#

**Intent to Bid:**

**Location: Kassala, River Nile, and Northern state.**

# Mercy Corps Overview

Mercy Corps is a global team of humanitarians working together on the front lines of today’s biggest crises to create a future of possibility, where everyone can prosper.

### [Our mission: to alleviate suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build secure, productive, and just communities.](https://www.mercycorps.org/what-we-do)

In more than 40+ countries around the world, over 6,000+ team members work side by side with people living through poverty, disaster, violent conflict, and the acute impacts of climate change. We’re committed to creating global change through local impact — 95% of our team members are from the countries where they work.

We bring a comprehensive approach to every challenge, addressing problems from multiple angles. And we go beyond emergency aid, partnering with local governments, forward-thinking corporations, social entrepreneurs, and people living in fragile communities to develop bold solutions that make lasting change possible.

# Project Background and Context

The Sudan - Enhancing Community Resilience (SOMOUD) Project is a 130 million US$ project funded by the Sudan Transition and Recovery Support (STARS) multi-donor trust fund, administered by the World Bank. The Project is expected to run until 2029 – but with an initial period of 3 years, ending in September 2026.

The Project activities are planned for the first two years. The Project’s Development Objective is to improve access to basic services and food security in Select Communities in the Republic of Sudan (“Sudan”). The project’s two main components are:

***1) Provision of Basic Services (US$74 million) that will be implemented by UNICEF, and***

***2) Improving Food Security (US$56 million) that will be implemented by the World Food Program (WFP)***

***with implementing partner, Mercy Corps.***

SOMOUD will be implemented in three States of Kassala, Northern, and River Nile in Sudan prioritizing secure localities but with higher numbers of IDPs. WFP’s component of the Project will include Supporting Agricultural Value Chains (Component 2.2). This sub-component will provide provision of financial grants (“Matching Grants”) to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to enhance value addition in agricultural value chains around services for instance, transport and logistics including storage and packaging, and small-scale processing. The target is to reach at least 80 SMEs, where each SME will be supported with a Matching Grant up to a maximum of 100,000 US$, for a total support of up to 8,000,000 US$ in Matching Grants. This sub-component will be implemented through Mercy Corps.

# Purpose and Objective of the Project

The Project’s primary Development Objective and purpose is to enhance the performance of the actors in the middle of the value chain, particularly the private sector small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to catalyze their active and efficient engagement in the selected value chains to add value and enhance maintenance of that value for the produced food to ensure increased availability in quantity and quality of food, affordability and its delivery from Farmers cooperatives to consumers in market areas, mainly through Consumer Cooperatives and other active market points agents.

Mercy Corps is **seeking private sector partners to engage in Post-harvesting and value-added services, for Winter and Summer seasons** namely **sorghum, wheat, Beans, or horticultural value chains**, to support Farmers' Cooperatives and Consumer Cooperatives. The ideal private sector should have the following:

* **Experience** in the agricultural sector, particularly in the specified value chains.
* **Possess** the necessary infrastructure and resources to provide efficient and effective solutions
* **Be committed** to sustainable and ethical business practices.
* **Be willing** to collaborate with Mercy Corps and local communities to enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and support the development of the agricultural sector.
* **Cost-sharing:** will be on a cost-share basis. SOMOUD will contribute **80%** of the total cost of the support, and the selected company will be required to cover the rest (20% in Kind).

# Targeted Locations

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kassala** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1. *Kassala*
 | 1. *New Halfa*
 | 1. *Reifi Wad Al-Hilaiw*
 | 1. *Reifi Khashm Elgirba*
 |
| **River Nile** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1. *Atbara*
 | 1. *Abo Hamad*
 | 1. *Berber*
 | 1. *Ed Damer*
 |
| **Northern State**  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1. *Ed Debba*
 | 1. *Al Burgaig*
 | 1. *Dongola*
 | 1. *Merawi*
 |

# Proposal Objective

Private sector companies are encouraged to compete for the opportunity to submit agriculture project proposals in the following areas:

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| --- |
| **Physical infrastructure** (e.g. new or improved premises): E.g. An existing SME opens a second store in a new geographic location. The Matching Grant and Matching Contribution may contribute to the cost of building the physical infrastructure for the new store premises). |
| **Technology / Equipment upgrade:** E.g. A high-potential manufacturing SME purchases new equipment to improve the quality and scale of production. The Matching Grant and Matching Contribution pay a share of the cost of the new equipment). |
| **Staffing for a new business model**: E.g. SME introduces a new business model involving a specialized staff position that recruits and trains field-level agents. Matching Grants and Matching Contributions contribute a share of these staff salaries for a pilot period). |
| **Business development services or other types of consultancies:** E.g. A SME hires specialist management consulting services to plan investment and construction of the facilities and build management expertise. Matching Grant and Matching Contribution contribute a share of the cost of the consultant. |
| **Staff capacity-building:** E.g. A SME invests in technical or managerial training for their staff. Matching Grant and Matching Contribution contribute a share of the cost of the training. |

# Eligibility and Requirement

To secure information in a form that will ensure that your proposal will be evaluated appropriately, you are asked to submit your proposal in the file that is attached to the RFP provided the following information is included:

1. **Legal Business Registration**: You must be a registered for-profit entity under Sudanese law.
2. **Legal registration categorize:** the company must have/obtain a certificate of registration showing the owner's or shareholders' names.
3. **Bank account:** the company must have a bank account registered under the name of the business entities.
4. **Tax Compliance:** You must have a valid tax number and comply with all relevant Sudanese business regulations, as evidenced by official tax records.
5. **Proven Track Record:** Considering both pre-war and post-war eras, your company needs to demonstrate a minimum of three years (before April 15th, 2023) of successful and uninterrupted business operations.
6. **Financial Capacity:** You should demonstrate sufficient financial and managerial resources to participate in project activities effectively. While no specific cost contribution is required, there should be no outstanding debt that could divert resources. You must guarantee that resources will be solely used to provide the necessary new goods and services for the project.
7. **Value-Adding Activities:** Your company must actively contribute to adding value to agricultural products within the project's target value chains (sorghum, wheat, beans, or horticulture). This could include activities like post-harvest solutions, aggregation, transportation, cleaning, sieving, packaging, storage, processing, milling, logistics, off-taking, or marketing.
8. **Working with Farmers *(Optional)*:** While not mandatory, a history of collaboration with smallholder farmers (through cooperatives or other SMEs) within the project's target value chains would be considered a plus.
9. **Market Demand *(Optional)***: It would be advantageous to demonstrate a clear market demand for your agribusiness products and services within Sudan, particularly in the project areas.
10. **Prohibited Activities:** Your company must not engage in any activities prohibited by WFP or Mercy Corps regulations and rules.
11. **Anti-Terrorism Compliance:** You must not be associated with any entities designated as terrorists on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List or similar UN-established lists.
12. **Political Neutrality:** You must not be affiliated with any political party, partisan activities, or armed groups in Sudan, nor associated with any sanctioned actors by the United Nations. Mercy Corps will conduct background checks to verify compliance.
13. **Environmental and social safeguards**: The SME **ESS** assessment tool considers risks relating to child labour, equal pay for equivalent work for women and men, adequate management of health and safety risks, risks of SGBV on site / travelling to from site, pollution, economic displacement and effects on biodiversity, forests, or natural habitats (See SME ESS assessment tool). Mitigation measures are proposed in the tool and contextualized, and appropriate mitigation measures should be identified in the grant proposals. Project site visits will be mandatory for WFP or MC, should there be any major red flags which would exclude the SME.
14. **Conflict Sensitivity**: SMEs must demonstrate the capacity to carry out a conflict sensitivity assessment to identify potential risks and ensure that the SME operations are in a manner that does not exacerbate conflict dynamics. Thus, the SME must show an understanding of conflict dynamics, adherence to conflict-sensitive practices, and ability to operate in volatile environments.
15. **Innovation and Sustainability**: SMEs must demonstrate innovative approaches to addressing value-addition challenges in selected value chains, aimed at promoting economic resilience. Also, SMEs must show proper sustainability plans to ensure their activities' impact extends beyond the project duration.

# Submission requirement for application and Deadline

Please submit all applications electronically to sd-tenders@mercycorps.org **OR** Hard copy or paper applications **to Mercy Corps offices in Port Sudan, Kassala, Atbara, and Dongola**. The email or Envelope subject line for applications should read **“SOMOUD component: 2.2: Supporting Agricultural Value Chains.”** – the name of the organization applying.”

1. EOI letter signed and stamped with entity headline.
2. Company registration form.
3. Company legal documents.
4. Pitch deck *(If available).*

 **Must be submitted**

**We encourage all companies to submit completed documents by, Tuesday, December 31st , 2024, at 11:59 P.M. Sudan time**.