



Date: April 29, 2022

Subject: USAID's Responses to Applicants' Questions on Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72061722RFA00002_ USAID Local Priorities and Partnership Activity (LPPA)- (Amendment 01).

To all interested Organizations:

The purpose of this letter is to provide responses to questions received from the subject NOFO on April 19, 2022.

The Subject Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is amended to:

1. Extend the due date for submission of Applications to **May 16, 2022, 4:00p.m**, Kampala Time;
2. Amend Section C Eligibility Information: "(Eligible Applicants)"; to clarify as follows: *"Eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to local organizations in accordance with ADS 303.3.6.5(c)(1); and to organizations that have not received more than \$5 million over the last five years from USAID in accordance with Local Works funding restrictions";*
3. See detailed responses in (Attachment I) of this letter.

This letter does not obligate USAID to execute an award; nor does it commit USAID to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of applications. Furthermore, the U.S. Government reserves the right to reject any and all applications, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of the U.S. Government. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Andreea Surdu Digitally signed by Andreea Surdu
Date: 2022.04.29 11:21:58 +03'00'

Andreea Surdu,
Agreement Officer
USAID/Uganda

ATTACHMENT I

1. Is the Milestones Achievement Plan part of the 30-page technical proposal?

USAID Response:

Yes, the Milestone Achievement Management Plan should be included within the 30-page limitation for technical proposals.

2. On page 43- "The Milestones achievement management plan shall present the Applicants management and organizational structure including the names of technical and managerial staff and demonstrate their qualifications and experience (Resume) essential for the accomplishment of the milestones timely." Can USAID please be clear on how many additional resumes are to be included under the Milestones Achievement Plan and should it be 3 pages per staff member as annexes, excluding the 2 Key Personnel?

USAID Response:

The Applicant may propose any number of additional personnel required for a proposal. However, full resumes for these additional personnel are not required and therefore not to be included in the annexes as only Key Personnel resumes should be included in the annexes.

Information about the additional personnel and technical and managerial staff demonstrating their qualifications and experience are to be included in the Milestones Achievement Management Plan and can be in a format that the Applicant considers appropriate and sufficient. Please note that this information will be considered as part of the 30 page limitation of the technical proposal.

3. Partner organizations such as the local universities are limited. Please confirm that they can join more than one bid.

USAID Response:

USAID does not have limitations for partnership arrangements between organizations like local universities.

4. For Local Prime Partners, Could USAID provide some guidance for collaboration of local Partnerships?

USAID Response:

As part of our localization agenda, USAID encourages partnerships with local partners and does not have a prescription for how these collaborations are managed by the Local Prime Partner.

5. For this call, does USAID allow implementation research, where we can generate knowledge products, policy briefs etc.

USAID Response:

USAID welcomes research activity proposals that support achievement of the activity's goals.

6. Is there a limit on the number of regional platforms one can target to develop and strengthen?

USAID Response:

Yes, there is a limit. LPPA is focused on supporting the three existing regional platforms: northern Uganda (NURDEF), southwestern Uganda (SWRDF), and Karamoja (KAREDI) regions.

7. What is the limit in terms of consortium?

USAID Response:

USAID does not have predetermined limits on developing a consortium that supports the achievement of the activity's objectives. However, consortia should meet eligibility and USG grant regulations.

8. Is the applicant (successful implementer) expected to provide any funding to NURDEF?

USAID Response:

There is no requirement to provide funding to NURDEF. However, proposals that provide for funding the regional platforms are welcome.

9. Is the implementer expected to coordinate activities in Northern Uganda with NURDEF or factor NURDEF into their plans and activities in Northern Uganda?

USAID Response:

USAID expects proposed activities in areas like northern Uganda to be closely coordinated and integrated with respective regional platforms.

10. Is the implementer expected to coordinate with local/regional/host governments (ie: those that are currently working to establish regional bodies in Karamoja and Southwestern Uganda) by providing technical assistance or assistance to bring those new regional entities from paper to creation?

USAID Response:

The Applicant is not required to coordinate and provide technical assistance but is free to propose appropriate and sufficient coordination and technical assistance with local/regional/host governments to support the regional platforms.

11. Does the implementer have to work with the Women Entrepreneurs Association, Private Sector Foundation, and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or can it work with them, and other private sector actors and associations domestically and internationally as identified by the implementer?

USAID Response:

The Applicant is not required to work with these private sector actors and associations but is free to propose appropriate private sector partnerships.

12. For geographic focus, does USAID have a sense of how much time should be spent in the targeted regions and within Kampala?

USAID Response:

USAID expects the Applicant to propose a level of effort that is distributed between targeted regions of Uganda and in Kampala that will be sufficient to achieve the objectives of the activity, manage the activity, and interact with USAID/Uganda mission activity management staff.

13. Can the implementer make a phased approach for the three-targeted regions?

USAID Response:

USAID expects and welcomes Applicants to propose different approaches toward the regions of Uganda. This includes potential phased approaches to the three-targeted regions.

14. Is the implementer expected to budget for a project launch and closing session in Kampala?

USAID Response:

USAID expects and welcomes Applicants to propose activities that are deemed necessary and sufficient. A session for project launch and close may be desirable if it sufficiently advances the objectives of the activity and budgetary tradeoffs are adequately considered.

15. Does the implementer have to budget for a midterm evaluation, or will USAID Uganda's M&E CLA firm complete the evaluation?

USAID Response:

A midterm evaluation is not budgeted and will be planned separately from this activity.

16. The goal and purpose of the LPPA NOFO perfectly align with our entity's formation and existence. Can we be considered as one of the regional platforms that could benefit from the LPPA NOFO?

USAID Response:

The stated goal of the activity is to support the existing regional platforms in northern Uganda, Karamoja, and southwestern Uganda.

17. What does local groups mean in the Local Priorities and Partnership Activity context?

USAID Response:

Local groups are Ugandan stakeholders: beneficiaries, local government, cultural and religious leaders, academia, private sector actors, etc.

18. Would USAID consider an extension on the submission deadline?

USAID Response:

The deadline for application submission has been extended to May 12, 2022, 4:00p.m, Kampala Time.

19. Is the branding and marking strategy to be submitted with the application?

USAID Response: The Branding Strategy and Marking Plan is required from the successful applicant and will be incorporated into the resulting award. The Branding and Marking Plan may be submitted with the application or at the time of award and is subject to further approval after award.

20. In the eligibility section, it is stated that the prime as well as subs must be local organizations. Could USAID confirm that the local prime is allowed to use the services of international organizations as resource partners or consultants?

USAID Response: In accordance with Section C of the Solicitation eligibility requirements, only Ugandan organizations are eligible to apply as principal applicants or as sub-awardees. However, there is no prohibition against the use of international organizations as resource partners or consultants.

- i. Registration, we are an NGO, our concern is whether to register as an organization or individual.

USAID Response:

If you are an NGO you should register/apply as an organization.

- ii. Also, the procedure of application. where we attempted has failed

USAID Response :

Please read Section D (6) (f) of the NOFO for guidance on how to register in SAM. You can also send inquiries to: oaasystems@usaid.gov.

21. Does USAID have any avenues or platforms (virtual or Physical) for a pre-bid meeting to enable potential applicants to fully understand the call?

USAID Response:

This procurement does not have a provision for a pre-bid meeting/conference for potential applicants. However, all questions received will be responded to via an amendment to the solicitation **posted on www.grants.gov**.

22. Are there specific templates to this call (budget, application, results framework etc.)

USAID Response:

A budget template was provided as an attachment to the NOFO. Please see SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION and Annex A Budget Template.

Please also follow the application and submission guidelines under Section D of the subject NOFO for further guidance.

23. When are pre-award certifications submitted as specified in ADS 303.38?

USAID Response:

Pre-award certifications, assurances and other statements are required from the successful applicant and may be submitted with the application or at the time of award.

24. At what point is the branding strategy and marking plan required by the Agreement officer from the Applicant?

USAID Response:

See response to Question #19.

25. Will USAID provide an initial advance payment to the successful implementer under an FAA as authorized by USAID ADS 303?

USAID Response:

Payment structure will be negotiated with the successful applicant at the time of award and USAID may authorize initial advance payment to the successful applicant to provide for the necessary financial liquidity if required for performance of the activity.

26. Will USAID consider waiving the requirement of cost-share under an FAA, as the Uniform Guidance, in particular, prohibits the use of an FAA requiring cost-share unless explicitly waived by OMB?

USAID Response:

In accordance with ADS 303. 3.10.1, the Agreement Officer has made the determination that Cost Share is appropriate for the activity. There is a programmatic rationale for cost sharing that will help to ensure that the recipient builds its organizational capacity for mobilizing resources. Section “C.2: Eligibility Information/ Cost Sharing or Matching” has been revised to the following:

“Cost sharing is an important element of the USAID-recipient relationship. In accordance with ADS 303. 3.10.1, the Agreement Officer has made the determination that Cost Share is appropriate for this activity. In addition to USAID funds, applicants are highly encouraged to contribute resources from their own, or other sources for the implementation of this Activity. USAID has established a cost share contribution of at least (5%) of the USAID funding amount. Such funds may be provided directly by the recipient; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level. This may include contribution of staff level of effort, office space or other facilities or equipment which may be used for the program, provided by the recipient. For guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements please consult 2 CFR 200 (US Organizations) or Cost Share Standard Provision (Non-US Organizations)”.

27. Our organization is separately registered as a nonprofit with a permit to operate through Uganda’s National Bureau for Non Governmental Organizations; and is run and led by Ugandan citizens who are permanent residents of the country. The governing body of our organization is global in nature, with representatives from leadership positions across the globe. In understanding the “majority owned” and “managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens of Uganda” regulations-we are seeking further guidance. With the leadership structure comprised of members who support work on the ground but are

not voting as controlling members of our organization, do we qualify as eligible for the NOFO?

USAID Response:

Only locally-owned and locally-managed organizations and entities are eligible to apply. The requirement that applicants be local NGOs or entities is intended to apply only to locally-owned and locally-managed organizations and entities, not to local offices of international organizations.