

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Construction of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructures for the USAID Climate Resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (CR WASH) Activity

Ref No.: RTI/CR-WASH/EOI/004/2024

Closing Date for Submissions:
March 29, 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) 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 Water Works Contractors of Category-4 and Above via this Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) to prequalify for the construction of rural water supply and sanitation services in the target communities of Afar, Oromia, Somali and South Ethiopia Regions. Target rural water supply services could be single or multi-villages, which include: (1) new water supply services with existing water sources requiring construction of all (or in part) necessary civil structures, and supply and installation of necessary water pipes (galvanized steel and/or HDPE); and (2) existing water supply services requiring rehabilitation and maintenance (and/or expansion when applicable). In addition, sanitation services include construction of health care facility and/or school latrine blocks.

Geographic Location and LOTs: CR WASH targets and will operate in below 12 zones in the four lowland regions. These zones are divided in to four lots based on geographical proximity.

Table 1: Lots

LOT	Region/Zone
LOT – I	Zone I and Zone 3, Afar region
LOT – II	East Hararghe and West Hararghe zones, Oromia region
LOT – III	Fafen, Siti, Liben, Dawa, Degehabur, and Shabelle Zones, Somali region
LOT - IV	South Omo zone, South Ethiopia region, and Borena zone, Oromia region

Eligibility: The Construction Contractor (applicant) must have and should share copies of a certificate of competency from the Ministry of Water and Energy or relevant Regional Construction Authorities with Category Water Works Construction (WWC) Grade-4 and above renewed for the current bidding period (2016EC). In addition, the Construction Contractor should share copies of other appropriate documentary evidence demonstrating the applicant's compliance, which shall include:

- TIN and VAT certificate issued by the relevant tax authority.
- Trade License renewed for 2016EC from authorized body.

- Renewed work permit (Competency Certificate) for 2016 EC from relevant Construction Authority office.
- Tax clearance certificate issued from tax authority for 2016 EC.

Applicant can apply for a Lot or multiple Lots. Applicants should prepare and submit separate application for each Lot. This invitation for prequalification is open to all local eligible applicants, including a joint venture. 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.

Criteria for Selection: Interested and eligible Construction Contractors should provide all necessary information demonstrating that they have relevant experience and required professional and financial capacity to successfully complete the construction of rural water supply and sanitation infrastructures within required budget, quality, and time. Applicants whose applications have met the eligibility requirements ("passed") and met or exceeded selection criteria below will be considered and notified for prequalification for next stage of procurements.

Key Personnel: The Construction Contractor must demonstrate will deploy at least below three staff for the key positions that meet the following requirements for each construction sites. The Construction Contractor 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

Key Position	Minimum qualifications and Experience
Construction Manager	<p><i>Education:</i> BSc degree in Civil or Water Engineering or other relevant discipline. Master's degree in a relevant discipline will be added advantage.</p> <p><i>Work experience:</i> Minimum of 15 years working experience. Out of these, at least 5 years of experience in construction management of water supply and sanitation infrastructure projects in Ethiopia. Experience in four lowland regions of Ethiopia is a BIG plus.</p>
Site Engineer	<p><i>Education:</i> BSc degree in Civil or Water Engineering or other relevant discipline. Master's degree in a relevant discipline will be added advantage.</p> <p><i>Work experience:</i> Minimum of 10 years of working experience. Out of these, at least five years of experience as Site Engineer for construction of water supply and sanitation infrastructure projects in Ethiopia. Experience in four lowland regions of Ethiopia is a BIG plus.</p>
Forman	<p><i>Education:</i> Diploma in any relevant discipline or 12 Grade Complete</p> <p><i>Work experience:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Diploma</i> - minimum of 10 years working experience, and out of these, at least 8 years of experience as Forman for water supply and sanitation constructions. Experience in the four lowland regions of Ethiopia is a BIG plus. • <i>12 Grade Complete</i> - minimum of 15 years working experience, and out of these, at least 10 years of experience as Forman for water supply and sanitation constructions. Experience in the four lowland regions of Ethiopia is a BIG plus.

Past Performance – the Construction Contractor should submit summary of similar construction contracts successfully completed, including client name; duration, cost, brief description of the service; and contact details of person knowledgeable of works performed in the last five years.

Equipment – the Construction Contractor must demonstrate that it possesses and will deploy the following equipment for the implementation of the contract if awarded.

- Dump truck, #1
- Pick-up truck, #1
- Concrete Mixer (at least 175 lit capacity), #1
- Concrete vibrator, #1
- HDPE pipe fitting electrofusion welding machine, #1

Financial Standing: The Applicant must demonstrate access to, or availability of, financial resources such as liquid assets, unencumbered real assets, lines of credit, and other financial means, other than any contractual advance payments to meet the necessary cash-flow requirement. The applicant should submit audited balance sheets and other relevant financial statements for at least the last three years demonstrating soundness of the Applicant's financial position and its prospective long-term profitability.

Presence and experience in the pastoralists and lowland regions - relevant experience with similar services in the lowland areas of Ethiopia in the last five years. A local Construction Contractor from the four lowland regions or a Construction Contractor having established office in the region they are applying will get priority.

Registration in the FDRE Public Procurement and Property Administration: A Construction Contractor registered in the FDRE Public Procurement and Property Administration has an advantage and will get higher rating.

Submission Guidelines

Applicant EOIs should be in English and may not exceed **5 pages**; however, an applicant cover page, executive summary, and 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. Include the reference number **RTI/CR-WASH/EOI/004/2024** in the subject line of the submission. The application should be addressed to: *Attention: Procurement Unit*. 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 by March 20, 2024, and responses for submitted questions will be posted on this website by March 22, 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 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 or for commercial items: 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.