

**April 6, 2022**

## **Counterpart Senegal McGovern-Dole Baseline Q&A**

### Eligibility Requirements:

1. In the instruction to bidders, we read 1. Introduction RFP No. 1105-022022-01, dated February 16, 2022: Counterpart is hereby soliciting bids from Senegalese evaluators for the baseline evaluation of the Sukaabe Janngo II project in Senegal as described in Section II of the ITB. Are only Senegalese evaluators eligible to bid?

**Response:** Evaluators outside of Senegal are eligible to submit as well, so long as they are within Geographic Code 937 of the US 2 CFR 200 Regulations.

2. Can an individual with a Team submit a proposal for this Baseline Evaluation or are only bidders allowed to bid?

**Response:** An individual with a team can submit to this Baseline Evaluation as well.

### Counterpart Operations

1. Will Counterpart International has its office in Kolda at the time this study is taking place? If so, can/will it provide working space to the Contractor during the course of the study?

**Response:** No, the office will not be open.

### Project Clarifications

1. On page 7 of 23 of the Sukaabe Janngo II TOR - Baseline Evaluation Final, we read: "In the St. Louis project, the Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) component was implemented as a separate project (TACSS). For Sukaabe Janngo II, the LRP component and agricultural activities are integrated into one package." Please explain what is meant by For Sukaabe Janngo II, the LRP component and agricultural activities are integrated into one package. Will there be any data that has to be collected concerning the activities of TACSS during this baseline Evaluation? If so, what are the information required; what are the indicators for these activities; and how should the data collection be presented in the proposed budget?

**Response:** Sukaabe Janngo II has agriculture activities and local procurement as part of the McGovern-Dole funding. The TACSS project has ended, and it was only for the Saint Louis region. Please see the indicator table in the RFP for this baseline evaluation. There will be agriculture-focused questions.

### Evaluation Questions

1. Can Counterpart provide the sub-regions where the Sukaabe Janngo II will be implemented?

**Response:** Selection of schools and communities is being finalized with the Min of Education and will be ready for the evaluation. There are 5 departments: Kolda, Velingara, Medina Yoro Foulah, Sedhiou and Bounkiling.

2. Specific objectives of the evaluation "Assess literacy skills in French for students in grades, 4, 5, and 6 via Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) tool." Please confirm that the Contractor will receive the tools modified by RELIS and Counterpart as described on page 7 of the FFE-685-

2021009-00\_Evaluation Plan (last paragraph); that the Contractor will apply the tools as received and that the contractor will not be required to do further testing of the tools. Will RELIS and Counterpart provide support for the training of the survey interviewers who will conduct the reading tests with the students?

**Response:** The EGRA tools will be ready and will need no further testing. It is the responsibility of the contractor to train the enumerators. We can request assistance for training from the entity that created the tools, but it will be the contractor who is responsible for the quality of the data collection.

3. “Observe literacy teaching, teachers' use of materials, and students' reading behaviors and attention in class.” Has Counterpart International identified the tool to use for this exercise? Will it be the EGRA Classroom Observation Tool? If this is the case, will RELIS and/or Counterpart provide support for the training of the survey interviewers who will perform the classroom observation using this tool?

**Response:** An observational tool will be provided by Counterpart and ARED. It is the responsibility of the contractor to train the enumerators. We can request assistance for training from the entity that created the tool, but it will be the contractor who is responsible for the quality of the data collection.

4. Methodology “What is the most effective and efficient method to measure “non-attentiveness” in upper-grade students?” Is this a specific research questions for this Baseline Evaluation? Which indicators are related to ‘non-attentiveness’; how is this defined?

**Response:** This is a specific research question that we would like the evaluator to answer. The consultant will be asked to create a tool to define and measure non-attentiveness and test in a small number of schools (TBD).

5. Quantitative BMI. Will Counterpart provide the tools to take the measurements i.e. scales for weighing and measuring bars?

**Response:** Yes, Counterpart will provide the measuring tools. It is the responsibility of the contractor to train the enumerators. We can request assistance for training from the Min of Health, but it will be the contractor who is responsible for the quality of the data collection.

6. Assignment Duration and Deliverables. Please confirm that these dates will be adjusted at the time of the contract signature.

**Response:** Yes, the dates will be adjusted at time of contract signing

7. Please confirm that this Baseline will be conducted in Kolda and Sedhiou only and not in St. Louis. On page 18 of 23, we read “Data collectors should be fluent in Pulaar and Wolof.” These are the languages spoken in St. Louis whereas in the two other regions, the main dialects are Peulh and Mandingue.

**Response:** The baseline will be conducted in the Kolda and Sedhiou regions only.

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**March 23, 2022**

**Counterpart Senegal McGovern-Dole Baseline Q&A**

Evaluation Team:

0. The external evaluator evaluation team requirements on page 18 of the request says “The lead evaluator must be physically present in Senegal during the evaluation until the post-data collection debriefing”. Would Counterpart consider a team structure where two team members serve as co-Lead Evaluators, with one based in Senegal and one based in the United States?

**Response:** We strongly prefer the lead evaluator to be in Senegal. It is very difficult to manage an evaluation from afar. If a bidder wishes to propose this set up, they are free to do so, but it will not be seen as a strength.

Instruments:

1. Will all reading assessments be provided by Counterpart ready for use in the field?
  - a. Can Counterpart share what subtasks will make up the EGRAs for each grade?
  - b. Can Counterpart confirm that no portion of the ASER assessment will be used for the baseline evaluation?

**Response:** The subtasks for the EGRA will be ready for fieldwork, however we are not 100% if the entire tool will be ready to use. There might be a need to refine the EGRA package. We are currently working with INEADE to create these for the upper grades. However, the evaluator will be responsible for testing this tool as it is the first time it will be used in Senegal.

The ASER will not be used in the baseline.

2. Can Counterpart share the Minister of Health community-health protocol for pregnant women mentioned in p 10?

**Response:** Please see attached document from the Ministry of Health (in French) from the Division of Feeding and Nutrition.

Sampling:

3. Will the evaluator have access to data on USAID’s RELIS activity when sampling Treatment and Control schools in Casamance?

**Response:** RELIS nor LPT has activities in the Casamance. This information is not pertinent for our baseline.

4. Please confirm all data collection activities will be conducted in Casamance and not in Saint Louis.

**Response:** All data collection activities will be in the Casamance.

5. Please explain what are the “13 beneficiary preschools” mentioned in page 12.
  - a. Is the evaluator supposed to sample the 65 target the schools so there (exactly) 13 preschools?
  - b. Are there only 13 preschools within the set of schools that Counterpart will treat?
  - c. How many students per pre-school will be included in the EGRA?

**Response:** The question is not clear. There are 285 total schools in the project, only 65 project elementary and 13 project preschools will be evaluated. An equal number of control schools will be evaluated. The EGRA will not be used in preschools. Please carefully reread the TOR.

Contract and Budget

6. Please confirm the budget ceiling for this activity is \$180,000, as indicated in Table 6 of the Evaluation plan. Would Counterpart consider a higher ceiling for this activity? Given the scope of work and sample size this might be advisable.

**Response:** The budget ceiling is \$180,000.

7. Can Counterpart advise on the expected contract type (i.e., cost reimbursable or fixed price)?
  - a. Would Counterpart be willing to share a contract template or sample?
  - b. If CPFF, is Counterpart amenable to receiving a budget that aggregates our indirect costs (sanitized budget) since we consider our NICRA proprietary information not to be shared outside the government.

**Response:** The instrument will be a fixed price contract. Counterpart will share the template with the winning bidder. The instrument will not be a cost-plus fixed fee (CPFF).

Other:

8. The proposed timeline outlined in the RFP does not give sufficient time for key deliverables given the complexity of the evaluation. Given these considerations, would Counterpart consider revising the evaluation timeline to submit the first draft of the report six months after contract signing?

**Response:** The timeline cannot be extended.

9. Please confirm Counterpart will provide the list of non-USDA funded activities mentioned in research question 2?

**Response:** Please use this revised wording for question 2:

*What are the potential sources of contributions, excluding USDA funded activities, in project schools for sustainable school feeding, and their impact? What are the potential mitigating factors for the uptake and sustainability of project activities?*

10. Page 15 says “For comparability across reading results under SJ II, common French-language EGRA subtasks of reading passage and comprehension questions will be included in student assessments in both St. Louis and Casamance.” Please clarify is the evaluator should plan to analyze data from St. Louis.

**Response:** The EGRA subtasks that will be used in this baseline for Casamance will also be used in St. Louis, which is a separate evaluation. The baseline will not collect or analyze data from St. Louis.

11. For the purpose of writing the proposal, please confirm proposals should focus on the terms of reference, and not on the evaluation plan, which covers Counterpart general evaluation plan and not just this baseline.

**Response:** Proposals should focus solely on the TOR for the baseline evaluation.

12. Are the documents specified on page 12, Document Review, available for review at this point?

**Response:** These documents will be provided to the winning bidder.

13. The power calculations on page 12 of the RFP indicate 1,800 EGRAs should be administered across the treatment and control schools, with 600 in each grade 4, 5, and 6. However, the table on page 13 indicates 8 EGRAs should be administered in each elementary school. Can Counterpart please clarify the number of EGRAs that will be conducted in each elementary school, by grade?

**Response:** There are 130 schools in the sample, and each school has three grades to be tested with EGRA. To have round numbers, the total sample will be **1,950 students, which equals five students per grade or 15 students per school.**

14. Can Counterpart please clarify the target sample for quantitative BMI measurements of pregnant women per health center, and how many health centers the data collection should target?

**Response:** There are no BMI measurements for pregnant women. Please refer to the TORs. The BMI is for elementary students only. The number of health centers has not yet been determined. The sample will be determined in collaboration with the Minister of Health experts.