

## Research Organization for Malawi Youth Landscape Analysis Phase II Request for Applications (RFA) No. FY25-Youth Excel-Malawi-01

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### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### General Project Scope

- 1. Can you clarify if there are any specific themes from the first Youth Landscape Analysis (YLA 1) that you would like YLA 2 to prioritize?**

Please refer to the YLA 1 summary slides as shared on Page 4 of the RFA for an overview of the results that are publicly available at this stage. The full YLA 1 report and findings are not yet published, but the successful bidder will receive full access to the report. We shall work together to determine if we need to prioritize any specific themes during the design phase of YLA 2.

- 2. Are there particular challenges or gaps identified in YLA 1 that the research should specifically address?**

Please see the response to Question 1.

- 3. Are there specific geographic considerations upon selecting the 7 districts that we work in?**

This will be determined during the design phase of the study as we shall have to consult widely with the mission's technical offices and implementing partners.

- a. Is the aim of the analysis to cover a diverse geographic region? Yes.**
- b. Do the various districts differ vastly in Malawi hence necessitating a diverse geographic region to be covered?** We anticipate that prospective bidders shall be able to determine this as part of your proposal development process by reviewing other sources of information and through consultations.

#### Methodology and Approach

- 4. Could you provide more details about the required balance between qualitative and quantitative methods? Should either take precedence based on past findings?**

As indicated on Page 9 of the RFA, we encourage prospective bidders to have a general focus on innovative participatory mixed methods approaches that fully integrate youth engagement in your proposals, gap filling and best support nuanced understanding of issues - the so what.

Where necessary, adjustments can/will be made during the negotiation and/or design phases of the study.

**5. Are there specific indicators or metrics from the Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework that should be prioritized in this analysis?**

At this stage, we anticipate that bidders will propose a holistic approach that will be applied when analyzing the PYD approach. Any specific metrics or indicators that need to be prioritized will be discussed at the negotiation and/or design phases of the study.

**6. How much flexibility is there in proposing innovative participatory methods beyond the examples provided in the RFA?**

Prospective bidders have full flexibility with respect to the innovative participatory methods they can propose for the study.

**Logistics and Timeline**

**7. Are there any anticipated risks or logistical challenges (e.g., travel, security, or stakeholder accessibility) in the targeted districts?**

We anticipate that prospective bidders will be able to determine this as part of your proposal development process by reviewing other sources of information.

**8. What level of support can we expect from USAID, the Ministry of Youth & Sports, and other stakeholders during fieldwork, especially in terms of access to communities and respondents?**

Please check Page 9 of the RFA for details on the engagement of stakeholders. The level of support needed and provided will be determined as part of the negotiation and design processes.

**9. Are we able to partner with in-country personnel/in-country consultancy/university to conduct fieldwork in-country?**

Yes, this is allowed.

**10. Is there leeway in the project duration and deadlines? We need to account for delays in inception phase such as ethical clearance; information shared from district governments etc.**

Yes, we shall retain flexibility as much as possible where necessary, within the stipulated timelines and practical realities.

## Collaboration and Reporting

### **11. What specific expectations are there for co-designing tools with IREX and USAID teams? Is there a formal review process before finalizing tools?**

Please check Page 9 of the RFA for details on the engagement of stakeholders. The specific level and format of engagement needed and provided by different stakeholders - including USAID and IREX - will be determined as part of the negotiation and design processes.

### **12. Are there any examples or templates for the learning products and knowledge-sharing materials required in the deliverables?**

Specific examples from YLLP and YLA 1 will be shared with the successful bidder. You can review examples from other USAID youth programs and partners via this link >>> [Resources | YouthLead](#)

### **13. Will there be regular review points or progress meetings during the study? If so, what is the expected frequency?**

Yes. These will be jointly determined by the successful bidder and IREX during the negotiations and design phases of the study.

## Budget and Funding

### **14. Are there specific guidelines or caps for enumerator wages, travel, or accommodation in line with USAID policies?**

No. The applicants are expected to base their costings on the prevailing market rates and organizational policies while adhering to all the mandatory provisions of USAID guidelines under [ADS Reference 303mat Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations](#) and the cost principles [2 CFR 200 Subpart E](#). IREX will review the proposed budget for cost reasonableness and allowability and provide feedback and opportunities for revisions as part of the negotiation process.

## Evaluation and Selection

### **15. Can you elaborate on the weightage assigned to the various selection criteria, particularly the technical approach and cost proposal?**

Kindly refer to the description section in the table on page 17 of the RFA.

### **16. Will there be opportunities to clarify points in the submitted proposal or negotiate aspects post-submission?**

Yes, but only for those bidders who will be shortlisted for interviews, opportunities will be provided to clarify their proposals.

### Approvals

#### **17. Is it the responsibility of the service provider to get ethical clearance or will the Malawi Youth Excel assist? Especially for youth younger than 18.**

Yes. It is the responsibility of the successful bidder to facilitate the necessary IRB approvals in-country (IREX may support in a limited manner where necessary). IREX can/will facilitate US-based IRB approvals, if required.