

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Developing and strengthening pilot cross-Nistru river business clusters

RFP Reference No.: RFP23/02686

Project: Advanced Cross-river Capacities for Trade (AdTrade) Project

Country: Republic of Moldova

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SECTION 1: LETTER OF INVITATION

United Nations Development Programme, hereinafter referred to as UNDP, through **"Advanced Cross-river Capacities for Trade (AdTrade) Project"** Project, hereby invites prospective proposers to submit a proposal for **Developing and strengthening 4 (four) pilot cross-Nistru river business clusters** in accordance with the General Conditions of Contract and the Terms of Reference as set out in this Request for Proposal (RFP).

To enable you to submit a proposal, please read the following attached documents carefully.

- Section 1: This Letter of Invitation Section 2: Instruction to Proposers Section 3: Data Sheet Section 4: Evaluation Criteria Section 5: Terms of Reference Section 6: Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms Section 7: Proposal Forms - Form A: Proposal confirmation - Form B: Checklist
- Form C: Technical Proposal Submission
- Form D: Proposer Information
- Form E: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information
- Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
- Form G: Format for Technical Proposal
- Form H: Format for CV of Proposed Key Personnel
- Form I: Statement of Exclusivity and Availability
- Form J: Financial Proposal Submission
- Form K: Format for Financial Proposal

If you are interested in submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, please prepare your proposal in accordance with the requirements and procedure as set out in this RFP and submit it by the deadline for submission of proposals set out in Section 3: Data Sheet.

Should you be interested to submit a proposal, please log in to the Quantum NextGenERP supplier portal and subscribe to this tender following the instructions in the system user guide. Please search for the tender using search filters, namely **Negotiation ID: UNDP-MDA-00167.** Once subscribed to the tender, you will be able to receive notifications in case of amendments of the tender document and requirements.

Please indicate whether you intend to submit a bid by creating a draft response without submitting directly in the Quantum NextGenERP supplier portal.

Offers must be submitted directly in the Quantum NextGenERP supplier portal following this link: <u>http://supplier.quantum.partneragencies.org/</u> using the profile you may have in the portal (please log in using your username and password). In case you have never registered before, follow the <u>Supplier Portal</u> <u>Registration Link</u>

(<u>https://estm.fa.em2.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/PrcPosRegisterSupplier?prcBuId=300000127714247</u>) to register a profile in the system.

Please note that the access link to the Supplier registered profile is sent from Oracle within up to 3 days. In case you have not received the access link after 3 days since registration, you should address for support to UNDP at the email address: <u>sc.md@undp.org</u>. In case you encounter errors with registration (e.g. system states Supplier already is registered), you should address for support to UNDP at the email address: <u>sc.md@undp.org</u>.

Computer firewall could block *oracle* or *undp.org extension* and Suppliers might not receive the Oracle notifications. Please turn down any firewalls on your computers to ensure receipt of email notification.

Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not remember the password or the username from previous registration.

Should you require further clarifications on the application through the Quantum online portal, kindly contact the Procurement Unit at <u>sc.md@undp.org</u>. Please pay attention that the proposal shall be submitted online through the Quantum system and any proposal sent to the above email shall be disqualified.

Should you require further clarifications on the Request for Proposal, Terms of Reference or other requirements, kindly communicate using the messaging functionality in the portal.

Deadline for Submission of Offers (Date and Time), which is visible in the online procurement system will be final. System will not accept submission of any proposal after that date and time. It is the responsibility of the bidder to make sure that the proposal is submitted prior to this deadline for submission.

Bidders are advised to upload proposal documents and to submit their offer a day prior or well before the date and time indicated under the deadline for submission of Offers. Do not wait until last minute. If Bidder faces any issue during submitting offers at the last minutes prior to the deadline for submission, UNDP may not be able to assist on such a short notice and will not be held liable in such instance. UNDP will not accept any offer that is not submitted directly through the System.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

UNDP Moldova

SECTION 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

GENERAL		
1. Scope	Proposers are invited to submit a proposal for the services specified in Section 5: Terms of Reference, in accordance with this Request for Proposal (RFP). A summary of the scope of the proposal is included in Section 3: Data Sheet.	
	Proposers shall adhere to all the requirements of this RFP, including any amendment made in writing by UNDP. This RFP is conducted in accordance with Policies and Procedures of UNDP which can be accessed at <u>UNDP Programme and Operations</u> <u>Policies and Procedures/Procurement</u> .	
	As part of the bid, it is desired that the Bidder registers at the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) website (<u>www.ungm.org</u>). The Bidder may still submit a bid even if not registered with the UNGM. However, if the Bidder is selected for contract award, the Bidder must register on the UNGM prior to contract signature.	
2. Interpretation of the RFP	Any proposal submitted will be regarded as an offer by the proposer and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the proposal by UNDP. UNDP is under no obligation to award a contract to any proposer as a result of this RFP.	
3. Supplier Code of Conduct, Fraud, Corruption, Gifts and Hospitality	All proposers must read the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct and acknowledge that it provides the minimum standards expected of suppliers to the UN. The Code of Conduct, which includes principles on labour, human rights, environment and ethical conduct may be found at: <u>https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/about-us/un-supplier-code-conduct</u>	
	Moreover, suppliers should note that certain provisions of the Code of Conduct will be binding on the supplier in the event that the supplier is awarded a contract, pursuant to the terms and conditions of any such contract.	
	UNDP strictly enforces a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical or unprofessional practices, and obstruction of UNDP vendors and requires all bidders/vendors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement process and contract implementation. UNDP's Anti-Fraud Policy can be found at http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/audit/office	
	Bidders/vendors shall not offer gifts or hospitality of any kind to UNDP staff members including recreational trips to sporting or cultural events, theme parks or offers of holidays, transportation, or invitations to extravagant lunches or dinners.	
	In pursuance of this policy, UNDP:	
	 (a) Shall reject a proposal if it determines that the selected proposer has engaged in any corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question; (b) Further to the UNDP's vendor sanctions policy, shall declare a vendor ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period, to be awarded a contract if at any time it determines that the vendor has engaged in any corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing a UNDP contract. 	

4. Eligible	Proposers shall have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract with UNDP.
proposers	
	A proposer, and all parties constituting the proposer, may have the nationality of any country with the exception of the nationalities, if any, listed in Section 3: Data Sheet. A proposer shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the proposer is a citizen or is constituted, incorporated, or registered and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country.
	All proposers found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Proposers may be considered to have a conflict of interest if they are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates that have been engaged by UNDP to provide consulting services for the preparation of the design, specifications, Terms of Reference, cost analysis/estimation and other documents to be used for the procurement of the services required in the present procurement process; were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this RFP; or are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of UNDP and/or are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of UNDP.
	In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of a potential conflict of interest, Bidders must disclose to UNDP, and seek UNDP's confirmation on whether or not such a conflict exists.
	Similarly, the Bidders must disclose in their proposal their knowledge of the following:
	 a) If the owners, part-owners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, of the bidding entity or key personnel are family members of UNDP staff involved in the procurement functions and/or the Government of the country or any Implementing Partner receiving services under this RFP; and b) All other circumstances that could potentially lead to actual or perceived conflict of interest, collusion or unfair competition practices.
	Failure to disclose such an information may result in the rejection of the proposal or proposals affected by the non-disclosure.
	The eligibility of Bidders that are wholly or partly owned by the Government shall be subject to UNDP's further evaluation and review of various factors such as being registered, operated and managed as an independent business entity, the extent of Government ownership/share, receipt of subsidies, mandate and access to information in relation to this RFP, among others. Conditions that may lead to undue advantage against other Bidders may result in the eventual rejection of the Proposal.
	Proposers shall not be eligible to submit a proposal if at the time of proposal submission:
	• is included in the Ineligibility List, hosted by <u>UNGM</u> , that aggregates information disclosed by Agencies, Funds or Programs of the UN System;
	• is included in the <u>Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List</u> , including the <u>UN Security Council Resolution 1267/1989 list;</u>
	• is included in the <u>World Bank Corporate Procurement Listing of Non-Responsible</u> <u>Vendors</u> and <u>World Bank Listing of Ineligible Firms and Individuals</u> .
5. Proprietary information	The RFP documents and any Terms of Reference or information issued or furnished by UNDP are issued solely for the purpose of enabling a proposal to be completed and may not be used for any other purpose. The RFP documents and any additional information provided to proposers shall remain the property of UNDP. All documents which may form part of the proposal will become the property of UNDP, who will not be required to return them to your firm.
6. Publicity	During the RFP process, a proposer is not permitted to create any publicity in connection with the RFP.

SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS		
7. Clarification of solicitation documents	Proposers may request clarifications on any of the RFP documents no later than the date indicated in Section 3: Data Sheet. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing in the manner indicated in Section 3: Data Sheet. Explanations or interpretations provided by personnel other than the named contact person will not be considered binding or official.	
	UNDP will provide the responses to clarifications through the method specified in Section 3: Data Sheet.	
	UNDP shall endeavour to provide responses to clarifications in an expeditious manner, but any delay in such response shall not cause an obligation on the part of UNDP to extend the submission date of the proposals, unless UNDP deems that such an extension is justified and necessary.	
8. Amendment of solicitation documents	At any time prior to the deadline for proposal submission, UNDP may for any reason, such as in response to a clarification requested by a proposer, modify the RFP in the form of an amendment to the RFP. Amendments will be made available to all prospective proposers.	
	If the amendment is substantial, UNDP may extend the deadline for submission of proposals to give the proposers reasonable time to incorporate the amendment into their proposal.	
PREPARATION OF PROP	OSALS	
9. Cost of preparation of proposal	The proposer shall bear all costs related to the preparation and/or submission of the proposal, regardless of whether its proposal is selected or not. UNDP shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the procurement process.	
10. Language	The proposal, as well as any and all related correspondence exchanged by the proposer and UNDP, shall be written in the language(s) specified in Section 3: Data Sheet.	
11. Documents establishing eligibility and qualifications of the proposer	The proposer shall furnish documentary evidence of its status as an eligible and qualified vendor, using the forms provided in Section 7 and providing the documents required in those forms. In order to award a contract to a proposer, its qualifications must be documented to UNDP's satisfaction.	
11.a Documents comprising the	The proposal bid shall comprise of the following documents and related forms which details are provided in Section 3: Data Sheet:	
proposal	 c) Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder; d) Technical Proposal; e) Financial Proposal; 	
	f) Proposal Security, if required by DS;g) Any attachments and/or appendices to the Proposal.	
12. Technical proposal format and	The proposer is required to submit a technical proposal using the forms provided in Section 7 and taking into consideration the requirements in the RFP.	
content	The technical proposal shall not include any price or financial information. A technical proposal containing material financial information may be declared non-responsive.	
13. Financial proposal	The financial proposal shall be prepared using the form provided in Section 7 and taking into consideration the requirements in the RFP. It shall list all major cost components associated with the services, and the detailed breakdown of such costs.	
	Any output and activities described in the technical proposal but not priced in the financial proposal, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items as well as in the final total price.	
	Prices and other financial information must not be disclosed in any other place except in the financial proposal.	

14. Currencies	 All prices shall be quoted in the currency or currencies indicated in Section 3: Data Sheet. Where proposals are quoted in different currencies, for the purposes of comparison of all proposals: UNDP will convert the currency quoted in the proposal into the UNDP preferred currency, in accordance with the UN Operational Rate of Exchange.
	 In the event that UNDP selects a proposal for award that is quoted in a currency different from the preferred currency in Section 3: Data Sheet, UNDP shall reserve the right to award the contract in the currency of UNDP's preference, using the conversion method specified above.
15. Duties and taxes	Article II, Section 7, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including UNDP as a subsidiary organ, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. All proposals shall be submitted net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties, unless otherwise specified in Section 3: Data Sheet
16. Proposal validity period	Proposals shall remain valid for the period specified in Section 3: Data Sheet, commencing on the deadline for submission of proposals. A proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by UNDP and rendered non-responsive.
	During the proposal validity period, the proposer shall maintain its original proposal without any change, including the availability of the key personnel, the proposed rates and the total price.
	In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the proposal validity period, UNDP may request proposers to extend the period of validity of their proposals. The request and the responses shall be made in writing and shall be considered integral to the proposal.
	If the proposer agrees to extend the validity of its proposal, it shall be done without any change to the original proposal but will be required to extend the validity of the proposal security, if required, for the period of the extension, and in compliance with Article 17 (Proposal security) in all respects.
	The proposer has the right to refuse to extend the validity of its proposal without forfeiting the proposal security, if required, in which case, the proposal shall not be further evaluated.

17. Proposal security	A proposal security, if required by Section 3: Data Sheet, shall be provided in the amount and form indicated in the Section 3: Data Sheet. The proposal security shall be valid for a minimum of thirty (30) days after the final date of validity of the proposal.
	The proposal security shall be included along with the proposal. If a proposal security is required by the RFP but is not found in the proposal, the offer shall be rejected.
	If the proposal security amount, or its validity period, is found to be less than is required by UNDP, UNDP shall reject the proposal.
	In the event an electronic submission is allowed in Section 3: Data Sheet, proposers shall include a copy of the proposal security in their proposal and the original of the proposal security must be sent via courier or hand delivery as per the instructions in Section 3: Data Sheet.
	Unsuccessful proposers' proposal securities will be discharged/returned as promptly as possible but no later than thirty (30) days after the expiration of the period of proposal validity prescribed by UNDP pursuant to Article 16 (Proposal Validity Period).
	The Proposal security may be forfeited by UNDP, and the proposal rejected, in the event of any, or combination, of the following conditions:
	 If the proposer withdraws its offer during the period of the proposal validity specified in Section 3: Data Sheet, or; In the event the successful Proposer fails: to sign the contract after UNDP has issued an award; or to furnish the performance security, insurances, or other documents that UNDP may require as a condition precedent to the effectivity of the contract that may be awarded to the proposer.

18. Joint Venture, Consortium or Association	If the proposer is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a Joint Venture (JV), Consortium or Association for the proposal, each such legal entity will confirm in their joint proposal that:
	 they have designated one party to act as a lead entity, duly vested with authority to legally bind the members of the JV, Consortium or Association jointly and severally, and this will be evidenced by a duly notarised agreement among the legal entities, which will be submitted along with the proposal; and
	• if they are awarded the contract, the contract shall be entered into by and between UNDP and the designated lead entity, who will be acting for and on behalf of all the member entities comprising the joint venture.
	After the deadline for submission of proposal, the lead entity identified to represent the JV, Consortium or Association shall not be altered without the prior written consent of UNDP.
	If a JV, Consortium or Association's proposal is the proposal selected for award, UNDP will award the contract to the joint venture, in the name of its designated lead entity. The lead entity will sign the contract for and on behalf of all other member entities.
	The lead entity and the member entities of the JV, Consortium or Association shall abide by the provisions of Article 19 (Only one Proposal) herein in respect of submitting only one proposal.
	The description of the organization of the JV, Consortium or Association must clearly define the expected role of each of the entities in the joint venture in delivering the requirements of the RFP, both in the proposal and the JV, Consortium or Association Agreement. All entities that comprise the JV, Consortium or Association shall be subject to the eligibility and qualification assessment by UNDP.
	A JV, Consortium or Association, in presenting its track record and experience, should clearly differentiate between:
	• Those that were undertaken together by the JV, Consortium or Association; and
	• Those that were undertaken by the individual entities of the JV, Consortium or Association.
	Previous contracts completed by individual experts working privately but who are permanently or were temporarily associated with any of the member firms cannot be claimed as the experience of the JV, Consortium or Association or those of its members, but should only be claimed by the individual experts themselves in their presentation of their individual credentials.
	JV, Consortium or Associations are encouraged for high value, multi-sectoral requirements when the spectrum of expertise and resources required may not be available within one firm.

19. Only one proposal	The proposer (including the individual members of any Joint Venture) shall submit only one proposal, either in its own name or as part of a Joint Venture.
	 Proposals submitted by two (2) or more proposers shall all be rejected if they are found to have any of the following: they have at least one controlling partner, director or shareholder in common; or any one of them receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from the other/s; or they have the same legal representative for purposes of this RFP; or they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about, or influence on the proposal of another proposer regarding this RFP process; they are subcontractors to each other's proposal, or a subcontractor to one proposal also submits another proposal under its name as lead proposer; or some key personnel proposed to be in the team of one proposer participates in more than one proposal received for this RFP process. This condition relating to the personnel, does not apply to subcontractors being included in more than one proposal.
20. Alternative proposals	Unless otherwise specified in Section 3: Data Sheet, alternative proposals shall not be considered. If submission of alternative proposals is allowed in Section 3: Data Sheet, a proposer may submit an alternative proposal, but only if it also submits a proposal conforming to the RFP requirements. Where the conditions for its acceptance are met, or justifications are clearly established, UNDP reserves the right to award a contract based on an alternative proposal.
	If multiple/alternative proposals are being submitted, proposer must create an alternate response directly in the system and upload all attachments relevant to the alternate proposal separately together with the alternate response
21. Pre-proposal conference	When appropriate, a pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the date, time and location and according to any instructions specified in Section 3: Data Sheet.
	If it is stated in Section 3: Data Sheet that the pre-proposal conference is mandatory, a Proposer which does not attend the pre-proposal conference shall become ineligible to submit a proposal under this RFP.
	If it is stated in Section 3: Data Sheet that the pre-proposal conference is not mandatory, non-attendance shall not result in disqualification of an interested proposer.
	UNDP will not issue any formal answers to questions from proposers regarding the RFP or proposal process during the pre-proposal conference. All questions shall be submitted in accordance with Article 38 (Clarification of Proposals).
	The pre-proposal conference shall be conducted for the purpose of providing background information only. Without limiting Article 24 (Proposers responsibility) proposers shall not rely upon any information, statement or representation made at the pre-proposal conference unless that information, statement or representation is confirmed by UNDP in writing.
	Minutes of the pre-proposal conference will be disseminated as specified in Section 3: Data Sheet. No verbal statement made during the conference shall modify the terms and conditions of the RFP, unless specifically incorporated in the minutes of the proposer's conference or issued/posted as an amendment to RFP.

22. Site inspection	When appropriate, a site inspection will be conducted at the date, time and location and according to any instructions specified in Section 3: Data Sheet.
	If it is stated in Section 3: Data Sheet that the site inspection is mandatory, a proposer which does not attend the site inspection shall become ineligible to submit a proposal under this RFP.
	If it is stated in Section 3: Data Sheet that the site inspection is not mandatory, non- attendance, shall not result in disqualification of an interested proposer.
	Proposers participating in a site inspection shall be responsible for making and obtaining any visa arrangements that may be required for the proposers to participate in a site inspection.
	Prior to attending a site inspection, proposers shall execute an indemnity and a waiver releasing UNDP in respect of any liability that may arise from:
	(i) loss of or damage to any real or personal property;
	(ii) personal injury, disease or illness to, or death of, any person;
	(iii) financial loss or expense, arising out of the carrying out of that site inspection; and
	(iv) transportation by UNDP to the site (if provided) as a result of any accidents or malicious acts by third parties.
	UNDPwill not issue any formal answers to questions from proposers regarding the RFP or solicitation process during a site inspection. All questions shall be submitted in accordance with Article 7 (Clarification of solicitation documents).
	A site inspection will be conducted for the purpose of providing background information only. Without limiting Article 24 (Proposers Responsibility), proposers shall not rely upon any information, statement or representation made at a site inspection unless that information, statement or representation is confirmed by UNDP in writing.
23. Errors or omissions	Proposers shall immediately notify UNDP in writing of any ambiguities, errors, omissions, discrepancies, inconsistencies or other faults in any part of the RFP, with full details of those ambiguities, errors, omissions, discrepancies, inconsistencies or other faults.
	Proposers shall not benefit from such ambiguities, errors, omissions, discrepancies, inconsistencies or other faults.

24. Proposers responsibility to inform themselves	 Proposers shall be responsible for informing themselves in preparing their proposal. In this regard, proposers shall ensure that they: examine and fully inform themselves in relation to all aspects of the RFP, including the Contract and all other documents included or referred to in this RFP; review the RFP to ensure that they have a complete copy of all documents; obtain and examine all other information relevant to the project and the scope of the requirements available on reasonable enquiry; verify all relevant representations, statements and information, including those contained or referred to in the RFP or made orally during any clarification meeting or site Inspection or any discussion with UNDP, its employees or agents; attend any pre-proposal conference if it is mandatory under this RFP; fully inform and satisfy themselves as to requirements of any relevant authorities and laws that apply, or may in the future apply, to the supply of the services; and form their own assessment of the nature and extent of the services required as included in Section 5: Terms of Reference and properly account for all requirements in their proposal.
	representations or warranties (express or implied) as to the accuracy, currency or completeness of this RFP or any other information provided to the proposers.
25. No material change(s) in circumstances	 The proposer shall inform UNDP of any change(s) of circumstances arising during the RFP process, including but not limited to: a change affecting any declaration, accreditation, license or approval; major re-organisational changes, company re-structuring, a take-over, buy-out or similar event(s) affecting the operation and/or financing of the proposer or its major sub-contractors; a change to any information on which UNDP may rely in assessing proposals.
SUBMISSION AND OPEN	
26. Instruction for proposal submission	The proposer shall submit a complete proposal in the format and comprising the documents and forms in accordance with requirements in Section 3: Data Sheet. The proposal shall be delivered according to the method specified in Section 3: Data Sheet.
	The proposal shall be submitted by the proposer or person(s) duly authorized to commit the proposer. The authorization shall be communicated through a document evidencing such authorization issued by the legal representative of the proposing entity, or, if requested, a Power of Attorney, accompanying the proposal.
	Proposers must be aware that the mere act of submission of a proposal, in and of itself, implies that the proposer fully accepts the UNDP General Conditions of Contract.
26 a. Online	1.1 Electronic submission through online portal shall be governed as follows:
submission	• Electronic files that form part of the proposal must be in accordance with the format and requirements indicated in DS;
	 The Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal files MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE and each of them must be uploaded individually and clearly labelled.
	• The Financial Proposal file must be uploaded separately only in the commercial section of the RFP in the system. encrypted with a password so that it cannot be opened nor viewed until the password is provided.
	 Documents which are required to be in original form (e.g. Bid Security, etc.) must be sent via courier or hand delivery as per the instructions in DS. Detailed instructions on how to submit, modify or cancel a bid in the online portal are provided in the system Bidder User Guide made available in the procurement notice site and in the portal.

27. Deadline for Submission of Proposals and Late Proposals	Complete proposals must be received by UNDP in the manner, and no later than the date and time, specified in Section 3: Data Sheet. If any doubt exists as to the time zone in which the Proposal should be submitted, refer to http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/ . It shall be the sole responsibility of the proposers to ensure that their proposal is received by the closing date and time. UNDP shall accept no responsibility for proposals that arrive late due to any technical issues and shall only recognise the actual date and time that the proposal was received by UNDP. UNDP may, at its discretion, extend this deadline for the submission of proposals by amending the solicitation documents in accordance with Article 8 (Amendment of solicitation documents). In this case, all rights and obligations of UNDP and proposers subject to the previous deadline will thereafter be subject to the new deadline as extended.
28. Withdrawal, substitution and modification of	A proposer may withdraw or modify its proposal after it has been submitted at any time prior to the deadline for submission directly in the system following the instructions provided in the user guide.
proposals	However, after the deadline for proposal submission, the proposals shall remain valid and open for acceptance by UNDP for the entire proposal validity period, as may be extended.
29. Storage of proposals	Proposals received are kept confidential and unopened in the system as part security protocols built in the system until the proposal opening date stated in Section 3: Data Sheet.
30. Proposal opening	There is no mandatory public bid opening for RFPs however UNDP may at its discretion sent a public bid opening report from the system only to suppliers who successfully submitted a proposal. The report will include only the names of the companies but not the financial proposal.
31. Late proposals	Any proposal received by UNDP after the deadline for submission of proposals will be destroyed unless the proposer requests that it be returned and assumes the responsibility and expenses for the re-possession of the returned proposal documents.
	In exceptional circumstances, late proposals may be accepted if it is determined that the submission was sent in ample time prior to the proposal closing and the delay could not be reasonably foreseen by the proposer or were due to force majeure.
EVALUATION OF PROPO	SALS
32. Confidentialit y	Information relating to the examination, evaluation, and comparison of proposals, and the recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to proposers or any other persons not officially concerned with such process, even after publication of the contract award.
	Any effort by a proposer or anyone on behalf of the proposer to influence UNDP in the examination, evaluation and comparison of the proposals or contract award decisions may, at UNDP's decision, result in the rejection of its proposal and may subsequently be subject to the application of prevailing UNDP's vendor sanctions procedures.
33. Evaluation of proposals	UNDP shall evaluate a proposal using only the methodologies and criteria defined in this RFP. No other criteria or methodology shall be permitted.
	UNDP shall conduct the evaluation solely on the basis of the submitted technical and financial proposals.
	 Evaluation of proposals shall be undertaken in the following steps: a) Preliminary examination b) Evaluation of minimum eligibility and qualification (if pre-qualification is not done) c) Evaluation of technical proposals d) Evaluation of financial proposals.

34. Preliminary examination	UNDP shall examine the proposals to determine whether they are complete with respect to minimum documentary requirements, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the proposals are generally in order, among other indicators that may be used at this stage. UNDP reserves the right to reject any proposal at this stage.
35. Evaluation of eligibility and qualification	Eligibility and qualification of the proposer will be evaluated against the minimum eligibility and qualification requirements specified in Section 4: Evaluation Criteria and in Article 4 (Eligible proposers).
	In general terms, vendors that meet the following criteria may be considered qualified:
	a) They are not included in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 Committee's list of terrorists and terrorist financiers, and in UNDP's ineligible vendors' list;
	b) They have a good financial standing and have access to adequate financial resources to perform the contract and all existing commercial commitments,
	c) They have the necessary similar experience, technical expertise, production capacity, quality certifications, quality assurance procedures and other resources applicable to the supply of goods and/or services required;
	d) They are able to comply fully with the UNDP General Terms and Conditions of Contract;
	 e) They do not have a consistent history of court/arbitral award decisions against the Bidder; and
	f) They have a record of timely and satisfactory performance with their clients.

36. Evaluation of technical and financial proposals	The evaluation team shall review and evaluate the technical proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference and other RFP documents, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system specified in Section 4: Evaluation Criteria. A proposal shall be rendered non-responsive at the technical evaluation stage if it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in Section 3: Data Sheet. When necessary, and if stated in the Data Sheet, UNDP may invite technically responsive proposers for a presentation related to their technical proposals. The conditions for the presentation shall be provided in the proposal document where required.
	When necessary, and if stated in the Section 3: Data Sheet, UNDP may invite technically responsive bidders for a presentation related to their technical Proposals. The conditions for the presentation shall be provided in the bid document where required.
	In the second stage, only the financial proposals of those proposers who achieve the minimum technical score will be opened for evaluation.
	The evaluation method that applies for this RFP shall be as indicated in Section 3: Data Sheet, which may be either of two (2) possible methods, as follows: (a) the lowest priced method which selects the lowest evaluated financial proposal of the technically responsive Proposers; or (b) the combined scoring method which will be based on a combination of the technical and financial score.
	When the Data Sheet specifies a combined scoring method , the formula for the rating of the proposals will be as follows:
	Rating the Technical Proposal (TP):
	TP Rating = (Total Score Obtained by the Offer / Max. Obtainable Score for TP) x 100
	Rating the Financial Proposal (FP):
	FP Rating = (Lowest Priced Offer / Price of the Offer Being Reviewed) x 100
	Total Combined Score:
	Combined Score = (TP Rating) x (Weight of TP, e.g. 70%) + (FP Rating) x (Weight of FP, e.g., 30%)
37. Post- qualification/Due Diligence	UNDP reserves the right to undertake a post-qualification assessment, aimed at determining, to its satisfaction, the validity of the information provided by the proposer. Such exercise shall be fully documented and may include, but need not be limited to, all or any combination of the following:
	 a) Verification of accuracy, correctness and authenticity of information provided by the proposer; b) Validation of extent of compliance to the RFP requirements and evaluation criteria based on what has so far been found by the evaluation team; c) Inquiry and reference checking with Government entities with jurisdiction on the proposer, or with previous clients, or any other entity that may have done business with the proposer; d) Inquiry and reference checking with previous clients on the performance on on-going or completed contracts, including physical inspections of previous works, as deemed necessary; e) Physical inspection of the proposer's offices, branches or other places where business transpires, with or without notice to the proposer; f) Other means that UNDP may deem appropriate, at any stage within the selection process, prior to awarding the contract.

38. Clarification of proposals	UNDP may request clarification or further information in writing from the proposers at any time during the evaluation process. The proposers' responses shall not contain any changes regarding the substance or price of the proposal, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by UNDP in the evaluation of the proposals, in accordance with Instructions to Proposers Article 23 (Errors or omissions). UNDP may use such information in interpreting and evaluating the relevant proposal but is under no obligation to take it into account. Any unsolicited clarification submitted by a proposer in respect to its proposal which is
	not a response to a request by UNDP, shall not be considered during the review and evaluation of the proposals.
39. Responsivene ss of proposal	UNDP's determination of a proposal's responsiveness is to be based on the contents of the proposal itself. A substantially responsive proposal is one that conforms to all the terms, conditions, TOR and other requirements of the RFP without material deviation, reservation, or omission. A material deviation, reservation, or omission is one that:
	 a) affects in any substantial way the scope, quality, or performance of the services specified in the contract; or b) limits in any substantial way, inconsistent with the solicitation documents, UNDP's rights or the proposer's obligations under the contract; or c) if rectified would unfairly affect the competitive position of other proposers presenting substantially responsive proposals.
	If a proposal is not substantially responsive, it shall be rejected by UNDP and may not subsequently be made responsive by the proposer by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.
40. Nonconformit ies, reparable errors and omission	Provided that a proposal is substantially responsive, UNDP may waive any non- conformities or omissions in the proposal that, in the opinion of UNDP, do not constitute a material deviation. These are a matter of form and not of substance and can be corrected or waived without being prejudicial to other proposers.
	Provided that a proposal is substantially responsive UNDP may request the proposer to submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions in the proposal related to documentation requirements. Such omission shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the proposal. Failure of the proposer to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its proposal.
	For financial proposals that have been opened, UNDP shall check and correct arithmetical errors as follows:
	 a) if there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the line-item total that is obtained by multiplying the unit price by the quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the line item total shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of UNDP there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price; in which case, the line item total as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected;
	 b) if there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail, and the total shall be corrected; and
	c) if there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail.
	If the proposer does not accept the correction of errors, its proposal shall be rejected, and its proposal security may be forfeited.

41. Right to accept any proposal and to reject any or all proposals	UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals, and to annul the proposal process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected proposer or proposers or any obligation to inform the affected proposer or proposers of the grounds for UNDP's action. UNDP shall not be obliged to award the contract to the lowest priced offer.				
AWARD OF CONTRACT					
42. Award criteria	Prior to expiration of the proposal validity, UNDP shall award the Contract to the qualified proposer based on the award criteria indicated in Section 3: Data Sheet.				
43. Right to vary requirement at time of award	At the time the Contract is awarded, UNDP reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of services originally specified by up to a maximum twenty-five per cent (25%) of the total offer, without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions and the solicitation document.				
44. Notification of award	Prior to the expiration of the period of proposal validity, UNDP will notify the successful proposer in writing by email, fax or post, that its proposal has been accepted. Please note that the proposer, if not already registered at the appropriate level in UNGM, will be required to complete the vendor registration process on the UNGM prior to the signature and finalization of the contract.				
45. Debriefing	In the event that a proposer is unsuccessful, the proposer may request a debriefing from UNDP. The purpose of the debriefing is to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the proposer's submission, in order to assist the proposer in improving its future proposals for UNDP procurement opportunities. The content of other proposals and how they compare to the proposer's submission shall not be discussed.				
46. Publication of contract award	UNDP will publish the contract award on UNDP Procurement Notices website https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_awards.cfm which is linked to the <u>United</u> <u>Nations Global Marketplace</u> , with the RFP Reference number, the information of the awarded proposer's company name, contract amount or LTA and the date of the contract.				
47. Contract Signature	Within fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the Contract, the successful Bidder shall sign and date the Contract and return it to UNDP. Failure to do so may constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award, and forfeiture of the Bid Security, if any, and on which event, UNDP may award the Contract to the Second highest rated or call for new Bids.				
48. Contract Type and General Terms and Conditions	The types of Contract to be signed and the applicable UNDP Contract General Terms and Conditions, as specified in Data Sheet, can be accessed at <u>http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-buy.html</u>				
49. Performance security	The successful Proposer, if so specified in Section 3: Data Sheet shall furnish a Performance Security in the amount and form specified herein: https://popp.undp.org/ layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP POPP DOC UMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Solicitation_Performance%20Guarantee%20Form.docx &action=default, within the specified number of days after receipt of the Contract from UNDP. Banks issuing performance securities must be acceptable to the UNDP comptroller, i.e. banks certified by the central bank of the country to operate as a commercial bank. The Performance Security form is available here. UNDP shall promptly discharge the proposal securities of the unsuccessful proposers pursuant to Article 17 (Proposal security). Failure of the successful proposer to submit the above-mentioned Performance Security or sign the Contract shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award and forfeiture of the proposal security. In that event UNDP may award the contract to the next lowest ranked proposer.				

50. Bank guarantee for advance payment	Except when the interests of UNDP so require, it is UNDP's standard practice not to make advance payment(s) (i.e., payments without having received any outputs). If an advance payment is allowed as per Section 3: Data Sheet, and if specified there, the proposer shall submit a Bank Guarantee in the full amount of the advance payment using this <u>bank guarantee form</u> available at : <u>https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOC_UMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Contract%20Management%20Payment%20and%20Tax</u> es Advanced%20Payment%20Guarantee%20Form.docx&action=default. Banks issuing bank guarantees must be acceptable to the UNDP comptroller, i.e. banks certified by					
51. Liquidated Damages	 If specified in Section 3: Data Sheet, UNDP shall apply Liquidated Damages for the damages and/or risks caused to UNDP resulting from the Contractor's delays or breach of its obligations as per the Contract. The payment or deduction of such liquidated damages shall not relieve the Contractor from any of its other obligations or liabilities pursuant to any current contract or purchase order. 					
52. Proposal protest	Any proposer that believes to have been unjustly treated in connection with this proposal process or any contract that may be awarded as a result of such proposal process may submit a complaint to UNDP. The following link provides further details regarding UNDP vendor protest procedures: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/protest-and-sanctions.html					
53. Other Provisions	In the event that the Bidder offers a lower price to the host Government (e.g. General Services Administration (GSA) of the federal government of the United States of America) for similar goods and/or services, UNDP shall be entitled to the same lower price. The UNDP General Terms and Conditions shall have precedence.					
	UNDP is entitled to receive the same pricing offered by the same Contractor in contracts with the United Nations and/or its Agencies. The UNDP General Terms and Conditions shall have precedence.					
	The United Nations has established restrictions on employment of (former) UN staff who have been involved in the procurement process as per bulletin ST/SGB/2006/15 http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=ST/SGB/2006/15&referer					

SECTION 3: DATA SHEET (DS)

The following specific data shall complement, supplement or amend the provisions in Section 2: Instructions to Proposers. In case there is a conflict, the provisions herein shall prevail over those in Section 2: Instructions to Proposers.

Ref. Article in Data Section 2		Specific Instructions / Requirements				
1.	Scope	The reference number of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is RFP23/02686				
		The services include provision of developing and strengthening 4 (four) pilot cross-Nistru river business clusters as further described in Section 5 of this RFP.				
2.	Eligible proposers	Proposers from all countries are eligible to participate in this proposal process.				
3.	Clarification of solicitation documents	Any request for clarification of solicitation documents must be sent directly in the system through Quantum message functionality .				
	uocuments	ATTENTION: PROPOSALS (OR ANY PART OF IT) SHALL NOT BE SUBMITTED IN THE ABOVE MANNER.				
		Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications / questions:				
		5 days before the submission deadline				
		Supplemental information to the RFP and responses / clarifications to queries will be posted directly in the system.				
4.	Language	All proposals, information, documents and correspondence exchanged between UNDP and the proposers in relation to this solicitation process shall be in English				
5.	Partial proposals	Submitting proposals for parts or sub-parts of the TOR is:				
		Not allowed				
6.	Currencies	Prices shall be quoted only in the currency indicated in the system:				
		MDL (Moldovan Leu) for local suppliers				
		and				
		USD (US Dollars) for international suppliers.				
		For evaluation purposes, all the rates shall be recalculated at UN Operational Rate of Exchange indicated in the portal:				
		https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php				
7.	Duties and taxes	All prices shall:				
		Be exclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes.				
8.	Proposal validity period	90 days				
9.	Proposal security	Not Required				
10.	Alternative proposals	Shall not be considered.				
11.	Pre-proposal conference	Will not be conducted				

Ref. Article in Section 2	Data	Specific Instructions / Requirements				
12.	Site inspection	A site inspection will not be held.				
13.	Instructions for	Proposals must be submitted directly in Quantum .				
	proposal submission	Allowable manner of submitting proposals:				
		 File Format: PDF files only 				
		 File names must be clearly indicative of the file content and uploaded in the relevant section as instructed in the system. File names must be in English. 				
		 All files must be free of viruses and not corrupted. 				
		 It is recommended that the entire Proposal be consolidated into as few attachments as possible. 				
		 The proposer should receive an email acknowledging receipt of the proposal by the system. 				
		 The Financial Proposal (Forms J and K) shall be submitted directly in the system only in the "Commercial section" of the requirements. Non- compliance with this instruction may result in rejection of the proposal received. 				
14.	Deadline for proposal submission	Deadline for proposal submission is indicated in the portal . In case of discrepancies between the deadline in the system and deadline indicated elsewhere, the one in the system prevails.				
15.	Proposal Opening	Public proposal opening will NOT be held				
16.	Evaluation of	Evaluation will be based on:				
	technical and financial proposals	\boxtimes Combined scoring method using a distribution of 60%-40%: Technical proposal - financial proposal				
		The maximum number of technical points is detailed in Section 4: Evaluation Criteria				
		To be substantially compliant, Proposers must obtain a minimum threshold of 70% of maximum points from technical evaluation.				
17.	Right to vary requirement at time of award	The maximum percentage by which quantities may vary is 25%				
18.	Contract award to	UNDP will award a contract to:				
	one or more proposer	One Bidder Only				
19.	Type of contract to	Contract Face Sheet				
	be awarded	More information can be accessed at http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how- we-buy.html				
		See Section 6 for link to sample contract.				
20.	Expected date for commencement of contract	30 July 2023 (estimative)				

Ref. Article in Section 2	Data	Specific Instructions / Requirements		
21.	Conditions of contract to apply	UNDP General Terms and Conditions for contracts (goods and/or services)		
		See Section 6 for link to the contract terms.		
22.	Performance Security	Not Required		
23.	Advance payment	Not Allowed		
24.	Liquidated damages	Will be imposed as follows: Percentage of contract price per day of delay: 0.3 % up to a maximum number of days of delay: 30, after which UNDP may terminate the contract.		
25.	Documents to be submitted with your Proposal	 Company Profile, which should <u>not</u> exceed fifteen (15) pages, including list of relevant institutions the Company has been cooperating with, including the topic and year must be presented together with the application package Certificate of Incorporation/ Business Registration List of Shareholders and Other Entities Financially Interested in the Firm owning 5% or more of the stocks and other interests, or its equivalent if Bidder is not a corporation including the Certificate from State Register Official Letter of Appointment as local representative, if Bidder is submitting a Bid on behalf of an entity located outside the country Quality Certificate (e.g., ISO, etc.) and/or other similar certificates, accreditations, awards and citations received by the Bidder, if any Financial Statement (Income Statement and Balance Sheet) for the past 3 years (2022, 2021, 2020) Statement of Satisfactory Performance from the Top three (3) Clients in terms of Contract Value Consortium or Subcontracting Agreement or letter of intent to form a consortium or Subcontracting Agreement or letter of intent to form a consortium or foles and responsibilities of the proposed key personnel Copies of contracts to prove that Offeror meets the similar experience requirement (stated under Section 4: Evaluation Criteria) CVs and Statements of Exclusivity and Availability (signed by the envisaged person) of the Key personnel (mentioned under in Section 5: ToR), including experience relevant to the required skills Dully filled in Proposal Forms A-K (as per Section 7: Proposal Forms). Forms A-I, representing the Financial Proposal, shall be submitted directly in the system only in the "Commercial section" of the requirements. Forms J and K, representing the Tinancial Proposal received. 		

SECTION 4: EVALUATION CRITERIA

Preliminary Examination Criteria

All criteria will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis and checked during Preliminary Examination.

Criteria	Documents to establish compliance
Completeness of the Proposal	All documents requested in Section 2: Instructions to Bidders Articles 11 and 12 have been provided and are complete.
Proposer accepts UNDP General Conditions of Contract as specified in Section 6.	Duly signed and stamped Form C: Technical Proposal Submission has been provided.
Proposal Validity	Duly signed and stamped Form C: Technical Proposal Submission has been provided.
Appropriate signatures	Proposal Forms have been duly signed and stamped.
Power of Attorney [if applicable]	Certified Letter of Appointment and/or power of attorney authorizing the representative of the Bidder to sign bids has been provided.

Minimum Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

Minimum eligibility and qualification criteria will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis.

If the Proposal is submitted as a Joint Venture, Consortium or Association, each member should meet the minimum criteria, unless otherwise specified.

Eligibility Criteria	Documents to establish compliance
Legal Status: Proposer is a legally registered entity.	Form D: Proposer Information
Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging : Proposer belongs to a diverse supplier group, including micro, small or medium sized enterprise, women or youth owned business or other.	Form D: Proposer Information
Eligibility: Vendor is not suspended, nor otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization, the World Bank Group or any other International Organisation in accordance with Section 2 Article 4.	Form C: Technical Proposal Submission
Conflict of Interest: No conflicts of interest in accordance with Section 2 Article 4.	Form C: Technical Proposal Submission
Bankruptcy: The Proposer has not declared bankruptcy, in not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against	Form C: Technical Proposal Submission

the	e ۱	vendor	that	could	impair	its	operations	in	the
for	es	eeable	future						

Qualification Criteria	Documents to establish compliance
History of non-performing contracts¹: Non-performance of a contract did not occur as a result of contractor default within the last 3 years ¹ .	Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
Litigation History: No consistent history of court/arbitral award decisions against the Proposer for the last 3 years.	Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
Previous Experience	
At least 5 years of practical experience in the fields related to local economic development in Moldova. (for consortiums all Parties cumulatively should meet requirement).	Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
Experience in implementing at least 3 interventions related to clusters creation and value chains development implemented over the last 5 years. (for consortiums all Parties cumulatively should meet requirement).	Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
Minimum Key Personnel	
 The minimum personnel mandatory for the implementation of the contract: 1 (one) Team Leader 4 (four) Cluster Development Consultants 1 (one) Private Sector Engagement Expert for Transnistrian region The Proposer could consider other personnel if it is required for the successful implementation of the present assignment, however, only the above listed will be evaluated against evaluation criteria in Section 4. Please note: The above listed roles can be cumulated by certain team members, but not more than two roles per team member, clarifying in the Methodology the reasoning for such approach and distribution of tasks. 	Attach required documents to Form H: Format for CV of proposed Key Personnel

¹ Non-performance, as decided by UNDP, shall include all contracts where (a) non-performance was not challenged by the contractor, including through referral to the dispute resolution mechanism under the respective contract, and (b) contracts that were so challenged but fully settled against the contractor. Non-performance shall not include contracts where Employer's decision was overruled by the dispute resolution mechanism. Non-performance must be based on all information on fully settled disputes or litigation, i.e. dispute or litigation that has been resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution mechanism under the respective contract and where all appeal instances available to the Bidder have been exhausted.

Financial Standing	
Liquidity: The Ratio Average current assets / Current liabilities over the last 3 (three) years must be equal or greater than 1. Proposers must include in their Proposal audited balance sheets cover the last 3 (three) years. (For JV/Consortium/Association, all Parties company cumulatively should meet requirement).	Copy of audited financial statements for the last 3 (three) years – 2020, 2021, 2022 Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
Turnover: Proposers should have a minimum average annual turnover of 130,000 US\$ for the last 3 years. (For JV/Consortium/Association, all Parties company cumulatively should meet requirement).	Copy of audited financial statements for the last 3 (three) years – 2020, 2021, 2022. Form F: Eligibility and Qualification

Technical Evaluation Criteria

Sur	nmary of technical proposal evaluation sections	Points obtainable
1.	Proposer's qualification, capacity and experience	300
2.	Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan	400
3.	Management structure and key personnel	300
	Total	1000

Sect	ion 1. Proposer's qualification, capacity and experience	Points obtainable
1.1	Reputation of Organization and Staff / Credibility / Reliability / Industry Standing (up to max 30 pts.)	30
1.2	Extent to which any work would be subcontracted / Certain development processes will be outsourced (no $-$ 30 pts., yes $-$ 0 pts.)	30
1.3	At least 2 projects/assignments related to cluster initiation/development/capacity building or value chain development of entrepreneur associations/patronage associations and/or other business agglomerations (2 projects – 50 pts., each additional project – 5 pts., up to max 70 pts.)	70
1.4	At least 3 years of experience cooperating with Public Authorities (Central, Local), Public Institutions and Public Agencies in Moldova. <i>Evidence: list of relevant institutions the Company has been cooperating with, including the topic and year must be presented together with the application package</i> (3 years – 50 pts., each additional year – 5 pts., up to max 70 pts.)	70
1.5	At least 5 years of experience cooperating with private sector and business associations. <i>Evidence: list of relevant organizations/companies the Company has been cooperating with,</i> <i>including the topic and year must be presented together with the application package</i> (5 years – 40 pts., each additional year – 5 pts., up to max 60 pts.)	60
1.6	Working experience with UN Agencies and/or other international organizations (no – 0 pts., yes – 20 pts.)	20

1.7	Organisation Commitment to Sustainability:	
	 Organisation is compliant with ISO 14001 or ISO 14064 or equivalent – 10 points Organisation is a member of the UN Global Compact – 5 points Organisation demonstrates significant commitment to sustainability through compared to sustainability. 	20
	 Organisation demonstrates significant commitment to sustainability through some other means (for example internal company policy documents on women empowerment, renewable energies or membership of trade institutions promoting such issues) – 5 points 	20
	Total Section 1	300

Sec	tion 2. Proposed methodology approach and implementation plan	Points obtainable
1.1	 To what degree does the Proposer understand the task? (up to max 50 pts.): the Proposer has full understanding of the assignment. The proposed approach and methodology fully demonstrate responsiveness to the ToR – 41 pts. to 50 pts; the Proposer has satisfactory understanding of the assignment. The proposed approach and methodology correspond to the TOR but require some adjustments to properly address all the tasks – 21 pts. to 40 pts; the Proposer has no and/or limited understanding of the assignment. The proposed approach approach and methodology don't correspond to the TOR and require major adjustments to properly address the tasks – 0 pts. to 20 pts. 	50
1.2	 Have the important aspects of the task been addressed in sufficient detail? (up to max 60 pts): the important aspects of the task have been addressed in sufficient detail in a manner which does not require any further clarification on the proposed methodology – 46 pts. to 60 pts; the important aspects of the task have been addressed in a manner which requires some clarification on the proposed methodology – 21 pts. to 45 pts; the important aspects of the task have not been addressed in sufficient detail and require major clarification on the proposed methodology – 0 pts. to 20 pts. 	60
1.3	 Are the different components of the project adequately weighted relative to one another? (up to max 40 pts.): the different components of the assignment have been fully weighted relative to one another – 26 pts. to 40 pts; the different components of the assignment have been partially weighted relative to one another – 11 pts. to 25 pts; the different components of the assignment have not been weighted relative to one another – 0 pts. to 10 pts. 	40
1.4	 Is the adopted conceptual framework appropriate for the task? (up to max 90 pts): the presented conceptual framework is appropriate for the assignment, all important aspects being fully described, and requirements addressed – 61 pts. to 90 pts; the presented conceptual framework requires some adjustments to fully incorporate all aspects and requirements of the assignment – 31 pts. to 60 pts; the presented conceptual framework requires major adjustments to address all the aspects and requirements of the assignment – 0 pts. to 30 pts. 	90
1.5	 Is the scope of the task well defined and does it correspond to the TOR? (up to max 90 pts.) the scope of the task is well defined and fully corresponds to the ToR - 71 pts. to 90 pts; the scope of the task is well defined, yet does not fully correspond to the ToR - 31 pts. to 70 pts; the scope of the task is not well defined and does not correspond to the ToR - 0 pts. to 30 pts. 	90

1.6	 Is the presentation clear and is the sequence of activities and the planning logical, realistic and promise efficient implementation of the project? (up to max 50 pts.) the presentation is clear, well-structured with a defined and realistic sequence of activities, which promises efficient implementation of the assignment – 41 pts. to 50 pts; the presentation is clear, well-structured with a defined yet rather unrealistic sequence of activities – 21 pts. to 40 pts; the presentation is not well structured and doesn't present a clear sequence of activities – 0 pts. 	50
1.7	Were any quality assurance, risk mitigation measures procedures and warranty proposed? $(no - 0 \text{ pts.}, \text{ yes} - 20 \text{ pts.}).$	20
	Total Section 2	400

See	tion 3. Management Structure and Key Personnel		Points obtainable
1	Team Leader		
	University degree in Economics, Management and Business Administration background (University degree – 5 pts.; Master's degree – 10 pts.)	10	
	Minimum of 10 years of experience in managing projects related to local and regional economic development, private sector engagement, including similar contracts in terms of services and scope (10 years – 20 pts., each additional year – 5 pts, up to max 45 pts.)	45	115
	Proven experience in the field of cluster development (2 projects – 15 pts., each additional project – 5 pts., up to max 35 pts.)	35	
	Working experience with UN Agencies and/or other international organizations (no – 0 pts, yes – 10 pts.)	10	
	Excellent written and spoken Romanian, Russian and English (5 pts. each)	15	
2	4 (four) Cluster Development Consultants – (max 30 points for each)		
	University degree in Economics, Management and Business Administration background or other relevant field (University degree – 2 pts.; Master's degree – 4 pts.)	4	
	Minimum 6 years of experience in consultancy services in the field of local and regional economic development (6 years – 8 pts., each additional year – 1 pt., up to max 10 pts.)	10	120
	Working experience in the field of cluster or value chain development (1 project -8 pts., each additional project -1 pt., up to max 10 pts.)	10	
	Excellent written and spoken Romanian, Russian; Knowledge of English language (2 pts. each)	6	
3	Private Sector Engagement Expert for Transnistrian region		
	University degree in Economics, Management and Business Administration background (University degree – 5 pts.; Master's degree – 10 pts.)	10	
	Minimum of 5 years of experience in consultancy services in the field of local and regional economic development (5 years – 8 pts., each additional year – 1 pt., up to max 15 pts.)	15	65
	Working experience with private sector in Transnistrian region (3 years – 8 pts., each additional year – 2 pts, up to max 18 pts.)	18	
	Working experience with local communities in Transnistrian region (3 years – 8 pts., each additional year – 2 pts, up to max 16 pts.)	16	
	Fluent in Russian and English; Knowledge of Romanian language (2 pts. each)	6	
	Total S	ection 3	300

SECTION 5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

developing and strengthening 4 (four) pilot cross-Nistru river business clusters

A. PROJECT TITLE: ADTRADE PROJECT

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Background:

The "frozen conflict" situation in Transnistrian region, an area that accounts for one third of the country's total industrial production and almost the entire energy production, has led to a decrease in living standard and its economy has not being able to fully benefit from the opportunities provided by the assistance offered to Republic of Moldova. For instance, the development opportunities offered by the Association Agreement, signed by Republic of Moldova with the EU, as well as the DCFTA arrangements, are significantly out of reach for the region's economy. The region remains isolated and undergoes gradual erosion of social cohesion.

As well, the situation led to defragmentation and disintegration of business communities located in proximity, along Nistru river, with negative impact on the overall competitiveness of neighbouring communities from both banks.

Currently, most small and medium enterprises from the left bank are not yet fully equipped to trade and their share in the external regional trade is negligible, so far. Despite this negative scenario, the Transnistrian's region MSME community, be it in traditional agricultural sector or in other emerging industries, has the potential to grow, launch new products and services and expand exports once they are ready. There is a stringent need to build on existent efforts, adapt to new emerging trends, contexts and opportunities, and finally, strengthen and equip left bank trade actors to deliver.

In 2019, the UNDP launched the "Advanced Capacities for Trade" (AdTrade) project, specifically designed to address the challenges of post-conflict trade in the Transnistrian region. The project aims to support an environment of trust and cooperation across the post-conflict divide by leveraging the opportunities offered by the DCFTA and consolidating trade ties across the river and with the EU. Additionally, the project aims to promote economic growth that benefits the most vulnerable in the region. To achieve these goals, the AdTrade project focuses on reducing the information gap on DCFTA, enhancing MSME competitiveness, and promoting the development of an entrepreneurship culture. The project facilitates the integration of Transnistrian businesses into export promotion mechanisms on the right bank and provides tailored support to meet the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

The AdTrade Project's second implementation phase is focused on creating a business-friendly environment for cross-river cooperation and economic integration in the Transnistrian region. The project aims to increase the access of SMEs to export promotion mechanisms and provide tailored support and capacity development to meet their specific needs. This includes regulatory measures, technical assistance, and market research to promote economic growth and development in the region.

Overall, the AdTrade project is a unique initiative designed to contribute to a range of complex and interlinked goals, including building trust and cooperation across the post-conflict divide, promoting economic growth, and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in the Transnistrian region.

In the context of the current competition the focus is on developing of a functional cross-river business clustering mechanism. This mechanism will aim to bring together businesses from both sides of the river, in order to create a more integrated and dynamic regional economy. By breaking down traditional geographical barriers, the mechanism will enable businesses to access new markets, customers, and resources, and to collaborate more effectively with other businesses in the region.

C. SCOPE OF SERVICES

AdTrade Project seeks a specialized consulting organization (hereinafter Service Provider) that have sufficient capability and experience to conceptualize and implement the process of developing and strengthening 4 (four) pilot cross-Nistru river business clusters. Initially 6 pilot clusters are identified while at a later stage only 4 will be supported via cluster investment project.

The objective of this assignment is to build forward-looking capacities that will give the clusters better competitive chances in both domestic and foreign markets, while also consolidating cooperation between the business sectors from both banks of the river. More specifically, the requested consulting services will consist of the following:

- Conceptualize and develop the Methodological Approach for piloting the cross-Nistru river business clustering support interventions within the AdTrade Project context;
- Conduct the preparatory activities for setting up of local participatory cluster development mechanism (in each of the targeted 4 pilot clusters, initially 6 clusters are identified);
- Preparation and organization of 3 external benchmarking study visits (average one per 2 pilot business cluster);
- Conduct the Diagnostic Analysis for each of the 6 pilot cross-river clusters;
- Elaboration of a 3-Year Cluster Development Roadmap for each of the targeted 6 pilot cross-river business clusters;
- Support the institutionalization of the targeted cross-river business clusters;
- Support in the preparation of the Cluster Development Project Proposal to be submitted to Ad-Trade for co-financing (granting);
- Support in the implementation of the 4 Cluster Development Investment Project, co-financed by the AdTrade and local stakeholders;
- Continuous capacity building activities for 4 clusters and engaged local stakeholders.

D. KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES AND TENTATIVE TIMEFRAME

The Service Provider shall take full responsibility for the execution and delivery of the following tasks and outputs to achieve the objectives of the assignment as described below:

Key activities and deliverables	Period of Implementation
Task 1: Identify the potential for piloting the cross-Nistru river business clustering support interventions within the AdTrade Project context.	Months 1-3
 Identify and analyse (mapping) the availability and features of the cross-river value chain agglomerations, located in proximity districts from both banks of Nistru in six sectors, including tourism, apparel, agriculture and creative industries. Analyse the convergences and restraints of current economic, financial, regulatory, fiscal and infrastructural context related to the cross-river business cooperation promotion. Evaluate the existing potential alternatives for the development of cross-river business clusters and identify the six most feasible and impactful options (based on a set of pre-defined criteria). This activity should include a thorough evaluation of existing options, taking into consideration various factors such as economic potential, stakeholder support, implementation feasibility, and potential impact on the region's economic development. Conduct a meso-level analysis of the motivations and interests of local stakeholder groups from the cross-river area for engaging in joint business clustering initiatives. 	
This analysis should take into consideration the unique characteristics and needs of each stakeholder group, including local businesses, local governments, industry associations, and community organizations. The analysis should also identify any potential barriers or challenges to engagement and collaboration, such as lack of trust or understanding, political sensitivities, or logistical constraints.	
• Blueprint a detailed tailor-made methodology for piloting the cross-river cluster development interventions within the AdTrade Project.	
Deliverable I: 1 st Intermediate Progress Report	
 The Report on selection of six pilot cross-river business clusters, based on the in-depth evaluation of the available alternative options. The customized concept and detailed methodology on piloting the business clustering in cross-river area, to be further advanced with the AdTrade Project support. 	
<u>Task 2:</u> Conduct the preparatory activities for setting up of local participatory cluster development mechanism <u>(in each of the targeted 6 pilot clusters</u>)	Month 3-4
 Conduct a comprehensive stakeholder analysis (private sector, public sector and development-education-innovation entities). Identification of the most relevant and motivated representatives of local stakeholders (public, private, education-innovation entities) and in-depth analysis of their potential roles in further cluster development process. Elaboration of the primary hypothesis on cluster development barriers and opportunities and short-term achievable results. 	

• Engage, inform and sensitize the local key-stakeholders on the project objectives, potential benefits and the required level of engagement, aiming to increase their understanding, awareness and commitment.	
<u>Note*:</u> a distinct engagement and sensitizing mechanism shall be applied for the private sector representatives from the left bank of the river.	
 Setting up of a Cluster Development Initiative Group and ensuring the joint commitment of its individual members for advancing the cooperation. Support the self-organization of the Cluster Development Initiative Group (elected leadership, cooperation framework, working plan). 	
Deliverable II: 2 nd Intermediate Progress Report	
 Stakeholder Analysis (for each of the 6 targeted cross-river clusters) Endorsed minutes on setting up the Initiative Group in each of the targeted cross-river clusters. Endorsed the Action Plan of the Initiative Group towards the development 	
and institutionalization of the business cluster (tailor-made draft for each of the targeted cross-river cluster).	
Task 3: Preparation and organization of 3 external benchmarking study visits	Months 4-5
 Identification of similar value chains agglomeration (preferably in an EU country) which could be used for further benchmarking of the targeted cross-river clusters. Preparation and organization of an external study visit to a territorial value chain agglomeration (cluster-type), chosen for benchmarking. Grouping of at average 2 pilot clusters to 1 study visit. 	
<u>*Note:</u> The allocated budget 3 study visits constitutes maximum 30,000 USD.	
<u>**Note:</u> The number and list of participants will be discussed and agreed in advance with AdTrade Project Manager.	
Deliverable III: 3 rd Intermediate Progress Report	
• Report on conducted 3 external study visits (one per two pilot cross-river cluster).	
Task 4: Conduct the Diagnostic Analysis for each of the targeted 6 pilot cross-river clusters	Months 5-6
 Provide assistance to Cluster Development Initiative Groups in conducting the in-depth participatory diagnostic analyses, which will incorporate: Cluster and value chain mapping; Identify demands and needs; Economic analysis; Market analysis of the targeted cluster products/services; Cluster and value chain governance analyses; 	
 Develop cluster goal; 	

 Feasibility study for high potential cluster (including economic and technical feasibility). The pilot cluster for feasibility study will be instructed by project team; Drafting the Diagnostic Reports for each of the targeted cross-river clusters. 	
Deliverable IV: 4th Intermediate Progress Report	
 4.1 Diagnostic Reports of six targeted cross-river clusters, endorsed by the Initiative Groups. 4.2 Feasibility study for high potential cluster (including economic and technical feasibility). 	
Task 5: Elaboration of a 3-Year Cluster Development Roadmap for each of the targeted 6 pilot cross-river clusters	Month 6-7
• Assist the Initiative Groups to elaborate (in a wide participatory manner) the 3-Year Cluster Development Roadmap.	
<u>Note*:</u> The Cluster Development Roadmap will represent an action-oriented document. The tentative structure of the document shall be discussed and agreed in advance with AdTrade Project.	
Drafting the Cluster Development 3-Year Development Roadmap (for each of the targeted cross-river clusters).	
• Ensure the final debating and endorsing of the Development RoadMap with the Initiative Group members.	
Deliverable V: 5 th Intermediate Progress Report	
• Cluster Development 3-Year Roadmaps (for each of the 6 targeted cross- river clusters), endorsed by the Initiative Group.	
Task 6: Support the Cluster Institutionalization	Months 7-8
 Support the Initiative Groups on analyzing the alternatives and deciding upon the most optimal cluster institutionalization option. Support the preparation of cluster institutionalization (drafting related documents, deciding upon the leadership options, deciding upon the management entity options, consensus-building measures, etc.). Support the preparation and organization of the Cluster General Assembly Gathering (ensuring the participation of all engaged stakeholders), aiming the endorsement of the cluster institutionalization features. Support the operationalization of the cluster institutionalization decision. 	
<u>Note*:</u> The Cluster Institutionalization General Assembly is expected to debate and endorse the following documents:	
 Agreement-Memorandum on Cluster establishment (inclusively describing the organisation and functioning procedures and rules); Selection of the Cluster Leadership; 	

 Selection of the cluster management entity; Formal endorsement of the Cluster Development 3-Year Roadmap. 	
Deliverable VI: 6 th Intermediate Progress Report	
• Endorsed Cluster Institutionalization documentation (Agreement- Memorandum, minutes on selection of leadership and management entity, minutes on endorsing the 3-Year Cluster Development Roadmap).	
Task 7: Support in the preparation of the Cluster Development Project Proposal to be submitted to Ad-Trade for co-financing	Month 10
• Support the Cluster Leadership in conducting the prioritization (in accordance with endorsed Roadmaps) of the development interventions to be further submitted for co-financing (granting) to AdTrade Project	
<u>Note*</u> : AdTrade Project is planning to financially support 4 shortlisted clusters with grants up to \$250,000 each.	
• Support the Cluster Leadership in elaboration and submission of a Project Proposal for AdTrade financial support (granting)	
Deliverable VII: 7 th Intermediate Progress Report	
• 6 (six) Project Proposals submitted for granting to AdTrade Project.	
Task 8:Support in the preparation and implementation of the ClusterDevelopment Project, co-financed (granted) by the AdTrade	Months 11-20
 Provide support to Cluster Management Entities and engaged stakeholders in successful implementation of the investment projects, co-financed (granted) by AdTrade Project: Setting up the participatory implementation framework; Setting up the organizational and financial management framework; Procurement management support; Financial management support; Monitor and assess the co-financing engagement of the grant-beneficiaries; Early Warning mechanism; On-site implementation support. 	
Deliverable VIII-A: 8 th Intermediate Progress Report	
4-month Grant Implementation Report.	
Deliverable VIII-B: 9 th Intermediate Progress Report	
8-month Grant Implementation Progress Report.	
Deliverable VIII-C: 10 th Intermediate Progress Report	
Grant completion Progress Report.	

Task 9: Continuous capacity building activities	Months 4-20
Cluster management enhancement (tailor-made activities towards capacitating the Cluster Management Entity, in accordance with the Cluster Development Roadmap)	
 Support each target micro-cluster to organize annual Cluster General Assembly Meetings. Support Cluster leadership to regularly monitor, evaluate and update the (Cluster Development Readman') 	
 'Cluster Development Roadmap'. Organization of at least 5 tailor-made capacity building activities for each Cluster (customized, in accordance with the Cluster Development Roadmap). 	
Deliverable IX: 11 th Intermediate Progress Report	
• Report on implemented capacity building activities for each of the targeted 4 cross-river clusters.	
Final Progress Report	Month 20

All deliverables shall be endorsed by UNDP and provided in Romanian language (unless specified otherwise), both in hard and electronic copies.

E. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Contractor will be awarded a contract with UNDP for the delivery of services applied for and will work under the guidance of designated Project Officer and supervised by the Project Manager. The Project will provide all available relative documentation, facilitate first contacts and communication with stakeholders.

It is expected that the Contractor will interact with Local Public Authorities (LPA) (both district- and municipality- level), professional and high educational institutions. These institutions will not be involved in the decision-making processes, however they must be contacted to obtain necessary information and further involvement in the cluster-conceptualization and support.

The Contractor will be responsible for arranging all necessary local transportation and logistics arrangements, obtaining all needed permissions and establishing and maintaining of good working relationships with all involved parties.

F. DURATION OF WORK

- a) The estimated duration of services is 20 months. The expected time of commencement of contract is **June 2023**.
- b) UNDP will require maximum of 14 (fourteen) days (depending on the implementation stage) to review the deliverables, provide comments, approve or certify acceptance of deliverables.

The minimum key personnel required for the contract implementation shall meet the following requirements:

1. TEAM Leader

Qualifications:

- University degree in Economics, Management and Business Administration background
- Minimum of 10 years of experience in managing projects related to local and regional economic development, private sector engagement, including similar contracts in terms of services and scope
- Proven experience in the field of cluster development
- Working experience with UN Agencies and/or other international organizations
- Excellent written and spoken Romanian, Russian and English

2. Four Cluster Development Consultants (non-indicative list - agrifood, IT and creative, industry, tourism)

Qualifications:

- University degree in Economics, Management and Business Administration background or another relevant field
- Minimum 6 years of experience in consultancy services in the field of local and regional economic development
- Working experience in the field of cluster or value chain development
- Excellent written and spoken Romanian, Russian; Knowledge of English language

3. Private Sector Engagement Expert for Transnistrian region

Qualifications:

- University degree in Economics, Management and Business Administration background
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in consultancy services in the field of local and regional economic development
- Working experience with private sector in Transnistrian region
- Working experience with local communities in Transnistrian region
- Fluent in Russian and English; Knowledge of Romanian language

The Service Providers could consider additional personnel if it is required for the successful implementation of the present assignment, however, only the above listed key personnel will be evaluated against evaluation criteria of Section 4.

Tenderers shall provide information on the Project Team proposed to manage this assignment outlining details including:

- a) Extent of experience of each of the proposed team members.
- b) Details of their respective qualifications and relevant experience.

G. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND SERVICE LEVEL

- a) Conformity with the set time-frame;
- b) Prior coordination of activities with the Project team;
- c) Submitted reports must present the reference to official and reliable sources used, as well as provide recommendations;

d) Final Report with main conclusions and recommendations, as well as executive summary, will be presented in English language. While the Final Report extended version with Annexes will be presented in Romanian language. Intermediate reports will be submitted in Romanian.

H. DUTY STATION

While the Contractor, physically, may stay in its original duty station, the implementation of tasks #1-9 requires an intensive travel to the targeted cross-river business cluster (there are anticipated about 50 field visits per cluster).


SECTION 6: CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT AND CONTRACT FORMS

6.1 The types of Contract to be signed and the applicable UNDP Contract General Terms and Conditions, as specified in Data Sheet, can be accessed at http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-buy.html

6.2 Special Conditions of Contract

The following Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) shall supplement and/or amend the General Conditions of Contract. Whenever there is a conflict, the provisions herein shall prevail over those in the GCC:

Liquidated Damages will be imposed as follows:

Percentage of contract price per day of delay: **0.3 %.** Max. number of days of delay: 30, after which UNDP may terminate the contract.



SECTION 7: PROPOSAL FORMS

- Form A: Proposal Confirmation
- Form B: Checklist
- Form C: Technical Proposal Submission
- Form D: Proposer Information
- Form E: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information
- Form F: Eligibility and Qualification
- Form G: Format for Technical Proposal
- Form H: Format for CV of Proposed Key Personnel
- Form I: Statement of Exclusivity and Availability
- Form J: Financial Proposal Submission [Form J is part of the Financial Proposal and shall be submitted directly in the system only in the "Commercial section" of the requirements. Please, ensure that no other documents are disclosing your financial proposal apart from Forms J and K. Non-compliance with this instruction may result in rejection of the proposal received.]
- Form K: Format for Financial Proposal [Forms K is part of the Financial Proposal and shall be submitted directly in the system only in the "Commercial section" of the requirements. Please, ensure that no other documents are disclosing your financial proposal apart from Forms J and K. Non-compliance with this instruction may result in rejection of the proposal received.]



FORM A: PROPOSAL CONFIRMATION

Please acknowledge receipt of this RFP by completing this form and returning it by email to the address, and by the date specified, in the Letter of Invitation.

To: Insert name of contact person

Email: Insert contact person's email - do not enter secure proposal email address

From: Insert name of proposer

Subject RFP reference Click or tap here to enter text.

Check the appropriate box	Description	
	YES, we intend to submit a proposal.	
	NO , we are unable to submit a competitive proposal for the requested services at the moment	

If you selected NO above, please state the reason(s) below:

Check applicable	Description	
	The requested services are not within our range of supply	
	We are unable to submit a competitive proposal for the requested services at the moment	
	The requested services are not available at the moment	
	We cannot meet the requested terms of reference	
	The information provided for proposal purposes is insufficient	
	Your RFP is too complicated	
	Insufficient time is allowed to prepare a proposal	
	We cannot meet the delivery requirements	
We cannot adhere to your terms and conditions e.g. payment terms, requered performance security, etc. Please provide details below.		
	Sustainability criteria/requirements are too stringent (if applicable)	
	We do not export	
	We do not sell to the UN	
	Your requirement is too small	
	Our capacity is currently full	
	We are closed during the holiday season	
	We had to give priority to other clients' requests	
	The person handling proposals is away from the office	
	Other (please provide reasons below):	
Further information: Click or tap here to enter text.		
	We would like to receive future RFPs for this type of services	
	We don't want to receive RFPs for this type of services	

Questions to the Supplier concerning the reasons for no proposal should be addressed to Click or tap here to enter text. phone Click or tap here to enter number., email Click or tap here to enter text.



FORM B: CHECKLIST

This form serves as a checklist for preparation of your Proposal. Please complete the returnable Proposal Forms in accordance with the instructions and return them as part of your Proposal submission: No alteration to the format of forms shall be permitted and no substitution shall be accepted.

Before submitting your Proposal, please ensure compliance with the instructions in Section 2: Instructions to Proposers and Section 3: Data Sheet.

Technical Proposal:

Have	you duly completed all the Returnable Proposal Forms?	
	Form C: Technical Proposal Submission	
	Form D: Proposer information	
-	Form E: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information	
-	Form F: Eligibility and Qualification	
	Form G: Technical Proposal	
	Form H: CVs of proposed key personnel	
	Form I: Statements of exclusivity and availability for key personnel	
Have criter		
Have		

Financial Proposal:

Form J: Financial Proposal Submission	
 Form K: Financial Proposal 	

Forms J and K, representing the Financial Proposal shall be submitted directly in the system only in the "Commercial section" of the requirements. Please, ensure that no other documents are disclosing your financial proposal apart from Forms J and K. Non-compliance with this instruction may result in rejection of the proposal received.



FORM C: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference: Click or tap here to enter text.			

We, the undersigned, offer to supply the services required for Click or tap here to enter text.in accordance with your Request for Proposals No. Click or tap here to enter text.. We hereby submit our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal and our Financial Proposal uploaded separately under the commercial section in the system as instructed.

Proposer Declaration: on behalf of our firm, its affiliates, subsidiaries and employees, including any JV / Consortium / Association members or subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract.

Yes	No	
		Requirements and Terms and Conditions: I/We have read and fully understand the RFP, including the
		RFP Information and Data Sheet, Terms of Reference, the General Conditions of Contract and any
		Special Conditions of Contract. I/we confirm that the proposer agrees to be bound by them.
		I/We confirm that the proposer has the necessary capacity, capability and necessary licenses to fully
		meet or exceed the requirements and will be available to deliver throughout the relevant contract
		period.
		Ethics: In submitting this proposal I/we warrant that the proposer: has not entered into any improper,
		illegal, collusive or anti-competitive arrangements with any competitor; has not directly or indirectly
		approached any representative of the buyer (other than the point of contact) to lobby or solicit information in relation to the RFP; has not attempted to influence, or provide any form of personal
		inducement, reward or benefit to any representative of the buyer.
		I/We confirm to undertake not to engage in proscribed practices, or any other unethical practice, with
		the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational,
		reputational or other undue risk to the UN and we have read the United Nations Supplier Code of
		Conduct : <u>https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/about-us/un-supplier-code-conduct</u> and acknowledge that it
		provides the minimum standards expected of suppliers to the UN.
		Conflict of interest: I/We warrant that the proposer has no actual, potential or perceived conflict of
		Interest in submitting this proposal, or entering into a contract to deliver the requirements. Where a
		conflict of interest arises during the RFP process the proposer will report it immediately to the Procuring
		Organisation's Point of Contact.
		Prohibitions, Sanctions: I/We hereby declare that our firm, its affiliates or subsidiaries or employees, including any JV/Consortium members or subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract is not
		under procurement prohibition by the United Nations, including but not limited to prohibitions derived
		from the Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists and have not been suspended,
		debarred, sanctioned or otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank
		Group.
		I/We do not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been a UN staff member
		within the last year, if said UN staff member has or had prior professional dealings with our firm in
		his/her capacity as UN staff member within the last three years of service with the UN (in accordance
		with UN post-employment restrictions published in ST/SGB/2006/15);
		Bankruptcy: I/We have not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership
		proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against us that could impair our
		operations in the foreseeable future. Proposal Validity Period: I/We confirm that this Proposal, including the price, remains open for
		acceptance for the proposal validity period.
		I/We understand and recognize that you are not bound to accept any proposal you receive.
		By signing this declaration, the signatory below represents, warrants and agrees that he/she has been
		authorised by the Organisation/s to make this declaration on its/their behalf.



Name:	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

[Stamp with official stamp of the Proposer]



FORM D: PROPOSER INFORMATION

RFP Reference	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Legal name of Proposer	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Legal Address, City, Country	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Website	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Year of registration	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Proposer's Authorized Representative information	Name and Title: Click or tap here to enter text. Telephone numbers: Click or tap here to enter text. Email: Click or tap here to enter text.		
Legal structure	Choose an item.		
No. of full-time employees	Click or tap here to enter number.		
No. of staff involved in similar contracts	Click or tap here to enter number.		
Are you a UNGM registered vendor?	□ Yes □ No If yes, insert UNGM Vendor Number		
Years of supplying to UN organisations	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Are you a Click or tap here to enter text.vendor?	□ Yes □ No If yes, insert Vendor Number		
Countries of operation	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Subsidiaries in the region (please indicate names of subsidiaries and addresses, if relevant to the proposal)	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Commercial Representatives in the country: Name/Address/Phone (for international companies only)	Click or tap here to enter text.		
Quality Assurance Certification (e.g. ISO 9000 or Equivalent) (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):			
Does your Company have a corporate environmental policy or environmental management system/accreditation such as ISO 14001 or ISO 14064 or equivalent? (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):	 Tick all that apply and provide supporting documentation: Corporate Environmental Policy ISO 14001 ISO 14064 Other, specify Click or tap here to enter text. 		
Does your organization demonstrate significant commitment to sustainability, including the following aspects that have	Attach a formal statement that outlines your organisation's commitment to sustainability, where possible providing evidence of tangible results that demonstrate progress such as:		



been identified in the UN Sustainable	Tick all that are attached:
Procurement Framework?	Formal statement
 Environmental: prevention of pollution, sustainable resources; 	Sustainability report
climate change and mitigation and	UN Global Compact Communication on Progress
the protection of the environment, biodiversity.	□ Other, specify Click or tap here to enter text.
 Social: human rights and labour issues, gender equality, sustainable consumption, and social health and wellbeing. 	
• Economic: whole life cycle costing, local communities and small or medium enterprises, and supply chain sustainability.	
Does your company belong to a diverse supplier group including micro, small or medium sized enterprise, women or youth owned business or other?	Click or tap here to enter text.
(If yes, please provide details and documentation]	
Is your company a member of the UN	Choose an item.
Global Compact?	If yes, please provide link to Global Compact profile:
	Click or tap here to enter text.
Bank Information	Bank Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
	Bank Address: Click or tap here to enter text.
	IBAN: Click or tap here to enter text.
	SWIFT/BIC: Click or tap here to enter text.
	Account Currency: Click or tap here to enter text.
	Bank Account Number: Click or tap here to enter text.
Contact person that Click or tap here to	Name and Title: Click or tap here to enter text.
enter text. may contact for requests for	Telephone numbers: Click or tap here to enter text.
clarifications during Proposal evaluation	Email: Click or tap here to enter text.



FORM E: JOINT VENTURE/CONSORTIUM/ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference: Click or tap here to enter text.			

To be completed and returned with your Proposal if the Proposal is submitted as a Joint Venture/Consortium/Association.

No	Name of Partner and contact information (address, telephone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail address)	Proposed proportion of responsibilities (in %) and type of services to be performed
1	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
2	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
3	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of leading partner	
(with authority to bind the JV, Consortium, Association during the RFP process and, in the event a Contract is awarded, during contract execution)	Click or tap here to enter text.

We have attached a copy of the below referenced document signed by every partner, which details the likely legal structure of and the confirmation of joint and severable liability of the members of the said joint venture:

□ Letter of intent to form a joint venture **OR**

□ JV/Consortium/Association agreement

We hereby confirm that if the contract is awarded, all parties of the Joint Venture/Consortium/Association shall be jointly and severally liable to Click or tap here to enter text for the fulfilment of the provisions of the Contract.

Name of partner:	Name of partner:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:
Name of partner:	Name of partner:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:



FORM F: ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.		

If JV/Consortium/Association, to be completed by each partner.

History of Non- Performing Contracts

□No non-p	□No non-performing contracts during the last 3 years				
Contract	Contract(s) not performed in the last 3 years				
YearNon- performed portion of contractContract IdentificationTotal Contract Amount (current value in US\$)					
		Name of Client: Address of Client: Reason(s) for non-performance:			

Litigation History (including pending litigation)

□ No litigation history for the last 5 years			
Litigation History as indicated below			
Year of dispute	Amount in dispute (state currency)	Contract Identification	Total Contract Amount (state currency)
		Name of Client: Address of Client: Matter in dispute: Party who initiated the dispute: Status of dispute: Party awarded if resolved:	

Previous Relevant Experience

Please list only previous similar assignments successfully completed in the last 5 (five) years.

List only those assignments for which the Proposer was legally contracted or sub-contracted by the Client as a company or was one of the Consortium/JV partners. Assignments completed by the Proposer's individual experts working privately or through other firms cannot be claimed as the relevant experience of the Proposer, or that of the Proposer's partners or sub-consultants, but can be claimed by the Experts themselves in their CVs. The Proposer should be prepared to substantiate the claimed experience by presenting copies of relevant documents and references if so requested.

Project name & Country of Assignment	Client & Reference Contact Details	Contract Value (please indicate the currency)	Period of activity and status (Month/year)	Types of activities undertaken and role (Contractor, sub-contractor or consortium member)



Proposers may also attach their own Project Data Sheets with more details for assignments above.

 \Box Attached are the Statements of Satisfactory Performance from the top 3 (three) Clients or more.

Financial Standing

Annual Turnover for the last 3 years	Year 2022	Currency: USD	Amount
	Year 2021	Currency: USD	Amount
	Year 2020	Currency: USD	Amount
Latest Credit Rating (if any), indicate the source and date.			

Financial information (state currency)	Historic information for the last 3 years		
	2020	2021	2022
	Information from Balance Sheet		
Total Assets (TA)			
Total Liabilities (TL)			
Current Assets (CA)			
Current Liabilities (CL)			
	Information from Income Statement		
Total / Gross Revenue (TR)			
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)			
Net Profit			
Current Ratio (current			
assets/current liabilities)			

 \Box Attached are copies of the audited financial statements (balance sheets, including all related notes, and income statements) for the years required above complying with the following condition:

- a) Must reflect the financial situation of the Proposer or party to a JV, and not sister or parent companies;
- b) Historic financial statements must be audited by a certified public accountant;
- c) Historic financial statements must correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited. No statements for partial periods shall be accepted.



FORM G: FORMAT FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.		

The proposer's proposal must be organised to follow the format of this Technical Proposal Form. Where the proposer is presented with a requirement or asked to use a specific approach, the proposer must not only state its acceptance, but also describe, where appropriate, how it intends to comply. Where a descriptive response is requested, failure to provide the same will be viewed as non-responsive.

Section 1: Proposer's qualification, capacity and expertise

1.1 Brief description of the organisation, including the year and country of incorporation, and types of activities undertaken.

1.2 General organizational capability which is likely to affect implementation: management structure, financial stability and project financing capacity, project management controls, extent to which any work would be subcontracted (if so, provide details).

1.3 Relevance of specialised knowledge and experience on similar engagements done in the region/country.

1.4 Quality assurance procedures and risk mitigation measures.

1.5 Organization's commitment to sustainability.

Section 2: Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan

This section should demonstrate the proposer's responsiveness to the TOR by identifying the specific components proposed, addressing the requirements, providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed and demonstrating how the proposed approach and methodology meets or exceeds the requirements. All important aspects should be addressed in sufficient detail and different components of the project should be adequately weighted relative to one another.

2.1 A detailed description of the approach, conceptual framework and methodology for how the Proposer will achieve or exceed the requirements of the Terms of Reference, keeping in mind the appropriateness to local conditions and project environment. Detail how the different service elements shall be organised, controlled and delivered.

2.2 A detailed description of the Bidder's internal technical and quality assurance mechanisms and risks identified, if any.

2.3 A detailed description of the System's technical functional and non-functional requirements.

2.4 Implementation plan including a Gantt chart or Project Schedule indicating the detailed sequence of activities that will be undertaken and their corresponding timing.

2.5 Any other comments or information regarding the project approach and methodology that will be adopted.

Section 3: Management Structure and Key Personnel

3.1 Describe the overall management approach toward planning and implementing the project. Include details of key personnel including their name and nationality, the Position they will assume and their role as per the ToR. Include an organisation chart for the management of the project describing the relationship of key positions and designations. Provide a spreadsheet to show the activities of each personnel and the time allocated for his/her involvement.

3.2 For each of the key personnel provide: the CV using the format in **Form H** and the statement of exclusivity and availability using the format in Form I. *Please provide copies of Certifications/Awards for the Key Personnel to be involved in the project.*



FORM H: FORMAT FOR CV OF PROPOSED KEY PERSONNEL

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.		

Position (as per ToR)			
Personnel Information	Name:		
	Nationality:	Date of birth:	
	Language Proficiency:		
Present Employment	Name of employer:	Contact: (manager or HR)	
	Address of employer:		
	Telephone:	Email:	
	Job title:	Years with present employer:	
Education / Qualifications	Summarise college/university and other specialised education of personnel member, giving names of schools, dates attended, and degrees/qualifications obtained.		
Professional Certifications	Provide details of professional certifications relevant to the scope of services including name of institution and date of certification.		
References:	Provide names, addresses, phone and email con	tact information for two (2) references.	

Summarise professional experience over the last 20 years in reverse chronological order. Indicate particular technical and managerial experience relevant to the project.

From	То	Company / Project / Position / Relevant technical and management experience

I, the undersigned, certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV is accurate.



FORM I: STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVITY AND AVAILABLITY

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.		

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I agree to participate exclusively with the Proposer Click or tap here to enter text. in the above referenced RFP. I further declare that I am able and willing to work for the period(s) foreseen for the position for which my CV has been included in the event that this proposal is successful, namely:

From	То
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

I confirm that I am not engaged in other projects in a position for which my services are required during the periods where my services are required under this RFP.

By making this declaration, I understand that I am not allowed to present myself as a candidate to any other proposer submitting a proposal for this RFP. I am fully aware that if I do so, I will be excluded from this RFP, the proposals may be rejected, and I may also be subject to exclusion from other UNDP's solicitation procedures and contracts.

Furthermore, should this proposal be successful, I am fully aware that if I am not available at the expected start date of my services for reasons other than ill-health or *force majeure*, I may be subject to exclusion from other Click or tap here to enter text. solicitation procedures and contracts and that the notification of award of contract to the Proposer may be rendered null and void.

Name:	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	



FORM J: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.		

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the services indicated in our proposal and in accordance with your Request for Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Financial Proposal in the amount indicated herewith.

Our Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us for the period of time specified in the Data Sheet.

We understand that you are not bound to accept any Proposal that you receive.

Our attached Financial Proposal is for the sum of *[Insert amount in words and figures]*. Please make sure the total matches with the total indicated in the deliverables section of the system (lines) and with the total deriving from the cost breakdown (form K).



FORM K: FORMAT FOR FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Name of Proposer:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
RFP reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.		

The proposer is required to prepare the Financial Proposal following the below format and submit it in an envelope separate from the Technical Proposal as indicated in the Instruction to Proposers. **The inclusion of any financial information in the Technical Proposal shall lead to disqualification of the Proposer**. The Financial Proposal should align with the requirements of the Terms of Reference and the proposer's Technical Proposal.

Currency of the proposal: MDL (Moldovan Leu) for local suppliers and USD (US Dollars) for international suppliers

Table 1: Summary of Overall Prices

Costs	Amount (please insert currency)
Professional Fees (from Table 2)	
Other Costs (from Table 3)	
Total Amount of Financial Proposal	

Table 2: Breakdown of Professional Fees

Name	Position	Fee Rate	No. of days / months / hours	Total Amount (please insert currency)
		А	В	C=A*B
	1 (one) Team Leader			
	Cluster Development Consultant #1			
	Cluster Development Consultant #2			
	Cluster Development Consultant #3			
	Cluster Development Consultant #4			
	1 (one) Private Sector Engagement Expert			
	Subtotal Professional Fees:			

Table 3: Breakdown of Other Costs

Description	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amount (please insert currency)
International flights	Return trip			
Subsistence allowance	Day			
Local transportation costs	Lump sum			
Out-of-pocket expenses				
Other costs (specify)				
Subtotal Other Costs:				



Table 4: Breakdown of Price per Deliverable / Activity

Deliverable / Milestone as per Terms of Reference	Time (person days)	Professional Fees	Other Costs	Total (please insert currency)
Task 1: Deliverable 1: 1st Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Task 2: Deliverable 2: 2nd Intermediate Progress Report				
Task 3: Deliverable 3: 3rd Intermediate Progress Report				
Task 4: Deliverable 4.1: Intermediate Progress Report: Diagnostic Reports of six targeted cross-river clusters, endorsed by the Initiative Groups.				
Task 4: Deliverable 4.2: Intermediate				
Progress Report: Feasibility study for high				
potential cluster (including economic and				
technical feasibility).				
Task 5: Deliverable 5: 5th Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Task 6: Deliverable 6: 6th Intermediate				
Progress Report Task 7: Deliverable 7: 7th Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Task 8: Deliverable 8a: 8th Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Task 8: Deliverable 8b: 9th Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Task 8: Deliverable 8c: 10th Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Task 9: Deliverable 9: 11th Intermediate				
Progress Report				
Total Amount of Financial Proposal				