



USAID Diaspora Invest 2 Activity

Implemented by Financial Markets International, Inc. (FMI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No. I-2023 For the development of the “Disability Inclusion Plan” 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 (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.

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

- Leveraging of \$50 million in new diaspora and private investment in BiH

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- 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 companies, organizations or individuals to submit proposals for development of the Disability Inclusion Plan (hereinafter DIP) for the recently launched USAID Diaspora Invest 2 Activity (hereinafter DI2), a five-year project focused on supporting Diaspora engagement and business investments.

Since the USAID has a priority to help underserved groups, including people with disabilities, DI2 will make every effort to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. As part of this effort, DI2's disability inclusion plan (DIP) will need to specifically delineate how the project will address barriers for people with disabilities relevant to the project and ensure equal access and disability inclusive development practices.

The primary goal of this assignment is to produce the draft version of the DIP that would include the analysis of the current state of disability inclusion in BiH business environment, review of applicable laws and regulations, assessment of relevant government and non-government support programs as well as recommendations for new or innovative approaches that could be applicable in Bosnia Herzegovina context and implemented during the execution of USAID Diaspora Invest 2 Activity.

a) Expected Results

Situation analysis

- In collaboration with DI2 gain better understanding of project objectives and methodology
- Complete research and identify eventual gaps in existing legislation, documentation and reports related to inclusion of people with disabilities in BiH business environment.
- Conduct series of meetings and/or interviews with institutions and organizations that are involved in advocacy and policy creation regarding inclusion of persons with disabilities
- Collected input and feedback from people with disabilities with an aim to ensure that the DIP is grounded in the real life experiences and perspectives of those it aims to serve.
- Define the target population of people with disabilities that could be served by the DI2 project, and identify their specific needs and barriers.
- Identify the pool of potential partner organizations that could assist DI2 in designing and implementing processes that would ensure equal access and inclusive practices for persons with disabilities in project activities

Development of DI2 Disability Inclusion Plan

The Plan shall be based on information and findings gained during the situation analysis and must include the following:

- Executive Summary
- Analysis of relevant policies and programs as well as profiles and activities of institutions and organizations who are focused on inclusion and accommodation of needs of persons with disabilities
- The list of relevant BiH stakeholders, including groups and organizations that DI2 could engage with in order to receive continuing expertise and feedback on implementation of DIP based interventions.
- List of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals for the plan and outline of recommended strategies and actions to achieve these goals.
- List of potentially applicable innovative approaches, such as the use of assistive technologies, to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the DI2.
- Specific recommendations for disability inclusion considerations in project activities as well as in public calls for applications for grants, proposals and partnerships.
- Specific recommendations for criteria for selection of partner organizations for design and delivery of DI2 disability inclusion activities
- Specific recommendations and guidelines for implementation of DIP

Support of DIP Implementation Activities

- Provide technical assistance and support to the DI2 management in activities related to integrating disability inclusion considerations into all aspects of the project, including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop tailored training and advisory process for DI2 staff and / or technical experts aimed at assuring that various project implementation activities are in line with DIP guidelines
- Provide illustrative designs for targeted training programs for persons with disabilities with the aim to facilitate their inclusion into DI2 supported programs and improving their chances to be hired by beneficiary firms.

b) Deliverables

Number	Deliverable Name	Due Date
1	Situation Analysis Report	15 days from contract signing
2	Draft Disability Inclusion Plan (DIP) for DI2	40 days from contract signing
3	Training for DI 2 staff designed and implemented	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, company general information and/or CVs of key personnel 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 "DIP 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 other technical experts and evaluate if the proposed team 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.