

Update on the selection process of M&E and Research Agency

Sa-Dhan issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking the empanelment of an independent Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research (MER) agency. The response has been overwhelming, with more than 37 agencies submitting their proposals. Following an initial screening process, we have shortlisted a total of 10 agencies based on several key criteria:

- 1) **Technical Proposal:** We evaluated the technical proficiency and suitability of each agency's proposal in meeting our project's requirements and objectives.
- 2) **Approach and Methodology:** We assessed the proposed approach and methodology outlined by each agency to ensure alignment with our project's scope and goals.
- 3) **Relevant Experience:** Consideration was given to the agency's experience in similar projects or domains, particularly in the field of monitoring, evaluation, and research.
- 4) **Team's Experience:** We reviewed the experience and expertise of the agency's team members, focusing on their ability to effectively execute the proposed tasks and deliverables.
- 5) **Financial Proposal:** The financial aspect of each proposal was carefully examined to ensure competitiveness and value for money while adhering to our project's budgetary constraints.

M&E and Research Agency			
Status	Shortlisted agencies after 1st round		
• RFP released	• LEAD-KREA	• TRIOS	• XIM-B
• 37+ Proposals received	• Sutra	• KPMG	• IRMA
• 10 agencies shortlisted	• Athena	• TTC	
• Presentations were scheduled on 16 th May 2024	• Sigma foundation	• CMS	

Furthermore, Sa-Dhan has constituted an internal committee to review the selection process of the M&E partner agency. This committee has the following members:

1. Mr Jiji Mammen, ED& CEO
2. Mr Somesh Dayal, Deputy Director
3. Dr Saibal Paul, Deputy Director
4. Mr Chandan Thakur, Deputy Director
5. Mr Rahul Bisht, Partner, M2i (TA partner to Sa-Dhan)
6. Mr Neeraj Pokhariyal, National Head-Financial Inclusion

The objective of forming this committee is to ensure transparency in the selection and onboarding of M & E partner agencies.

Following a thorough consideration and review of the initially shortlisted agencies, another round of screening and assessment was conducted to finalize the selection of the top five agencies. The committee has carefully shortlisted these five agencies to deliver presentations before the final selection committee.

On May 16, 2024, all the shortlisted agencies presented their cases to the selection committee¹. Based on the technical presentations, the agencies have been scored as follows, with LEAD-KREA achieving the highest score:

Sl. No.	Agency	Final Score*	Rank
A	LEAD-KREA	97	1
B	IRMA	84	2
C	TTC	81	3
D	SUTRA	80	4
E	KPMG	79	5

- The Final Score: 0 is minimum and 100 being maximum.
- Technical evaluation was done based on the approach and methodology, sample size, monitoring methodology, broad areas of research to be covered during the implementation of the project, past experience and team composition.

ⁱ The selection committee included the representatives from BMGF and Sa-Dhan.