1. CRS uses the term “impact” in the questions to be answered several times in the scope of work, though there is no identified control group or other counterfactual evident to us. Would CRS please elaborate about its expectations for the degree of rigor or about measures or approaches to understanding impact.
   - CRS would like to look at the overall contribution of the program on Ethiopia’s food security context, food security actors/landscape, EWS etc.

2. Can CRS please explain how beneficiary target areas were covered (or are covered) when NGOs have phased out of the JEOP program?
   - There are several scenarios; a) project participants may be transferred to the GoE PSNP program or USAID funded DFSA/RFSA for livelihood support, b) where relative need is deemed to be lower than before, areas may be considered sufficiently resilient to cope without food support. In the latter case they may be retargeted in a future period. Note that geographic and household level targeting for JEOP takes place on a six-monthly basis.

3. Can CRS please describe expectations for our research for this evaluation in Tigray given that populations are displaced, roads blocked and at risk from war, or currently in active conflict? Is the household survey expected to be conducted in Tigray?
   - Yes, CRS is currently conducting household surveys in Tigray as part of regular PDM – this would be anticipated under the evaluation. Complemented by KIIs, FGDs, lit review etc.

4. Will CRS consider bids that are over $1 million?
   - We are not able comment on this.

5. Though this is a fixed price award, does CRS wish to see the daily rates or other line item calculations of our cost proposal?
   - Yes, we do anticipate a line item breakdown across cost categories
6. The solicitation references a firm fixed price but then on page 4 also says that the pricing should be proposed as rate per day. Rate per day, is used for comparison
   - For the final award, we anticipate issuing a firm fixed price contract after negotiations. Within this we would anticipate an illustrative breakdown

7. Could CRS advise about assumptions of how many days should be used for this calculation, and whether the calculation assumes a 7-day week, or 6-day workweek or 5-day workweek?
   - This depends on the consultant’s work plan. CRS and partners operate on a 5-day work week at office level, whereas supply chain and evaluations may operate on a 6- or 7-day schedule. It is frequent that enumerators may operate on a 6-day work week in the field.

8. How should we match the sample size of the proposed household survey against the baseline (mid-term) data collected? Can CRS provide more information about that dataset?
   - Sample size should be matched to the average caseload for the 9-year period. Caseload has fluctuated from 3.5 mil to 1.3 mil (individuals) over the course of the award. Bear in mind that the sampling could be done on a household basis, using as an average household size 3-4. This relates to the average household size of those targeted on JEOP as opposed to national averages – recognizing the practical extent of partial family targeting.

9. Does CRS view any local survey firms we might engage as subcontractor as having any conflict of interest from past work with CRS?
   - To the consultant to propose the local partner

10. Does CRS consider it a conflict of interest for this evaluation that we are a MEL partner to CRS in the adjacent country of Kenya?
    - Not considered a conflict of interest, current MEL partners for CRS in other areas encouraged to apply.

11. Does CRS expect or require our key personnel to travel within the Somali region and Tigray?
    - JEOP does not operate in Somali region, yes travel to Tigray would be required

12. Page 3 of the solicitation references the AOR and the solicitation references USAID as part of the review. Will there be presentations to USAID?
    - Yes, presentation to USAID will be expected
13. In the Q&A response last week, CRS answered question 8 by saying “there is a hard deadline for completion with validation in August 2020”. This appears to contradict other timelines that specified completion at the end of 2021 or January 2022 or later. In addition, would CRS define its meaning of “validation” in this context?

- The current award will close out in September 2021, the evaluation should be completed by this point due to payment considerations.
- Validation refers to CRS review of report and USAID acceptance of the report and findings.

14. Is the mid-term evaluation of JEOP publicly available?

- No, this was an internal review.

15. Have any of the individual NGOs who have been part of JEOP conducted their own evaluations at any point? Did GOAL or Save the Children conduct any final surveys, reviews, or analysis of their achievements?

- No. All evaluations have been conducted collectively (eg annual results surveys).