Q&A document

TW11: Sanitation and Hygiene Thematic Window

Request for Proposals: Mid-term review of Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council’s medium-term strategic plan (2012-2016)

Deadline for questions: 24 February 2015
Deadline for applications: 23.59 GMT, 12 March 2015

Q1: What will be the exact role of 3ie? Namely, in the third paragraph of the TOR, it is mentioned that "3ie has been commissioned by WSSCC to undertake an evidence programme". In the fourth paragraph, it is mentioned that the programme’s activities will include "3ie-managed RFPs and quality assurance for impact evaluations, systematic reviews and the MTR of the current WSSCC MTSP". Does this mean that the client is 3ie, rather than WSSCC? Is the role of 3ie to facilitate the work of the chosen reviewer?

A1: The client, WSSCC, has commissioned 3ie to manage this evidence programme. 3ie’s role in this project is to coordinate requests for proposals and qualifications, select teams, manage them and quality assure all subsequent products including those produced under the present call for proposals to evaluate the WSSCC Medium-Term Strategic Plan. 3ie will closely manage the selected team for quality assurance purposes, which will include coordinating the peer review of deliverables and holding regular management meetings. The overall evidence programme with WSSCC has other components as well. The mid-term review is one component. 3ie is also responsible for these other components and will be responsible for collating learning from these different aspects of the evidence programme.

Q2: The TOR envisages extensive communication with WSSCC and its staff. Will this communication be facilitated by 3ie or will the chosen reviewer communicate with WSSCC independently?

A2: Communications between the selected team and WSSCC will be facilitated initially by 3ie. However, the team will be required to engage extensively with WSSCC directly during the inception phase and during the evaluation period.

Q3: The above question is also important with regard to the policies to govern the whole exercise. Are these going to be strictly 3ie policies or a combination of policies and guidelines of both 3ie and WSSCC (in case the latter intends to deploy any of them for
the purpose of this exercise)? This goes in particular for the direct costs policies and 
indirect-cost guidelines, as mentioned in the TORs.

A3: The grant agreements are signed with 3ie and the terms of those grant agreements 
(including direct and indirect cost guidelines) are available on the webpage of this call.

Q4: The TOR envisages "at least four in-depth evaluation case studies" and "at least one 
mission to the South Asian region, and one mission to the West African region or 
southern, eastern or central African region" as "mandatory".

A4: The selected team is expected to conduct at least four in-depth evaluation case studies. 
Amongst these four in-depth case studies, it is mandatory to have at least one case study in 
South Asia region and at least one other case study in the West African region and/or southern, 
eastern and central African region. The successful team is expected to work with WSSCC in 
identifying suitable projects or programmes for the case studies during the inception phase. 
Case studies may be chosen at the national, regional and global levels. To give a specific 
example, a suitable West African regional case study would be of the WSSCC-organised 
AfricaSan conference in Senegal in May 2015.

Q5: The TOR envisages "innovative engagement methods, such as global workshops, 
group discussions, policy advocacy dialogue and so on". Are the costs incurred for 
these missions and activities, as well as the programme to be organised in the course of 
them intended to be included in the overall budget envisaged for this assessment 
(US$350,000) or you expect these costs to fall into the category of "additional costs" or 
similar?

A5: Innovative engagement methods, such as global workshops, group discussions, policy 
advocacy dialogue and so on, should all be included in the total budget of US$350,000.

Q6: Is there any scope conducting the evaluation of an existing WASH intervention 
project in Bangladesh, for example WASH package project by UNICEF or WaterAid Wash 
Project etc.

A6: Proposals for the evaluation of WSSCC’s medium-term strategic plan should only cover 
projects and programmes funded or implemented by WSSCC. Please note that other calls 
under the 3ie Thematic Window on Sanitation and Hygiene may cover projects and 
programmes not implemented or funded by WSSCC.

Q7: I noticed this MTR assignment applies for organization level not individual level 
consultancy. Am I correct?

A7: Only legally registered organizations and consortia of registered organizations are eligible 
to apply for the grant. Please refer to section 6, page 11 in the RFQ document for the eligibility 
criteria.

Q8: Can we get a description of WSSCC’s areas of work?

A8: Description of WSSCC’s programmes areas of work can be found here.