

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement Number:	LAC2021N24o
Open Date:	February 24, 2021
Questions Deadline:	March 8, 2021
Closing Deadline:	March 18, 2021
Geographical Area Restrictions:	937
Point of Contact:	Alex Robson, arobson@iri.org

Background

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization dedicated to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide. Since 1983, IRI has worked to develop democratic institutions and ideals, carrying out a variety of international programs to promote freedom, self-government and the rule of law worldwide. IRI provides technical assistance in the areas of political party strengthening, developing civic institutions and open elections, promoting democratic governance and advancing the rule of law.

IRI seeks to increase citizen awareness of political alternatives by: (1) strengthening the ability of democratic parties and movements to represent citizens' interests; (2) increasing engagement between democratic political actors and civic groups; and (3) increasing the organizational capacity of democratic parties and movements to build and sustain support.

Period of Performance

Date of Signature-July 31st, 2021

Eligibility

Organizations

- Able to conduct face – face interviews in Central America
- Prior experience polling in Central America
- Provide at least three references
- Provide certifications located at the bottom of the RFP

STATEMENT OF WORK: CENTRAL AMERICA PUBLIC OPINION POLL

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

Public opinion data shall be obtained through two nationally representative face-to-face (F2F) surveys of a Central American country that is designed to obtain the most accurate information about:

1. Perception about the current and future situation of the country
2. Perception of different social and political organization and leaders
3. Party sympathy of individuals of voting age

4. Importance that democracy, democratic institutions, and democratic values have for citizens
5. Perception of security among citizens

RESEARCH TASKS

1) General Responsibilities of Bidder. The bidder shall be responsible for the project design and execution, including the following specific tasks for each of the two (2) surveys:

- a) translation, formatting, pretesting, adaptation, and programming of questionnaire (and print if using PAPI);
- b) development of a sampling methodology to be based a multistage stratified plan (PAPI/CAPI);
- c) training supervisors and interviewers;
- d) arranging and supervising all aspects of fieldwork, including back-checks;
- e) processing the survey data, including data cleaning, and encoding survey responses;
- f) ascertaining the representativeness of the sample and weighting the data, if necessary;
- g) statistical analysis of findings and producing the deliverables specified below.

2) Questionnaire. For each survey, IRI will provide a draft questionnaire in Spanish and the bidder will provide input, such as a need for rephrasing certain terms for local context. From previous questionnaires, IRI foresees a questionnaire comprised of closed-ended questions (85%) and open-ended questions (15%).

The estimated average interview duration for the face-to-face survey is thirty (30) minutes.

3) Sample Design. For each survey, IRI requires a national sample of 1,200 individuals, age 16 or older, that is representative of the population of the survey universe. Planned exclusions of the population of the survey universe (e.g., geographic, linguistic) must be discussed during quotation stage. In addition to the national sample, the surveys shall provide an oversample of the following regions.

Survey	Oversample Target and Sample Size	Total
Survey #1	Dry Corridor (n=600)	1,800 interviews
Survey #2	Caribbean Coast (n=600)	1,800 interviews

The sample shall be drawn using recognized probability methods, all the way down to the selection of the individual respondent at the household level. In the event that any departure from probability sampling methods is recommended by the bidder for all or any part of the survey, the sampling methodologies to be employed shall be described in detail and a rationale for their use shall be provided. IRI's general preferred sampling approach is:

1. Stage 1: PPS Stratification by administrative units as per census (e.g., province, district, etc.)
2. Stage 2: PPS Stratification by urban/rural (if census data exists)

3. Stage 3: Random selection of Sampling Point (no more than 10 interviews per Sampling Point) within each Stage 2 stratum
4. Stage 4: Random route household selection within each Sampling Point. Starting point within Sampling Point ideally randomly determined by satellite map or GPS coordinates.
5. Stage 5: Random selection of respondent within each selected household by KISH grid or last/next birthday method.

A detailed sampling methodology shall be submitted to IRI prior to fieldwork, including a description of the survey coverage, allocation of the sample, description of the sampling frame, description of any stratification criteria to be used, description of the stages of selection and the selections methods to be used at each stage. Bidder shall describe their household and respondent replacement protocol in the proposal. It is assumed that the sample will be distributed in proportion to the population of each region or other geographic unit to be surveyed; in the event that the bidder wishes to propose a sample design departing from this principle the proposal should describe the allocation to be used and the reasons for doing so.

4) Pre-test. For each survey, the questionnaire shall be pre-tested by the bidder prior to the commencement of any fieldwork. No less than 20 pre-test interviews shall be conducted in at least three different administrative departments and in surveys with translations into multiple language, no less than 10 interviews per language. The bidder shall provide IRI with a written report of the results of the pre-test, along with details of any problems encountered and suggested remedies, prior to the commencement of any fieldwork.

5) Fieldwork. Interviews shall be conducted in the home of the respondent, and IRI prefers questionnaire administration via CAPI but is open to paper-and-pencil questionnaire administration, if CAPI use is not feasible or advisable.

Interviews shall be conducted by experienced field workers who shall be thoroughly briefed and trained by bidder prior to commencement of any fieldwork. IRI may send a representative to (remotely) observe training and/or listen to some interviews. The bidder shall ensure that interviewers are thoroughly familiar with respondent selection procedures, call back procedures, and the structure of the questionnaire. Interviewer training shall include practice sessions in administering the questionnaire. All interviewers must have at least completed secondary education and must be fully fluent (reading and speaking) in the language(s) in which they are to administer the interviews. A minimum of 10% of interviews shall be back checked or accompanied by a team supervisor.

The bidder will need to track contacts (and reasons for unsuccessful interview attempts) to calculate the response rate. During the quotation process, the bidder will disclose the anticipated response rate. Should this anticipated response rate be less than 50%, the bidder will list in the proposal additional steps that will be taken to address response rates,

6) Data Processing. The bidder shall be responsible for data cleaning, and processing, including development and implementation of a coding scheme for all open-ended

questions. For each survey, the bidder shall supply data to IRI as a clean, fully labeled in Spanish SPSS “*.sav” file with a complete data dictionary of variable names and value labels for each survey. A codebook will be provided by IRI. There shall be one data record for each respondent and records shall be of fixed length. Each record shall include a unique respondent ID number, interviewer ID number, interview duration, any geographic units as per the sample design, and date of interview, main sample, or oversample, and if CAPI is used for the face-to-face survey GPS coordinates if possible. Each record shall include demographic information about the respondent, including gender, exact age, and education level.

The bidder shall be responsible for deriving and applying any post-stratification weights required to bring the sample into conformity with the demographic profile of the population at the very least for gender and age groups, as well as any additional weighting factors required to correct for disproportionate allocation, if used. Ideally, IRI would want education groups included in weights, and if available demographic data allows it, those without formal education will be assigned to a separately code from those with a least some primary education. If demographic weights were to exceed a factor 1:8, this must be discussed in writing with IRI before the weight is applied. IRI has strict upper limits on post-weighting and requires unweighted samples already generally matching the population’s rough gender and age distribution. For example, an unweighted sample of 65% male and 35% female would not be accepted, even if corrected with post-weights. Each dataset will have multiple weights: One weight for the national sample and one weight for each of the oversamples.

7) Technical Report. When delivering data for each survey, the bidder shall provide a Technical Report in Spanish which shall include the following:

- a) A complete sampling methodology.
- b) Details of response rates, including tabulation of unsuccessful interview attempts, with reasons for non-response (i.e., respondent refusal, proxy refusal, inability to locate selected respondent, etc.).
- c) A brief report on survey operations including any practical difficulties encountered in conducting the survey;
- d) Estimated sampling error;
- e) A complete explanation of the weighting scheme including details of how weighting factors were developed and applied, as well as the demographic source and data on which weights were based (i.e., age, gender, and education distributions in the population);
- f) any abnormalities encountered during data QC, including but not limited to suspicious patterns by interviewer ID (e.g., usually fast completion rates), potential contradictions (e.g., respondents who rate a certain politician as highly untrustworthy yet definitely plan on voting for this person), significant data changes of indicators since the previous poll etc.

8) Analytical Report. The bidder will provide an analytical report of 3-5 pages in Spanish highlighting key findings from the data and placing these findings within the local context for each survey. Mere description of data is not sufficient; the report must contain analysis.

9) PowerPoint Presentation. For each survey, the bidder will provide a presentation in Spanish with at least one chart for every survey question. A style guide will be provided by IRI.

10) Summary of deliverables. For each survey, the Deliverables to be provided to IRI by the bidder are as follows:

Survey Deliverables:

- a) Sampling Methodology
- b) Pretest report
- c) Copies of the final questionnaire, as fielded
- d) A complete data set for survey formatted as an SPSS file
- e) A technical report
- f) An analytical report
- g) PowerPoint Presentation

11) Delivery Schedule. Bidder will advise IRI on a feasible timeline for completing work on this project as soon as possible, with deliverables d and e listed in Section 10 above to be submitted no later than 10 days after the conclusion of fieldwork for each survey, and deliverables f and g submitted no later than 10 days after IRI's acceptance of deliverables d and e. The current intention is to field the face-to-face surveys in March and May 2021.

12) Proposals must contain:

- List face-to-face surveys with similar specifications previously conducted in Central America countries, preferably conducted since April 2020.
- Examples of previously conducted surveys (if any) in each of the Central American countries.
- Confirmation of compliance with all requirements listed on the scope of work without alterations. Explain any proposed alterations.
- Explain if planning on using subcontractors for any tasks
- Coverage, if not 100% of non-institutionalized adults aged 16+:
- Planned exclusions if any of the population of the survey universe (e.g., geographic, linguistic, etc.).
- Describe sampling methodology, including design and the source the sampling frame.
- Describe weighting scheme, including the source and data on which weights will be based.
- Anticipated response rate, and household and respondent replacement protocol, and the proposed method to calculate response rates
- Cost table for all three surveys, with cost-per-interview calculations
- Describe fieldwork team composition, in particular the ratio of supervisors to interviewers.
- Describe Interviewer Training (duration, topics, etc.)
- Describe fieldwork quality control, including any fieldwork progress monitoring measures Describe data checks protocol (e.g., logic checks etc.)
- Describe anticipated challenges if any.

Technical Proposals

All proposals submitted to IRI must include:

1. Information addressing Bidder's experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and Bidder's proposed specific approach for providing those services to IRI under this contract, including sufficient information to determine a clear definition of services as it relates to other providers that may be involved.
2. The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the Bidder (and electronic address if available). If the Bidder is a firm, name(s) should be provided for individuals authorized to conduct business on behalf of the firm.
3. Bidders may provide a list of up to three references for work performed of a similar nature during the last three years, along with contact details. IRI may contact the references to evaluate past performance.
4. If the Bidder is a U.S. organization/resident, or a foreign organization/resident which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., the information submitted must contain Bidder's Taxpayer Identification Number.
5. Proposals will not exceed 10 pages (not including cover page).
6. Submit all bids on official letterhead in Times New Roman 11-point font
7. Include all pricing tables in Microsoft Excel format

Price Proposals

Bidders must propose a firm-fixed Unit Price for each of the deliverables identified below and in the format of the table below. The Bidder's pricing must be valid for at least 60 (sixty) calendar days after the due date for proposal submission. The proposed Unit Price should be fixed and inclusive of all costs to perform, including inspection services, transportation, taxes, import duties (if any), and other levies. To the extent that a Bidder proposed to include any pricing not reflected in the table below, such pricing must be fully described in the proposal. Proposals must be submitted in U.S. Dollars, payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

Survey 1		
Insert cost per deliverable in USD	National Sample Size n=1200	Dry Corridor Oversample n=600
Sampling Plan		
Pretest Report		
Copies of Final Questionnaire w/Translations		
Complete data set		
Technical PowerPoint Presentation		
Total:		

Survey 2		
Insert cost per deliverable in USD	National Sample Size n=1200	Caribbean Cost Oversample n=600
Sampling Plan		
Pretest Report		
Copies of Final Questionnaire w/Translations		
Complete data set		
Technical PowerPoint Presentation		
Total:		

Insert cost per interview in USD	National Sample Size n=1200	Oversamples n=600
Survey 1		
Survey 2		

Evaluation and Award Process

1. IRI may contact any Bidder for clarification or additional information, but Bidders are advised that IRI intends to evaluate the offers based on the written proposals, without discussions, and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial proposals. IRI may but is not obligated to conduct additional negotiations with the most highly rated Bidders prior to award of a contract, and may at its sole discretion elect to issue contracts to one or more Bidders.
2. Mathematical errors will be corrected in the following manner: If a discrepancy exists between the total price proposed and the total price resulting from multiplying the unit price by the corresponding amounts, then the unit price will prevail and the total price will be corrected. If there is a discrepancy between the numbers written out in words and the amounts in numbers, then the amount expressed in words will prevail. If the Bidder does not accept the correction, the offer will be rejected.
3. IRI may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or sub-line items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if IRI determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk.
4. IRI will conduct a source selection based as follows:

IRI intends to make an award to the responsible Bidder based on the following evaluation factors:

Criteria	Points
Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications)	35
Sampling Methodology	15
Capacity to perform Scope of Work	20
Experience in performing similar projects	30
Experience conducting similar CAPI projects in Central America	30
Price	35
Total	100

IRI intends to evaluate Bidders' proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the program.

5. If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered in evaluating performance or price.

Submission Instructions

Bids must be submitted via email to Alex Robson at arobson@iri.org with the subject line "LAC2021N24o" by the deadline listed above.

RFP Terms and Conditions

1. Prospective Bidders are requested to review clauses incorporated by reference in the section "Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference".
2. IRI may reject any or all proposals if such is within IRI's interest.
3. Proof of costs incurred, such as but not limited to receipts, pictures and financial documents, may be requested during and for up to three years after the end of the contract period.
4. The Bidder's initial proposal should contain the Bidder's best offer.
5. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoices and deliverables/services.
6. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
7. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and submissions shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share proposals internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the proposals.
8. For any currency conversion, the exchange rate to US Dollars listed on oanda.com on the closing date of this solicitation shall be used.
9. Every contract will contain provisions governing termination for cause and termination for convenience.
10. By submitting a proposal, offeror agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to the services identified above, and will specifically identify any disagreement with or exceptions to the terms, conditions, and provisions.
11. Offerors confirm that the prices in the proposal/proposal/application/quote have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or

agreement with any other Bidder or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.

12. By applying to this RFP, applicant is certifying that if it is awarded a contract, none of funds payable under the resulting contract will be used to (1) procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; (2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure; or (3) obtain the equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act. Covered telecommunications equipment and services mean any of the following:
- i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
 - ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
 - iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
 - iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country. ([2 CFR 200.216](#)).
13. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the proposal submission:
- Any close, familial, or financial relationships with IRI staff and agents. For example, the Bidder must disclose if a Bidder's mother conducts volunteer trainings for IRI.
 - Any family or financial relationship with other Bidders submitting proposals. For example, if the Bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the Bidder must state this.
 - Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference

IRI is required to make the contractor subject to certain flowdown clauses of the prime award. This awarded contract will incorporate one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Where "flow-down" to the contractor is applicable, references to "USAID/Department of State" shall be interpreted to mean "IRI", "Recipient" to mean "Contractor", and "Subrecipient" to mean "lower-tier subcontractor." Included by reference are the applicable provisions contained in Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

IRI Obligations

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal or quotation.

Required Certifications

The following certificates need to be signed by all Bidders. These certifications are an integral part of the quotation/proposal. Please print them off and send back to us with your proposal after signature on each certificate. They are:

- Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility and voluntary exclusion lower tier covered transactions
- Authorized Individuals

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

This certification implements Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and the requirements set forth in 2.C.F.R. 180, Subpart C.”

Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the person to which this proposal is submitted.

1. By signing and submitting this proposal/application/quote, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal/application/quote is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the IRI.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a

person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature: _____
Date: _____
Name: _____
Title/Position: _____
Entity Name: _____
Address: _____

Authorized Individuals

The offeror/bidder/applicant represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with IRI and to bind the recipient in connection with this procurement:

Name	Title	Telephone	Email

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Entity Name: _____