Call for Letter of Expression of Interest

Development of New Website to The Iraqi Ministry of Finance (MoF)

Strengthening Public Finance and
Financial Markets (FFM) in Iraq

1. Project Background

The Support to Public Financial Management and Financial Market (FFM) Project in Iraq is a multi-donor action commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The government of Iraq has defined comprehensive reform measures to embark on an inclusive development path based on stable and accountable institutions. The aim is to diversify domestic revenue mobilization from near complete dependence on Oil Revenue. To this end, the Project is supporting the government's effort to modernize the non-oil domestic revenue generation system through institutional and human capacity development.

The FFM program has four components and the Fiscal Reform Component is the conduit through which the program is supporting the Government of Iraq to modernize the non-oil revenue mobilization system. The aim is to support the establishment of a transparent and accountable revenue generation system that is capable of mobilizing revenue in a fair manner for service delivery to the citizens, especially the vulnerable women and children who are mostly affected by the prolonged conflict.

In addition, the FFM Program through its component one will support some key counterparts namely, the Finance of Finance (MoF), the General Commission of Taxes (GCT), and the Iraq Customs Authority (ICA). The Program supports the government in doing political analysis based on the following: (i) the economic and social effects of a particular tax type and how it can influence the political atmosphere in the country, (ii) careful analysis of how the imposing of a particular tax can lead to changing political landscape and support, and (iii) evidence-based revenue projections methodologies developed to scientifically estimates the resource envelop to meet the overall budgets and avoid fiscal distortion in the fiscal year budget and resource allocation.

Overall, this multi-donor action emphasizes developing the long-term abilities of its partners such as the Iraqi Ministry of Finance is placed on the key revenue-generating institutions and other non-oil revenue-generating departments and commissions with strong potential for transforming the revenue base from near complete dependence on oil revenue to non-oil revenue.

2. The objective of the Assessment:

The Iraqi Ministry of Finance stands at the forefront of the nation's economic stability and development and is tasked with overseeing financial policies, managing public resources, and ensuring fiscal accountability. However, in today's rapidly advancing digital age, the current website of the Ministry falls short of meeting the needs of a modern audience. Recognizing the necessity of a dynamic and user-centric online presence, the GIZ\FFM project and the Ministry's planning mission to develop a new website with cutting-edge features that align with global standards and cater to the specific requirements of Iraqi citizens, businesses, and international stakeholders.

The primary objective of building this new website is to create an accessible, transparent, and efficient platform that enhances communication and interaction between the Ministry and its users. By leveraging modern web technologies, GIZ\FFM project and Ministry aim to provide an intuitive and seamless user experience. The new website will serve as a centralized hub for critical financial information, policy updates, and public services, ensuring that users can easily navigate and access the resources they need.

One of the key features of the new website will be its focus on transparency. In alignment with the government's commitment to openness and accountability, the website will offer real-time access to data on national budgets, expenditures, and financial reports. An interactive dashboard will allow users to visualize this information through charts, graphs, and other data visualization tools, fostering a greater understanding of how public funds are allocated and spent. This initiative aims to build trust between the Ministry and the public, reinforcing the principles of good governance.

In addition to transparency, the website will prioritize user engagement and accessibility. A responsive design will ensure compatibility across all devices, from desktops to smartphones, enabling users to interact with the site anytime and anywhere. Multilingual support, including Arabic, Kurdish, and English, will cater to Iraq's diverse population and international stakeholders. For inclusivity, the site will adhere to accessibility standards, providing features such as screen reader compatibility and adjustable text sizes to accommodate users with disabilities.

The new website will also incorporate advanced features to streamline public services. A secure online portal will enable citizens and businesses to perform various transactions, such as tax filings, payments, and applications for financial support, without the need for in-person visits. This digital transformation will reduce administrative burdens, save time, and increase efficiency. Furthermore, a dedicated section for frequently asked questions (FAQs) and virtual assistance through an AI-powered chatbot will provide instant support and guidance to users, enhancing their overall experience.

For stakeholders and policymakers, the website will serve as a resource hub, offering access to reports, research, and updates on economic policies. An integrated subscription system will allow users to receive timely notifications about new developments, publications, and events. This proactive approach to information dissemination will strengthen the Ministry's role as a reliable source of financial knowledge and insight.

The development of the new website also reflects the Ministry's commitment to innovation and security. By utilizing state-of-the-art cybersecurity measures, the platform will protect user data and ensure the confidentiality of sensitive information. Regular updates and maintenance will align the website with technological advancements and user expectations, sustaining its relevance and effectiveness over time.

In conclusion, the objective of building a new website for the Iraqi Ministry of Finance extends beyond mere modernization; it represents a strategic investment in digital transformation, transparency, and public engagement. By embracing modern features and addressing the diverse needs of its audience, the Ministry aims to establish a digital presence that supports its mission and contributes to Iraq's broader economic development. This initiative marks a significant step forward in fostering trust, efficiency, and accessibility within the nation's financial framework.

The purpose of the website is to provide a transparent, efficient, and user-friendly platform for government services, including public-facing content, reports, forms, and updates. The website aims to foster better communication and access to public financial data, enhance transparency in the government's budgeting processes, and ensure accessibility to various stakeholders.

The objectives can shortly summarized as below:

- Deliver a secure, responsive, and scalable website.

- Improve transparency and communication from the government.

- Provide user-centric features for both public and internal users.

- Integrate Power BI dashboards for financial data visualization.

- Enable future API integrations.

- Ensure compliance with international budget standards (Open Budget Survey, International Budget Partnership).

3. **Tasks to be performed by the contractor**:

The Contractor \ selected company for this tender needs **to work on building a completely new website from scratch** that respects the below technical and functional requirements:

A. Deliver a Modern, Secure, Responsive, and Scalable Website
- Azure hosting with load balancing and backups; front-end frameworks (React/Angular/Vue); back-end solutions (Node.js/Django/Ruby on Rails); databases (MySQL/PostgreSQL/MongoDB); CDN for global access; mobile responsiveness; WCAG 2.1 compliance.

- Enterprise-grade Cybersecurity Measures: HTTPS/SSL, RBAC, WAF, DDoS protection; secure file uploads (CSV, PDF, JPG, PNG); ISO 27001-compliant servers with threat monitoring.

B. Deliver a Multilingual Website to Cater to Diversity
- Languages: Arabic, English, Kurdish.
- Dynamic translation library for system-wide text management.

C. Improve Transparency and Communication from the Government
- **Dashboards:** Real-time budget/expenditure Power BI visualizations with drill-down features.
- **Content Repository:** Advanced search, centralized CMS for policies, news, and services.
D. Provide User-Centric Features for Both Public and Internal Users
- Public Users: Access public-facing content, documents, news, forms, and budget data visualizations.
- Registered Users: Create accounts to submit forms, schedule appointments, and access personalized services.
- Administrators & Special Roles: Manage content, user access, and data via role-based permissions; departmental or sub-admin roles for fine-grained control over their specific areas.
- **Online Services:** Secure forms, encrypted processes, API-ready back-end for future e-services.
E. Integrate BI Dashboards for Financial Data Visualization
- Power BI dashboards to showcase key government data—budgets, expenditures, allocations—briefly on the Home Page and deeper analytics within the Citizen Budget Page.
- Role-based filtering and secure data pipelines ensure only authorized personnel can view or modify sensitive data.

- Implement a Data Entry Interface for Budget Officers to input budget figures, allocations, and revenue categories.
- Enforce strict data validation and auditing to maintain reliable reporting and protect against unauthorized edits.

F. Enable Future API Integrations by Providing an API-Ready Design

- Expose key functionalities (e.g., user management, budget data, forms) via secure RESTful or GraphQL APIs, promoting interoperability with other government and third-party systems.
- Prepare the environment for containerization (e.g., Kubernetes) to handle future scaling needs.
- Plan for seamless connections with payment gateways, identity providers, and other ministries or government services.
- Prioritize flexibility and compliance with evolving data exchange standards.

G. Ensure Compliance with International Budget Standards

- Maintain best practices in budget disclosure, data formats, and presentation, reflecting global benchmarks for financial transparency.
- Provide timely public reports, including sector-wise breakdowns, year-over-year comparisons, and forward-looking forecasts.
- Budget for regular reviews and audits to ensure consistent adherence to evolving standards.
- Collaboration with external auditing bodies or consultants may be required, increasing overall maintenance costs.

H. Ensure Scalability and Expandability Using a Modern Advanced Technology Stack

- Optimize for scaling via Azure's built-in autoscaling features, load balancers, and backup systems.
- Implement a CI/CD pipeline to automate deployments, testing, and rollbacks for minimal downtime and faster feature releases.
- Architect the platform to add new modules—such as tax payment systems, appointment scheduling, or cross-ministry services—without significant rework.
- Plan for a modular approach in database design and front-end components for easy extensibility.

I. Provide a Back-End to Fully Manage Website Data and Content

- Implement custom workflows to facilitate content updates, approvals, versioning, and archiving.
- Ensure that only authorized Administrators or Special Roles can modify public-facing data, forms, and budget dashboards.
- Build automated approval pipelines (e.g., for new content or budget updates) to maintain high content integrity.
- Include logs and audit trails to track changes, easily revert errors, and comply with regulatory requirements.

J. Expanded Quality Assurance and Compliance Testing

- Thoroughly test for compliance with WCAG 2.1 guidelines to accommodate users with visual, auditory, or other disabilities.
- Conduct user acceptance testing with diverse user groups to refine navigation, form design, and data visualization.
- Implement routine penetration tests, load tests, and vulnerability scanning to validate platform robustness.
- Hire specialized third-party security firms for annual or semi-annual audits, which adds to ongoing project costs.

The company willing to participate in this tender must have experience in:

A. Experience with Website development platforms and programming languages

B. Experience with summarizing national budgets to citizens budget and MoF financial structures

C. Experience with Media and Visibility and governmental data presentation

Letter of Interest should be submitted with the following supporting documents:

    a. Detailed Company Profile and Registration Documents
    b. Last 2 years annual turnover documents.
    c. Email to GIZ indicating interest in providing the required services
    d. Company registration
    e. Tax clearance
    f. Provide an Affidavit that the firm has been neither blacklisted by any Government, semigovernmental institute, or private institute nor involved in any litigation in the current or during the last two (2) years or a (self-disclosure).
    g. 2 reference projects
    h. Local bank account

Please refer to the Assessment grid for checking the eligibility for technical details requirement.

This expression of interest is a market search for qualified individuals and GIZ keeps the right for appropriate selection of the best qualified. After this expression of interest, the individuals/companies might be asked for more detailed information and the criteria of selection will be shared with all selected for future demand under this "Short-term Consultant Fee Grids".
Interested companies must submit the above requirements and the full contact details via email to procurement.iraq@giz.de with the email subject name

The deadline for submission is:

Sunday.05.05.2025

Before 02:00 PM local time.

Yours Sincerely,

Procurement and Contracting Unit

Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

E procurement.iraq@giz.de

I www.giz.de