

DATA SCIENTIST FOR MEAL SYSTEM BUILD

Contract type: Consultancy

SPANA – The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad is the global charity for working animals in low-income countries. Since 1923, we have supported the welfare of working animals, including donkeys, horses, camels and elephants, in communities that depend on working animals for water, transport, agriculture and their very survival. Today, we support working animals across 26 countries, through a series of global projects and partnerships.

SPANA's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) team is building out our MEAL system. As part of this, we require the support of someone with expertise in building digital data collection tools (using the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform) and setting up digital reports/dashboards based on existing and likely queries (using Power BI).

The consultant will be managed by the head of the MEAL team, which sits within SPANA's Global Programmes Department. This is a remote consultancy with an anticipated level of effort of one-month full time.

PURPOSE

The consultant shall be responsible for building a digital data collection tool in ODK based on an existing Excel-based draft for an ODK data collection tool. The draft in Excel also serves as a framework for the development of a data management, data analysis, and visualisation system using Microsoft Excel and Power BI.

SCOPE

The consultant will be responsible for delivering results in the following areas:

- 1. Digitalizing and beta testing data collection tools :** Working with the MEAL team to digitalize data collection tools via ODK. This process will include overseeing quality assuring fidelity between the draft tool in Excel and its ODK version, the ability to continue building out the tool over time (starting from education programme data to hand, and later expanding to include other department's MEAL needs, including data around animal health,) making modifications resulting from this quality assurance process, which will include remote beta testing with field-based colleagues.
- 2. Introducing automation to the process of extracting, cleaning, collating, and aggregating data in line with SPANA's data analysis framework:** This process will include beta testing the automation with dummy data and making required modifications.
- 3. Power BI dashboards:** Update SPANA's Power BI dashboards to ensure both management and technical quality assurance is possible as a result of the automated presentation of data using the data analysis framework. This process will include beta testing the automation with dummy data and making required modifications.
- 4. System Documentation:** Document the data collection tool and reporting development process in a way that will support ongoing maintenance by a MEAL

team member and other admin-level users of the system.

DELIVERABLES

The consultant shall be expected to submit the following products and services:

- Detail Workplan of the activities aligning with the ToR
- Meeting with MEAL Unit/GPD on the specification for the ODK platform include design, content, functionalities, and technical enhancements
- Review of SPANA Data Collections Tools
- Develop ODK MEAL Databases
- Digitalize MEAL tools
- Pre-testing of tools
- Submission of ODK codes in softcopy
- Document and submit protocols for maintaining database testing, data entry, and data checking procedures.

EXPECTED TIMEFRAME.

The estimated timeframe is 1-3 months (40-60 days). A contiguous period of performance is preferred, but we will take into consideration the costs and workplan within applicant's proposals and their availability.

REQUIREMENTS

We are seeking applicants with a minimum of 7-10 years of data engineering experience; including fluency in relevant programming languages, tools and platforms, and familiarity with cloud environments. Applicants should have experience in the international development, humanitarian, and/or charity sector. Ideally, applicants should have field experience developing and/or beta testing data collection and reporting tools in low resource and complex environments (such as limited and low bandwidth internet, limited or unstable electricity, and low digital literacy levels).

HOW TO APPLY

The consultant must submit a technical proposal outlining the method, workplan (including available start date), and relevant capacities and descriptive examples of past performance-including recommendations from past clients-that relate to the expectations outlined in these terms of reference. It must also include a cost proposal. Short-listed candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:

Method: The proposal outlines a reasonable technical approach which delivers on the desired outputs.

Workplan: The proposed workplan is feasible within the allocated timeframe.

Cost: The cost of the proposal is reasonable and feasible within SPANA's allocation for the effort.

Experience: Details on previous training and experience including recommendations from previous organisations or work completed is included within the application.

Applications or queries relating to the consultancy can be submitted to globalprogrammes@spana.org

Application deadline is the 15th of March 2024. Candidates will be shortlisted on a rolling basis. Interviews of shortlisted candidates will begin no later than 16th of March 2024. The period of performance is expected to begin as soon as possible, preferably by the 23rd of March.