

CELEBRATE HOPE MINISTRIES (CHM)

EYE-C Sprint Programme

Empowering Young Women in the Coffee Value Chain

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

Competitive Selection of Node Experts — Contracts Exceeding UGX 18,000,000

Bid Reference No.: [CHM/EYE-C/NODE-BID/2026/___ — to be assigned]

Issuing Organization: Celebrate Hope Ministries (CHM)

Programme: EYE-C Sprint (Empowering Young Women in the Coffee Value Chain), May–December 2026

Funding Partners: aBi Development and Mastercard Foundation

Districts of Operation: Rakai, Kyotera, and Lwengo Districts, Uganda

Date of Issue: 16 July 2026

Submission Deadline: 30 July 2026 (14 calendar days from issue)

1. Background and Purpose

Celebrate Hope Ministries (CHM) is implementing the EYE-C Sprint programme, an 8-month initiative delivering specialist, apprenticeship-style training and enterprise support to young women across 20 enterprise nodes in the coffee value chain and complementary enterprises across Rakai, Kyotera, and Lwengo Districts. The programme is contracted to deliver 8,800 jobs and is funded by aBi Development and the Mastercard Foundation.

Under programme governance, node expert engagements with a contract value exceeding UGX 18,000,000 require a competitive selection process and aBi no-objection prior to disbursement. CHM is issuing this bid announcement to formalize the selection of node experts for the affected nodes listed in Section 3, in line with this requirement. This requirement applies to all engagements above the threshold, including experts already assigned to a node; ongoing engagement is treated as relevant experience under Section 9 and does not exempt any position from this process.

This process applies specifically to nodes whose contract ceiling exceeds the UGX 18,000,000 threshold. Nodes at or below this threshold are not subject to this bid announcement and continue under existing engagement arrangements.

Following the 9 July alignment meeting, Cafe Africa Uganda (CAU) has agreed to a blended delivery model in which certified Trainers-of-Trainers (ToTs) support node experts rather than substitute for them, and CAU is scheduled to visit CHM to align this model at field level. CAU has also reviewed one CHM node curriculum and confirmed it as complete and unique in delivering the programme's intended outcomes, with CHM remaining the sole training delivery entity under the programme. This context informs the scope of work in Section 5 and the delivery model requirements in Section 6.

2. Nature of This Process

This is a restricted competitive bidding process, used to secure a genuinely competitive outcome on a compressed timeline rather than to pre-select an outcome. Restricted means CHM will directly invite a shortlist of pre-qualified, known specialist providers to submit proposals for each node, rather than issuing an open public tender, in order to meet the turnaround needs of a programme already in active delivery.

For each node listed in Section 3, CHM will directly invite:

- The incumbent node expert currently assigned to the node, who must submit a formal proposal as set out in Section 7; and
- No fewer than two (2) additional qualified candidates identified and invited by CHM, so that each node receives a minimum of three (3) responsive bids.

Sole-source award is not permitted under this process. Where fewer than three responsive bids are received for a node, CHM will extend the submission window or re-issue the invitation for that node before proceeding to evaluation. Ongoing or prior engagement with a node is a creditable qualification under the Relevant Experience & Track Record criterion in Section 9, but does not by itself determine the award.

3. Nodes and Positions Open for Bid

The following node expert positions exceed the UGX 18,000,000 threshold and are the nodes for which CHM has sought aBi no-objection since 25 May 2026. All four are the subject of this bid announcement. Participant figures marked for confirmation should be verified against the Participant Tracker before external issuance.

Node	Node Name
9	Coffee Agro-Tourism
7	Coffee Roasting & QC
13	Digital Storytelling & GPS Mapping
16	Gonja Farming

4. Eligibility Criteria

Bidders (whether incumbent or new) must demonstrate:

- Direct, verifiable experience in the specific enterprise/node area (e.g., agro-tourism development, coffee roasting and quality control, digital storytelling and GPS mapping, or smallholder coffee farming at scale, as applicable to the node being bid).
- Prior experience delivering vocational, apprenticeship, or enterprise training to young women or similarly vulnerable groups in a rural Ugandan context.
- Capacity to deliver within Rakai, Kyotera, and/or Lwengo Districts for the remaining duration of the programme (through December 2026).
- No unresolved conflict of interest with CHM, aBi Development, or the Cafe Africa Uganda (CAU) consortium arrangement.
- Ability to meet CHM's Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) data requirements, including weekly field reporting and baseline income capture.

5. Scope of Work per Node

Bidders must address the following components in their technical proposal for the node(s) they are bidding on:

- Training delivery: Design and/or continued delivery of the node curriculum, structured for the applicable cohort(s), including practical/field-based sessions appropriate to the enterprise.
- Participant support: Onboarding, mentorship, and attendance support for enrolled participants, including approaches to address known retention risks (e.g., transport and household support constraints after the first two weeks).
- Milestone and income tracking: Support for the programme's 30-day milestone framework and capture of baseline and progressive income data for enrolled participants.
- MEL and reporting: Weekly field input consistent with CHM's MEL data system, and participation in monthly stakeholder reporting cycles.
- Node-specific requirements:

Node 9 (Coffee Agro-Tourism): visitor experience and hospitality/service-standard design integrated with working coffee farms, and a clear linkage plan to aggregation and off-take partners (e.g., Hope Coffee).

Node 7 (Coffee Roasting & QC): technical roasting proficiency and quality-control protocols. Bidders must present a corrected, internally consistent roast-yield-loss methodology, addressing the discrepancy identified in CHM's curriculum gap analysis (stated yield loss of 5% against a worked example showing 35%).

Node 13 (Digital Storytelling & GPS Mapping): equipment training, digital content production standards, and GPS data collection protocols for aggregation and traceability purposes.

Node 16 (Gonja Farming): management of the programme's largest single node (567 Cohort 1 participants), including a staffing and supervision plan proportionate to that scale.

6. Alignment with the EYE-C Delivery Model

CHM's contracted delivery approach is an expert-led apprenticeship model, under which each node is led by a specialist with direct, verifiable expertise in that enterprise area. Following alignment with Cafe Africa Uganda (CAU), a blended model is

permitted in which certified Trainers-of-Trainers (ToTs) may support delivery, provided the node expert retains lead responsibility for curriculum delivery, quality assurance, and participant outcomes.

Proposals should articulate how the bidder's approach sustains expert leadership of the node, including how any ToT support (where used) is supervised by and subordinate to the lead node expert. Proposals premised on a ToT cascade substituting for direct node-expert leadership will not be considered responsive to this bid.

7. Submission Requirements

Each submission must include:

- A technical proposal (maximum 8 pages) addressing Sections 4-6.
- A financial proposal, itemized against the contract ceiling stated in Section 3 for the relevant node.
- CV(s) of the lead expert and any supporting team members.
- Evidence of prior relevant work (curricula authored, training records, participant/outcome data) where applicable.
- A signed declaration of no conflict of interest.

8. Timeline

Bid announcement issued: Thursday, 16 July 2026

Deadline for clarification questions: Monday, 20 July 2026

Submission deadline: Thursday, 30 July 2026 (14 calendar days from issue)

Evaluation completed: Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Award notification: Thursday, 6 August 2026

Submission to aBi for no-objection: Friday, 7 August 2026

This timeline is set at the maximum interval consistent with the instruction that the process be restricted and take no more than two weeks to reach submission close. It gives invited bidders a full 14 calendar days to prepare technical and financial proposals, the minimum generally considered defensible for a proposal covering curriculum, staffing, and costed budget lines, while keeping the overall cycle, from issue to aBi submission, to just over three weeks. Given that these four node engagements have been pending disbursement since 25 May 2026, CHM should treat the 20 and 30 July dates as fixed and avoid further slippage.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weight	What is assessed
Technical approach & curriculum methodology	30%	Quality, coherence and field-readiness of the training methodology for the assigned node, including alignment with the EYE-C apprenticeship (expert-led) model and any curriculum already developed for the node.
Relevant experience & track record	25%	Demonstrated delivery experience in the specific node/enterprise area, prior performance within Cohort 1 where applicable, and evidence of participant outcomes achieved to date.
Staffing & delivery capacity	15%	Adequacy of proposed personnel, supervision structure, and ability to sustain delivery across the remaining programme duration without disruption to enrolled participants.
Cost & value for money	20%	Proposed cost against the contract ceiling, cost-per-participant, and justification of budget lines.
MEL & reporting capability	10%	Ability to meet CHM/aBi Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning data requirements, including baseline income capture and weekly field reporting.

10. Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope or as a single PDF by email to [insert contact email], marked with the bid reference number and the node number(s) being bid on. Late submissions will not be considered.

Contact person: Eriab Sebunje

Email: seriab@celebratehope.org

11. General Conditions

- Sole-source award is not permitted. Each node must receive a minimum of three (3) responsive bids before evaluation and award may proceed; CHM will re-solicit rather than waive this requirement.
- CHM reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without providing reasons.
- Award of any node under this process remains subject to aBi no-objection prior to contract signing and disbursement.
- CHM will not reimburse any costs incurred by bidders in preparing or submitting proposals.
- This process does not constitute an offer of employment or contract until formal written award and aBi no-objection are confirmed.

Issued by Celebrate Hope Ministries (CHM), on behalf of the EYE-C Sprint programme.