

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Short Term Technical Assistance for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Service to the USAID Climate Resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (CR WASH) Activity

Ref No.: RTI/CR-WASH/EOI/002/2024

**Closing Date for Submissions:**

February 13, 2024, at 5:30PM local time

#### Background

CR WASH is a five-year USAID funded Activity being implemented by the RTI International ([www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org)) to expand access to improved water supply and sanitation services and promote adoption of safe hygiene practices in 36 lowland woredas of Afar, Oromia, Somali and South Ethiopia Regions through catalytic investments, piloting and scaling innovative and successful service and business models and strategic partnerships, and stakeholder collaborations. The Activity has four Intermediate Results: (1) professionalize and expand quality climate resilient water services; (2) increase sustainable access to and use of sanitation and hygiene products and services, including Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH); (3) improve gender power dynamics; and (4) strengthen the enabling environment for climate resilient water and sanitation services.

CR WASH to this effect is inviting interested, eligible, competent, licensed and legally registered Ethiopian A/E consulting firms (companies or organizations) via this Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) to prequalify shortlist of applicant firms for an intended solicitation of Short-Term Technical Assistance for professional services of architectural or/and engineering nature. The A/E services shall include planning, assessment, design and construction supervision of climate resilient water supply and sanitation infrastructures and capacity building to increase resilience and ensure sustainability.

#### Objective of the A/E Service

Objective of the A/E service is to review the pertinent documents on the ground, visit sites, undertake detailed assessments, studies, investigations, surveying and mapping, tests, evaluations, consultations, comprehensive planning, designs, specifications, soil engineering, drawings, bills of quantities and cost estimates for construction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of climate resilient rural water supply and sanitation infrastructures. All CR water supply and sanitation infrastructure designs shall be done based on materials available on local market adhering to Ethiopia code of standard and guidelines, and USAID requirements. In addition, the scope of work for the A/E service include supervision of construction of works by local Construction Contractors which will include drilling of boreholes, improvement in the solar and energy systems and installation, well development, civil works, pipe laying, supply, and installation of electro-mechanical equipment etc, and post construction monitoring and capacity building. Major climate resilient water and sanitation Infrastructures planned to be covered under the A/E service include: (1) New construction or rehabilitation existing nonfunctional rural water supply services or extensions to piped networks and connections to health facilities and schools; and (2) Construction of basic sanitation facilities at healthcare facilities and schools.

#### Geographic Location

CR WASH targets and will operate in below 36 woredas across nine zones in the four lowland regions.

**Table 1: CR WASH Target Woredas**

Region	Zone	Woreda
Afar	Zone 1	Chifra, Mile, Dubti, Afambo and Aysaita
	Zone 3	Amibara,, and Gewane
Oromia	Borena	Yabello, Arero, Moyale, Dehas, Wachile and Guchi

	East Hararghe	Babile, and Gursum
	West Hararghe	Meiso, and Gumbi Bordede
Somali	Fafen	Awbere, Gursum, Babile (Somali), Kebribeyah, and Jigjiga
	Siti	Meiso (Mullo), Erer, Afdem, Shinile, and Dembel
	Liben	Filtu, and Deka Suftu
	Dawa	Hudet, and Moyale
	Degehabur	Degehabur
South Ethiopia	South Omo	Dasenech, Nyangatom, and Hamer

### Eligibility/Criteria for Selection

Interested, qualified and eligible A/E firms should provide all necessary information demonstrating that they have valid trade license and VAT registration certificate issued by the relevant authority, the required qualification and relevant experience to successfully complete the work as listed above. To demonstrate eligibility, A&E firms should also submit proof of legal registrations, and valid professional certificates or license for proposed Engineers for the service. The A/E firm shall be familiar and experienced with national and local building and regulatory requirements of Ethiopia. Applicant registered under the FDRE Procurement and Property Authority database is an advantage. Applicant that has been debarred from participating in public procurement in Ethiopia at the date of the deadline for Application submission or thereafter, shall be disqualified.

Major criteria for prequalification of the A/E firm include the following:

- **Past Performance** –available capacity of the firm on key disciplines to perform the work to the required quality and time. As part of the past performance, the A/E firm should also submit summary of similar works successfully completed, including project title; client name; duration, cost, brief description of the project; and contact details of person knowledgeable of works performed in the last five years.
- **Presence and experience in the pastoralists and lowland regions:** - relevant experience with similar projects in the lowland areas of Ethiopia in the last five years and inclusion of technical experts and skilled personnel from these regions.
- **Professional Qualifications** – relevant education, training, registration, certifications, experience, and longevity with the firm of the key management and technical personnel proposed for the service. Key personnel to be proposed by the A/E firm should include at least below four positions. The A&E firms must provide resumes for these positions as Annex. Applicant can also recommend additional positions as appropriate.

**Table 1: Minimum Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel**

Position	Minimum qualifications and Experience
<b>Construction Manager (1 staff)</b>	<p><b>Education:</b> BSc degree in Civil or Water Engineering or other relevant discipline. Master's degree in a relevant discipline will be added advantage. Shall be licensed and/or Registered Engineer in Ethiopia.</p> <p><b>Work experience:</b> Minimum of 15 years working experience. Out of these, at least 10 years of experience in planning, study, design, procurement and construction supervision of water supply and sanitation infrastructure projects in Ethiopia (experience in lowland regions of Ethiopia is a plus). Experience as Project</p>

	Manager or Team Leader on not less than three similar previous projects in Ethiopia.
<b>Site Engineer (1 staff per region)</b>	<b>Education:</b> BSc degree in Civil or Water Engineering or other relevant discipline. Master's degree in a relevant discipline will be added advantage. Shall be licensed and/or Registered Engineer in Ethiopia. <b>Work experience:</b> Minimum of 10 years working experience. Out of these, at least five years of experience in planning, study, design, procurement and construction supervision of water supply and sanitation infrastructure projects in Ethiopia. Experience in lowland regions of Ethiopia is a plus.
<b>Renewable and Solar Systems Engineer (1 staff per region)</b>	<b>Education:</b> BSc degree in Electrical Engineering or other relevant discipline. Master's degree in a relevant discipline will be added advantage. Shall be licensed and/or Registered Engineer in Ethiopia. <b>Work experience:</b> Minimum of 5 years working experience. Out of these, at least five years of experience in planning, study, design, procurement and construction supervision of renewable energy, water supply and sanitation infrastructure projects in Ethiopia. Experience in lowland regions of Ethiopia is a plus.
<b>Environmental Specialist (1 staff)</b>	<b>Education:</b> BSc degree in Environmental Science or equivalent. <b>Work experience:</b> Minimum of 10 years working experience. Out of these, at least five years of experience in assessment, development and monitoring of Environmental Management & Mitigation Plan for rural water and sanitation supply services, and Water Quality Monitoring. Experience in lowland regions of Ethiopia is a plus).
<b>Capacity Building Specialist (1 staff)</b>	<b>Education:</b> Bachelor's degree in any relevant field. <b>Work experience:</b> Minimum of 10 years working experience. Out of these, at least five years of experience in capacity building (training and materials development) to local water supply and sanitation service providers (WASHCOs, WUAs, Water Federations and/or local government partners). Experience in lowland regions of Ethiopia is a plus.

### Submission Guidelines

**Applicant may submit EOI for one region or all regions.** Applicant EOIs should be in English and may not exceed **5 pages**; however, an applicant cover page, executive summary, and CV annexes are not included in this page limitation requirement. Additional pages over the maximum allowed will be removed and not evaluated.

Submit a complete EOI in PDF format via email to [procurement@cr-wash.org](mailto:procurement@cr-wash.org). Include the reference number Ref No.: RTI/CR-WASH/EOI/002/2024 in the subject line of the submission. The application should be addressed to: *Attention: Chief of Party, USAID CR WASH Activity, Mohamed Abdinor* Any EOI received after the deadline for submission shall be declared late and will be rejected.

Successful preselected applicants will be notified and will be provided with additional information for further procurement actions associated with this EOI. This is not an RFP, do not submit information on pricing.

### Questions Due:

Any questions regarding this EOI may be sent to [procurement@cr-wash.org](mailto:procurement@cr-wash.org) by Feb. 7, 2024.

### Other Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants will be required to comply with all applicable USAID and RTI International regulations and policies, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** - A UEI is a unique number assigned to all entities (public and private companies, individuals, institutions, or organizations) who register to do business with the US federal government. For any A&E firm to be awarded a contract resulting from this solicitation, applicants will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number at the time of the award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their proposal. **While the UEI number is not a mandatory requirement at the point of submitting the proposal, however, it will be required before an award can be made.** Due to delays in issuance of UEI numbers, applicants are encouraged to begin the registration process early so as not to delay receiving a contract.  
To obtain a UEI number, please visit [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) to begin the registration process. Watch a video on how you can obtain a UEI. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C87wSCYKTcE>
- b. **Representations and Certifications and other RTI internal certifications.**
- c. **Anti- Kick Back Act of 1986.**
- d. **Conflict of Interests Prohibition (including familial or financial)**
- e. **The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019 - Section 889.**
- f. **Contract Terms:** Purchase Order Terms and Conditions are listed on our website at: <https://www.rti.org/sites/default/files/rti-purchase-order-terms-and-conditions-v1.16.pdf>, [http://www.rti.org/files/PO\\_FAR\\_Clauses.pdf](http://www.rti.org/files/PO_FAR_Clauses.pdf) or for commercial items: [http://www.rti.org/files/PO\\_FAR\\_Clauses\\_Commercial\\_Items.pdf](http://www.rti.org/files/PO_FAR_Clauses_Commercial_Items.pdf).

**Disclaimer:** This publication and Request for Expressions of Interest does not constitute an award commitment on the part of CR WASH nor commit the project to pay costs incurred in the preparation of and submission of an EOI. Further, CR WASH reserves the right to reject any or all EOIs received. Similarly, an invitation for further negotiations or to submit a full application is not a commitment to fund that application.