1. How does UNICEF define a blended finance facility and WASH investments? Does this definition also include explicit private capital or is it a blend of different sources of development finance for example?

By blended finance, we mean the strategic use of development (or humanitarian) finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries. We are open to all variations of this that can drive improved effectiveness, efficiency, and results for children.

1. Who would be target group of that facility? (aid agencies?)

Most likely, programme country governments and aid agencies seeking financing solutions for sustainable capital investments in WASH infrastructure would propose projects to the facility, on the basis that they will provide long term cost-efficiencies to the aid community. Qualifying utility planners, builders and operators (public and private) would be eligible for financing on a project-by-project basis.

1. Is there a specific reason for the relatively tight deadlines proposed for the different phases of the assignment? We have executed similar assignments in the past within a substantially longer timeframe.

The timelines are deliberately ambitious in recognition of the urgency of this work, however they are not rigid. UNICEF has already collected a significant amount of data and analysis related to this work, so timelines reflect increased speed of implementation.

1. Is there an exact format for the 4-pager to respond to the RFI on behalf of our consortium?

No.

1. Is it possible to add parties to the consortium in the next phase of the selection process?

Yes, though any proposed consortium would need to legally designate a lead entity. Our interest at this time is to understand the qualifications of proposed lead firms.

Please also note that the RFI does not guarantee UNICEF will move toward an RFP.

1. Are there any other questions and answers available of potential bidders for this selection process?

No, but respondents are welcome to submit additional questions.

1. Note iii to the RFI indicates that “UNICEF reserves the right to request for a presentation to help us understand your approach.” As an RFI, we presume UNICEF is not soliciting a full proposal with detailed approach and methodology at this time, but rather an introduction to the firm, team, and sample project track record. Could you please clarify the specific information UNICEF would like to be included in this Expression of Interest?

Correct, we are not soliciting a full proposal at this time. We are looking instead to assess the market of qualified firms with relevant experience and receive estimated price of service.

1. Note vi to the RFI indicates that “Services will be contracted according to budget availability.” Could you please confirm if funding has been secured and budgeting has already been earmarked and/or allocated for this study? If so, could you please provide indicative budget ranges for this study?

We cannot provide an indicative cost of work for the total project. Fundraising for the work is ongoing, with some budget already secured.

1. Would UNICEF consider consortiums (vs. an individual firm) for this study?

Please see #5 above.