

## Questions received regarding NDI Request for Proposals (RFP): Ensuring the Voice and Agency of Women Through Polling

Q: There is a reference to “focus group guides” – can you confirm if qualitative research is required in the scope, or if it is just a quantitative survey?

- Would you be open to adding qualitative research?

A: The primary focus of the program is on gathering and analyzing quantitative data through surveys/polling, but we are open to mixed methods including qualitative research. It is likely that qualitative data will be necessary to a. hear from women’s rights organizations about existing data gaps and what themes/topics will be useful for them and b. to ground truth or contextualize any of the findings.

Q: Do you have an estimate of how long the survey may be?

A: We don't have a prescriptive number of questions in mind or length and are open to the recommendations of the selected firm. We do want to be cognizant of the unpaid domestic care burdens that have skyrocketed for many women under COVID-19 and responsive to the many demands on their time. It is therefore probably unrealistic to ask women to participate in a survey that will take more than 1 hour of their time.

Q: What is the main unit of analysis for the reporting of results? That is, what claims of representation would you like to make in the reports?

A: We are focused on urban-centers so would like the results to be representative of the city level.

Q: The RFP mentions co-creating the survey with NDI and organizations in each urban center – does this mean that a total of 9 surveys (one for each urban center in each country) will be created?

A: We are envisioning a total of 3 total surveys (one in each country based out of one urban center) will be created and delivered.

Q: How do you envision the “co-creation” process taking place? In person? Virtually? A combination?

- Does NDI maintain relationships with locally based organizations that will participate in this process, or is the vendor expected to contribute to the recruitment of these?

A: The purpose of the co-creation with women’s rights organizations in each country is to ensure that the research is grounded in and driven by the local contexts and priorities of women in each country for recovery from shocks including COVID-19. The participatory methodology and co-ownership of data with local women’s rights organizations is essential to this program.

Co-creation is likely to take place virtually due to COVID-19 and ongoing restrictions to travel and movement. NDI has global networks including country offices with local staff as well as local civil society partners in all three countries proposed. However, it would be helpful to understand what networks and local partners the bidders have in each of the three proposed countries, or if they have other networks in other countries they would like us to know about/consider. A reminder that capacity to perform polling in Sudan is a requirement, but additional countries the polling firm has the ability and experience to work in outside of Lebanon and Papua New Guinea will also be considered.

Q: Is there any sense of budget for this work?

A: We are looking for competitive bids and will go with the polling firm that has the strongest combination of strong methodology, gender expertise, and competitive pricing, as described in the RFP.

Q: Can you provide more detail on the level of participation and ownership you would want to achieve, how the data will be used, the scale of data collection and time frame (e.g. how many round of data collection)?

A: Ultimately, this program seeks to support women's rights organizations with relevant data on women and girls' perspectives in recovery from shocks including COVID-19 for their advocacy and engagement with government. It is likely that for the purposes of developing the global methodology and extracting the lessons learned, NDI will produce reports that look comparatively across the data from the three case studies. However, the primary purpose and use of the data will be for local women's rights organizations in the three countries to inform their advocacy. Outside of the data collection, the wider program also includes support to the local women's rights organizations in the form of capacity building, technical assistance and financial support. The rounds of data collection are up for discussion and if the bidder has a recommendation, they should present that in their proposal. Data collection is expected to take place between approximately November 2021 and February 2022.

Gender, Women and Democracy  
National Democratic Institute  
Washington DC, 20001  
September 2021