



USAID Diaspora Invest 2 Activity

Implemented by Financial Markets International, Inc. (FMI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No. 2-2023 For the development of the “Activity level Gender Analysis” for the USAID Diaspora Invest 2 Activity January 11, 2023

Background and Program Description

At least 2 million-strong, the Bosnia and Herzegovina’s (BiH) diaspora is one of the largest in the world relative to home country population. Highly skilled, entrepreneurial, and economically successful in their places of migration, BiH diaspora retain familial connections to their places of origin evidenced also by diaspora transfers back home amounting to more than \$1.84 billion in 2021 alone. There is a limited window of opportunity to channel new diaspora capital and expertise back into the country, as the emotional attachment to ancestral home typically fades with time. By involving its diaspora in economic development and social change, BiH can benefit from the knowledge, resources, and networks gained abroad, as diaspora talent flourishes and then re-engages with the homeland.

USAID’s Diaspora Invest 2 Activity (hereinafter DI2) project follows on the successful Diaspora Invest activity that raised more than \$28 million in diaspora investment over the past five years. The DI2 project, which began in October 2022, fosters local communities’ engagement with the diaspora and catalyzes diaspora investment and knowledge transfer to stimulate economic and social development of BiH. This five-year \$15.7 million project is implemented by Financial Markets International, Inc. (FMI).

To create opportunities for BiH diaspora and its citizens, the project works to attract and facilitate diaspora investment and know how into local communities, provide financial and technical support to incoming diaspora investors, transfer knowledge from diaspora back into the country, and expand access to finance for diaspora-related SMEs.

Project Objectives

- Strengthen local governments’ abilities to engage diaspora in local economic development
- Expand direct investment to high-potential diaspora and/or diaspora-related MSMEs, startups, and joint ventures
- Stimulate transfer of diaspora knowledge and investment capital to local companies to support economic development and inspire social change
- Expand access to existing and new financial instruments that enable flow of private capital to BiH MSMEs and startups.

DI2 Expected Results

For more information please contact: info@diasporainvest.ba or visit <http://www.diasporainvest.ba>

- Leveraging of \$50 million in new diaspora and private investment in BiH
- Close to 2,000 new jobs created in diaspora-related companies
- A total of 600 MSMEs, startups and diaspora joint ventures supported
- At least 30 local communities attracting diaspora knowledge and capital
- Increased sales and exports from market access enabled through diaspora engagement
- Creation of a more enabling local and national business environment through high-level public-private dialogue with diaspora and local businesspeople and government(s)
- Expansion of existing and creation of new financial instruments to support economic development.

Focus Areas for Consideration

Financial Markets International, Inc. through this Request for Proposal (RFP) is soliciting offers from individual consultants, companies or organizations to submit proposals for development of the “Activity Level Gender Analysis”, (hereinafter ALGA) for the recently launched USAID DI2 Activity, a five-year project focused on supporting diaspora engagement and business investments. ALGA is a comprehensive document that will address the gender and social inclusion considerations and help DI2 implement a gender-conscious approach that will maximize gender and social inclusion in all of its activities including planning and program execution.

There are well documented challenges that women in BiH are facing in the business arena including those related to entrepreneurship opportunities and access to finance. Diaspora engagement is an important tool to respond to these challenges because diaspora networks can unite groups from the homeland with their counterparts from the diaspora. Most diaspora members live in countries that are more conducive to female entrepreneurship and social inclusion. Thus, they may be able to share ideas, provide mentoring, and directly invest in BiH’s underfunded groups. FMI will conduct a gender and social inclusion analysis to ensure that gender equality and social inclusion are embedded in DI2 activities.

a) Expected Results

Review and data collection

- In collaboration with DI2 gain better understanding of project objectives and methodology
- Complete the review of all key DI2 documents including Work Plan, MEL plan and Grant Manual
- Complete research of local reports and documents that are focused on gender issues with specific focus on entrepreneurship and early stage startups across multiple sectors in BiH and identify areas relevant to implementation of DI2 Activity.
- Collect information on the current state of gender equality in the business sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the specific challenges and barriers faced by women in entrepreneurship and access to finance.
- Conduct a series of meetings with up to 20 relevant local counterparts and stakeholders based on the list compiled in consultation with the DI2 project team
- Analysis of the findings and identification of potential gaps and opportunities for ensuring the gender conscious approach for DI2

Development of the Activity Level Gender Analysis (ALGA) document

The ALGA shall be based on information and findings gained during the review and data collection process and must include the following:

- Executive Summary
- List of key findings and eventual gaps and areas that require improvement
- Analysis of critical gender issues as related to the DI2 activities
- Identification of specific gender-responsive strategies and interventions that can be incorporated into the DI2 to promote gender equality and social inclusion. This could include options such as targeted financial and/or technical assistance for women-owned businesses, capacity building and mentorship programs for women entrepreneurs, and advocacy and policy support to address structural barriers to gender equality.
- Recommended options for conducting baseline and follow-on assessments to track and measure the progress and impact of the gender-responsive interventions implemented through the DI2 project.
- The list of relevant BiH stakeholders, including women's groups and organizations that DI2 could engage with in order to receive continuing feedback on design and implementation of DI2's gender and social inclusion interventions.
- Final conclusions and recommendations that would help ensure that gender equality and social inclusion are embedded in DI2 activities

Transfer of Knowledge

- Provide technical assistance and support to the DI2 management in activities related to integrating gender considerations into all aspects of the project, including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop and execute a brief, tailored, training module for DI2 staff focusing on the DI2 gender conscious approach that will help maximize gender and social inclusion in all project implementation activities.
- Provide support to DI2 staff in improving the Monitoring and Evaluation (MEL) processes and reporting in line with recommendations outlined in the ALGA.

b) Deliverables

Number	Deliverable Name	Due Date
1	Brief Report on review and data collection process	15 days from contract signing
2	Draft Activity Level Gender Analysis report	40 days from contract signing
3	Training for DI2 staff and MEL support	55 days from contract signing
4	Final Report	60 days from contract signing

General and indicative description of activities associated with each of the first three listed deliverables was provided under Expected Results. For each deliverable, level of effort (number of hours/days) should be quoted, with payments based on days worked tied to specific task.

c) Information dissemination

To ensure adequate information dissemination, the following is planned:

Description	Date	Information and contacts:

Public announcement of the Request for Proposals	11.01.2023	www.fmi-inc.net
Questions and / or requests for clarifications (only in written form)	18.01.2023	email: info@diasporainvest.ba , aramusovic@diasporainvest.ba
DI2 responses to potential offeror's questions or request for clarifications	23.01.2023	email: info@diasporainvest.ba
Deadline for submission of proposals	31.01.2023	email: info@diasporainvest.ba

Eligibility

Experienced individuals and companies or organizations that are legally registered under the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina are welcomed to submit their proposals.

Duration of Implementation

The activities on completion of the listed deliverables are expected to be conducted during the period February 6, 2023 – April 5, 2023. The final timeline and deadlines will be set as part of the contract between Financial Markets International (FMI) and the selected offeror.

Restrictions

Any subcontract resulting from this RFP will be subject to U.S. Government and USAID regulations.

Proposal and Submission Process

This RFP opens on January 11, 2023 at 12:00 PM and closes for applications on January 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM. Any entity interested in applying in response to this RFP must submit their proposal in one of the languages: English or Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language.

The proposal is required to contain the technical concept, cost of service, CVs of key personnel or company general information as well as relevant references.

The proposal must be submitted in an electronic form and send via e-mail to info@diasporainvest.ba

Contact Information

Additional questions can be submitted to DI2. Questions must be submitted in writing by 18.01.2023, while all responses will be available and posted online. Questions should be sent to info@diasporainvest.ba or aramusovic@diasporainvest.ba (please include the words "ALGA RFP" in the subject line of the email).

Criteria for Selection

FMI will select the proposal which represents the best value to the USAID Diaspora Invest 2 Activity. This could include a higher priced proposal if it is determined that its technical evaluation merits the additional cost. Technical evaluation and cost are considered as factors of equal value while cost will be evaluated primarily for its realism.

The following are the key technical evaluation criteria that shall be taken into consideration for the selection:

(i) **Technical Approach and Detailed Work Plan (60%)**

FMI will assess whether the proposal and its listed activities are demonstrating the offeror's understanding and knowledge of the subject matter and whether it responds to the objectives of the assignment and the timeline stated in the "Expected Results" and "Deliverables" sections above.

(ii) **Key personnel and staffing (20%)**

FMI will assess the curriculum vitae (CVs) of the proposed key personnel and/or other technical expert(s) and evaluate if the proposed staff has the experience and capabilities to attain listed deliverables within the stated timeline.

(iii) **Experience and Past Performance (20%)**

FMI will assess whether the offeror's past performance is indicating the strong qualification for this assignment by contacting three references who may provide the valid information offeror's past performance for assignments with similar scope and size to the project that is the focus of this RFP.

Availability of Funds and Other Considerations

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute any commitment on the part of Diaspora Invest 2 Activity, USAID, United States Government, or the Financial Markets International, Inc (FMI) as the contractor, nor does it commit USAID, US Government or FMI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of this proposal.

FMI reserves the right to select any or none of the proposals submitted and to make decision on a revised schedule. Subgrants will be subject to the availability of funding.