

Amendment to Request for Proposal

Amendment number: 2
Reference Request for Proposal Number: RFI-CATALYZE-Edu-2023-0108

Amendment effective date: 30 October 2023

Description of Amendment:

1. This amendment serves to modify the deadline for responses of the RFI from ending on November 3, 2023 to ending on **November 17, 2023**.
2. The questions and answers period has been extended to November 10, 2023.

Request for Information (RFI)

Subject RFI #:	RFI-CATALYZE-Edu-2023-0108
RFI Issue Date:	October 16, 2023
Description:	RFI regarding Vocational Training and Gender Norms Training in Paraguay
Project	CATALYZE Innovative Blended Finance
The Company	Palladium International, LLC
Deadline for Responses	November 17, 2023
Questions Deadline	November 10, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST; submit to catalyze.procurements@thepalladiumgroup.com
Details for Submission	Submit response electronically to catalyze.procurements@thepalladiumgroup.com

Thank you for your interest in the above request for information. As implementer for the CATALYZE Innovative Blended Finance Project funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Palladium invites you to submit information in response to this RFI.

Please submit your response in accordance with the Details for Submission above by the Closing Date and Time. This RFI in no way obligates Palladium to award a contract nor does it commit Palladium to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of information. Palladium bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

Yours sincerely,

Procurement Team
Palladium CATALYZE

Company Information

Palladium is a global leader in the design, development and delivery of positive impact — the intentional creation of enduring social and economic value. We work with corporations, governments, foundations, investors, communities and civil society to formulate strategies and implement solutions that generate lasting social, environmental and financial benefits.

Project Background

The CATALYZE Blended Finance Mechanism is a \$250 million, 8-year contract (5-year base period, with a single 3 year option period) which uses a facilitated partnership model to craft solutions to crowd in \$2 billion in blended finance (i.e. blended concessional and commercial finance) to USAID partner countries and initiatives. CATALYZE allows USAID Bureaus and Missions to efficiently deploy investment facilitation solutions that respond to the needs of specific sectors, issues, and geographies. Initial programs focus on education finance to implement sustainable education business models serving low-income communities, and achievement of women's economic empowerment objectives, but the mechanism can be applied to any development challenge or region.

Within CATALYZE, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Activity aims to facilitate access to high-quality ECCE in order to unlock improved learning and development outcomes amongst children and improved livelihood outcomes for women. Women's livelihood outcomes encompass: (i) advancement (entry into formal work, labor force pivots); (ii) intrahousehold impacts (bargaining power, intimate partner violence, and time use); and (iii) well-being (mental and physical).

In Paraguay, CATALYZE ECCE aims to provide additional services to select households with a child/children enrolled in ECCE centers receiving CATALYZE ECCE support. As we define the scope of services, CATALYZE ECCE aims to better understand the landscape for both vocational service provision and gender norms training in the country.

Instructions to Interested Parties

- Questions and Requests for Clarifications: All questions and/or requests for clarifications regarding this RFI must be submitted via email to catalyze.procurements@thepalladiumgroup.com by the deadline specified on the cover page. All correspondence and/or inquiries regarding this RFI must reference the RFI number. Questions and requests for clarification—and the responses thereto—that Palladium believes may be of interest to other firms will be circulated to all RFI recipients who have indicated an interest in providing information.
- Information Submission: All responses to this RFI must be received via email by the deadline specified on the cover page. All responses must be emailed to catalyze.procurements@thepalladiumgroup.com.
- Firm Contact Information: The following information should be included in any RFI response:
 - Organization Name
 - Organization Address
 - Organization Website (if available)
 - Name of Point of Contact (POC)
 - POC Title
 - POC Email Address
 - POC Phone Number

Requested Information

CATALYZE ECCE requests information on the following questions. Respondents are not required to answer all questions.

Vocational Training Landscape

1. Can your organization provide vocational training to female heads-of-household with children enrolled in CATALYZE ECCE-supported ECCE Centers in Paraguay? Please provide detailed information on your capabilities to provide these services, as well as a brief description of similar services your organization has provided in past, including dates of the work and any other relevant information.
2. What vocational skills are most in demand by employers in the communities where you work?
3. What is the average duration (hours, number of days, number of months) of vocational courses your organization provides? Does your organization adapt and tailor courses to different lengths?
4. What qualifications must students meet to enroll in a vocational course at your organization?
5. Does your organization offer job matching services? For example, does your organization help students identify and apply for jobs or connect employers to recent graduates? If your organization does not provide job matching support, what type of organizations provide effective job matching support in your community?
6. Does your organization provide entrepreneurship training? If not, what type of organizations provide entrepreneurship training in your community?
7. What does your organization consider the most important factors to ensure the safety of students, particularly female students, in vocational training courses?
8. What are the estimated average costs for providing vocational training in USD? (This information will be used strictly for budgetary purposes, not for any actual purchases.)

Gender Norms Training Landscape

9. Can your organization provide training around gender norms, caregiving, and positive fatherhood to male and/or female heads-of-household with children enrolled in CATALYZE ECCE-supported ECCE Centers in Paraguay? Please provide detailed information on your capabilities to provide these services, as well as a brief description of similar services your organization has provided in past, including dates of the work and any other relevant information.
10. What is the average duration (hours, number of days, number of months) of the gender norms training your organization provides? Does your organization adapt and tailor courses to different lengths?
11. How can CATALYZE ECCE-provided gender norms training complement existing gender norms training and programming in Paraguay as opposed to duplicating existing initiatives?
12. What does your organization consider the most important factors in the success of a gender transformative training and education programming in Paraguay (e.g., types of content, delivery mechanisms, duration, etc.)?
13. What are the estimated average costs for providing gender norms training in USD? (This information will be used strictly for budgetary purposes, not for any actual purchases.)