

RFP No. Independent Financial Audit FCDO/CSSF: Support to Syria Civil Defence 22-23 and FFO/Maintaining Emergency Response Services in Northwest Syria with the Syria Civil Defence III

Questions and Answers Related to the Above RFP:

Question: Considering the different close-out dates, will you be requiring the FFO audit to commence earlier than the FCDO audit or shall they both commence after the close-out of the later FCDO in March 2023?

Answer: Given that the German FFO award's end date is December 31 and future funding for this program is contingent on this audit, we prefer that the FFO audit will commence first. However, please note that this is a cost-shared platform and depending on feasibility, the FCDO audit can happen simultaneously for the months of overlap, but we leave that at your discretion. Additionally, kindly note that we are amending the RFP language today because the value of the German FFO award is €5,139,384.09 instead of €2.52M, we received an extension in August that nearly doubled the value. We will also be making it clearer that we require separate deliverables for each award per the donors' request.

Question: Would you prefer one proposal, showing costings for both audits or 2 individually separate proposals covering FCDO and FFO?

Answer: We prefer one proposal showing the price for each audit.

Question: I understand that the FCDO-FFO programmes are being managed together by Chemonics, but just for my own clarity and assessment, would you be kind to confirm whether both FCDO and FFO Field programme operations are also being delivered by the same White Helmets organisation, or by different field implementing organizations?

Answer: Correct, both awards are managed by the same White Helmets Assistance Program staff and Project Management Unit (PMU).

Question: Can you confirm that you are seeking audit services for both CSSF (16 May 2022 – 31 March 2023), and also for MERS (1 March 2022 – 31 December 2022)? We note the start date of the latter in January 23 but when will the other audit start?

Answer: This audit is for both the FCDO/CSSF and FFO/MERS projects as they are both part of the multi-donor White Helmets Assistance Program (WHAP) managed by the same Chemonics team and currently funded by USAID, FCDO (jointly with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs),

FFO, and Global Affairs Canada. Depending on the period of performance, each donor contributes a monthly percentage of coverage to Chemonics' WHAP platform and the Syria Civil Defence/White Helmets. This audit specifically applies to the **Chemonics platform, WHAP, and not the SCD/WH.**

Given that the German FFO award's end date is December 31 and future funding for this program is contingent on this audit, we prefer that the FFO audit will commence first. However, please note that this is a cost-shared platform and depending on feasibility, the FCDO audit can happen simultaneously for the months of overlap, but we leave that at your discretion. We also prefer that the audit report for FFO/MERS to be submitted first as the FCDO funding will continue in January-March 2023.

Question: Do you have a budget in mind for the assignment? Confirmation that the asset verification will be remote rather than on site in Syria or Germany? Given the shared funding, will one combined financial report be provided to the auditor that covers the FCDO and FFO funding? And to confirm that we are expected to produce one combined audit report?

Answer: Please note that there is no set or anticipated budget for the assignment, but that we will be looking for the lowest price technically acceptable to complete the audit when reviewing the proposals. Furthermore, I can confirm that this will be remote rather than on site, and that two separate reports will be needed, one for FCDO and the other for FFO. Please note that while the funding from both donors is managed by the same platform, the funding comes separately from each donor and, as a result, each has a separate financial report.
