

Invitation to market dialogue

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) would like to invite private companies, software developers, social enterprises, academia, humanitarian actors and other experts and institutions who can supply all or parts of a solution—or solution *strategy*—for a therapeutic virtual reality (VR) experience/program. With funding from Innovation Norway, NCA is seeking to use VR technology to improve the quality and type of psychosocial care for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian contexts.

Following the market dialogue, NCA will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure the best:

- Therapeutic experience/program delivered through VR technology
- The accompanying VR software and VR glasses/headset.

1 What we want to discuss during the market dialogue

By inviting different experts to a market dialogue, NCA aims to leverage private sector expertise in adapting and/or designing and building VR-based programs for therapeutic or behaviour change purposes. This project will be first piloted in Iraq, where NCA's needs assessment verified that women, adolescent girls and GBV survivors find it very difficult to talk with others about issues they find most important to address, like depression, overthinking, sadness, isolation/loneliness, and fear of shame. NCA wants to explore how VR technology can offer survivors the opportunity to do a meaningful piece of therapeutic work without the discomfort or pressure of talking to another person. Therapeutic uses of VR may increase access to quality care when specialized services and trained providers are not available. VR may also allow paraprofessionals to offer higher quality care more efficiently to survivors.

The objectives of this market dialogue are as follows:

- To inform the market about NCA's plans to procure
- To clarify and validate NCA's problem statements
- To explore what services and solutions are available in the market and what solutions are likely to become available
- To collect input on what is the best tender strategy for the procurement
- To orient private sector stakeholders to the humanitarian sector and NCA's GBV program
- To explain the Innovation-Friendly Procurement process NCA is using

Through this procurement, NCA is seeking to solve several technological, contextual and psychosocial problems. Please refer to Appendix 1 for detailed problem statements as well as Appendix 2 for the Needs Assessment Report.

2 Information session dates and registration

We invite those interesting in participating to register for one of the following virtual information sessions:

- Tuesday, 1 November, at 12:30-14:00 UTC
- Wednesday, 2 November, at 17:00-18:30 UTC

To register, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/JYVEGvUDKq>. If you have any questions, please contact John Drollinger, Project Advisor for GBViE Innovation, at John.Drollinger@nca.no.



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3 Market dialogue activities

There will be several opportunities to participate in the market dialogue process. Potential suppliers—as well as sector experts (e.g., researchers, humanitarian actors, mental health specialists, etc.)—may participate in one or more of the following activities:

1. Virtual Information Sessions - this is an opportunity for vendors and interested parties to learn more about the project and problem statements, ask questions, and learn what a solution needs to deliver on. We will organize two information sessions covering different time zones to ensure vendors from across the globe have a chance to engage with us.
2. Survey and bilateral follow up (November 2022) - every supplier or sector expert who has a viable solution strategy is encouraged to submit a survey after the info sessions. Those who submit a survey will be invited for a bilateral follow-up meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for us to learn more about the solution strategy and scope the RFP requirements.
3. Request for Proposals - once all bilateral meetings have been conducted, our team will finalize the requirements that will be published in the RFP. All actors, whether they have participated in the learning processes or not, will be eligible to submit a proposal to the RFP.

The dialogue meetings may provide an opportunity for elaborating on individual questions/answers. However, it is not expected that all questions will be addressed in detail at the meetings.

The participation of potential bidders in the open market consultation will not affect competition in any future tender procedure. Any information which potential bidders receive during the open market consultation will be shared through the publication of relevant documents in the final tender. The competitive phase of the public procurement procedure is conducted separately after the open market consultation, and all potential bidders will be treated equally.

4 About Norwegian Church Aid

NCA is working for global justice through humanitarian, long-term development, and advocacy programs. NCA works in over 20 countries worldwide. Preventing and responding to gender-based violence is one of NCA's strategic priorities. Learn more at: <https://www.kirkensnodhjelp.no/en/>

All relevant documents for this Market Dialogue and procurement will be hosted on this website:
<https://www.kirkensnodhjelp.no/en/about-nca/for-contractors/innovation/>



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