

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA**



PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT FOR:

CONTRACT NAME: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A
REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE
GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY
INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

TYPE OF CONTRACT:
GLOBAL PRICE

ISSUED ON: 6 AUGUST 2021

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION NO: 02/2021

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PART 1 – Prequalification Procedures

Section I. Instructions to Applicants

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Section I. Instructions to Applicants

A. General

- 1. Scope of Application**
 - 1.1 In connection with the Invitation for Prequalification indicated in Section II, Prequalification Data Sheet (PDS), the Procuring Entity, as defined in the **PDS**, issues this Prequalification Document (PQD) to applicants interested in bidding for the contracts described in Section VI, Contract Requirements.
 - 1.2 The contract has the number of lots as defined in the PSD.
 - 1.3 Applicants can apply for one, several or for all lots. A separate application must be submitted for each lot.
- 2. Procurement Rules and Procedures**
 - 2.1 The current prequalification process is governed by the COMESA Secretariat Procurement Guidelines which can be downloaded from the COMESA Secretariat website indicated in the **PDS**. The Applicants are encouraged to review this document prior to requesting the Procuring Entity any additional information about the procurement processes and procedures.
- 3. Fraud and Corruption**
 - 3.1 The COMESA Secretariat requires its staff, as well as the economic operators interested in entering into procurement contracts financed by COMESA Secretariat , including their affiliates and subcontractors, to observe the highest standard of ethics during the selection and execution of contracts. In pursuance of this policy, the COMESA Secretariat:
 - (a) defines for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
 - (i) “corrupt practice” is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - (ii) “fraudulent practice” is any act or omission, including misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain financial or other benefits or to avoid an obligation;
 - (iii) “collusive practices” is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - (iv) “coercive practices” is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;
 - (v) “obstructive practice”
 - (aa)deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing material evidence to the investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede a COMESA Secretariat , governmental or independent investigation into allegations of a

corrupt, fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing, or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or

- (bb) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the COMESA Secretariat or governmental or inspection and audit rights.
- (b) It will take the following measures against the contractor recommended for award who has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question;
- (i) will reject the bid for award;
 - (ii) will declare the bidder/the contractor, including its affiliates, ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to become a COMESA Secretariat contractor;
 - (iii) will cancel or terminate any on going contract with the bidder /the contractor;
 - (iv) will request the relevant national authorities to conduct a joint investigation with COMESA Secretariat to inspect or carry out audits of the bidder /the contractor' accounting records and financial statements in connection with the contract in question for which it was found guilty of engaging in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices;
 - (v) will en-cash the bid or performance securities of the bidder /the contractor;
 - (vi) will suspend any payments due to the bidder/ contractor, under the contract in question or any other contract the bidder/contractor might have with the organization, until the extent of damage caused by the its engagement in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for the COMESA Secretariat's contract are determined and recovered, and
 - (vii) will sue the bidder /contractor to recover the damages caused by its engagement in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question, if they are not fully recovered by the securities and the payments otherwise due to the bidder/contractor.

4. Conflict of Interest

4.1 A bidder or a contractor shall not be allowed to get engaged in any procurement process for delivery of any kind of services, goods or works that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in the position of being unable to carry out the contract in the best interest of the

Procuring Entity. Without limitation, bidders or contractors shall not be hired under the circumstances set forth below:

- (a) Conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or services (consulting or general). A bidder or a contractor that has been engaged by the Procuring Entity to provide goods, works, or services for the organization, and each of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from providing consulting services related to those goods, works or services. Conversely, a bidder or a contractor hired to provide consulting services for the preparation or implementation of a project, and each of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods, works or general services resulting from or directly related to the contractor's consulting services for such preparation or implementation.
- (b) Conflict among consulting assignments: Neither, bidders or contractors (including their personnel and sub-consultants) nor any of their affiliates shall be hired for any assignment that, by its nature, may be in conflict with another assignment of the bidder or contractor. For instance, a contractor assisting Procuring Entity to implement a project shall not be engaged to prepare an independent assessment for the implementation of the same project, or contractors hired to prepare Terms of Reference (TOR) for an assignment shall not be hired for the assignment in question.
- (c) Relationship with Procuring Entity's staff: bidders or contractors (including their personnel and sub-contractors) having business or family relationship with a member of the Procuring Entity's staff directly or indirectly involved in any part of: (i) the preparation of the TOR or Technical Specification of a contract, (ii) the selection process for such contract, or (iii) the supervision of the contract, may not be awarded the contract, unless the conflict stemming from this relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Procuring Entity throughout the selection process and the execution of the contract.

5. Eligible Applicants

- 5.1 To foster competition, the COMESA Secretariat permits all economic operators and individual consultants to be awarded a COMESA Secretariat contract.
- 5.2 However, to ensure efficiency of the procurement processes, the Procuring Entity restricts the bidding process to only prequalified eligible economic operators and individual consultants.
- 5.3 All applicants and bidders must not be included in the conditions described below, constituting exclusion criteria:
 - a) they are being bankrupt or , are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into arrangements with creditors, have suspended business activities, are being subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are being in any similar situations arising from a similar procedures provided for in the national legislation or regulations of the COMESA member states;
 - b) they have been convicted of offences concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata; (i.e. against which no appeal is possible);

- c) they have been declared guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which Procuring Entity can justify;
 - d) they have not fulfilled obligations related to the payments of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those countries where the contract is to be performed;
 - e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Procuring Entity' financial interests; or
 - f) they are being currently subject to an administrative penalty.
- 5.4 Points (a) to (d) shall not apply in case of purchasing supplies on particularly advantageous terms from either a supplier definitively winding up its business activities, or the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, through an arrangement with creditors, or through a similar procedures under the national law.
- 5.5 The Procuring Entity will accept, as satisfactory evidence, that the applicant or the bidder is not in one of the above situations described in (a), (b) or (e), on submission of a recent extract from the judicial record, or failing that, a recent equivalent document issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin showing that those requirements are satisfied. The Procuring Entity will accept, as satisfactory evidence, that the applicant or bidder is not in the situation described in (d), on submission of a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned. Where no such documents or certificates are issued in the concerned country, and for other cases of exclusion listed above, they may be replaced by a sworn / solemn statement (affidavit) made by the interested party in front of a judicial or administrative authority, a notary, or a qualified professional body in its country of origin or provenance.
- 5.6 The Procuring Entity takes into account that – as a rule – the exclusion criteria are related to the legal entity/ natural person acts acting as a bidder or applicant and not to the representatives in case of legal entities. However, depending on the legislation of the country where the bidder or applicant is legally established and if the Procuring Entity considers necessary or has reasonable doubts concerning the personal situation, the above documents may also relate to natural persons, including company directors or any person with power of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the bidder. Whenever an applicant or bidder, due to its nature (for instance, national public administrations and international organizations), cannot fall into one of the above categories and/or cannot provide the documents indicated above, a simple declaration explaining their situation will suffice.
- 5.7 For procurement under restricted procedure, the compliance with the eligibility criteria will be assessed during the prequalification phase. Hence, the documentation proving that the applicant does not fall in any of the categories defined in the exclusion criteria, shall be submitted along with the application form for prequalification.
- 5.8 The date on the evidence or documents provided must be up to one (1) year before

the date of submission of the application or proposal. Applicants must, in addition, provide a statement confirming that their overall situation has not weakened in the period since the evidence was drawn up to the date they submitted the bid.

- 5.9 The above required documents shall be submitted by the applicant, and in case of a joint venture, by all joint venture members. The documents may be originals or copies. If the documents are copies, they shall be certified by a public notary. However, at the Procuring Entity request, the applicant or bidder must be able to provide any original document.
- 5.10 If sub-contractors are employed by the applicant or bidder, the same rules apply.
- 5.11 If the supporting documents are not written in English, an official and certified translation into English must be attached.
- 5.12 If so stated in the **PDS**, for contracts with a value less than the international threshold (US\$ 300,000) and based on its risk assessment, the Procuring Entity may waive the obligation of submission of the documentary proof for exclusion criteria. However, when this obligation has been waived, the Procuring Entity shall still request a sworn / solemn statement issued by the interested party in front of a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body from the applicant's country. Nevertheless, the Procuring Entity – at its own criteria- keeps the right to request bidders documents proving their compliance to the eligibility conditions.
- 5.13 Contracts may not be awarded to applicants or bidders who, during the procurement procedure:
- a) are subject to a conflict of interest;
 - b) are guilty of misrepresentation when submitting the information required by the Procuring Entity as a condition of participation in the contract procedure, or fail to submit this information;
 - c) find themselves in any situations of exclusion for the procurement procedure, after the bid or application was submitted.

6. Additional Eligibility Requirements

- 6.1 In addition to the eligibility requirements stated at ITA 4 above this prequalification process shall consider the eligibility requirements stated in the **PDS**.

B. Contents of the Prequalification Document

7. Sections of Prequalification Document

- 7.1 The document for the prequalification of Applicants (hereinafter – “prequalification document”) consists of parts 1 and 2 which comprise all the sections indicated below, and should be read in conjunction with any Addendum issued in accordance with ITA 8.

PART 1 Prequalification Procedures

- Section I. Instructions to Applicants (ITA)

- Section II. Prequalification Data Sheet (PDS)
- Section III. Qualification Criteria and Requirements
- Section IV. Application Forms

PART 2 Contract Requirements/Description

- Section V. Contract Requirements

- 7.2 The “Invitation for Prequalification Applications” issued by the Procuring Entity is not part of the prequalification document. A sample form is provided as an attachment to this Prequalification Document for information only.
- 7.3 The Procuring Entity accepts no responsibility for the completeness of the prequalification document and its addenda unless they were obtained directly from the Procuring Entity.
- 7.4 The Applicant is expected to examine all instructions, forms, and terms in the Prequalification Document and to furnish all information or documentation required by the Prequalification Document.

8. Clarification of Prequalification Document

- 8.1 A prospective Applicant requiring any clarification of the Prequalification Document shall contact the Procuring Entity in writing at the Procuring Entity’s address indicated in the **PDS**. The Procuring Entity will respond in writing to any request for clarification provided that such request is received no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the deadline for submission of applications. The Procuring Entity shall forward copies of its response to all applicants who have acquired the prequalification document directly from the Procuring Entity including a description of the inquiry but without identifying its source. Should the Procuring Entity deem it necessary to amend the prequalification document as a result of a clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under ITA 8 and in accordance with the provisions of ITA 17.2.

9. Amendment of Prequalification Document

- 9.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of applications, the Procuring Entity may amend the Prequalification Document by issuing addenda. Any addenda will be published on the COMESA website.
- 9.2 Any addendum issued shall be part of the Prequalification Document and shall be communicated in writing to all who have obtained the prequalification document from the Procuring Entity.
- 9.3 To give prospective Applicants reasonable time to take an addendum into account in preparing their applications, the Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of applications.

C. Preparation of Applications

- 10. Cost of Applications** 10.1 The Applicant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its application. The Procuring Entity will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the prequalification process.
- 11. Language of Application and Communications** 11.1 The official language of the procurement processes in COMESA Secretariat is the language indicated in the **PDS**. The communications during the procurement processes shall be written in language stated in the **PDS**.
- 11.2 The supporting documents to prove the eligibility and qualifications criteria shall be issued in any COMESA Secretariat official languages (i.e: English, French and Arabic). If the original documents are written in language other than COMESA Secretariat official languages, they shall be accompanied by an original certified translation into any of the COMESA Secretariat official languages. The cost of the translation shall be borne by the applicants.
- 11.3 In case of discrepancies between the original language and the language of translation, the language of the original shall prevail.
- 12. Documents Comprising the Application** 12.1 The application shall comprise the following:
- (a) Application Submission Form, in accordance with ITA 13;
 - (b) documentary evidence establishing the Applicant's eligibility to prequalify, in accordance with ITA 14;
 - (c) documentary evidence establishing the Applicant's qualifications, in accordance with ITA 15; and
 - (d) any other document required as specified in the **PDS**.
- 13. Application Submission Form** 13.1 The Applicant shall prepare an Application Submission Sheet using the form furnished in Section IV, Application Forms. This Form must be completed without any alteration to its format be duly stamped and signed and be accompanied by a power of attorney for the authorized representative of the signatory of the application to allow her/him to engage the Applicant into contracts with Procuring Entity and, in case of the Joint Venture/ Consortium, by a Joint the JV/Consortium agreement, in accordance with ITA 24.3 (c)
- 14. Documents Establishing the Eligibility of the Applicant** 14.1 To establish its eligibility in accordance with ITA 4, the Applicant shall complete the Application Submission Form (including the eligibility declaration) and Form 1-Applicant Information Form, included in Section IV, and provide the requested supporting documents indicated in these forms.
- 15. Documents Establishing** 15.1 To establish its qualifications to perform the contract(s) in accordance with Section III, Qualification Criteria and Requirements, the Applicant shall provide

- the Qualifications of the Applicant** the information requested in the corresponding Information Sheets included in Section IV, Application Forms.
- 16. Signing of the Application and Number of Copies**
- 16.1 The Applicant shall prepare one original of the documents comprising the application as described in ITA 12 and clearly mark it "ORIGINAL". The original of the application shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by a person duly authorized to sign on behalf of the Applicant.
- 16.2 The Applicant shall submit copies of the signed original application, in the number specified in the **PDS**, and clearly mark them "COPY". In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail

D. Submission of Applications

- 17. Sealing and Identification of Applications**
- 17.1 The Applicant shall enclose the original and the copies of the application in a sealed envelope that shall:
- (a) bear the name and address of the Applicant;
 - (b) be addressed to the Procuring Entity, in accordance with ITA 18.1; and
 - (c) bear the specific identification of this prequalification process indicated in the PDS 1.1.
- 17.2 The Procuring Entity will accept no responsibility for not processing any envelope that was not identified as required.
- 18. Deadline for Submission of Applications**
- 18.1 Applicants may always submit their applications by mail or by hand. When so specified in the **PDS**, applicants shall have the option of submitting their applications electronically, in accordance with electronic application submission procedures specified in the **PDS**. Applications shall be received by the Procuring Entity at the address and no later than the deadline indicated in the **PDS**. A receipt will be given for all applications submitted.
- 18.2 The Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of applications by amending the Prequalification Document in accordance with ITA 9, in which case all rights and obligations of the Procuring Entity and the Applicants subject to the previous deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.
- 19. Late Applications**
- 19.1 Any application received by the Procuring Entity after the deadline for submission of applications prescribed in ITA 18 will be automatically excluded from the evaluation process.

- 20. Opening of Applications** 20.1 Any specific electronic application opening procedures required if electronic submission of applications is permitted pursuant to Sub Clause 18.1 shall be as specified in the **PDS**. Procuring Entity shall prepare a record of the opening of applications that shall include, as a minimum, the name of the Applicant. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Applicants.

E. Procedures for Evaluation of Applications

- 21. Confidentiality** 21.1 Information relating to the evaluation of applications, and recommendation for prequalification, shall not be disclosed to Applicants or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until the notification of prequalification is made to all Applicants.
- 21.2 From the deadline for submission of applications to the time of notification of the results of the prequalification in accordance with ITA 28, any Applicant that wishes to contact the Procuring Entity on any matter related to the prequalification process, may do so but only in writing.
- 22. Clarification of Applications** 22.1 To assist in the evaluation of applications, the Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, ask any Applicant for a clarification of its application which shall be submitted within a stated reasonable period of time. Any request for clarification and all clarifications shall be in writing.
- 22.2 If an Applicant does not provide clarifications of the information requested by the date and time set in the Procuring Entity's request for clarification, its application may be rejected.
- 23. Responsiveness of Applications** 23.1 The Procuring Entity may reject any application which is not responsive to the requirements of the prequalification document.
- 24. Joint-ventures or Consortia** 24.1 When competing for a Procuring Entity contract, any economic operator may submit an application or bid independently or in joint venture or consortium with other economic operators, provided they legally confirm joint and several liabilities for the bid in case of winning a contract for the implementation of the contract.
- 24.2 A joint venture or consortium may be either a permanent legally established group or a group constituted informally for the purpose to apply, bid and undertake a specific Procuring Entity contract. In every case, all members of a joint venture or consortium are jointly and severally liable to the Procuring Entity in relation to the application, bid, offer or contract for which it was constituted.
- 24.3 Applications and bids submitted by a joint venture or consortium of two or more economic operators shall also comply with the following requirements:
- a) the application and the bid shall be signed to be legally binding on all members;

- b) the application and the bid must be accompanied by the original legally binding agreement for the all members; the document has to be certified by a Public Notary or a Commissioner of Oath; and
 - c) the agreement legally binding the members of the joint venture or consortium shall include the following mandatory provisions:
 - i. one of the members shall be nominated in charge, and this nomination shall be evidenced by submitting a power of attorney signed by the legally and authorized signatory members;
 - ii. the member in charge shall be authorized to incur liabilities and receive instructions for and on behalf of any and all the members of the joint venture or consortium. The entire communication during the bidding processes and for the execution of the contract, including payments, shall be made exclusively with the member in charge;
 - iii. if the joint venture or consortium are awarded the COMESA Contract for, all members of the joint venture shall be liable jointly and severally for the execution of the contract in accordance with the contractual terms; and
 - iv. the members of the joint venture or consortium are not allowed to leave the joint venture or consortium, and decline their responsibilities, without the Procuring Entity written approval, or until they have been notified by the Procuring Entity that the contract was not awarded to the joint venture or consortium, or in the event they were awarded the contract, until the liability period indicated of the contract expires.
- 24.4 In case of applications or bids sent by a joint venture or consortium, each member shall demonstrate that fulfils the eligibility criteria set in the ITA 4 and ITA 5 above. If one single member fails to demonstrate the compliance with the eligibility criteria, the whole joint venture or consortium shall be considered non-eligible.
- 24.5 Regarding the compliance with the qualification criteria, an application sent by a joint venture or consortium shall satisfy the qualification requirements as a whole and not as individual member of the joint venture or consortium.
- 24.6 To avoid distortion of competition and/or corrupt practices, an economic operator and its affiliates, alone or as member of a joint venture or consortium, shall submit only one application for the same Procuring Entity contract.
- 24.7 Affiliates are the group of companies, firms, associations, etc. where the economic operator or any of the major shareholders of the economic operator owns not more than twenty percent (20%) of the shares or the share capital. A major shareholder is any legal or physical person owing not less than twenty percent (20%) of the shares or the share capital of the economic operator.
- 24.8 If an economic operator submits, alone or as member of a joint venture or consortium, more than one application for the same contract, all the applications or bids submitted by the economic operator shall be rejected and banned from participating for a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of (5) years in any other Procuring Entity procurement process.
- 24.9 The restriction concerning the participation in more than one application shall not

apply to sub-contractors or personnel.

- 24.10 The Procuring Entity does not acknowledge or undertake any obligations towards the sub-contractors or personnel of the economic operator participating in a procurement process of the organization.

F. Evaluation of Applications and Prequalification of Applicants

- 25. Evaluation of Applications**
- 25.1 The Procuring Entity shall use the factors, methods, criteria, and requirements defined in Section III, Qualification Criteria and Requirements to evaluate the qualifications of the Applicants. The use of other methods, criteria, or requirements shall not be permitted. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to waive minor deviations in the qualification criteria if they do not materially affect the capability of an Applicant to perform the contract.
- 25.2 Only the qualifications of subcontractors that have been identified in the application may be considered in the evaluation of an Applicant. However, the general experience and financial resources of subcontractors may not be added to those of the Applicant for purposes of prequalification of the Applicant.
- 26. Procuring Entity's Right to Accept or Reject Applications**
- 26.1 The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any application, and to annul the prequalification process and reject all applications at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to Applicants.
- 27. Prequalification of Applicants**
- 27.1 All Applicants whose applications have met or exceeded ("passed") the specified requirements will, to the exclusion of all others, be prequalified by the Procuring Entity.
- 28. Notification of Prequalification**
- 28.1 Once the Procuring Entity has completed the evaluation of the applications it shall notify all Applicants of the names of those applicants who have been prequalified by publishing on the Procuring Entity website the Shortlist Notice.
- 28.2 Similarly, the Procuring Entity will notify unsuccessful applicants on the reasons which led to their disqualification.
- 29. Invitation to Bid**
- 29.1 Promptly after the notification of the results of the prequalification the Procuring Entity shall invite bids from all the Applicants that have been prequalified.
- 29.2 Bidders may be required to provide a Bid Security acceptable to the Procuring Entity in the form and an amount to be specified in the Bidding Documents, and the successful Bidder shall be required to provide a Performance Security to be specified in the Bidding Documents.
- 30. Changes in**
- 30.1 Any change in the structure or formation of an Applicant after being

Qualifications of Applicants

prequalified in accordance with ITA 27 and invited to bid shall be subject to a written approval of the Procuring Entity prior to the deadline for submission of bids. Such approval shall be denied if as a consequence of the change the Applicant no longer substantially meets the qualification criteria set forth in Section III, Qualification Criteria and Requirements, or if in the opinion of the Procuring Entity, a substantial reduction in competition may result. Any such changes shall be submitted to the Procuring Entity not later than 14 days after the date of the Invitation for Bids.

- 31. Appeals** 31.1 The Applicant can appeal a Procuring Entity decision on evaluation of its application following the procedures stated in the Procurement Guidelines indicated in the ITA 2.1.

Section II. Prequalification Data Sheet

A. General

ITA 1.1	<p>The Procuring Entity is the COMESA Secretariat.</p> <p>CONTRACT NAME: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)</p> <p>REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL</p>
ITA 1.2	<p>Only one Lot.</p> <p>CONTRACT NAME: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)</p> <p>REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL</p>
ITA 2.1	<p>The applicable Procurement Rules and Procedures are: COMESA Procurement Rules and Procedures.</p> <p>The Procurement Rules can be downloaded from the COMESA Secretariat website: http://www.comesa.int;</p>
ITA 5.12	The Applicant <i>shall NOT</i> submit documentary proof for exclusion criteria.
ITA 6.1	Participation in procedures under this 11 th EDF Funded project is open to all natural persons who are nationals of, or companies/firms who are effectively established in a COMESA Member State, an ACP State and a member state of the European Union only.
B. Contents of the Prequalification Document	
ITA 8.1	<p>For clarification purposes, the Procuring Entity's address is:</p> <p>CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)- CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL</p> <p>The Head of Procurement COMESA Secretariat Ben Bella Road City: Lusaka</p>

	<p>Country: ZAMBIA</p> <p>E-mail: smwesigwa@comesa.int Attention: Mr Silver Mwesigwa</p> <p>Copy: tluka@comesa.int; dshawa@comesa.int; MMusarurwa@comesa.int; ssimatengo@comesa.int</p> <p>Web site: www.comesa.int</p> <p>Request for clarifications should be made in writing by latest 24TH AUGUST 2021 at 16:00 Hours Local Time and responses to clarifications will be published immediately thereafter.</p> <p>Responses to requests for clarification will only be published on the COMESA website: http://www.comesa.int;</p>
C. Preparation of Applications	
ITA 11.1	The language of the procurement process is: English
ITA 12.1 (d)	No additional document is required
ITA 16.2	In addition to the original, the number of copies to be submitted with the application is: This is not applicable as submission is electronic
D. Submission of Applications	
ITA 18.1	<p>Submission of applications is by Electronic Mail only.</p> <p>All submissions are by Email.</p> <p>For application submission purposes only, the Procuring Entity's email address is: tenders@comesa.int</p> <p>The deadline for application submission is:</p> <p>Date: 10th SEPTEMBER 2021, Time: 16:00 Hours local time</p>
ITA 20.1	There is no electronic application opening procedures.
ITA 24.3 (b)	The document does not need to be certified by a Public Notary or a Commissioner of Oath. Uncertified Joint venture agreements are acceptable

ITA 27.1	A maximum of <i>Eight firms</i> will be shortlisted for this assignment.
ITA 29.1	It is the intention of the Procuring Entity to invite proposals not later than 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Your application should be submitted on the following forms only:

1. **Application Submission Form** plus the requested attachments to this form
2. **Form 1 Applicant Information Form** plus the requested attachments to this form
3. **Form 2a Experience in implementing similar contracts** plus the requested attachments to this form
4. **Form 3 Financial Situation** plus the requested attachments to this form
5. **Form 4 a) Availability of Staff – Expertise**
6. **Form 4 b Personnel Resources**

Please do not attach your company profiles

Section III. Qualification Criteria and Requirements

This Section contains all the methods, criteria, and requirements that the Procuring Entity shall use to evaluate applications. The information to be provided in relation to each requirement and the definitions of the corresponding terms are included in the respective Application Forms.

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1. Eligibility Requirements

1. Eligibility Requirements

No.	Clause	Requirement	Compliance with the requirement		Source of information	Supporting document
			Single Entity	Joint Venture or Consortium		
1.1	Clause ITA 4	Not be in a conflict of interest position	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	NA
1.2	Clause ITA 5 (a)	Does not fall into the following situation: they are being bankrupt or wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into arrangements with creditors, have suspended business activities, are being subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are being in any similar situations arising from a similar procedures provided for in the national legislation or regulations of the COMESA member states.	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	Requested attachments to Application Submission Form
1.3	Clause ITA 5 (b)	Does not fall into the following situation: they have been convicted of offences concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata; (i.e. against which no appeal is possible).	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	Requested attachments to Application Submission Form
1.4	Clause ITA 5 (c)	Does not fall into the following situation: they have been declared guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which Procuring Entity can justify.	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	Requested attachments to Application Submission Form
1.5	Clause ITA 5 (d)	Does not fall into the following situation: they have not fulfilled obligations related to the payments of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with	Must meet requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	Requested attachments to Application Submission Form

No.	Clause	Requirement	Compliance with the requirement		Source of information	Supporting document
			Single Entity	Joint Venture or Consortium		
		those countries where the contract is to be performed.				
1.6	Clause ITA 5 (e)	Does not fall into the following situation: they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Procuring Entity' financial interests.	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	Requested attachments to Application Submission Form
1.7	Clause ITA 5 (f)	Does not fall into the following situation: they are being currently subject to an administrative penalty.	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Application Submission Form	Procuring Entity debarred list of economic operators
1.8		Firm must be effectively established in a COMESA Member State, an ACP State and a member state of the European Union only.	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement	Form 1 Applicant Information Form	Requested attachments to Form 1: Applicant Information Form
1.9	Clause ITA 24.6	One application per applicant	Must meet the requirement	Each member must meet the requirement		

2. Qualifications Requirements

No.	Subject	Requirement	Compliance to requirement		Source of information	Supporting documents
			SINGLE ENTITY	CONSORTIUM / JOINT VENTURE		
2.1	Experience in implementing similar contracts	<p>a) Must have experience in at least two (2) contracts over the last 10 years with a value of at least Eur 500,000 successfully completed in the fields of this contract.</p> <p>Fields: technical experience in design development and implementation of the Global Markets Programme (GMaP) of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) on a regional level.</p> <p>understanding of challenges and capacity gaps of small and medium size enterprises in the comesa region.</p>	Must meet the requirement	Must meet the requirement as a whole	Form 2a	Relevant pages of signed contracts named in form 2a
2.2	Financial Resources	<p>a) The Average Annual turnover of the contractor in the last two (2) years (<i>for which audited accounts are available</i>) must exceed Eur 500,000.</p>	Must meet the requirement	Must meet the requirement as a whole	Form 3	Copies of relevant pages of Financial statements.

No.	Subject	Requirement	Compliance to requirement			
			SINGLE ENTITY	CONSORTIUM / JOINT VENTURE	Source of information	Supporting documents
2.3	Personnel Resources:	<p>a) At the time of this application at least three (3) experts currently working for the Firm in fields related to this contract are permanent.</p> <p>Team size and competencies in the key areas of assignment; program design, program implementation; diagnostic, training, mentoring & audit of SMEs on Food Safety Management Systems.</p>	Must meet the requirement	Must meet the requirement as a whole	Form 4a and 4b	Applicants will be asked to submit CVs in the actual tender.
2.4	Facilities Resources	presence (offices) in East and Southern Africa	Must meet the requirement	Must meet the requirement as a whole		provide documents demonstrating ownership of the office, or any binding agreement with a local supplier to lease or rent the office.

Section IV. Application Forms

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Your application should be submitted on the following forms only:

7. **Application Submission Form** plus the requested attachments to this form
8. **Form 1 Applicant Information Form** plus the requested attachments to this form
9. **Form 2a Experience in implementing similar contracts** plus the requested attachments to this form
10. **Form 3 Financial Situation** plus the requested attachments to this form
11. **Form 4 a) Availability of Staff – Expertise**
12. **Form 4 b Personnel Resources**

Please do not attach your company profiles

Application Submission Form

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Contract title: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

To: **COMESA Secretariat**

1 SUBMITTED by *[ie, the identity of the Applicant]*

	Name(s) of legal entity or entities making this application	Nationality ⁺
Partner in charge *		
Partner 2*		
Etc ... *		

*add / delete additional lines for consortium partners as appropriate. **Note that a sub-contractor is not considered to be a consortium partner for the purposes of this application form.** If this application is being submitted by an individual legal entity, the name of that legal entity should be entered as 'Partner in Charge' (and all other lines should be deleted). Any change in the identity of the Partner in Charge and/or any JV/consortium partners between the deadline for receipt of applications and the award of the contract (other than for reasons of changes to the legal structure of the individual entities concerned) will result in the immediate exclusion of the Applicant from the procurement procedure.

⁺Country in which the legal entity is registered

2 CONTACT PERSON (for this application)

Name	
Organisation	
Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
e-mail	

3 STATEMENT (for this application)

We, the undersigned, apply to be prequalified for the referenced contract and declare that:

- (a) we have examined and have no reservations to the Prequalification Documents, including Addendum(s) No(s)., issued in accordance with Instructions to Applicants (ITA) Clause 8: *[insert the number and issuing date of each addendum]*, and we are shortlisted we are committed to deliver the *[services/works/goods delete as appropriate]* indicated in the Part 2 of this Document.

- (b) we are fully aware that, in the case of a Joint Venture/Consortium, the composition of the Joint Venture/Consortium cannot be modified in the course of the procurement procedure. We are also aware that the Joint Venture/Consortium partners would have joint and several liability towards the Procuring Entity concerning participation in both the procurement procedure and any contract awarded to us as a result of it.
- (c) we, including any subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract resulting from this prequalification process, complies with the eligibility criteria stated at ITA 4;
- (d) we, including any subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract resulting from this prequalification, do not have any conflict of interest, in accordance with ITA Sub-Clause 4.4;
- (e) we, including any subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract resulting from this prequalification, have not been declared ineligible by the Procuring Entity, or under any COMESA country laws or official regulations;
- (f) We understand that you may cancel the prequalification process at any time and that you are neither bound to accept any application that you may receive nor to invite the prequalified applicants to bid for the contract subject of this prequalification, without incurring any liability to the Applicants, in accordance with ITA Clause 26.

Signed *[insert signature(s) of an authorized representative(s) of the Applicant]*

Name *[insert full name of person signing the application]*

Dated on *[insert day number]* day of *[insert month]*, *[insert year]*

Attached are certified copies of original documents of *[in case of Joint Venture/Consortium these documents must be provided for each partner of the Joint Venture/Consortium]*

a sworn / solemn statement issued by the applicant in front of a judicial or administrative authority, a commissioner of oaths, a notary or a qualified professional body from the applicant's country confirming they are not in the situations listed in ITA 5.3 (a) – (c), (e) - (f)

The Fiscal Certificate (*Tax Clearance certificate issued by the Revenue Authority*) to demonstrate compliance with the Eligibility Requirement 1.5 reference to Clause ITA 5.3 (d).

The power of attorney for the authorized representative of the signatory of the application to allow her/him to engage the Applicant into contracts with the Procuring Entity.

In case of JV/Consortium, the JV/Consortium agreement, in accordance with ITA 24.3 (c).

Please attach these documents to the signed **Application Submission Form**.

Form 1

Applicant Information Form

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Contract title: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

Page *[insert page number]* of *[insert total number]* pages

This Application is submitted as <i>["Single Entity" or "Joint Venture/Consortium" delete as appropriate]</i>
<i>(In case of Joint Venture/Consortium)</i> The partner in charge is <i>[insert full legal name]</i>
Applicants' legal name(s): <i>[insert full legal name of the Joint Venture/consortium and of each of the partners]</i>
Applicants' country of constitution: <i>[indicate country of Constitution of the Joint Venture/Consortium and of each of the partners]</i>
Applicants' year of constitution: <i>[indicate year of Constitution of the Joint Venture/Consortium and of each of the partners]</i>
Applicants' legal address in country of constitution: <i>[insert street/ number/ town or city/ country of the Joint Venture/Consortium and of each of the partners]</i>
Applicants' registration number in the country of constitution <i>[indicate the registration number of the Joint Venture/consortium and of each of the partners]</i>
Applicants' authorized representative information <i>[of the Joint Venture/Consortium and of each of the partners]</i> Name: <i>[insert full legal name]</i> Address: <i>[insert street/ number/ town or city/ country]</i> Telephone/Fax numbers: <i>[insert telephone/fax numbers, including country and city codes]</i> E-mail address: <i>[indicate e-mail address]</i>
Attached are copies of original documents of <i>[in case of Joint Venture/Consortium these documents must be provided for each partner of the Joint Venture/Consortium]</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation or Documents of Constitution, and documents of registration of the legal entity named above, in accordance with ITA 4.2.

Signed *[insert signature(s) of an authorized representative(s) of the Applicant]*

Name *[insert full name of person signing the application]*

Dated on *[insert day number]* day of *[insert month]*, *[insert year]*

Form 2a

Experience in implementing similar contracts

(Maximum 6 references on maximum 6 pages)

[The following table shall be filled in for the Applicant and for each partner of a Joint Venture/Consortium]

Applicant JV Party Legal Name: *[insert full name]*

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Contract title: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

Page *[insert page number]* of *[insert total number]* pages

[Identify contracts completed in the last 10 years that demonstrate experience in implementation of similar contracts pursuant to Section III, Qualification Criteria and Requirements, Sub-Factor 2.1. List contracts chronologically, according to their commencement (starting) dates.]

Starting Month / Year	Ending Month / Year	Contract Identification	Role of Applicant
<i>[indicate month/ year]</i>	<i>[indicate month/ year]</i>	Contract name: <i>[insert full name]</i> Brief description of the contract performed : <i>[describe the scope of the contract]</i> Amount of contract: <i>[insert amount in EUR equivalent]</i> Total project value: Name of the Client: <i>[indicate full name]</i> Address: <i>[indicate street/number/town or city/country]</i> Contact person for references <i>[indicate full name, position and contact points: address, phone, fax, email]</i>	<i>(insert "Contractor, Subcontractor, Lead Partner or Partner")</i>
		Contract name: <i>[insert full name]</i> Brief description of the contract performed : <i>[describe the scope of the contract]</i> Amount of contract: <i>[insert amount in EUR equivalent]</i> Total project value:	<i>(insert "Contractor, Subcontractor, Lead Partner or Partner")</i>

Starting Month / Year	Ending Month / Year	Contract Identification	Role of Applicant
		Name of the Client: <i>[indicate full name]</i> Address: <i>[indicate street/number/town or city/country]</i> Contact person for references <i>[indicate full name, position and contact points: address, phone, fax, email]</i>	
		Contract name: <i>[insert full name]</i> Brief description of the contract performed : <i>[describe the scope of the contract]</i> Amount of contract: <i>[insert amount in EUR equivalent]</i> Total project value: Name of the Client: <i>[indicate full name]</i> Address: <i>[indicate street/number/town or city/country]</i> Contact person for references <i>[indicate full name, position and contact points: address, phone, fax, email]</i>	<i>(insert "Contractor, Subcontractor, Lead Partner or Partner")</i>

Add rows when required.

Attached are certified copies of original documents of *[in case of Joint Venture/Consortium these documents must be provided for each partner of the Joint Venture/Consortium]*

Relevant pages of the signed Contracts indicated above; - The copies of pages of contracts do not need to be certified.

Signed by: *[insert signature(s) of (an) authorized representative(s) of the Applicant]*

Name: *[insert full name of person signing the application]*

Dated on *[insert day number]* day of *[insert month]*, *[insert year]*

Form 3 Financial Situation

Applicant's Legal Name: *[insert full name]*

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Contract title: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

Page *[insert page number]* of *[insert total number]* pages

1. Financial data

[Insert on of the title "Summary Table"

Financial information in (US\$ equivalent in 000s)	Historic information for previous <i>[insert number]</i> years, <i>[insert in words]</i> (US\$ equivalent in 000s)		
	Year 1	Year 2	Average
Annual Turnover			
<i>Out of which:</i>			
Annual Turnover Specific to the area of the contract			
Information from Balance Sheet			
Total Assets			
Total Liabilities			
Net Worth			
Information from Income Statement			
Total Revenue			
<i>Out of which:</i>			
Total Operational Revenues			
Total Expenses			
<i>Out of which:</i>			
Total Operational Expenses			
Profits Before Taxes			

<i>Out of which:</i>			
Operational Profit			

2. Financial documents

The Applicant shall provide copies of the balance sheets and/or financial statements for two years pursuant Section III, Qualifications Criteria and Requirements, Sub-factor 2.2. The financial statements shall:

- (a) reflect the financial situation of the Applicant , not sister or parent company.
- (b) be audited by a certified accountant.
- (c) correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited (no statements for partial periods shall be requested or accepted).

Attached are copies of relevant pages of financial statements audited by certified reputable auditors or certified by the fiscal authority of the country where the applicant is registered/ incorporated) for the two years required; and complying with the requirements.

Signed *[insert signature(s) of an authorized representative(s) of the Applicant]*

Name *[insert full name of person signing the application]*

Dated on *[insert day number]* day of *[insert month]*, *[insert year]*

Form 4 a) Availability of Staff – Expertise

[The following table shall be filled in for the Applicant and jointly for the Joint Venture/Consortium]

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Contract title: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

[Provide information on the availability of the personnel resources over the past two (2) years pursuant to Section III, Qualification Criteria and Requirements, Sub-Factor 2.3 a)

Firm Name	#	Staff	Current year	Year -1	Year -2	Average
[Insert Name]	1	Permanent Staff				
	2	Permanent staff in % of total (1/9)				
	3	Of which staff specialized in the area of the contract				
	4	Specialized staff in % of total (3/9)				
	5	Non-permanent staff				
	6	Non-permanent staff in % of total (5/9)				
	7	Of which staff specialized in the area of the contract				
	8	Specialized staff in % of total (7/9)				
	9	TOTAL				

Signed *[insert signature(s) of an authorized representative(s) of the Applicant]*

Name *[insert full name of person signing the application]*

Dated on *[insert day number]* day of *[insert month]*, *[insert year]*

Form 4 b Personnel Resources

[The following table shall be filled in for the Applicant and each of the Joint Venture/Consortium Members]

Date: *[insert day, month, year]*

Contract title: CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

REFERENCE NUMBER: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL

[Provide information that demonstrate availability of expertise indicated in Section III, Qualification Criteria and Requirements, Sub-Factor 2.3 a).]

Name of the person	Area of Professional Experience	Position held	Years of relevant professional experience (as per column 2)	Professional Qualification	Nationality

Signed *[insert signature(s) of an authorized representative(s) of the Applicant]*

Name *[insert full name of person signing the application]*

Dated on *[insert day number]* day of *[insert month]*, *[insert year]*

PART 2

Section VI. Description of the project

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)

1. Background information

International trade has long been recognized as Africa's answer to overcome the disadvantages of the continent's relatively small economies, the fluctuating and mostly negative trends in international terms of trade, and the legacy of colonialism as well as policy shortcomings, which have prevented the continent from assuming a global market share befitting its significant market size and natural resource endowments. Trade is key to Africa's long-term sustainable economic growth and transformation.

However, Africa has continued to play a minimal role in global agricultural trade—its share of world agricultural trade grew only marginally from 4.3 percent to 5.0 percent between 2005 and 2017. And despite the strengthening of the continent's comparative advantage in agricultural products in recent years, its advantage has largely been limited to unprocessed and semi-processed products. Non-tariff barriers present the biggest impediment to Africa's trade performance, and to a lesser extent the lack of agricultural product diversification and high trading costs.

Food production, processing, and marketing in the COMESA Region is highly fragmented among many small producers, processors and handlers who lack appropriate knowledge and expertise in the application of modern practices and food hygiene. The challenges and capacity gaps for these small and medium size enterprises to supply safe and quality food are multi-faceted:

- few well established systems and programmes for assisting the less developed food enterprises to develop their capacity
- lack of effective public policies and institutions to provide regulatory oversight.
- too few trained and skilled people to carry out food safety activities in both the public sector and in small-and medium-size enterprises (SME's)
- inadequate laboratory testing capacity to identify food safety risks.
- low levels of investment and compliance with international standards
- weak monitoring and enforcement of regulations by competent authorities
- low levels of literacy among most of the food producers and processors
- fragmented and disconnected food systems,
- ✓ Unaffordable and cumbersome conformity assessment systems

Sustainable and resilient food and agri-food businesses need to have market access to local, regional and global markets through compliance with internationally recognized food safety standards as well as market-driven safety and quality schemes. Recognizing the importance of this, COMESA's Food Safety Programme has been designed to enhance food safety culture amongst competent authorities as well as industry and value chain actors in national, regional and global supply chains. The Programme recognizes

the catalytic role of industry, especially SMEs, and thus places them at the centre-stage in order to enable sustainable implementation outcomes through effective capacity building interventions.

Towards this end, COMESA has, riding on the back of lessons learnt from the GFSI Global Markets Programmes implemented in some countries in the region and beyond (Malaysia, Egypt and a pilot carried out in Zambia between 2012-2014), initiated rolling-out of the first ever region-wide Global Markets Programme through development and implementation of a tailored Scheme fully anchored on the GFSI Global Markets Programme in order to address the underlying challenges and dynamics that inhibit SMEs (primary producers and food processors) compliance and access to regional and global markets.

The project is anchored under the EDF 11 funded COMESA REGIONAL ENTERPRISE COMPETITIVENESS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROGRAMME (RECAMP) Sub-result 1.2 of the Programme: ***Capacities of beneficiary firms related to SPS and regional standards and quality management are improved, including social and environment standards required under the WTO and/or EU market.***

The COMESA project forms the first of its kind for a region-wide programme, which will be implemented with technical support from an International Expert with extensive expertise and experience in projects of this nature recruited through competitive bidding. The primary objective is to facilitate market access, create mutual acceptance along the supply chain and provide a framework for mentoring small/less developed food businesses in the Member States.

Given the project wide scope incorporating several activities and sub-activities to be carried out over a protracted period, the assignment has been divided into 2 Phases. to be implemented consecutively. Phase I focuses on the design and development of the regional GMaP scheme itself, its validation by the participating Member States stakeholders as well as establishment of an online platform of the scheme. Phase II entails implementation of the developed scheme as well as key related imperatives covering global recognition requirements and perspectives.

2. Description of the Assignment

2.1 Objective

The overall objective of the assignment is to enhance SPS/Technical standards and quality management capacities of SMEs through the development and implementation of a voluntary capacity building scheme based on the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Global Markets Programme (GMaP) for both primary and processing sectors.

2.2 Scope of Work:

- 1) Inception Report
- 2) Design/Development of a voluntary capacity building scheme based on the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Global Markets Programme (GMaP) for both primary and processing sectors.

- 3) Conduct data collection on consumer market preferences and regulatory requirements in the selected countries.
- 4) Organize virtual validation of the designed scheme
- 5) Design/Formulate an online platform concept of the scheme.
- 6) Phase I Report

Phase II:

- 7) Organize national training workshops for COMESA MSs on the developed scheme
- 8) Identify and engage four (4) Regional Consultants for sub-contracting work at national level to provide coordination, technical backstopping and day-to-day mentoring of SMEs
- 9) Conduct gap assessments of identified agri-business SMEs in the food sector in 10 countries (gaps)
- 10) Establish 10 public-private platforms (one per country) to finalize the scheme based on the outcome of the national and regional workshops.
- 11) Implement the designed GFSI GMaP Scheme in the ten identified countries (20 enterprises/country) covering the identified key value chains
- 12) Support enterprises to develop action plans to implement technical capacity programs from training.
- 13) Provide skills transfer and technical backstopping to the Regional consultants
- 14) Train core group auditors from ten (10) Member States on GFSI recognized certification schemes.
- 15) Mentor a group of suppliers (20 per country), provide advice and technical support for the implementation of the scheme (diagnostic, training, mentoring & audit)
- 16) Create business linkages between supplier (SMEs) and the buyers.
- 17) Launch award program for the suppliers successfully implementing the scheme and achieve the compliance. Link the Award to the GFSI Global Awards Programme
- 18) Support COMESA Secretariat to negotiate with GFSI for the benchmarking and recognition of the developed voluntary capacity building scheme
- 19) Organize regional workshop to share experience and lessons-learned and develop policy recommendations for an AfCTA wide programme.

2.3. Deliverables

- 1) Inception report, incorporating the methodology and draft work-plan.
- 2) Voluntary capacity building scheme based on the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Global Markets Programme (GMaP) developed and validated by stakeholders.
- 3) Consumer market preferences and regulatory requirements data matrix compiled and evaluated.
- 4) Online platform concept of the scheme designed/formulated.
- 5) Phase I report

- 6) Four (4) Regional Consultants identified and sub-contracted.
- 7) National training workshops for COMESA MSs on the developed scheme
- 8) Gap assessments of identified agri-business SMEs in the food sector in the 10 countries.
- 9) Ten (10) public-private platforms established (one per country) to finalize the scheme
- 10) SMEs action plans developed/implemented.
- 11) Skills transfer/Technical backstopping to the Regional consultants.
- 12) Core group of auditors from ten Member States trained on the GFSI recognized certification schemes.
- 13) National training & consultation workshops in ten target countries covering the priority value chains.
- 14) Twenty suppliers in the ten countries mentored through advice and technical support for the implementation of the scheme (diagnostic, training, mentoring & audit)
- 15) Business linkages created between supplier (SMEs) and the buyers.
- 16) GFSI GMaP Scheme in the ten identified countries (20 enterprises/country) implemented
- 17) Award program for the suppliers successfully implementing the scheme and achieving compliance. Award linked to the GFSI Global Awards Programme
- 18) Negotiations with GFSI to support COMESA for the benchmarking and recognition of the developed voluntary capacity building scheme.
- 19) SMEs ready for certification on one of the Schemes.
- 20) Regional workshop to share experience and lessons-learned and develop policy recommendations for a Tripartite/AfCFTA wide programme.
- 21) Final consolidated report

2.4 COMESA-led Complimentary activities

- 1) Facilitate access to all available documentation relevant to this assignment
- 2) Official introductions of the consulting firm to the relevant Member States Institutions and project stakeholders.
- 3) Translation of official project related documents to COMESA official languages
- 4) Validation workshops logistics
- 5) MoU with GFSI (collaboration on implementation and sustainability of GMaP)
- 6) Engagements with CCFICS and establishment of partnerships with vTPA programme owners

3. Reporting

The consultants will submit an inception report, a final work plan and project milestones within the first month of contracting. The Phase I report should be completed and submitted within the first two weeks of contract signature. whilst the mid-term report will be submitted half-way through the project implementation period. The consultants will provide electronic versions of all materials. The selected consulting firm and team will work closely with the COMESA SPS/TBT Unit and report to the Director for Industry and Agriculture at the COMESA Secretariat.

4. Timeline of activities

The expected duration of the consultancy work is 12 months; expected to commence in

September 2021 and to end by 31st November 2022.

5. Requirements and Qualifications

The consulting firm/organization/entity must have professional experience in design development and implementation of the Global Markets Programme (GMaP) of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) on a regional level. The following minimum requirements are required:

- Company Profile (including any other material relevant to the services being requested); nature of business, field of expertise, license and certifications
- Business licenses-registration papers, tax payment certification, etc.
- Demonstrated 20 years of combined experience in delivering similar assignments on GMaP (list of projects' details including the scope, location and clients)
- Team size and competencies in the key areas of assignment; program design, program implementation; diagnostic, training, mentoring & audit of SMEs on Food Safety Management Systems.
- The consulting firm presence (offices) in East and Southern Africa and understanding of challenges and capacity gaps of small and medium size enterprises in the region.

a). Key Expert: Team leader: Qualifications and Experience

- 1) University degree in a field of food science/technology; public health, chemical and biological sciences, agri-business and related disciplines
- 2) Relevant post-graduate degree would be an added advantage.
- 3) Demonstrated technical knowledge and expertise in design, development, and implementation of the Global Markets Programme (GMaP) of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)
- 4) Good knowledge of the GMaP training and competency framework and its application at a regional level
- 5) Practical experience in developing food safety capacity building needs assessments
- 6) Demonstrated competences related to mentoring SMEs in the agri-business sector on voluntary capacity building certification schemes requirements.
- 7) At least 10 years demonstrable experience performing food safety management systems audits. Registered food safety management systems auditor
- 8) Experience working within the agri-business value chain implementing and operating a food safety management system within a company.
- 9) Practical implementation knowledge and skills of relevant good practice guides (GMP, GHP, GAP, GVP)
- 10) Participation in the GFSI structures (technical committees; working group; G2B Committee etc
- 11) Strong networks in the public sector, SPS/TBT regulatory Institutions; private sector bodies; GFSI – linked consumer goods forum organisations; and large retail supermarkets in the region.

b) Regional Consultants: [x4]: Qualifications/Experience

- 1) University degree in a field of food science/technology; public health, chemical and biological sciences, agri-business and related disciplines
- 2) At least five years demonstrable experience performing food safety management systems audits.
- 3) At least five years' experience relevant to training in food safety management systems and standards
- 4) Demonstrated knowledge and experience in implementation of the Global Markets Programme of the GFSI.
- 5) Experience working within the agriculture value chain, preferably with an understanding of implementing and/or operating an agro- management system of a company.
- 6) Experience with implementation of good practice guides, such as GMP, GHP, GAP, GVP, in SME environments.
- 7) Understanding the principles and application of HACCP in SMEs in the region.
- 8) Understanding the principles of food safety risk management and risk mitigation, including the processes used for determination and application of risk levels.

7. The COMESA Secretariat herewith invites companies/firms to submit Applications for prequalification for the following contract: **CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL VOLUNTARY CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME BASED ON THE GLOBAL MARKETS PROGRAMME (GMaP) OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI) Number: CS/PROC/EDF/8.3/10/2021/25TPL** which will include the following key experts (KE):

KE1: Team Leader

KE2: Regional Experts x4