

## **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED REGARDING:**

RFQ No. RFQ- 2023-001- USAID SMICA

Issue Date: November 20, 2023

Title: Project Evaluation Study Issuing Office USAID/Safe Migration in central Asia (SMICA), Winrock International

Deadline for Questions November 27, 2023

Deadline for Proposal Submission December 15, 2023

- Would engaging a former SMICA staff as a research associate present a conflict of interest which would preclude them from being part of the evaluation team?

Engaging a past employee of the SMICA project on the research team in itself is not considered a conflict of interest, however, it should be clear that that past employee should not be engaged in conversations with SMICA colleagues during the process of formulation of the preparation of the commercial offer. In the commercial offer, please suggest specific procedures/methods on how potential biases coming from the former affiliation would be addressed in the process of assessment.

- Are you able to share an indicative budget for this piece of work?

We cannot share the indicative budget, we rely on vendors to propose their most reasonable costs.

- The RFQ notes that it is necessary to conduct interviews and focus group discussions with representatives of government services and beneficiaries, according to the lists. Please specify how many participants there were or how many need to be interviewed.

Based on the evaluation questions mentioned in the RFQ, the evaluation the firm is encouraged to propose the most cost-effective research methods to respond to evaluation questions and approaches that will allow triangulation of data that are of particular interest. The vendor is welcome to provide their vision.