



Power Africa Health Facility Electrification (HFE) **Information Session**

MINUTES

Power Africa hosted an Information Session on May 5, 2021 from 8:00am - 10:00am EST to discuss USAID's [Request for Information \(RFI\) No. 720-674-21-R-00022](#) which was published on March 31, 2021, which closes for responses on May 17, 2021.

Keynote Panelists:

Sandro Carrillo, Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID/South Africa

Mark Carrato, Coordinator, Power Africa

Loren Stoddard, Power Africa Senior Technical Advisor

Narlene "ChiChi" Egu, Team Lead, Power Africa, Moderator

Dr. Rajesh Panjabi, U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator, USAID

Merrick Schaefer, Senior Digital Health Advisor, USAID Center for Innovation & Impact

Sherri Haas, Senior Digital Health Systems Advisor, USAID Global Health Office of Health Systems

Ken Lee, Senior Director, Institutional Capacity, Private Sector Engagement Hub

Kwabena Adom-Opare, Energy Transaction Specialist at USAID/Guinea & Sierra Leone

Nikki Tyler, USAID/Global Health, Center for Innovation & Impact, Market Access Team Lead

Total Number Registered People: 251

Total Number of Attendees: 263

Questions & Answers:

Q: Will USAID be sharing the presentation?

A: Apologies but USAID will not be able to share the slides broadly.

Q: I do not 'see' participants other than the presenters. Nor do I see three dots to rename myself (maybe this is just me!). Perhaps participants can be emailed later to see who else attended?

A: Apologies but USAID will not be able to share the list of participants broadly.

Q: Hello Gina, will there also be a more practical discussion specifically around how to answer the questions on the RFI which is due by May 17th?

A: Yes, during the Q&A session at the end of the conference.

Q: Who is leading the HFE program in East Africa?

A: Please feel free to contact us through the information in the HFE RFI, or Julius Svoboda at jsvoboda@usaid.gov for any contact information.

Q: To Merrick. Do you have a model of National Digital Health Architecture to share or to advise as a model?

A: There are a number of models out there and each country needs to develop their own based on the context and needs, however, there is a big community working on architectures and use cases for interoperability at <https://ohie.org/> We work with that community quite a bit when supporting countries with architecture development. We also advocate for the Ministry and partners to get certified in TOGAF which is a methodology for developing architectures.
<https://www.opengroup.org/togaf>

Q: Nigeria can serve as a West African hub for digital health, but electrification is a huge challenge; to what extent does the USAID strategy prioritize this connectivity in engagement with national policy actors across the countries in West Africa?

A: Power Africa's grant to [Sustainable Energy for All](#) is working in partnership with Nigeria to look at the need and opportunity for health facility electrification. The RFI is seeking ideas to scale up these and other efforts to tackle the large number of unelectrified clinics throughout the sub-Saharan Africa region to support both electrification and health needs.

Q: Please clarify the procurement mechanism for HFE in SSA (Full & Open, PA IDIQ, Application in response to RFA under GDA, other)?
Please advise about considering SB set aside mechanism?

A: What has been published on behalf of Power Africa is only a Request For Information (RFI). It is not a Request for Proposal (RFP), a Request for Quotation (RFQ), Request for Application (RFA), an Invitation for Bids, a Solicitation, or a Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Q: The USAID Digital Health Vision link you shared is not working. Could you please share another link of or a pdf version?

A: USAID Digital Health Vision www.usaid.gov/digital-health-vision and Vision for Health System Strengthening 2030 www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-systems-innovation/health-systems/Vision-HSS-2030

Q: What funding mechanisms were used in Sierra Leone (apart from just GDA)? What ratio was seen between USAID funding vs. external funding?

A: Under the GDA APS, funding and implementation of partnerships comes directly from the relevant USAID Mission/B/IOs. While the value of the expertise, capabilities, assets and resources contributed to a GDA by the private sector must at least equal and preferably significantly exceed the value of resources requested from USAID, this is NOT a matching grants program. It is a private sector engagement approach aimed at leveraging impact by working with the private sector to determine and advance market-based solutions to pressing development challenges. More information can be found here: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/GDA-APS_-_Partnering_for_Impact_APS-OAA-21-00001_-_10.14.2020.pdf

Q: Please advise how co-creation mechanisms will be used for GDA?

A: The co-creation process is better explained here: <https://www.usaid.gov/gda/global-development-alliance-annual-program>

Q: The RFI mentions "the possible implementation of an anticipated activity". Does this mean USAID intends to issue a solicitation, or is this referring to the launch of a HFE GDA and potential opportunities to engage in co-creation with USAID?

A: What has been published on behalf of Power Africa is only a Request For Information (RFI). It is not a Request for Proposal (RFP), a Request for Quotation (RFQ), Request for Application (RFA), an Invitation for Bids, a Solicitation, or a Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Q: Any experience of partnering with the public sector in fragile states to share?

A: Through our assistance programs, USAID plays an active and critical role in the promotion of U.S. foreign policy interests. More information about where and what we do can be found here: <https://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work>

Q: What is the relationship between a GDA proposal and the RFI?

A: The GDA APS was published October 22, 2020 here:

<https://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab/documents/global-development-alliance-annual-program-statement>

The GDA APS is an invitation to prospective partners to work side-by-side with USAID and other interested organizations to build transformational partnerships that foster and leverage market-based approaches to solve critical business and development challenges. A RFI is a call for organizations to share technical or other requested information before we issue a formal solicitation. The RFI is one way USAID explores ideas and plans for future projects in a particular area.

Q: We have more than 560 health zones and more than 2000 health centers, with solar electricity for light, vaccination freeze, connectivity VSAT or other. We are interested in combining different renewable energy. What is the GDA strategies for energy combination?

A: Please review the GDA website and relevant documents.

Q: Can we prepare answers to the RFI and send them to Sandro before the deadline to get his feedback prior to formal submission?

A: No, USAID will not review any submissions prior to the closing date of the RFI.

Q: Is the health care electrification project underway in Central Africa? More particularly in Cameroon? Is there a way to get in touch with the local team?

A: Power Africa currently has a pilot program through the Power Africa Off-Grid Program (PAOP) that is electrifying health facilities in nine countries. More information on this PAOP pilot can be found here: <https://powerafrica.medium.com/usaid-power-africa-announces-2-6-c003fa75f004>

Q: So it is still a good idea to share ideas via the RFI without regard to funding, right? Just talking about value propositions.

A: Replying to the RFI is not the same as submitting a proposal under the GDA/APS. Please review [usaid.gov/gda](https://www.usaid.gov/gda) to find the guidelines for submitting a GDA proposal to Power Africa.

Q: This is a new (and hard) problem likely requiring new partnerships / new financial mechanisms. Curious your thoughts on if a passive strategy will surface the right players (e.g. GDA, RFI) or if it would be valuable to employ an approach to survey the landscape of potential partners and generate a more 'active' strategy to organize the ecosystem. Or to leverage a partner who could do this for US AID?

A: Please see some of our pilot interventions to see how we are learning to help shape our future approach:

USAID HOMER Tool

<https://poweringhealth.homerenergy.com/>

PAOP Grant Press Release

<https://powerafrica.medium.com/usaid-power-africa-announces-2-6-c003fa75f004>

SE4All Grant Press Release

<https://www.seforall.org/news/health-facility-electrification-in-sub-saharan-africa>