Request for Offer (RFO) for

DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessment for Humanitarian Partnership Certification

Ref. IRL-FID-55900

GOAL is completely against fraud, bribery and corruption.

GOAL does not ask for money for offers.
If you have any serious concern over wrongdoing, please report it at www.safecall.co.uk/report or email goal@safecall.co.uk . All information is treated confidentially by Safecall and you may remain anonymous if you wish.

1 About GOAL

Established in 1977, GOAL is an international humanitarian and development agency committed to working with communities to achieve sustainable and innovative early response in crises and to assist them to build lasting solutions to mitigate poverty and vulnerability. For more information on GOAL and its operations please visit https://www.goalglobal.org/.

2 Background

GOAL intends to engage an independent external audit firm to undertake the DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessment required as part of the application process for the DG ECHO Humanitarian Partnership Certification.

The assessment will be conducted in accordance with DG ECHO requirements for independent assessors, including compliance with **ISAE 3000**, applicable professional standards and ethical requirements, and the relevant DG ECHO certification guidance. The completed Independent Assessment Report will support GOAL's application for certification and must be submitted within the timeframe established by DG ECHO.

The successful bidder will be expected to undertake most of the assessment work during **January-February 2027**, with final reporting completed by March 15th, 2027.

3 TIMELINES

Line	Item	Date, year, time, and time-zone
1	RFO published	Friday, November 6th, 2026
2	Closing date and time for receipt of clarifications request	17:00 Hrs (Irish Standard Time) Friday, November 13th, 2026
3	Closing date and time for receipt of offers	17:00 Hrs (Irish Standard Time) Monday, November 23rd 2026
4	Date contract is expected to be signed	Monday, December 7th, 2026
5	Introductory Meeting with winning company	Wednesday, December 9th, 2026
6	Main Assessment Fieldwork	Monday, December 14th, 2026 – Friday, February 26th 2027
7	Draft Report Submission	Friday, February 26th 2027
8	Final Independent Assessment Report	No later than Monday, March 15th, 2027

4 Scope of Services

The successful auditor will be required to:

- Conduct an independent Ex-Ante Assessment of GOAL against DG ECHO certification requirements.
- Review organisational systems, governance structures, policies, procedures and internal controls.
- Assess compliance with the eligibility and suitability requirements established by DG ECHO.
- Review supporting documentation and evidence provided by GOAL.
- Conduct interviews with relevant GOAL personnel, as required.
- Prepare the Independent Assessment Report in accordance with DG ECHO requirements.
- Identify and communicate any areas identified for improvement.
- Participate in planning, progress and closing meetings with GOAL management.

5 Delivery of Modality

The assessment is expected to be conducted primarily through remote working arrangements.

GOAL will provide the successful bidder with access to relevant documentation through GOAL's SharePoint platform, including policies, procedures, governance documentation, financial records and supporting evidence.

The auditor will be expected to:

- Conduct document reviews remotely.
- Utilise SharePoint and electronic documentation efficiently.
- Hold meetings and interviews virtually where appropriate.
- Ensure secure handling of all information.
- Comply with applicable confidentiality and data protection requirements.
- Identify and justify any proposed requirement for on-site work.

6 Information Provided to Bidders

GOAL is seeking audit firms with demonstrable experience of DG ECHO Ex-Ante assessments or comparable donor assurance engagements. Accordingly, prospective bidders are expected to be familiar with DG ECHO certification requirements.

Nevertheless, the documents listed below are provided to ensure all bidders are proposing against the same scope of work and preparing comparable technical and financial proposals.

The following documents will be provided:

1. DG ECHO Humanitarian Partnership Certification Call Document.
2. DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessment Document which details the Terms of Reference, Scope of Work, Assessment Procedures, Reporting Templates.

2(a). Annex 1 – People contacted or involved in the assessment.

2(b). Annex 2 - Assessment Questionnaire. (Please note: The Assessment Questionnaire is the primary document subject to review and will be completed by GOAL before being provided to the selected auditor for assessment).

3. The Request for Offer (RFO) Document.

**Both Annex 1 & 2 can be found in the DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessment Document.*

7 CONDITIONS OF OFFER SUBMISSION

7.1 Offers must be completed in English.

7.2 Vendors must respond to all requirements set out in this RFO and complete their offer in the format requested in The Proposal Requirements.

7.3 In the event of a contract being awarded to a vendor that has knowingly withheld relevant information or otherwise misled GOAL in the evaluation process in any way, then that contract will be rendered null and void.

7.4 Any conflicts of interest involving a vendor must be fully disclosed to GOAL particularly where there is a conflict of interest in relation to any recommendations or proposals put forward by the vendor.

7.5 GOAL is under no obligation to accept the lowest or any other offer received in response to this RFO and reserves its right to reject any or all the offers (part/full) including incomplete offers without assigning reason whatsoever.

7.6 Information supplied by vendors will be treated as contractually binding.

7.7 GOAL's standard payment terms are by bank transfer within 30 working days after satisfactory implementation and receipt of documents in order.

7.8 This document is not construed in any way as an offer to a contract

7.9. The vendor shall seek written approval from GOAL before entering into any sub-contracts for the purpose of fulfilling this contract. Full details of the proposed subcontracting company and the nature of envisioned engagement of sub-contractor/s into this contract shall be included in vendor's offer.

7.10. GOAL reserves the right to refuse any subcontractor that is proposed by the vendor.

7.11. GOAL and all contracted suppliers, and their subcontractors, associates or partners must act in all its procurement and other activities in full compliance with donor requirements and the highest ethical standards. GOAL has zero tolerance for fraud, bribery or corruption in any form and will reject any offers if the organization determines that the vendor, any of its personnel, or its sub-contractors, has, directly or indirectly, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question;

7.12 **Terrorism and Sanctions:**

GOAL does not engage in transactions with any terrorist group or individual or entity involved with or associated with terrorism or individuals or entities that have active exclusion orders and/or sanctions against them. GOAL shall therefore not knowingly purchase supplies or services from companies that are associated in any way with terrorism and/or are the subject of any relevant international exclusion orders and/or sanctions. If you submit an offer based on this request, it shall constitute a guarantee that neither your company nor any affiliate or a subsidiary controlled by your company are associated with any known terrorist group or is/are the subject of any relevant international exclusion order and/or sanctions. A contract clause confirming this may be included in an eventual purchase order based on this request.

8 QUALITY CONTROL

3rd party companies may be contracted by GOAL to carry out random quality inspections of work carried out by the contracted party. The cost of the quality control inspections will be covered by GOAL.

GOAL may choose to visit vendors' premises, including sub-contractors (if any) to perform additional checks as part of the evaluation process. Vendors will be notified in advance of a visit.

9 SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

This competition is being conducted under GOAL's Request for Offer procedure. The Contracting Authority for this procurement is GOAL. **Under this procurement process, we expect all offers received and analyzed to be the best and final offer.**

Any queries about this RFO should be addressed in writing to GOAL via email on **clarifications@goal.ie** Please include the reference number **IRL-FID-55900** and words "clarification required" in the subject line.

Offers must be delivered in the following way:

1. By email to **tenders@goal.ie** and in the subject field state:

    a) **IRL-FID-55900 DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessment for Humanitarian Partnership Certification**
    b) **Name of your company with the title of the attachment**
    c) **Number of emails that are sent e.g. 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3.**

(Proof of sending does not equal proof of receipt. GOAL is not responsible for any technical faults that may prevent reception of your email.)

All documents submitted must be in scan or PDF format. Any excel or word documents must be accompanied by a PDF or scan version of the document.

Links to share drives will not be accepted unless it is necessary due to file size. All documents submitted via links to shared drive must not be modified after the closing date and time for the receipt of offers (timestamp must clearly indicate that they haven't been modified). Documents submitted via links to a shared drive that have been modified after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

Important: Offers transmitted in any other manner or offers received after the deadline date and time will not be considered.

10 SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Documents required to be submitted as response to this RFO are:

Line	Item	How to submit	Tick attached
1	Appendix 1- Company Information	Complete, sign and submit titled 'Company Information'.	
2	Appendix 2 - Technical Offer	Complete, sign and submit titled 'Technical offer'.	
3	Appendix 3 - Financial Offer	Complete, sign and submit titled 'Financial offer'.	
4	*Appendix 4 – Curricula Vitae	Submit Curricula Vitae of Key Personnel who will assigned to this project, titled 'Curricula Vitae'	
5	Appendix 5 - Evidence of similar work completed & names of organisations	Submit titled 'Evidence/Previous Experience & Organisation Names'	
6	Appendix 6 – GOAL Code of Conduct	Complete, sign and submit titled 'GOAL Code of Conduct'.	
	**** It is imperative that CVs are submitted as DG ECHO may audit all CVs submitted to confirm, that the Curricula Vitae received demonstrate sufficient experience on the subject matter **All documents should be submitted in pdf format***		

11 EVALUATION PROCESS

Phase #	Evaluation Process Stage	The basic requirements with which proposals must comply with
The first phase of evaluation of the responses will determine whether the offer has been submitted in line with the administrative instructions and meets the essential criteria. Only those offers meeting the essential criteria and do not fall under any of the listed exclusion criteria will go forward to the second phase of the evaluation.		
1	**Administrative instructions**	**1. Closing Date:** Proposals must have met the deadline stated in section 3 of this RFO, or such revised deadline as may be notified to vendors by GOAL. Vendors must note that GOAL is prohibited from accepting any offers after that deadline. **2. Submission Method:** Proposals must be delivered in the method specified in section 9 of this document. GOAL will not accept responsibility for offers delivered by any other method. Offers delivered in any other method may be rejected. **3. Format and Structure of the Proposals:** Offers must conform to the Submission of Offers format laid out in section 9 of this RFO or such revised format and structure as may be notified to Vendors by GOAL. **Failure to comply with the prescribed format and structure may result in your offer being rejected at this stage.** **4. Confirmation of validity of your proposal:** The vendors must confirm that the period of validity of their proposal is not less than 90 (ninety) calendar days.
2	**Essential Criteria**	**Technical Essential Requirements (Pass/Fail)** **Bidders must satisfy all the following requirements to be considered for evaluation:** To be considered, bidders must demonstrate: • Independent external audit firm. • Registration and legal authority to perform assurance engagements. • Compliance with ISAE 3000. • Compliance with the IESBA Code of Ethics and applicable independence requirements. • No actual or perceived conflict of interest. • Appropriate professional qualifications and experience. • Ability to issue reports in English. • Sufficient resources to complete the assignment within the required timeframe. Failure to satisfy any of the above criteria may result in exclusion from further evaluation.

		Relevant Experience Requirements Bidders should demonstrate: • Experience undertaking assurance engagements for NGOs, humanitarian organisations or not-for-profit entities. • Experience reviewing donor-funded programmes and organisational systems. • Experience conducting institutional, compliance, governance or systems reviews. • Experience operating under internationally recognised assurance and ethical standards. • Experience conducting remote reviews and document-based assessments. The following will be considered a significant advantage: Demonstrated experience conducting DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessments, DG ECHO audits, Certified Financial Statement (CFS) engagements, donor compliance reviews or comparable assurance assignments for humanitarian and development organisations.
Each proposal that conforms to the Essential Criteria will be evaluated according to the Award Criteria given below by GOAL.		
3	**Award Criteria**	Offers will be awarded marks under each of the award criteria listed in this section to determine the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) OR the Lowest price technically acceptable (LPTA)] offer. 1. Technical Offer 70 Points 2. Financial Offer 30 Points **Technical Evaluation (70 Points)** A minimum technical score of **49 Points out of 70 Points** will be required to proceed to financial evaluation. **Financial Evaluation (30 Points)** *All offers should be in Euro (€) and include VAT, if applicable***.** The financial score will be calculated using the following formula: Point for Financial Offer will be awarded on the inverse proportion principle (shown below):

<table>
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<td>Score = points available x (lowest price offered/ bidder offer price)

Overall Evaluation

<table>
<tr><th>Component</th><th>Score Weighting</th></tr>
<tr><td>Technical Offer</td><td>70 Points</td></tr>
<tr><td>Financial Offer</td><td>30 Points</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>100 Points</td></tr>
</table>

The contract will be awarded to the bidder achieving the highest combined score.

Expected Deliverables

The successful bidder will provide:

1. Assessment planning and inception meeting.
2. Assessment methodology and work plan.
3. Progress meetings as required.
4. Draft Independent Assessment Report.
5. Presentation of findings to GOAL management.
6. Final Independent Assessment Report in the format required by DG ECHO.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Due Diligence Checks</td>
<td>Successful offers will be screened in line with Anti-Terrorism and Sanction checks. GOAL will not contract with vendors who do not pass those checks as per clause 7.12 of this document.</td>
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APPENDIX 1- COMPANY INFORMATION

Company Name		
Registered address of the vendor		
Year Established		
Please state the name of any other persons/organisations (except your company) who will benefit from this contract (GOAL compliance matter)		
Parent company		
Ownership		
Do you have associated companies? Tick relevant box. If YES – provide details for each company in the line below.	Yes/No	
Associated company details (if applicable)		
If successful, do you agree to work under GOAL's Terms and Conditions of contract (attached as Appendix 4).	Yes/No	Comments/Attachments
If successful, do you agree to abide by GOAL's Supplier Code of Conduct for the delivery of goods/services/works? (attached as Appendix 5)	Yes/No	Comments/Attachments

Note that wining vendor/s may be required to submit further information as part of supplier registration process before the finalisation of contract award.

By submitting an offer under this Request for Offer (RFO) IRL-FID-55900 the vendor hereby asserts that the following statements are correct at the time of submission; and further undertakes to inform GOAL of any changes in status of these matters.

The vendor is not bankrupt or is being wound up, neither are its affairs are being administered by the court nor has entered into an arrangement with creditors or has suspended business activities or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under national laws and regulation.
The vendor is not the subject of proceedings for a declaration of bankruptcy, for an order for compulsory winding up or administration by the court or for an arrangement with creditors or of any other similar proceedings under national laws and regulations.
Neither the vendor, a Director or Partner, has been convicted of an offence concerning his professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata nor been guilty of grave professional misconduct in the course of their business.
The vendor has fulfilled all its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in Ireland or any other state or country in which the vendor is located or doing business.
Neither the vendor, a Director or Partner has been found guilty of fraud, money laundering, corruption; convicted of being a member of a criminal organisation; nor of serious misrepresentation in providing information to a public buying agency
The vendor has not contrived to misrepresent its Health & Safety information, Quality Assurance information, or ar other information relevant to this application.
That all data subjects have specifically consented to the use and storage of their data by GOAL for the purpose of analysing the offers and awarding a contract under this RFO; and further understood that the personal data may be shared internally within GOAL and externally if required by law and donor regulations; and may be stored for a period of up to 7 years from the award of contract.

I confirm that my offer has a validity of 90 calendar days. *If your offer does not have this validity, please state what the validity of your offer will be.*

I confirm that the proposal and the costs provided to accompany it are an accurate reflection of the costs that will be charged to GOAL according to the information provided in this request for offer; and that there are no other costs associated with using the service that my company offers. I also confirm that I have the authority to sign on behalf of the company that is submitting this offer.

Signed:			
Print name:		Position:	
Company Name:		Date:	
Address:			

APPENDIX 2- TECHNICAL OFFER

The Technical Offer should demonstrate:

- Understanding of the assignment.
- Proposed methodology and approach.
- Detailed work plan and timeline.
- Proposed team structure.
- Curricula Vitae of key personnel assigned to this project.
- Relevant experience and references, at least 2 references for contract completed in the last 24 months.
- Quality assurance procedures.
- Data protection and confidentiality arrangements.

Please attach the 'Technical Offer' as Separate Documents in pdf format

APPENDIX 3- FINANCIAL OFFER

The Financial Offer should outline:

- Total fixed fee.
- Breakdown by staff category and estimated number of days.
- Any assumptions.
- Details of VAT or other applicable taxes.

Please attach the 'Financial Offer' as Separate Documents in pdf format

Financial Offer should be in Euro (€) and include VAT, if applicable.

APPENDIX 4- CURRICULA VITAE

Attach as Separate Documents in pdf format

APPENDIX 5- EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE & ORGANISATION NAMES

Attach as Separate Documents in pdf format

APPENDIX 6- GOAL SUPPLIER CODE OF CONDUCT:

Attached as Separate Document

DG ECHO Humanitarian Partnership Certification Call Document

See separate document.

Annex 1- People contacted or involved in the assessment

See separate document.

Annex 2- DG ECHO Ex-Ante Assessment Questionnaire

See separate document.

Annex 3– GOAL Terms & Conditions

See separate document.