request for proposals

consultant to conduct fragility, crisIS sensitivity and complexitiy project assessment (F2C)
RFP NO : MIHR-01-Yemen

# PART A: COVER PAGE

## ISSUED TO: Interested Parties

## Issuance Date: 10 May 2023

## Closing Date for Questions: 12:00 HOURS, 22 MAY 2023

## Due Date: 17:00 hours, 30 MaY 2023

SUBJECT: *Request for Proposal (RFP) for JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) for Consultant to conduct the Fragility, Crisis Sensitivity and Complexity assessment.*

JSI is a public health management consulting organization dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities through improved quality, access, and equity of health services and improved health systems. JSI is an implementing partner of MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR) project which is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project (Subagreement MIHR-JSI-001, Prime Agreement 7200AA20CA00005). MIHR works in fragile settings to improve the quality of voluntary family planning, reproductive health, maternal, newborn, and child health, and nutrition services provided.

JSI is seeking a consultant or research firm to conduct its Fragility, Crisis Sensitivity, and Complexity (F2C) assessment, which will inform MIHR’s design and monitoring systems for issues contributing to fragility, as well as crisis-sensitive and complexity-aware programming. **Residents of Yemen are strongly encouraged to apply**. Please submit your most competitive proposal in accordance with the attached instructions, with all required certifications. Any award issued as a result of this RFP will be subject to all instructions, certifications, terms and conditions, and specifications included in this RFP. This solicitation document includes the following parts:

* PART A: COVER PAGE
* PART B: SCOPE OF WORK
* PART C: INSTRUCTIONS
* PART D: REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS

This document is a request for proposals only, and in no way obligates JSI to make any award. Award(s) made subsequent to this solicitation will be subject to the terms and conditions described herein.

All proposals, inquiries, and correspondence pertaining to this solicitation as well as Submission of Offers, must be clearly referenced “MIHR-01-Yemen”and should be submitted in electronic format through email to: mihr\_recruitment@jsi.com.

## PART B: SCOPE OF WORK

## DEFINITIONS

Offeror: The individual or firm providing proposals for the services requested under this RFP.

Vendor: The individual or firm awarded the services requested under the RFP in the form of a vendor agreement.

## background

F2C is a fragility analytics tool developed by MIHR to provide key contextual information on shocks (e.g., conflict and other crises) and stresses that affect health programming and health outcomes in Yemen. Findings from this F2C assessment will identify risk scenarios that will contribute to programming recommendations to strengthen health resilience.

MIHR has implemented F2C in several other countries, and this assessment in Yemen will contribute to a body of knowledge regarding fragility and health, particularly FP/RH and MNCH. JSI will accept applicants from individual consultants, as well as from organizations/firms. Applicants should commit to completion the entire scope of work.

MIHR will provide the consultants the full F2C guidance at part of the consultants’ contracts.

### Fragility Analytics [[1]](#footnote-2) [[2]](#footnote-3)

“Fragility is a condition of vulnerability to a range of bad outcomes.” A fragile state or setting does not have the capacity to prevent, mitigate, or recover from most stresses and shocks. The dysfunctional state-society relationship may magnify existing stresses and/or produce new stresses.

There are three common dynamics of state-society relationships that are linked to fragility:

1. Inclusion versus Exclusion – Fragility is more likely when identity groups or regions are discriminated, are not represented, or are marginalized from resources, services, and power.
2. Cohesion versus Fragmentation – Fragility is more likely when there is factionalism within and between state institutions and actors or identity groups (e.g., ethnicity, political party, religion, etc.).
3. Resource generation and access to public goods and services – Fragility is more likely when state institutions and actors beholden to external actors in exchange for resources and services; when resource allocation is not transparent and there is perceived inequitable distribution based on identity group or location; when there is inequitable costs or tax burden on specific populations groups; when public resources are used for personal gain; and when receipt of goods and services used as an incentive or reward.

### Conflict and Crisis Sensitivity [[3]](#footnote-4) [[4]](#footnote-5)

MIHR and other USAID funded project may operate in fragile settings, often where crises and conflicts have and continue to occur. Within these contexts, projects need to understand the interaction between project interventions and the contexts where they are implemented, to ensure the project operations do not produce inadvertent negative consequences, including aggravating existing grievances or enabling key conflict mobilizers, or reinforcing fragility dynamics that undermine health outcomes, such as exclusion, fragmentation, or inequities, and corruption in resource mobilization systems.

*Conflict sensitivity* refers to the ability of an organization to: (1) understand the context in which it is operating, particularly with respect to inter-group relations, societal dynamics, and other drivers; (2) understand the interactions between its interventions and the context/group relations and conflict drivers; and (3) act upon these understandings in a way that avoids negative impacts and maximizes positive impacts.

### Complexity-Aware Monitoring[[5]](#footnote-6)

USAID defines complexity-aware monitoring as “a type of complementary monitoring that is useful when results are difficult to predict due to dynamic contexts or unclear cause-and-effect relationships”. Projects should use complexity-aware monitoring when:

* Cause-and-effect relationships are uncertain.
* Stakeholders bring diverse perspectives, making consensus unlikely.
* Contextual issues are likely to affect programming.
* Change is likely to occur and it is unpredictable.

Complexity exists when there is uncertainty and lack of agreement about how to solve a given problem; therefore, certainty and agreement regarding solutions need to be assessed. If the context where MIHR works is complex, this will greatly affect the project’s theory of change, as the logic framework behind the theory of change may not be stable or predictable, and consequently is likely to require ongoing adaptation. On a practical level, the project’s goals, as well as setting targets on performance indicators, and achieving implementation milestones, could become less predictable and vary given the unstable context of fragile settings.

## Methodology

The F2C Assessment is done in five parts:

1. **Desk Review** to gather information on recent and current shocks and stresses, and factors contributing to fragility in areas where MIHR Yemen is working.
2. **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with a diverse group of stakeholders in order to capture how communities, organizations, and institutions experience, cope with, and respond to past, current, and anticipated shocks (including conflicts and crises) and stressors. It will look at how these experiences, coping capacities, and responses impact health service provision and outcomes. Potential KII participants include:
	1. Local community (e.g., community and religious leaders, community health workers etc.)
	2. Non-government organizations (e.g., humanitarian actors, development actors, local organizations (NGOs, CBOs and FBOs), and private sector FP/RH/MNCH health providers)
	3. Government institutions (e.g., representatives from relevant ministries at national and local levels, Local Government Authorities, and FP/RH/MNCH health providers)
	4. USAID Mission and USAID implementing partners
3. **Data synthesis** to bring together information from the desk review and KIIs for each prioritized shock and stressor.
4. **A “Pause and Reflect Workshop”** to develop actionable recommendations for health projects working in Yemen. Actionable recommendations will include how these actions are responding to fragility, sensitivity to crisis, and awareness of the complexity. Recommendations will also focus on prevention, preparedness, and response to current and anticipated shocks and stresses that strengthen resilience and/or limit the effects of these shocks and stresses.

The vendor will be responsible for finalization of the assessment methodology in consultation with MIHR/Yemen and MIHR/MERL teams including proposing additional methods and data sources. The vendor will also be responsible for providing a final report in both English which compiles and summarizes findings and recommendations.

## Roles and Responsbilities

Successful applicants for this SOW are expected implement this entire SOW; however, this will be done in consultation with MIHR Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) team. The consultants will be responsible for:

* Preparing a work plan, including assessment design and methods for Yemen, quality control procedures, and timeline
* Recruiting and training data collectors (if any) in participatory survey techniques, ethical conduct of research, and on the methods/subjects relevant to the Yemen F2C
* Oversight of data collectors (if used)
* Conducting desk review
* Developing a report on the F2C desk review (this will be incorporated into the final report)
* Conducting KIIs (individual and group) and other data collection (as needed)
* Analyzing data
* Synthesizing desk review and interview data
* Presenting synthesized results to MIHR and with stakeholders as ‘Pause and Reflect’ workshop
* Organizing and facilitating ‘Pause and Reflect’ workshop
* Producing draft and final report for the F2C assessment (draft reports will be reviewed by MIHR and USAID, and consultants will revise report based on feedback)
* Presentation(s) with PowerPoint slides for MIHR, USAID/DC, USAID/Yemen
* Submitting timely invoices for payment

The consultant will remain responsible for maintaining the highest level of standards and quality throughout the assignment(s).

## Deliverables with timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deliverables | Due Date (estimated) |
| * F2C work plan
 | 3 days from start date |
| * Fragility Desk Review Report (3-5 pages)
* Fragility analytics table (Table 3 in F2C guidance)
 | 1.5 weeks from start date |
| * Data collection tools, including interview question guides
 | 2 weeks from start date |
| * Audio files of stakeholder KIIs
* Recorded transcripts
* Codebook
* Files of coded transcripts
* Qualitative analysis of KII themes and findings in short report (3-5) pages
 | 4 weeks from start date |
| * Data synthesis table with data from desk review and KIIs (Table 6 in F2C guidance)
* PowerPoint slides with F2C synthesized data for Pause and Reflect workshop
 | 5 weeks from start date |
| * Input into Workshop Action Plans
 | 6 weeks from start date |
| * Draft F2C report
 | 7 weeks from start date |
| * Final F2C report
 | 10 weeks from start date |
| * Qualitative data recordings and transcripts
* Quantitative data (CSV or XML) with code sheet
 | 10 weeks from start date |

## Location of Work

The consultant is expected to complete this scope of work in Yemen. Safety and security concerns may limit in-country travel to conduct interviews. In this case, if the site is considered a priority, interviews can be conducted remotely.

## QUALIFICATIONS

The selected firm and/ or individual must meet the following qualifications:

* Lead researcher holds a Master of Public Health, or a master’s degree in political science, international relations, peacekeeping, security, or research;
* Experience working in Yemen;
* Good knowledge of the Yemeni health system;
* Significant knowledge and experience in leading and managing assessment, evaluations, and/or surveys
* Past performance conducting assessments and/or evaluations on USAID-funded projects;
* Experience designing and leading participatory workshops;
* Experience conducting qualitative research;
* Report writing experience, preferably for USAID-funded projects;
* Has professional oral and written communication skills in English;
* Excellent Arabic; and,
* Good interpersonal skills

# Part c: instructions

The Offeror shall submit a proposal addressing the terms and conditions of this RFP by **30 May 2023 at 14:00** hours local time to mihr\_recruitment@jsi.com.

**All questions** should be submitted in writing via email to mihr\_recruitment@jsi.com by **17.00hrs local time on 22 May 2023**. Responses to all questions will be sent by email to all companies who have expressed interest and provided contact email addresses by that time.

**The Technical and Cost Proposals should be submitted together in a clearly marked PDF file and all documents shall be submitted in English.**

The written Technical Proposal should not exceed 20 pages and must contain the following information:

## TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

**Required Information for vendor and/or consultant**

* Company or individual consultant name, address, email and phone
* Company profile and details if applicable
* Copy of business registration if applicable
* Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate if applicable
* Length of time for the validity of the proposal
* Completed certifications (see Part D)

**Proposal for the provision of services to complete the F2C Assessment**

* A general description of the Offeror’s qualifications and experience as they relate to the requested qualification enumerated above, including experience with similar assignments.
* A response that clearly describes the Offeror’s understanding of the services required and the Offeror’s approach to performing the services described in Part B.
* A description of the key personnel that the Offeror proposes to perform the services detailed in the scope of work. The Offeror must provide the following:
	+ A list of staff who have the legal authority to provide services on behalf of the Offeror.
	+ CVs for individuals proposed to complete Scope of Work.
	+ A description of the level of services expected of each staff member named in the proposal.

**Past Performance**

Please complete the following table with past performance references for the last three years for similar work performed:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization Name** | **Address** | **Name & Contact Info** | **Scope of Services** | **Rate / Fee for Services** |
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## COST PROPOSAL

* The Offeror is to provide quotes for the services to be provided. The quote should be provided in an excel spreadsheet that shows the detail of all the cost proposed. Quotes are to be provided in CFA;
* VAT, if applicable, should be quoted separately from the total price;
* Quotes must include validity of prices, no less than 90 days;
* The Offeror must disclose in the proposal any legal or regulatory actions pending against the Offeror;
* The Offeror must clearly specify all terms of payment, and preference will be given to monthly or quarterly payments as opposed to advance payments.

## INCURRING COSTS

JSI is not liable for any cost incurred during preparation, submission, or negotiation of an award for this RFP. The costs are solely the responsibility of the potential offeror.

## Evaluation criteria for proposals

Applications will be evaluated against the criteria outlined below.

**Technical Proposal (40 points):**

* + Details and quality of methodology proposed for the assignment.
	+ Comprehensiveness and practicality of the work plan and timeframe.
	+ Demonstrated understanding of the terms of reference.
	+ Logistic considerations, limitations, and mitigation strategies for limitations.
	+ Proposed approach for ensuring safety during COVID-19.

**Team Composition/Past Experience (30 points):**

* + Detailed description of the proposed team
	+ CV of the Team Leader and other key team members (not more than 3 pages per CV)
	+ Team profile: Experience in similar assignments in the last 7 years, please provide client lists and description of the projects
	+ Experience working with international NGOs in conducting assessments (conducting vulnerability/fragility assessments desirable/preferred)
	+ References

**Budget Proposal (30 points)**

* + Cost reasonableness.
	+ Clear explanation of costs

## REJECTION OF PROPOSAL

This document is a request for proposal only, and in no way obligates JSI to make an award. JSI reserves the right to reject any and all offers received and/or to cancel the RFP Offerors whose proposal is not selected will be notified.

**JSI RESERVES THE RIGHT, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, TO MODIFY THE REQUEST, TO ALTER THE SELECTION PROCESS IN ANY WAY, TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OFFERORS, TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND/OR TO MODIFY OR AMEND THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED. THE RELEASE OF THIS RFP IS NOT A COMMITMENT TO AWARD A CONTRACT.**

# PART D: CERTIFICATIONS

# (Please sign and include with the proposal)

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING TERRORIST FINANCING

Within the following certification, the term “JSI and/or USAID” shall be substituted for the term "USAID". “Proposal” shall be substituted for the term “application”. “Contractor” shall be substituted for the term “Recipient”

### CERTIFICATION:

By signing and submitting this certification, the prospective recipient provides the certification set out below:

1. The Recipient, to the best of its current knowledge, did not provide, within the previous ten years, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts, as that term is defined in paragraph 3.
2. The following steps may enable the Recipient to comply with its obligations under paragraph 1:
	1. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will verify that the individual or entity does not (i) appear on the master list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, which list is maintained by the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and is available online at OFAC’s website: http://www.treas.gov/offices/eotffc/ofac/sdn/t11sdn.pdf or (ii) is not included in any supplementary information concerning prohibited individuals or entities that may be provided by USAID to the Recipient.
	2. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient also will verify that the individual or entity has not been designated by the United Nations Security (UNSC) sanctions committee established under UNSC Resolution 1267 (1999) (the “1267 Committee”) [individuals and entities linked to the Taliban, Usama bin Laden, or the Al Qaida Organization]. To determine whether there has been a published designation of an individual or entity by the 1267 Committee, the Recipient should refer to the consolidated list available online at the Committee’s website: http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm.
	3. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will consider all information about that individual or entity of which it is aware and all public information that is reasonably available to it or of which it should be aware.
	4. The Recipient also will implement reasonable monitoring and oversight procedures to safeguard against assistance being diverted to support terrorist activity.
3. For purposes of this Certification:
	1. “Material support and resources” means currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safehouses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation, and other physical assets, except medicine or religious materials.”
	2. “Terrorist act” means:
		1. an act prohibited pursuant to one of the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols related to terrorism (see UN terrorism conventions Internet site: http://untreaty.un.org/English/Terrorism.asp); or
		2. an act of premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents; or
		3. any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.
	3. “Entity” means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group or subgroup.
	4. References in this Certification to the provision of material support and resources shall not be deemed to include the furnishing of USAID funds or USAID-financed commodities to the ultimate beneficiaries of USAID assistance, such as recipients of food, medical care, micro-enterprise loans, shelter, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that one or more of these beneficiaries commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.
	5. The Recipient’s obligations under paragraph 1 are not applicable to the procurement of goods and/or services by the Recipient that are acquired in the ordinary course of business through contract or purchase, e.g., utilities, rents, office supplies, gasoline, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that a vendor or supplier of such goods and services commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

This Certification is an express term and condition of any agreement issued as a result of this application, and any violation of it shall be grounds for unilateral termination of the agreement by USAID prior to the end of its term.

Contractor Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, OR PROPOSED DEBARMENT

By signing and submitting this certification, the prospective recipient provides the certification set out below: to the best of its knowledge and belief, the prospective recipient and/or any of its Principals are ( ) are not ( ) presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for award of contracts by any Federal agency.

CONTRACTOR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. USAID Fragility Analytics Guidance (Final Draft). Feb 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. USAID REAL, 2018-Practical Guidance Note 3: Resilience Capacity Measurement [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Conflict Assessment Framework. USAID. 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Conflict-Sensitive Approaches to Development, Humanitarian Assistance and Peacebuilding: A Resource Pack. Safeworld. 2018. <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resource/conflict-sensitive-approaches-development-humanitarian-assistance-and-peacebuilding> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. USAID Program Cycle Discussion Note: Complexity Aware Monitoring (July 2018). <https://usaidlearninglab.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/cleared_dn_complexity-aware_monitoring.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)