

Tuberculosis Implementation Framework Agreement (TIFA)
RFA No. 7200AA19RFA00008

The responses below address questions received by 5:00 pm Washington DC time on February 22, 2019.

- 1. We would like to know if an International Organization, which principal place of operation is in Cambodia, is eligible for applying to this call. The same way, we would to know if a Cambodian association is eligible.**

Yes. As stated in Section C.1 eligibility for this solicitation is not restricted. Qualified U.S. and non-U.S. organizations may apply for award(s) under this NOFO. Individuals, foreign governments and foreign government-owned parastatal organizations, United States government (USG) departments and agencies (at the federal, state, or local levels), and Public International Organizations (PIOs) (as defined by ADS 303) are not eligible to apply for funding under this program. Please refer to TIFA NOFO - Amendment 1 for details.

- 2. USAID's Global Accelerator to End TB increases support to governments and local partners through the Local Organizations Network (LON) and TIFA. How will USAID deploy deliberate and targeted technical expertise to recipients of fixed amount awards (FAAs) under TIFA and agreements under LON?**

The question is not relevant to this NOFO.

- 3. Can USAID provide information on the relationship between LON and TIFA?**

As part of the USAID TB portfolio, TIFA will work in coordination with other components of the portfolio including LON project.

- 4. Can USAID please confirm that the duration of a fixed amount award (FAA) under TIFA can be up to, but no more than 36 months?**

Correct. FAAs will not exceed 36 months. In addition, the FAAs under TIFA cannot exceed the period of performance of TIFA award.

- 5. Can USAID confirm the maximum dollar value of a fixed amount award (FAA) issued under TIFA?**

Per 2 CFR 200.332 – Fixed Amount Subawards, the maximum dollar value per Fixed Amount Award is the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT). The SAT is currently set at \$250,000.

6. Can the applicant provide suggestions for country selection at the time of the proposal?

No. The countries listed in Elements A and B (Section A.4) are the USAID TB priority countries in which TIFA will function. Countries may be added or removed, before or after award, to either Element, based on the availability of funds and at the discretion of USAID.

7. What is the minimum number of countries to be included in each element?

As stated in Section D.3 “Applicants may provide an application for Element A or Element B, or a combined application for both Elements.” All countries included the Element (Section A.4) should be included in Applications for that Element.

8. Will the bidder have flexibility to exclude any country (like Pakistan) due to security reasons?

No. All countries included in Element B (Section A.4) should be included in Applications for that Element.

9. What are the minimum number of staff required, and the basic requirement for the type of skills / experience required (apart from the 3 main positions indicated)?

The Applicant should propose a staffing plan in accordance with the instructions in Section D.5.g of TIFA notice for funding opportunity (NOFO). Applicants are expected to develop a comprehensive staffing plan that will enable achievement of the program results and demonstrates an appropriate balance of skills.

10. Since the project is for 5 years, what is the minimum time to be specified to contract/ employ consultants / staff-on-demand for the project?

There is no specific minimum.

11. Is a joint venture or consortium allowed for the application?

Yes.

12. Are all sub awards to be proposed at the time of application?

The Application should include all intended subawards, **excluding** individual local government entity FAA subrecipients. Please refer to Section D of TIFA NOFO for details.

13. What is the timeline by which potentially successful applicants will be intimated of their status, since there is a time limit on the submission of the branding strategy – the month and year mentioned in the page are “June 2012” - Was it meant to be June 2019?

Branding Strategy and Marking Plan will be requested at a later time from the apparently successful Applicant. The date referenced in the question (June 2012) represents the date the provision was issued.

14. What is the linkage between the Tuberculosis Implementation Framework Agreement (TIFA) and the \$35M award given to UNC under the Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis program for the TB Data, Impact Assessment and Communications Hub project?

As part of the USAID TB portfolio, TIFA will work in coordination with other components of the portfolio.

15. Will this TB Data, Impact Assessment and Communications Hub link up with TIFA and provide data analytics capacity to local governmental entities?

As part of the USAID TB portfolio, TIFA will work in coordination with other components of the portfolio.

16. What are the linkages between TIFA and the TB Local Organizations Network (LON) opportunity (Funding Opportunity Number: 7200AA19APS0000)?

As part of the USAID TB portfolio, TIFA will work in coordination with other components of the portfolio.

17. Will the funding awards for the TIFA and LON opportunities be made separately, considering that they both have a \$300 million award ceiling?

Yes, TIFA and LON are two separate procurement mechanisms.

18. How is the TIFA expected to work with the TB LON APS implementers?

TIFA recipient(s) will work in coordination with the USAID TB Portfolio in each of the applicable countries including all partners and stakeholders.

19. Can two organizations co-prime under one application?

No, only one organization or a legally established consortium can apply as the prime implementing partner for TIFA. The prime organization however can partner with other organizations as sub-recipients.

20. Page 6, section 3 of the RFA states “TIFA will further empower local institutions by establishing sub-agreements with local entities (governmental and non-governmental)...” Given the Local Organization Network (LON) project, what types of non-governmental local entities does USAID envision TIFA will engage?

The NOFO does not specify particular types of non-governmental organizations that may be FAA subrecipients, however it does not rule out the possibility that such non-governmental subrecipients may be utilized to achieve the objectives of the program.

21. What will be the share of roles and responsibilities between TB-DIAH and TIFA in terms Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning?

As part of the USAID TB portfolio, TIFA will work in coordination with other components of the portfolio.

22. Is USAID anticipating any other procurements under the USAID Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis, particularly around technical assistance and TB capacity building for local entities?

The question is not relevant for the purposes of this NOFO.

23. Does USAID envision, or would USAID consider, using any funding mechanism other than an FAA for the sub-agreements to local organizations?

The use of funding mechanisms other than FAAs would depend on the Applicant’s proposed approach, which will be evaluated based on the Merit Review Criteria described in Section E.

24. Could USAID clarify if prime recipient is envisioned to issue fixed amount awards to government entities as stated on page 6, section A3 "TIFA Purpose and Strategic Approach"?

Yes.

25. What approval process is required from the AO/AOR?

Section B.3 of the NOFO provides guidance regarding the approval process in general. More information on Reporting Requirements and approval can be found in Section F.3. Specific information regarding the approval process roles and responsibilities will be shared with the Prime organization post-award.

26. Page 12, paragraph 8, Project Monitoring and Evaluations, states “in accordance with the evaluation policy, impact evaluations will be conducted for any pilot projects undertaken,” - who will undertake these pilot projects: local entities or the TIFA implementer or external entities?

There is no requirement for pilot projects under TIFA, but if any are implemented, they will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation policy.

27. Is there any eligibility requirement specific to government entities to qualify to receive FAAs?

Potential government entity subrecipients will be considered in accordance with USAID’s procurement rules and regulations.

28. What does USAID envision the maximum length of the FAAs to be?

The FAAs are anticipated to be short term, no longer than 3 years, not to exceed the overall TIFA period of performance.

29. What does USAID envision the average and maximum amounts of the FAAs to be?

Per 2 CFR 200.332 – Fixed Amount Subawards, the maximum dollar value per Fixed Amount Award is the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT). The SAT is currently set at \$250,000.

30. Are there any specific limitations on length or amount for FAAs to government entities?

The FAAs are anticipated to be short term, no longer than 3 years, not to exceed the overall TIFA period of performance. Per 2 CFR 200.332 – Fixed Amount Subawards, the maximum dollar value per Fixed Amount Award is the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT). The SAT is currently set at \$250,000.

31. Page 27 defines a major sub-recipient as “any entity receiving 20% of the total estimated budget”. Could USAID confirm that a major sub-recipient would include any entity receiving 20% of the total estimated budget, less the set-aside for FAAs?

Correct. Major sub-recipients would include organizations receiving 20% of the total estimated budget, less the budget for FAAs.

32. Page 19, 3. General Content and Form of Application: Please confirm that 10-point font can be used for text boxes, in addition to graphs and charts.

Please use 12-point font for text boxes.

33. Page 33, h. History of Performance: Please clarify whether there is a limit to the number of past performance references to be included in Annex 3, or whether USAID intends applicants to provide information for “all its cost-reimbursement contracts, grants or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs” (emphasis added), not to exceed three years.

There is no limit to the provided number of past performance references. As stated in Section D.6.h the provided references need to include all similar or related programs for the past 3 years.

34. Can USAID please indicate an estimated percentage or amount of money reserved for core funding out of the \$300M ceiling?

The predominant source of funds will be Mission funding. USAID does not have set amount for core funding.

35. Page 12, 8. Project Monitoring and Evaluation states, “Performance evaluations of large activities: Sizeable field activities implemented under this award will involve performance evaluations.” Can USAID please provide a specific dollar value for what may be considered a “sizable” activity?

USAID does not have a set dollar value used in this context.

36. Per 2 CFR 200.332 FAAs are not to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold. As it is expected that FAAs will be provided to host-country governments at larger amounts, can USAID provide a blanket waiver for a deviation from the dollar threshold presently set or will the awardee be responsible for securing these waivers with each Mission?

The NOFO does not state that FAAs will be provided at larger amounts. Per 2 CFR 200.332 the maximum amount per FAA is set at \$250,000.

37. I would like to know if it's possible for Afghani Company can apply for the Afghanistan element only?

No, applications must include all countries in either Element A or Element B, or both as stated in Section D.3 of the NOFO.

38. Does 'National' government work with USAID, and the Prime Recipient coordinate the activities of the local government entities, along with other smaller local partners?

The question is too vague to answer.

39. Alternatively, does USAID coordinate the "National TB plans" and as a Prime Recipient, are we required to work with all levels of government within the country?

The question is too vague to answer.

40. Kindly clarify the difference between government vs. host government vs. local government as outlined in the NOFO.

These terms may vary depending on context, but may include a host national or local government entity, as differentiated from U.S. government.

41. Is the core objective of TIFA to assist in achieving the existing programs as contained in the National TB Plans in each country by making the programs more 'sustainable and self-reliant' but at the local level.

Please refer to Section A of the NOFO for details on TIFA objectives.

42. Would the Prime be expected to provide suggestions of extra technical elements for the country programs while addressing local specificities?

The question is too vague to answer.

43. Will the targets be set by USAID at all levels of government?

Targets should be proposed in the application in accordance with the instructions in Section D of the NOFO. The Prime recipient is not expected to develop TB technical targets.

44. Is the Prime expected to work out the targets for entities at a local level?

The Prime is not expected to develop TB technical targets.

45. Will the Prime be expected to do the monitoring aspects of the program?

Yes. Refer to Section D (pages 22-27 of TIFA NOFO) for details.

46. What is the rationale for dividing the countries by Element A and Element B?

The countries are divided based on the USAID Journey to Self-Reliance Capacity Index.

47. Why are Kenya and South Africa combined with Central Asia countries?

The countries are divided based on the USAID Journey to Self-Reliance Capacity Index.