. Form 1. CV

The Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum must provide his/her complete and updated CV/Resume with a recent work plan or technical report that was originally authored by him/her. The CV must specify his/her Nationality.

2. Form 3. Past performance references

The **Technical Assistance for Development of VSLAs Training Curriculum** must provide at least 3 past performance references information. The VSLA training curriculum development consultant may include relevant proven certification in training as may be appropriate.

Reference # 1

Name of Project:	
Location of Project:	
Period of Performance:	
Description of Services Provided:	
Reference Contact Name:	
Reference Contact Number:	

Reference # 2

Name of Project:	
Location of Project:	
Period of Performance:	
Description of Services Provided:	
Reference Contact Name:	
Reference Contact Number:	

Reference # 3

Name of Project:	
Location of Project:	
Period of Performance:	
Description of Services Provided:	
Reference Contact Name:	
Reference Contact Number:	