

**File No.: I-19014/01/2024-DMEO**

**Government of India**

**NITI Aayog**

**Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office**

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**Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024**

**Subject: Response to queries received on the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) under nine evaluation Packages of DMEO, NITI Aayog – reg.**

Following the publication of the nine RFPs on 31st July 2024 and 1st August 2024 and the pre-proposal conference on 14th August 2024, queries received on the RFPs were examined and responses to such queries are given below. The general clarification is in the following paragraphs and specific query-wise response is in Table 1.

**2. Some general clarification are given below:**

**a. Scoring of relevant experience of the applicant:**

- i. With respect to the Scoring Criteria mentioned in Clause 3.1.4 (1 (a) and 1 (c)), it is clarified that while considering the 10 eligible assignments the relevant experience of all the members of the consortium including the Lead Member would be considered for scoring. However, the Lead Member must fulfill a minimum of 40 percent of the total number of eligible assignments submitted by the Consortium (details to be filled at Appendix I Form 8 of the RFP), and the remaining can come from one or more of the other consortium members.
- ii. To avoid ambiguity, the Scoring Criteria mentioned in Clause 3.1.4 (1 (b)), in case of a consortium, will consider the annual revenue of the Lead Member only (details to be filled at Appendix I Form 5 of the RFP) for scoring.

**b. Number of Consortium Members:** It is also clarified that for consortium, a maximum of four (4) consortium members (including the Lead Member) are allowed.

**c. Maximum number of packages:** With respect to Clause 1.2.3 of RFP, it is clarified that an applicant either individually (the "Sole Firm") or as member of a consortium of firms including as Lead Member can apply for all the 9 CSS packages. However, a maximum of three (3) CSS Evaluation Packages can only be awarded to any such bidding entity irrespective of it being sole applicant, lead member or constitutive member of a consortium.

3. All the terms and conditions of the RFP shall remain unaffected.

4. For queries/technical issues related to GeM portal, please contact the GeM help desk at helpdesk-gem@gov.in and 1800-419-3436 / 1800-102-3436.

**Table 1**

<b>Development Monitoring Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog</b>			
<b>Request for Proposal (RFP) for Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes</b>			
<b>Responses to Queries of Bidders</b>			
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Invitation for Proposals</b>			
1	Clause 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 of the RFP	Is there a frameworks agreement or do parties apply individually to each sector? Can one apply to multiple areas?	1. All 9 RFPs are independent and the applicant has to apply separately for each RFP. 2. An applicant can apply for all the nine RFPs separately. Please refer to Clause 1..2.3 and 1.2.4 which are clear and self-explanatory.
2	Clause 1.8 : Schedule of selection process	Request for extension of Proposal Due Date (PDD) on account of public holidays, need for more time to prepare comprehensive proposal and the publication of query responses.	Extension of time for submission of proposal i.e. the Proposal Due Date (PDD), if any, would be notified publicly through GeM.
3	Clause 2.1.4 Personnel Key	Please suggest if all the resources are to be deployed full-time for the project duration of 6 months, or if the applicant can propose different timelines for deployment	All key personnel, except content editor to be deployed for the entire duration of the evaluation study.
4	Clause 2.1.4 Personnel Key	1. Please clarify, if an agency is bidding for the multiple packages, if the same support/non-key experts can be proposed for multiple packages? 2. If a bidder is bidding for more than one RfP then please confirm if the same CVs can be repeated for multiple proposals (if they are matching with the specifications given in the ToR).	As the Evaluation exercise for these packages are done simultaneously, we discourage such repetition of key personnel. This will not provide dedicated time from the key personnel and compromise quality of evaluation reports.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
5	Clause 2.2.2 (c) : Conditions of Minimum eligibility	For Applicant from University what is meant by Total Revenue as mentioned in clause 2.2.2 c	Total Revenue implies income of university from all sources including grants.
6	Clause 2.2.2 (c) : Conditions of Minimum eligibility	Request for Increasing the threshold of annual revenue from ₹ 5 Cr for financial capacity	No changes contemplated.
7	Clause 2.2.2 Conditions of Minimum eligibility	Please mention what documents should be submitted to substantiate eligibility under the conditions mentioned	Please refer to various clauses of the RFP requiring submission of supporting documents. For example please refer to clause 2.16.3 and 3.1.5 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
8	Clause 2.2.2 (e) : Conditions of Minimum eligibility	Modifications/ suggestion in minimum eligibility of Key Personnel in various packages	No changes contemplated
9	Clause 2.2 (Minimum Eligibility)	Is there a minimum number of years in business for the entity to be eligible?	Minimum eligible requirements as per Clause 2.2.2 is self-explanatory
10	Clause 2.14 Technical Proposal	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following: If an individual Key Personnel makes a false averment regarding his qualification, experience or other particulars, or his commitment regarding availability for the Projects not fulfilled at any stage after signing of the Agreement, the award of this	No changes contemplated.

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		Consultancy to the Applicant may be liable to cancellation in such an event	
11	Clause 2.14 Technical Proposal	Please clarify, if the CVs of the support personal are also to be provided in the technical proposal.	Please refer to clause 2.14.2 d which is self explanatory.
12	Clause 2.16 Submission of Proposal	We request the client to clarify the mode of submission of the proposal. Does the Applicant need to submit hard copies of the Technical and financial proposal in sealed envelopes or only upload them on the GEM portal? Please clarify that hard copies are required ONLY for the following documents: a) Notorised Power of Attorney by Partner in case of LLP b) Insurance Surety Bond/Demand Draft/Account Payee/ Fixed deposit/ Receipt/ Banker's Cheque /Bank Guarantee	Please refer to clause 2.16 of the RFP which is clear and self explanatory.
13	Clause 2.20 Bid Security	Whether MSME registered organisations and PSUs are exempted from submitting the bid security.	Please refer to clause 2.20.1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
14	Clause 2.20 Bid Security	We understand that hard copy of Bid Security and Power of Attorney will be submitted in person after the proposal submission on GEM portal. Kindly confirm.	No. The bid security/POA may be submitted through post/courier. The envelop/packet should clearly indicate the Bid ID and the RFP

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			for which the bid security/PoA is submitted by the agency.
15	Clause 2.20 Bid Security	<p>1. "I understand we are required to submit a bid security in the form of bank guarantee/e-bank guarantee. To draft the bank guarantee, I request the concerned authority to please share the following information from NITI Aayog, which is required by our bank -</p> <p>Bank name and IFSC code of NITI Aayog</p> <p>Content of the bank guarantee</p> <p>Many thanks in advance. I hope to receive the information from your organisation soon. "</p> <p>2. Please provide the Bank Account No and IFSC code, content/format of bank guarantee for the creation of Bid Security to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal</p>	The bid security in the form of bank guarantee may be submitted favouring PAO, NITI Aayog.

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**Responses to Queries of Bidders**

S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
16	Clause 2.23 Confidentiality	<p>We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following:</p> <p>Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, and recommendation for the selection of Applicants shall not be disclosed to any person who is not officially concerned with the process or is not a retained professional adviser advising the Authority in relation to matters arising out of or concerning the Selection Process.</p> <p>The Authority shall treat all information, submitted as part of the Proposal, in confidence and shall require all those who have access to such material to treat the same in confidence. The Authority may not divulge any such information unless it is directed to do so by any statutory entity that has the power under law to require its disclosure or is to enforce or assert any right or privilege of the statutory entity and/or the Authority or as may be required by law or in connection with any legal process.</p>	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
17	Clause 2.26 Substitution of Key Personnel	<p>"1. We understand that the reduction of the Key Personnel remuneration is applicable only for the month in which the replacement occurs. Please confirm if our understanding is correct.</p> <p>2. We kindly request that the deductions for substitution of Key Personnel may be reduced to 5% in first and subsequent replacements for the month in which the replacement occurs."</p> <p>3. Other modifications suggested in various packages</p>	<p>Please refer to clause 2.26 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.</p> <p>Additionally, the deduction from the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the date of the replacement till completion of contract.</p> <p>No changes contemplated.</p>
18	Clause 2.27 Indemnification	Modifications suggested by agencies	No changes contemplated.
19	Clause 2.31. Proprietary Data	<p>"We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following:</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of Clause 2.23, all documents and other information provided by the Authority shall remain the property of the Authority. Applicants and the Consultant, as the case may be, are to treat all information as strictly confidential. The Authority will not return any Proposal, or any information related thereto. The Consultant shall make suitable arrangements for the preservation of data collected during the study, such as filled in schedules, tabulation or working</p>	No changes contemplated.

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		sheets, reports, photographs etc., relating to the Project in electronic form and this shall be shared with the Authority at the time of submission of Final report. All raw data compiled during the consultancy assignment shall be transferred to the authority. No data collected in context of the study may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of or given to any other organization/individual, unless so approved by the Authority."	
20	Clause 2.31 Proprietary Data	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following:  Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, and recommendation for the selection of Applicants shall not be disclosed to any person who is not officially concerned with the process or is not a retained professional adviser advising the Authority in relation to matters arising out of or concerning the Selection Process. The Authority shall treat all information, submitted as part of the Proposal, in confidence and shall require all those who have access to such material to treat the same in confidence. The Authority may not divulge any such information unless it is	No changes contemplated.



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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		directed to do so by any statutory entity that has the power under law to require its disclosure or is to enforce or assert any right or privilege of the statutory entity and/or the Authority or as may be required by law or in connection with any legal process.	
21	Clause 2.26 and 3.1.2. Criteria for Evaluation	<p>As the attrition levels in Consulting industry are at high levels, it is requested to the Authority that substitution of resource as per the requirements of the position shall be allowable without the penalties.</p> <p>As per our above query, the team leader replacement should not lead to disqualification of the applicant.</p>	No changes contemplated.
22	Clause 3.1.4. Criteria for Evaluation	We request the authority to kindly clarify if the bidder can submit 10 assignments each, under criteria (a) and (c), or a maximum of 10 assignments in total	Please refer to clause 3.1.4 and Form 8 of the RFP which is clear and self explanatory. A Maximum of 10 eligible assignment can be submitted by the applicant which it considers as

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			their best assignments both in terms of sample size and value of assignment.
23	Clause 3.1.4 Scoring Criteria	We understand that a total of 10 assignments may be cited for scoring against both a and c. For instance, if an assignment A has a value of Rs 1.5 Crore and involves survey of 10000 respondents, then it will score 2 marks (both against criteria a and c)	Please refer to clause 3.1.4 and Form 8 of the RFP which is clear and self explanatory. A Maximum of 10 eligible assignment can be submitted by the applicant which it considers as their best assignments both in terms of sample size and value of assignment.
24	Clause 3.1.4. Criteria for Evaluation	We would request you to allow in the virtual presence of the Team Leader and Project Manager.	This is to clarify that the virtual presence is also allowed.
25	Clause 3.1.4. Criteria for Evaluation	We understand that by 'Applicant's experience', the Authority means the experience of both the lead member of the consortium and its consortium partner. We request the Authority to confirm whether the assignments of consortium partner will also be considered for technical evaluation.	Please refer to para 2 of the response to queries above
26	Clause 3.1.4. 1 (b) Criteria for Evaluation	Technical scoring criteria, Relevant Experience of the Applicant: Please clarify the method of	Please refer to clause 2.2.2 (C) and 3.1.5 of the RFP which is self explanatory.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		calculation of Average overall revenue of Applicant	
27	Clause 3.1.4. Criteria for Evaluation	Modifications/suggestions submitted by agencies for various packages	No changes contemplated.
28	Clause 3.1.4. Criteria for Evaluation	Regarding Eligibility and score : for consideration of Eligible assignments as mentioned in clause 3.1.5 whether the relevant project experiences of all members of the institution/ Dept will be considered ( some of them are in the team directly / others' expertise may be used)or only of the team leader or only of team members projects will be counted ?	Eligible assignments pertain to the applicant, as such the assignments will be considered for the projects undertaken by the University, whether done by the proposed key personnel or not.
29	Clause 3.1.4. Criteria for Evaluation	Does this mean that bidders in consortium with academic institutions can get 10% more marks in the overall technical score beyond 100 points?	10% is per cent of the marks assigned to sub-category of methodology and work plan in technical scoring. It is within 100 Marks.
30	Clause 3.1.5 - Eligible Assignments	If one project is applicable in two sectors, such as health and drinking water & sanitation, can the same study be applicable for both packages?	Please refer to Clause 3.1.5 which is self explanatory.
31	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	Modifications/suggestions submitted by agencies for various packages	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
32	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	If an agency is bidding for multiple packages, if similar assignments are eligible, can the agency use the same eligible assignments across multiple packages?	Please refer to Clause 3.1.5 which is self explanatory.
33	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	If one project is applicable in two sectors, such as health and drinking water & sanitation, can the same study be applicable for both packages?	Please refer to Clause 3.1.5 which is self explanatory.
34	Clause 3.4. Combined and Final Evaluation	We request you to modify the clause as below:3.4.1. Proposals will finally be ranked according to their combined technical (ST) and financial (SF) scores as follows: $S = ST \times Tw + SF \times Fw$ Where, S is the combined score, and Tw and Fw are weights assigned to Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal, which shall be 0.80 and 0.20 respectively.	No changes contemplated.
35	Clause 5.3. Miscellaneous	We request the authority to kindly remove this clause.	No changes contemplated.
36	Clause 5.4. Miscellaneous	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following: All documents and other information supplied by the Authority shall remain the property of the Authority. The Authority will not return any submissions made hereunder. Applicants are	No changes contemplated.

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		required to treat all such documents and information as strictly confidential.	
37	Clause 2.20 Bid Security	Can lead member (in a consortium) apply for MSME exemption?	Exemption to MSMEs would be allowed as prescribed under Rule 170 of GFR.
<b>Schedule II : Agreement</b>			
1	Clause 3.2 Conflict of Interest,	We request the authority to remove sub-clauses 3.2.2, 3.2.3(b), 3.2.3(c), 3.2.6, and 3.2.7(e)	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
2	Clause 3.3 Confidentiality	<p>We request the authority to substitute the current clause with the following:</p> <p>Except as otherwise permitted by this Agreement, neither of the parties may disclose to third parties the contents of this Agreement or any information provided by or on behalf of the other that ought reasonably to be treated as confidential and/or proprietary. Parties may, however, disclose such confidential information to the extent that it: (a) is or becomes public other than through a breach of this Agreement, (b) is subsequently received by the receiving party from a third party who, to the receiving party's knowledge, owes no obligation of confidentiality to the disclosing party with respect to that information, (c) was known to the receiving party at the time of disclosure or is thereafter created independently, (d) is disclosed as necessary to enforce the receiving party's rights under this Agreement, or (e) must be disclosed under applicable law, legal process or professional regulations. These obligations shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of termination of this Agreement.</p>	No changes contemplated.
3	Clause 3.4 Liability of the Consultant	Modifications suggested by agencies	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
4	Clause 3.5 Insurance to be taken out by the Consultant	<p>1. We request to understand that the value of insurance may be 5% as general practice of the agreement value.</p> <p>Please confirm.</p> <p>2. We request the Authority to clarify whether a blanket insurance covering the firm's activity in general, rather than just this particular assignment, will be adequate</p>	Please refer to the RFP clause 3.5 of the Agreement which is clear and self explanatory.
5	Clause 3.6 Accounting, inspection and auditing	<p>"We kindly seek clarification on the audit rights to ensure compliance with the Agreement mentioned in the clause. Specifically, we would like to understand:</p> <p>1. The frequency and timing of these periodic inspections and audits.</p> <p>2. The scope of the audit, including which documents or records will be subject to audit.</p> <p>3. Any additional terms or conditions related to the audit process that we should be aware of."</p>	Please refer to clause 3.6 of the Agreement of the RFP which is clear and self explanatory.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
6	Clause 3.6 Accounting, inspection and auditing	"We request the authority to add the following to the clause:  Notwithstanding anything contained herein, any audit and/or request for information conducted shall be restricted to the physical files in relation to this Agreement only and shall be subject to Authority agreeing to maintain confidentiality of these documents. No access to the Consultant's systems, network, facilities, or hands on or intrusive testing will be permitted. Any third parties employed by the Authority to conduct such audit or request for information shall not be a competitor of the Consultant and shall agree to confidential obligations with consultant, for the said purpose."	No changes contemplated.
7	Clause 3.9 Documents prepared by the Consultant to be property of the Authority.	We would seek flexibility on the following points. 1. Instead of the Third Party it should be the representative of the firm. 2. We kindly request you to provide for the capping of expenses, claims and others.	No changes contemplated.
8	3.10. Providing access to Project Office and Personnel	We request you to delete this requirement. A visit to our office is not acceptable.	No changes contemplated



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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
9	Clause 3.12 Accuracy of Documents	Modifications suggested by agencies	No changes contemplated.
10	Clause 4.4 Substitution of Key Personnel	<p>We request the authority to remove this clause and the attached % penalty on remuneration of the personnel in case of substitution.</p> <p>This will allow the consultant, the requisite flexibility necessary in delivery of the assignment with high quality and within stipulated time.</p>	<p>Please refer to clause 4.4 of the Agreement which is clear and self-explanatory.</p> <p>Additionally, the deduction from the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the date of the replacement till the completion of the contract.</p> <p>No changes contemplated.</p>
11	Section 6.3. Mode of billing and payment	Since the engagement includes mobilization of manpower within few days of contract signing and need to cover a large expanse of geography, it is proposed that 10% mobilization advance may be consider in the payment terms	No changes contemplated.

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S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
12	Clause 7.2 Liquidated Damages	<p>"We request the authority to substitute the current clause with the following:</p> <p>7.2.1 Liquidated Damages for error/variation In case any error or variation or plagiarism is detected in the data, data analysis or reports, submitted by the Consultant and such error or variation is the result of negligence or lack of due diligence on the part of the Consultant, the direct damages thereof shall be quantified by the Authority in a reasonable manner and recovered from the Consultant by way of deemed liquidated damages, subject to a maximum of 5% (5 per cent) of the Agreement Value.</p> <p>7.2.2 Liquidated Damages for delay In case of delay in completion of Services, liquidated damages not exceeding an amount equal to 1% (one per cent) of the Agreement Value per week, subject to a maximum of 5% (five per cent) of the Agreement Value will be imposed and shall be recovered by appropriation from the Performance Security or otherwise. However, in case of delay due to reasons beyond the control of the Consultant, suitable extension of time shall be granted."</p>	No changes contemplated.

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13	Clause 7.3 Penalty for Deficiency in Services	<p>1. We request the authority to modify the current clause with the following: In addition to the liquidated damages not amounting to penalty, as specified in Clause 7.2, warning may be issued to the Consultant for minor deficiencies on its part. In the case of significant deficiencies in Services causing adverse effect on the Project or on the reputation of the Authority, other penal action may be initiated as per policy of the Authority.</p>	No changes contemplated.
14	Clause 9.4 Arbitration,	<p>We request the authority to modify the current clause with the following:</p> <p>9.4.1 Any Dispute which is not resolved amicably by conciliation, as provided in Clause 9.3, shall be finally decided by reference to arbitration by an Arbitral Tribunal appointed in accordance with Clause 9.4.2. Such arbitration shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act,1996. The place of such arbitration shall be the capital of the State where the Authority has its headquarters, and the language of arbitration proceedings shall be English.</p>	No changes contemplated.

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		<p>9.4.2 There shall be a sole arbitrator whose appointment or an Arbitral Tribunal of three arbitrators, of whom each Party shall select one, and the third arbitrator shall be appointed by the two arbitrators so selected who will be act as a presiding arbitrator, and in the event of disagreement between the two arbitrators, the appointment shall be made in accordance with the Rules. If one party fails to appoint an arbitrator within 30 (thirty) days, or if the two appointed arbitrators fail to agree on the third arbitrator, then the court may appoint any person or institution as arbitrator. In case of an international commercial dispute, the application for appointment of arbitrator has to be made to the Chief Justice of India. In case of other domestic disputes, the application has to be made to the Chief Justice of the High Court within whose jurisdiction the parties are situated</p> <p>9.4.3 The arbitrators shall make a reasoned award (the "Award"). Any Award made in any arbitration held pursuant to this Clause 9 shall be final and binding on the Parties as from the date it is made, and the Consultant and the Authority agree and undertake to carry out such Award without delay.</p>	

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		9.4.4 The Consultant and the Authority agree that an Award may be enforced against the Consultant and/or the Authority, as the case may be.  9.4.5 This Agreement and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall remain in full force and effect, pending the Award in any arbitration proceedings hereunder.	
15	Annex 5	Modifications suggested by agencies in the payment terms in various packages	No changes contemplated.
16	Miscellaneous	Expected budget for the project	Not to be disclosed
<b>Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest</b>			
1	Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest	We understand that a consulting firm appointed by a Ministry of Government of India to prepare/ implement a centrally sponsored scheme will not be disqualified from participating in this RFP issued by NITI Aayog for the evaluation of the several Centrally Sponsored Schemes.  Kindly confirm our understanding.	Please refer to clause 2.3 of the RFP and Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of interest of the RFP which are clear and self explanatory

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2	Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest	We would appreciate your guidance on a matter concerning our involvement as the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) and Project Design Management Consultancy (PDMC) for Swachh Bharat Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Smart Cities Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna across various states in India. We seek your clarification on whether participating in this bid could potentially present a conflict of interest	Please refer to clause 2.3 and Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of interest of the RFP which are clear and self explanatory
<b>Forms</b>			
1	Appendix I Form I	We understand that any such failure by the Applicant shall be as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant having final binding effect	Please refer to Appendix I Form I which is clear and self explanatory. No changes contemplated.
2	Appendix I Form I	We request the client to limit the eligibility criteria regarding blacklisting and allow bidders who are not blacklisted as on the date of submission of the bid to participate in the bid. We also request the client to allow us to submit the blacklisting declaration based on the present status of our	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		blacklisting /debarment as on date of submission of the bid	
3	Appendix I Form I	We understand that any such failure by the Applicant shall be as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant having final binding effect	Please refer to Appendix I form 1 point 6 which is clear and self explanatory.
4	Appendix I Form 1 and Form 2	We request that the bidder should be allowed to declare that there are no pending criminal investigations/proceedings by a regulatory authority against bidder or its current Board of Directors,  as on the date of submission of this bid in their profession capacity in any Court of Law regarding execution of any professional project/work executed/being executed by bidder .	No changes contemplated.
5	Appendix I Form 6	This form doesn't provide the scope of adding experience of the key personnel. Please clarify if this form can be modified.	No change contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
6	Appendix I Form 6	It should be Name of Assignment in place of Name of Firm. Please clarify it.  S.no Name of Assignment Designation Start Date End Date Role Sector	No changes contemplated.
7	Appendix I Form 6	Please clarify, if scanned signatures of the resources will also be accepted as Digital Signatures in the CVs of the respective resources.	Please refer to clause 2.14.2 g which is self explanatory.
8	Appendix I Form-10 Support Personnel	-Who are we referring to as the support personnel, can the expectation be clarified?	Defined at Clause 2.14.6.
9	Appendix I Form 12	Please clarify if this form is required to be submitted in case of solo applicants	Form 12 is to be submitted in case of collaboration with Academic Institutions.



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10	Appendix I Form 12	Please clarify whether we have to mention specific activity or name of the study	Please refer to Appendix I Form 12 of the RFP which is self explanatory.
<b>Schedule I : Terms of Reference</b>			
1	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 1.4	Could you please clarify whether IRB approval would be needed for this evaluation and who will be responsible for obtaining it (DMEO or selected agency)?	DMEO is not responsible.
2	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 3.4	We understand that we will provide only recommendations regarding only 5 aspects: schemes in their existing form, modify, scale-up, scale-down or close the schemes	Consultant should understand that "Recommendations" should flow naturally from the findings of the report based on the extensive primary and secondary data analysis and literature review on each scheme and sector. However, objectives of the study mentioned in the RFP should necessarily be covered and mapped in the evaluation study through various evaluation tools and the findings and recommendations on each scheme and sector has to be provided, not limited to only the 5 aspects mentioned in the query.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
3	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 3.4	We understand that we will only provide revisions /script in the scheme/schemes design and not detailed strategy and or activities	Consultant should understand that "Recommendations" should flow naturally from the findings of the report based on the extensive primary and secondary data analysis and literature review on each scheme and sector. However, objectives of the study mentioned in the RFP should necessarily be covered and mapped in the evaluation study through various evaluation tools and the findings and recommendations on each scheme and sector has to be provided, not limited to only the 5 aspects mentioned in the query.
4	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.2	During the field visit and key stakeholders interactions, a letter from NITI Aayog may be required regarding the evaluation study so that the team can interact with key stakeholders in the selected states.	DMEO, NITI Aayog would ask the concerned Administrative M/Ds to issue a facilitation letter to the selected consultant during the field survey.
5	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.2	Could you please confirm whether DMEO will provide access to scheme related data to selected agency?	DMEO will endeavour to facilitate data collection by writing to relevant authorities once the contract has been awarded.  However, the responsibility of collecting information/data lies with the Consultant only.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
6	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.3	Please confirm whether the consultants can sub-contract the activities such as field work, market research etc.. The Applicant will be responsible to ensure timely completion and quality of work.	Sub-contracting is not permissible. Please refer to Clause 4 of the ToR pertaining to "Mechanism to ensure data quality", which allows field investigator to be engaged for conducting survey.
7	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.4	Could you please clarify whether primary data collection tools will be developed by the selected agency or is there any existing tools available?	Primary data collection tools are to be developed by the selected agency.
8	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.6	It is mentioned that pilot testing will be conducted, could you please clarify that nearby district and states can be selected for this purpose? We assume that selected district for pilot testing will not be repeated in the actual evaluation, please clarify.	This will be decided mutually between the consultant and DMEO once the study is awarded. Yes, pilot testing samples will not be repeated in the main evaluation.
9	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4	Kindly specify if for the 5% physical data verification requirement, there exist any geographical spread expectations.	This may be discussed after the award of the study and finalized based on discussion with DMEO.
10	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4	Request you to clarify any specific features that are expected in the CAPI system for data collection	This may be discussed after the award of the study and finalized based on discussion with DMEO.
11	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 5	Kindly specify if DMEO shall facilitate introductions or provide contact details for key stakeholders to be interviewed. Also request you to confirm if there	DMEO will facilitate through the Administrative Ministry

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		are any specific stakeholder groups that should be prioritized in the consultations	
12	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 5	Primary data collection from KII would require list of candidates to be interviewed, we understand that the list of experts will be provided by DMEO (atleast for national level officials, think tanks and state level implementing body officials). Kindly confirm	Please refer to para 5 of the ToR which is clear and self explanatory.
13	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 5	Please confirm if a complete list of stakeholders is to be provided at the proposal stage	At proposal stage a complete mapping of the key stakeholders and the data collection instruments to be deployed needs to be clearly specified demonstrating your understanding of the ToR.
14	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 6 Deliverables Timelines	Clarity about the project details and deliverables	Please refer to Deliverables and Timelines section of Schedule 1 which is clear and self-explanatory
15	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 6 Deliverables Timelines	As per the RFP (I-19014/04/2024-DMEO) for the Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Package 3 - Education Sector, the total duration of the evaluation study is set at 6 months. Could the duration of the evaluation study be extended to 9 months?	Duration of study is fixed (6 months). No changes contemplated

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S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
<b>Package 1 : Agriculture and Allied Sector</b>			
1	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.6	As per RFP a total of 1500 household interview shall be conducted as a part of the field study. It should be clarified that this sample size of household is for all 10 Centrally Sponsored Scheme or for 1 scheme. Please clear it.	Please refer to section 4.6 of Sampling which is clear and self-explanatory. Larger schemes should form a proportionate size within the overall sample size. But care must also be taken to not allow very low sample size in any particular scheme during the study.
2	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	We have conducted Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Documentation (MEL&D) and Baseline Survey of Batch III (2011-12) & Batch IV (2012-13) Project under Integrated Watershed Management Programme in 8 states and Impact Evaluation of Integrated Watershed Management Programme at National Level for NITI AAYOG  All studies are completed. Please clarify that these projects should be consider for Package – I	Please refer to clause 3.1.5 of RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
3	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	We understand that assessment and research/evaluation study in the Agriculture and Allied sector conducted for the Union/State Government, regulatory commission, tribunal, bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector entities in India. Please clarify	Please refer to clause 3.1.5 of RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
4	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	We understand that assessment and research/evaluation study in Agriculture and Allied sector conducted for private sector is also considered as eligible assignment. Please clarify	Please refer to clause 3.1.5 of RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
5	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.6	For the proposed minimum of 1500 household interviews, kindly specify any expectations pertaining to the distribution across the 10 CSS schemes	Please refer to section 4.6 of Sampling which is clear and self-explanatory. Larger schemes should form a proportionate size within the overall sample size. But care must also be taken to not allow very low sample size in any particular scheme during the study.

**Package 2: Women and Child Development**

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Clause 3.1.5 - Eligible Assignments	<p>1 Request you to consider gender responsive assessments of social sector schemes/ policies/ programmes as eligible assignments.</p> <p>2 Request you to consider lowering the sample size to 100 respondents for gender equality related assignments focusing on multiple countries. We believe such experience will add value to the study by bringing international/ regional learnings.</p> <p>3 Request you to also allow assessments/research/evaluation study in wcd/ gender equality sector conducted for private sector as eligible assignments</p>	No change is contemplated. Please refer to clause 3.1.5 of RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
2	Schedule 1 Terms of reference Clause 5 Listing of stakeholders to be consulted	Please confirm if a complete list of stakeholders is to be provided at the proposal stage	Please refer to Clause 5 Schedule 1 of the RfP. Applicant is also expected to provide an indicative list of stakeholders in Form-7 (Proposed Methodology and Work Plan).
3	Clause 4 Schedule 1 - Scope of Services	Could you please confirm whether DMEO will provide access to scheme related data to selected agency?	Any scheme related data and document is provided only after the award of contract to the selected consultant.

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**Responses to Queries of Bidders**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
4	Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 - Sampling	- Could you please provide the level wise bifurcation of sample? How many KIIs and FGDs will be conducted at national, state, district or below level?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RfP which is clear and self-explanatory. Applicant is also expected to propose details of KIIs and FGDs in Form-7 (Proposed Methodology and Work Plan) based on their understanding of the ToR, schemes and objectives of the evaluation study.
5	Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 - Sampling	- Could you please clarify whether other ministries/ departments' officials will be covered for KII and FGDs to assess convergence across CSS schemes? What would be the sample size for this?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
6	Clause 4.6.2 Schedule 1 - Pilot for Survey	- It is mentioned that pilot testing will be conducted, could you please clarify that nearby district and states can be selected for this purpose? We assume that selected district for pilot testing will not be repeated in the actual evaluation, please clarify.	Please refer to sections 4.3 and 4.6.2 in Schedule 1 of RFP. The pilot testing will be decided after the award of contract in consultation with DMEO. Pilot data will not form a part of the evaluation report.
7	Clause 4.6.1 Schedule 1 - Training and Screening Mechanism	- Does having a PG in Gender studies or 3years of experience working on gender-related thematic areas is mandatory for Field Investigators? As per our experience in conducting large scale evaluations, field investigators with a degree in relevant stream (public health, social science etc.)	Having a PG in Gender studies or 3 years of experience working on gender-related thematic areas for Field Investigators is not mandatory. The consultant may give preference to the qualified field investigators with degree in relevant stream proposed as support personnel.



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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		and experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative research would be sufficient.	
8	Clause 3.6 Schedule 1 - Prioritisation of Schemes	-Could you please clarify whether any baseline evaluation has been conducted for these schemes? If yes, could you please clarify whether baseline evaluation data will be provided to the selected agency?	Any scheme related data and document is provided only after the award of contract to the selected consultant.
9	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Instruction to Applicants - Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	-Could you please clarify whether an expert having a degree in social sciences/public health/development studies or other relevant stream would be eligible for the position of project manager?	Please refer to Clause 2.2.2(E) of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
10	Clause 1.4 Schedule 1 - Ethical Considerations and Data Protection	-Could you please clarify whether DMEO will facilitate or support agency to get the state	Please refer to Clause 5 Schedule 2 of the RFP.
11	Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 - Sampling	-Could you please clarify whether there is any preference of states to be covered for this evaluation?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
12	Clause 2.1.4 Instruction to Applicants - Key Personnel (Footnote)	Could you please clarify why team leader can be an international expert when the requirement of assignment is strictly limited to India? Does it mean that agency can also showcase international assignments that include India as well?	Please refer to clause 2.2.2 (E) and clause 3.1.5 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
14	Clause 1.3 Schedule 1 - Objective Findings and Recommendation	It is mentioned that primary and secondary data should be given equal importance. We request you to clarify how is equal weight defined?	Please refer to Clause 1.3 Schedule 1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
15	Clause 2.3 Schedule 1 - Mission Shakti	We would request you to clarify for Mission Shakti, a scheme with multiple separate components is there a sense of how the sample should be split across the separate components?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory. Applicant is also expected to propose details of sampling in Form-7 (Proposed Methodology and Work Plan) based on understanding of the ToR, schemes and objectives of the evaluation study.
16	Clause 3.1 Schedule 1 - Sectoral Analysis	We request you to clarify is there a total number of schemes to be covered under inter-sectoral convergence?	Mapping of cross-sectional schemes covered by other ministries benefitting women and children may be proposed by the applicant in Form-7, adhering to Clauses 3.1 and 3.6 in Schedule 1 of RFP.
17	Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 - Sampling	Please clarify does beneficiary level data exist at GP and block level which can be accessed for sampling	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
18	Clause 2.4 Schedule 1 - Nirbhaya Fund	Should all the listed projects under Nirbhaya Fund be evaluated? Or can a few be selected from this list? If so, should this selection be made based on the value of the funds released or based on some other criterion? Please clarify	Please refer to Clause 3.6 Schedule 1 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.
19	Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 - Sampling	Of the 11 states+1 UT sample selected across the 6 regions, should all state government schemes in these states funded through the nirbhaya fund also be included in the evaluation?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RfP which is clear and self-explanatory. The Consultant may suggest their methodology best suited to meet the objectives of this evaluation.
20	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Instruction to Applicants - Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	We request you to kindly consider Masters in Social Work as a relevant degree.	No change is contemplated.
21	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Instruction to Applicants - Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	We request you to kindly consider Masters in Social Work as a relevant degree.	No change is contemplated.
22	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Instruction to Applicants - Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	We request you to kindly consider Masters in Social Work with Bachelors in Economics as a relevant degree.	No change is contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
23	Clause 3.6 Schedule 1 - Prioritisation of Schemes	Here it seems that only Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the 15th finance commission (FC) are to be evaluated. However, on page 54, it is mentioned that schemes before the 15th are also to be evaluated. Please provide clarity regarding the same.	Clause 4.1 Schedule 1 refers to the reference period of the study and Clause 3.6 Schedule 1 refers to prioritisation of schemes.
<b>Package 3: Education</b>			
1	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	Since there are not many large scale assessment/ research/ evaluation study in Education sector commissioned in the last 8 years by public sector and other agencies mentioned in clause 3.1.5, we request that assessment/ research/ evaluation studies commissioned by private sector companies/ not-for- profit entities/ Foundations/ Trusts/ NGOs may also be considered as eligible assignments	No changes contemplated.
2	Clause 3.1.4 Scoring Criteria for Evaluation of Technical Proposals	There are very few assignments in Education sector with high value and large sample size. Typically household surveys have large sample size but project value is low, whereas project with high value involving institutional survey typically have lower sample size ▪ Therefore, we request that the scoring criteria for sample size and value	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		of eligible assignments be modified to 501 and above for 1 mark each and above INR 50 lakhs for 1 mark each respectively	
3	Clause 1.11.3 Communication	-It appears that the caption is missing. Please clarify.	RFP for “Evaluation of CSS Schemes Package 03 - Education Sector” is the Caption. This is in line with the captions of all other 8 RFPs published along with this RFP, the difference is the name and number of the package.
4	Schedule I Terms of Reference Clause 4	Is it expected of the selected agency to use existing learning outcome data like the NAS, or do we need to do our own learning outcome assessments?	Should develop own learning outcomes assessments, however, it may be done in such a way that it is comparable with other secondary available in public domain.
5	Schedule I Terms of Reference Clause 4	Is it expected the selected agency will do the testing of meals themselves, by hiring experts if required? Or would the testing of meals be done by state/ central level testing agencies?	This will be finalized after selection of consultant. The consultant has to come up with innovative ways of doing this.
<b>Package 4: Urban Transformation and Skill Development</b>			
1	Clause 1.1.3 Background	Request that de-couple Skill Development from Urban Transformation as each of these deal with distinct domains and require different credentials	No changes contemplated

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		of applicant, and skillset/experience of key personnel  DMEO may consider separate package for Skill Development or club Skill Development with Education	
2	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	Request you to consider assessment/ research/ evaluation study in Urban Transformation and/ or Skill Development  Please also consider projects conducted for not-for-profit entities/ NGOs/ Foundations/ Trusts in Skill Development/ Employment Generation/ Livelihood	No changes contemplated
3	Schedule I Terms of Reference Clause 4.3	Since schemes under multiple sectors are included in Package 4, please clarify whether applicant can conduct field work in same states/ districts/ cities/ blocks to ensure that field work is completed in a time bound and cost-efficient manner	The Consultant may propose their Work Plan best suited to meet the objectives of the evaluation study. The same shall be finalized after the award of the study in consultation with DMEO.
4	Schedule I Terms of Reference Clause 4.1 : Sampling	Kindly clarify if the Consultant's proposed 11 States and 1 Union Territory for conducting sampling studies will be considered final	The finalization of States and UTs will be proposed by the consultants, which will be finalized in consultation with DMEO.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
5	Schedule I Terms of Reference Clause 4.2 : Sampling	We request you to provide the minimum number of institution/Enterprises for which we need to conduct interviews/ FGDs and Surveys.	Please refer to Section 4.1 of the Terms of Reference: The Consultant may propose a methodology best suited to meet evaluation objectives.
6	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments (Point 1)	We request the authority to kindly consider the below mentioned modified criteria.  “Assessment/research/Impact evaluation/skill gap study/surveys /due diligence/Appraisal related to any domain conducted for central/State Government, regulatory commission, tribunal, bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector entities in India”	No changes contemplated
7	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Conditions of minimum eligibility	Please clarify whether Team Leader’s experience can be considered in urban sector OR skill development	Please refer to Clause 2.2.2 (E) of the RfP which is clear and self-explanatory.
8	Schedule I Terms of Reference section A	Scope of the proposal in urban development division is unclear	Please refer to Section A of the Terms of Reference which is clear and self-explanatory.
9	Clause 4.2 : Sampling	(1) For the schemes under MoSD&E, we also need to conduct Enterprise surveys. However, the minimum sample size for the enterprises is not specified. Please specify the minimum sample size for the enterprise surveys.	The Consultant may note that the numbers are indicative and they may suggest a methodology and work plan that is best suited to meet the evaluation objectives. The evaluation methodology including sampling will be

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S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
		(2) It is also not clear whether the same 12 States/UTs sampled for MoHUA can be considered for MoSDE also or not. Similarly clarification is also required for sub-state sample selection of districts, villages & wards. Please clarify.	finalized after award of the study in consultation with DMEO.
<b>Package 5: Rural Development Sector</b>			
1	Clause 3.1.5, Point 1: Eligible Assignments	We request the authority to kindly consider the below mentioned modified criteria. “Assessment / research / impact evaluation / skill gap study / surveys /due diligence / appraisal related to any domain conducted for central / state government, regulatory commission, tribunal, bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector entities in India	No changes contemplated.
2	Form-6: Particulars of Key Personnel	This form doesn't provide the scope of adding experience of the key personnel. Please clarify if this form can be modified.	No changes contemplated.
3	Clause 3.1.5: Eligible Assignments	To include the smaller sized more nuanced studies on multi-dimensional impact of development interventions in rural setting, a range may be created in the sample size of respondents such as 300-600 Respondents	No changes contemplated.



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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Package 6: Drinking Water and Sanitation</b>			
1	Sampling Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference, clause 4.4 & 4.5	This study has both drinking water and sanitation. Can you please let us know the ratio of coverage between these two sectors, is it 50% each?	As per the section 4.4 and 4.5 of schedule 1- Terms of Reference in RFP document, a minimum 500 key informant interviews, 100 focus group discussions, 250 facility survey and minimum 1500 household interviews have been specified for the evaluation package.
2	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.5 Sampling	What is referred as facilities (250 Nos to be covered during field study). Is this water supply scheme for drinking water component (like WTP, Jackwell and bulk distribution facilities?). In the sanitation sector, what is considered as facility?	Refer section 4.4 of schedule 1- Terms of Reference in RFP document is clear and self-explanatory
3	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 2 Background	Under sanitation component, what is envisaged to be covered, ie., is it household waste (degradable and non-degradable) OR does it include solid waste and liquid waste facilities	Refer the section 2.2 - Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Scheme (SBM-G) of schedule 1- Terms of Reference in RFP document
4	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 6 Deliverables Timelines	As per RfP and as per the clarifications provided during pre-bid meeting, it was clearly stated that the study period is 6 (six) months. In our view, visiting 125 water supply schemes (considering 50% coverage for drinking water) spread across 35 districts (in 11 states and 1 UT) will require a minimum of 125 man-days (this is without counting the number of days required to reach the next	No changes contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		scheme, intervening weekly holidays, other holidays, etc.). In our view, a minimum total of 250 calendars are required for visiting the facilities.	
5	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.5 Sampling	The effectiveness of any scheme can be found out from primary survey. Therefore, we request you to kindly increase the minimum number of household surveys from 1,500 to a higher number (may be 3,000). You had already pointed out that this is the minimum requirement and a consultant can plan for more coverage. However, every participating team will have their own coverage which will not be uniform, hence, comparing the cost involved for field visits can be a challenge.	As per the RFP the minimum number of household survey to be conducted is 1500. However, the consultant may increase the same.
6	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.4	In the FGDs, are you referring to meet the beneficiaries in a village as a group, OR, meeting elected representatives from Local Bodies too	Refer section 4.4 - Primary Data Collection Methodology of schedule 1- Terms of Reference in RFP document
7	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 2 Background	What is the envisaged percentage of coverage between Urban areas and Rural areas	Refer section 2 - Background of schedule 1- Terms of Reference in RFP document

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S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
			This package "Drinking Water and Sanitation" covers two scheme JJM and SBM-G which includes Rural areas only.
8	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.5 Sampling	Typically, interviews with Key Informants will be informal and may not necessarily be based on uniform questions. Also, such key informants may not be a beneficiary (most cases, such a person will be an expert in the chosen segment). Also, availability of such a large number of key informants is a challenge. Therefore, we request you to kindly make the number of KIIs as 50 or 60. In addition to the above, we would like to seek clarifications on the envisaged field staff for the expected beneficiary coverage, since the project duration is 6 months only. Your clarifications to this effect can make all the participating firms to arrive at an uniform team requirement so that their costing becomes comparable. In addition to all these, we request you to kindly consider making this study duration as one year instead of 6 months.	No changes contemplated.
9	Clause 2.2. Conditions of Minimum Eligibility of Applicants	We request the client to clarify if the proposed expert can have: Bachelor's degree- B.Sc (honors) degrees as an undergraduate degree Since fundamentals taught in B.Sc courses are	No changes contemplated.

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S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
		relevant to the subject matter required for this expert, we request the client to accommodate this modification.	
10	Clause 2.3. Conflict of Interest	We wish to provide transparency to the client regarding our current engagements and to seek clarification on the conflict-of-interest criteria. We are currently supporting the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) as the National PMU PHE. Additionally, we are involved in state-level implementation for the SBM-G in few states such as Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, and for JJM in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as the SPMU. We want to emphasize that the team submitting the proposal is entirely different from the teams working on these engagements. As a large global firm, we adhere to stringent compliance standards regarding client confidentiality, data protection, and data security. Our internal policies ensure that there is no cross-sharing of information among teams, and all teams function separately and independently. The authorized personnel for each project are completely distinct. We have thoroughly reviewed Schedule3: Guidance note on conflict of interest provided in the RFP and are confident that we are not in defiance of any clauses mentioned. Given these measures, we	Refer the Section 2.3 and schedule 3 of the RFP for conflict of interest which are clear and self-explanatory

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
		believe there is no conflict of interest in our participation in this proposal. We kindly request your confirmation on this matter and would appreciate any further guidance if necessary.	
11	Clause 2.3. Conflict of Interest	In the event that the client feels there is a conflict of interest as applicant is the National PMU PHE for JJM and SPMU for SBM(G) in some states, can it participate in the bidding process as a consortium partner. In this case, applicant will not be the lead partner and bid as part of a consortium. We kindly request your confirmation if this will be considered as a conflict of interest.	Refer the Section 2.3 and schedule 3 of the RFP for conflict of interest which are clear and self-explanatory
<b>Package 7: Health Sector</b>			

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 3	Is an applicant also required to develop the IEC framework during the study duration after extracting the best practices?	This may be discussed after the award of study.
2	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.2	Please clarify whether the agency will get access to the National MIS and other program data from HMIS, IHIP, NIKSHAY Portal, AAM portal etc.	DMEO will endeavor to facilitate data / information collection by writing to Administrative Ministries/Departments after award of the study to facilitate data collection. However, the responsibility of collecting the relevant information/data concerning the evaluation study lies with the Consultant only.
3	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.5	Could you please clarify if the 2000 household interviews are inclusive of the 1500 NHM- specific interviews, or if these are separate samples?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RfP which is clear and self-explanatory.
4	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.5	Please clarify, if the sampling criteria refers to one scheme or encompasses overall 7 schemes in the health package	Please refer to section 4.5.8 Schedule 1 of the RfP which is clear and self explanatory.
5	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.3 and Clause 4.6	Could you provide specific technical requirements or recommendations for the mobile-based CAPI tools? Are there preferred survey platforms that DMEO recommends for this project?	This may be discussed after the award of study and the tool finalized in consultation with DMEO

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
6	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.5	Is there flexibility in the selection of facilities based on their relevance to the specific CSS schemes being evaluated, or should all facility types be uniformly included as suggested?	Please refer to Clause 4.5 Schedule 1 of the RfP which is clear and self-explanatory. The detailed sampling and distribution of facilities may be finalized after the award of study in consultation with DMEO  The agency may propose its sampling methodology as part of form 7 that will be finalised by DMEO after the award of the study.
7	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 4.2	The RFP suggests assigning weightage to evaluation objectives in the matrix. Is there a recommended framework or criteria for assigning these weightages, or should the agency propose their own?	The agency may propose its own criteria which will be finalised by DMEO post award of the contract.
8	Schedule 1 : Terms of Reference Clause 6	Considering the pan-India spread of sample and that each of the 5 distinct schemes under the Umbrella scheme need to be evaluated, a 6 months duration is highly inadequate to complete the assignment. We request to increase the study duration to atleast 9 months.	No change contemplated

**Package 8: Water Resources, Environment, and Forest Sector**

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**Responses to Queries of Bidders**

S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
1	RFP Clause 2.1.4. Key Personnel	<p>"We had carried out the Evaluation for Package 8 - Water Resources, Environment and Forest Sector when such an initiative was undertaken in 2019 by NITI Aayog. "Water Resources" and "Environment &amp; Forest" are two different sectors requiring distinct knowledge and skill sets. At the time of the last evaluation too, the sectors were treated as separate even by NITI Aayog, even though they were part of one Package.</p> <p>During the last evaluation, there were two positions – a Team Leader and a Deputy Team Leader and therefore, we positioned one from E&amp;F and one from Water Resources. However, there is one team leader this time and it will not be sufficient to lead the evaluation for the two distinct sectors.</p> <p>Either there should be two separate Team Leaders or the Project Manager should be replaced by a Deputy Team Leader with the stipulation that one expert (ideally the TL) should have water resources experience and the other (preferably the DTL) should have experience in E&amp;F"</p>	No change is contemplated.



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S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
2	Schedule-1: Terms of Reference, Section 7.1. Timeline for deliverables	<p>"With the experience of undertaking the study last time (which had stipulated 100 days duration), we can state with certainty that the duration is extremely aggressive and almost impossible to meet.</p> <p>This study is a complex pan-India study, which will take a minimum of 8- 10 months for conduct and preparation of a well-written report. We request you to reconsider the duration and increase it to a minimum of 8 months. A hurried outcome is most likely going to be sub-optimal and go against the objectives of this study"</p>	No change is contemplated.
3	RFP Clause 3.1.5. Eligible Assignments	<p>1 Request you to consider lowering the sample size to 100 respondents to include the smaller sized more nuanced studies</p> <p>2 Request you to also allow assessments/research/ evaluation study in social inclusion/equity/justice/law &amp; order/justice delivery sector conducted for private sector as eligible assignments</p>	No change is contemplated.
4	Schedule-1. Terms of Reference, Section 6. List of stakeholders to be consulted.	Please confirm if a complete list of stakeholders is to be provided at the proposal stage	The consultant may propose a indicative list of stakeholder at proposal stage that would cover the scope of the evaluation study as stated in

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
			the ToR. The complete list of stakeholders will be finalised in consultation with the Authority.
<b>Package 9: Social Inclusion, Law &amp; Order, Justice Delivery</b>			
1	RFP Clause 3.1.5. Eligible Assignments	Since it is mentioned in all the 9 RfPs that assignments conducted for Union/State Government, regulatory commission, tribunal, bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector entities in India would be considered as eligible. We request you to kindly include the work done for philanthropy and CSO in India as part of the eligible assignments.	No change is contemplated.
2	RFP Clause 3.1.5. Eligible Assignments	1 Request you to consider lowering the sample size to 100 respondents to include the smaller sized more nuanced studies 2 Request you to also allow assessments/research/ evaluation study in social inclusion/equity/justice/law & order/justice delivery sector conducted for private sector as eligible assignments	No change is contemplated.

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>RFP Clause</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Response</b>
3	RFP Clause 2.2.2 Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	Page No. 22- Minimum Educational Qualifications of Project Manager: We request you to kindly consider Masters in Social Work as a relevant degree.	No change is contemplated.
4	RFP Clause 2.2.2 Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	Page No. 23- Minimum Educational Qualifications of Evaluation Expert : We request you to kindly consider Masters in Social Work as a relevant degree.	No change is contemplated.
5	RFP Clause 2.2.2 Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	Page No. 23- Minimum Educational Qualifications of Data Management and Analytics Expert: We request you to kindly consider Masters in Social Work with Bachelors in Economics as a relevant degree.	No change is contemplated.
6	Clause 5 (b) Schedule 1 - Sampling	The sample size suggested seems smaller for a Pan India study. Should the agency propose a sample size based on statistical calculation?	Please refer to Clause 5(b) Schedule I which is clear and self explanatory. The consultant may increase the sample size but not reduce it below the minimum sample size specified in the Terms of Reference. The consultant may propose the sampling methodology as a part of Form 7.

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